

February 2019



# 1st Pres

## NEWS AND VIEWS

*“So, friends, every day do something  
that won’t compute. Love the Lord.  
Love the world. Work for nothing.  
Take all that you have and be poor.  
Love someone who does not deserve it.”*

WENDELL BERRY, MANIFESTO: THE MAD FARMER  
LIBERATION FRONT

National Public Radio’s program, Morning Edition, is asking teachers to give their students a writing prompt in the month of February, and to submit class responses to be used in an upcoming broadcast with poet Kwame Alexander. The prompt is “Love is . . .” In a recent interview, Alexander asked the weekend host, Rachel Martin, to complete the prompt herself. Two of her answers were “Love is vulnerability” and “Love is the only thing.”

How would you define love?

In this month of February, so many of our references to and definitions of love seem to revolve around that very narrow experience of romantic love. Love is equated with candy hearts and flowers, that “special someone,” and finding your perfect match. Yet this is such a small part of the fuller nature of love that is available to us all.

You would expect the word “love” to appear many times in the Bible, and you would be right. One source counts 538 uses of the word love in

the Bible, 317 times in the Old Testament and 221 times in the New Testament. Almost half of the verses in the New Testament use the Greek word agape, which is often translated as “love in action.” Agape is not romantic love (better translated with the word eros) or the love between friends (philia). Agape is unconditional and wills or works for the good of another. Agape is the kind of love that compels you to put the other person’s best interests above your own. It is not a feeling as much as it is an act of will. Agape love is the kind of love we are called to as Christians. It is the kind of love that sometimes just doesn’t “compute” for we seem to receive no reward. Of course, God in Christ, who commanded us to love/agape one another is the very one who loves us fully and without condition. Christ calls us to accept, to trust, and to live into the love of God for us and for the world.

How do you complete the prompt “Love is . . .”?

I hope your February is full of hearts and flowers and the warm feeling of love from friends and family, but I hope you also take time to remember the all encompassing love of God...and to love someone who does not deserve it.

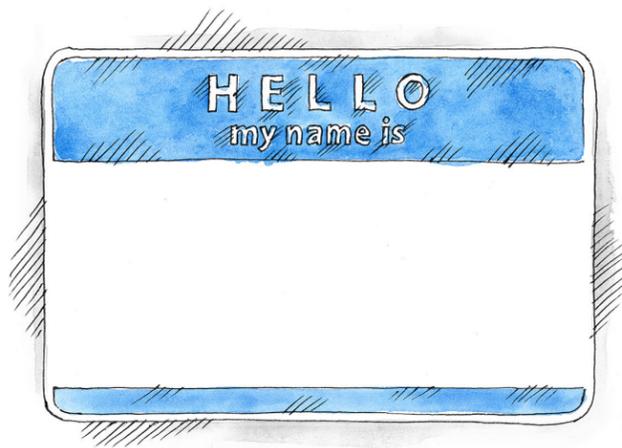
Grace & peace,

*Pastor Heather*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Souper Bowl of Caring

While some contend that the Super Bowl was a bit of a snooze, that certainly wasn't the case at First Presbyterian. The youth gathered \$483.55 from our congregation to combat hunger here in Linn County. Half of the money will be sent to our ministry partner, Linn County Emergency Food Bank, and the other half will supplement our own in-house ministry, the Sunday Evening Meals Program (SEMP). Thanks for your generosity!



### What's in a Name?

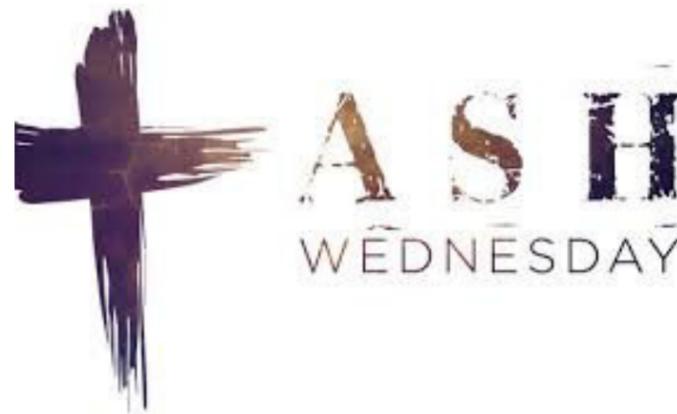
Here's a gentle reminder to stop by our name tag racks in the Gathering Space and pick up your name tag before worship each week. Wearing name tags helps us all address each other by name, even those who are newer to the congregation or our new staff. Using names builds a sense of community, and name tags can circumvent that awkwardness of knowing that you've been introduced...but not remembering the name...and not wanting to ask again.

After service, just drop your name tags into one of the baskets and they will be replaced alphabetically in the racks for the next week. If your name tag has gone missing, contact the office and we can create a new one for you.



### Flower Sign-Up

We have added a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Space for flowers to help beautify our Sanctuary each Sunday morning for 2019. If you have a special Sunday you'd like to memorialize with flowers, please sign up on the Flower Sign-Up clipboard.



### Ash Wednesday Worship March 6 @ 6:30 p.m.

Prepare to join us on Wednesday, March 6th at 6:30pm in the Gathering Space as we begin the 40 day journey of Lent. Through scripture, music, and interactive worship experiences, we will "turn around" from the distractions of daily noise and focus our attention on Christ's call to "be like a child." This worship will kick off a series of Lenten events and worship themes that will seek to deepen our faith as we move towards Easter.

## Children's Ministry

Hello First Presbyterian Church!

I am excited and blessed for the opportunity to serve and get to know you all over the next few months. But first, a little bit about me. I grew up in the Cedar Rapids area until middle school, when my family moved to Wylie, Tx, where I lived until I finished community college. This is my second year in Cedar Rapids, I have come full circle and I am very excited about all this town has to offer. I have two wonderful sons, August (6), and Asa (3). August is half-way through his first grade year at Erskine Elementary and doing very well. They are beautiful blessings of energy that keep me on my toes and are allowing me to practice the virtue of patience.

I am finishing my final semester at the University of Iowa and will graduate this spring with a bachelor's degree in Religious Studies. During my studies, I have acquired a love for Attic Greek (I am a nerd), last semester we read the Gospels, and most recently we have delved into Homeric Epics. My Honors Thesis is about Religion's place in modern day liberation movements, with a special emphasis on Intersectional Feminism combining liberation theology with feminist hermeneutics. In my free time, I enjoy going on 'adventures' with my kids, volunteering at Big Brothers/Big Sisters, cooking, outdoor activities, and volunteering at Waypoint. As I mentioned, we are fairly new to Cedar Rapids, and before moving here we were members at the Ainsworth Community Church, where I was very involved in many of the church activities.

Starting a new job is always exciting and nerve-racking at the same time...for the newbie and for the congregants. I will say, I am extremely impressed with the variety of activities and programs FPC currently offers. It is obvious to me that you have a heart for our community. Again, I am looking forward to getting to know you all; I am excited to work with the youth as we grow together in relationship with Christ!

*Andrea Rice*

Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries

### Kid's Bells

During the month of January, the children have been working diligently to learn how to ring our rainbow bells. They've learned how to ring single notes and play scales. They are very excited to share their selection of Beethoven's Ode to Joy on February 14th. A big thanks to Kristen Wilcox for her leadership this month!

### Children Learning This Month

We are starting off a brand new rotation this month. Instead of looking at one single story, kids will explore several of Jesus' "I Am" statements as we learn more about who Jesus is. Children will have an opportunity to work with conductive playdough and lightbulbs to talk about Jesus as The Light. In Art they will be assembling a leaf/branch sculpture as they talk about our need for connection to "The Vine." Games explores how we listen for the voice of "The Shepherd," and a faith formation workshop answers the question, "Who am I in Christ? The series will conclude with a lesson on bread baking and the "Bread of Life" with Pastor Heather.

### A Few Good Disciples Needed !

In March, the kids will be studying the disciples and what it means to follow Jesus. As part of this rotation, the children get to meet the disciples and receive disciple trading cards (think baseball cards with different statistics). We need 12 individuals who are willing to dress up as a disciple and share a short paragraph with the kids during opening chapel. The commitment is 15 minutes on ONE of the Sundays in March. Contact Andrea Rice [[andrea@fpccr.org](mailto:andrea@fpccr.org)] if you are interested in helping out.

**SESSION NOTES**  
**January 22, 2019 7:00 PM**

**Elders Present:** Lynda Barrow, Marty Brown, Rod Caszatt, Sue Goettel, Tom Lackner, Mike Miller, Bob Mollman, Mary Noland-Houtz, Charlie Rohde, Bob Schley, Martha Wilding; Betsy Caszatt, Clerk of Session

**Absent:** Kris Keuseman, Priscilla Polehna, Jim Powers, Diana Richardson

**Incoming Elder Present:** Terry Trimpe

**Clergy Present:** Rev. Heather Hayes, Moderator

**OPENING & DEVOTIONS:** The meeting was called to order with prayer by Pastor Hayes in the Gathering Space at 7:04 p.m. on a very snowy evening.

**BUSINESS FROM THE CLERK:**

**Approved Minutes** of the August 21, November 20 and December 18 Stated Session Meetings.

**SESSION DEVELOPMENT:** Elders introduced themselves for the benefit of the incoming Elder and shared their “most important truths about God” in shaping their Christian life and participation in the church.

**ACTION ITEM: MOTION** from the Finance Committee to accept the proposed 2019 Budget as outlined in Worksheet #3 and to present it to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on January 27, 2019. **Motion carried.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Worship & Music** (Marty Brown): Distributed Communion sign-up sheet for February 3. **Motion made and carried** to approve 2019 Communion dates of January 6 (I), February 3 (P), March 3 (I), April 7 (I), May 5(P), June 2 (I), July 7 (I), August 4 (P), September 8 (I), October 6 (I), November 3 (P), December 1 (I) and January 5, 2020 (I). (I = intinction; P = passing of plates)

**Christian Education** (Heather Hayes): Children and Youth committees are complete and have met and lined up Sunday school teachers. Reported hiring of Andrea Rice as Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry and shared her impressive background. She will supervise Sunday morning education and will attend, but not plan, Wednesday youth activities until June; at that time, she will take over full-time responsibilities including youth activities and trips.

**Finance\*** (Bob Schley) Reported that at the beginning of 2018, pledges were short of anticipated budget. The congregation came forward with additional pledges for a total of \$502,000. In actuality, the amount received totaled \$540,600; special gifts were \$5,000 over budget as well. In addition, the 2018 contingency fund (\$8,000) was not used and personnel expenses were not fully expended due to the absence of a Director of Christian Education since September. However, Property ran \$12,000 over budget primarily due to extra heat and air conditioning demand during construction, as well as rate increases. In the end, we have a \$59,000 surplus for 2018.

**Fellowship** (Sue Goettel): Planning recognition of 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church building in Spring, date to be determined.

**Property & Building Task Force** (Tom Lackner): Reported unexpected damage/expense due to power not being turned off when Alliant moved a pole from the entrance drive off 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. This allowed energy spikes to occur which resulted in several thousand dollars in repair costs to the church. The committee is in the process of appealing. Construction is currently on-budget. Delays in terrazzo floor installation and metal exterior columns are not expected to be significant. Dave and Martha Booth have volunteered to paint the two remodeled Sunday School rooms on the second floor.

**Deacons\*** (Heather Hayes): Board, including new members, met and reported on Deacon Care activity and reviewed visitation assignments.

**Pastor’s Report** (Heather Hayes): Shared pastoral concerns, including numerous hospitalizations. The meeting was adjourned with prayer, asking that all may feel welcomed and cared for in this space and world.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Caszatt  
Clerk of Session

Rev. Heather Hayes  
Moderator



**Save the Date:**  
**Mardi Gras Pancake Breakfast**

Sunday, March 3rd, join us for our Annual Mardi Gras Brunch after worship. The youth will be cooking up a delicious pancake breakfast with bacon, sausages, and fruit. We will take a free will offering to go towards the youth summer mission trips.

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**New Facebook!**

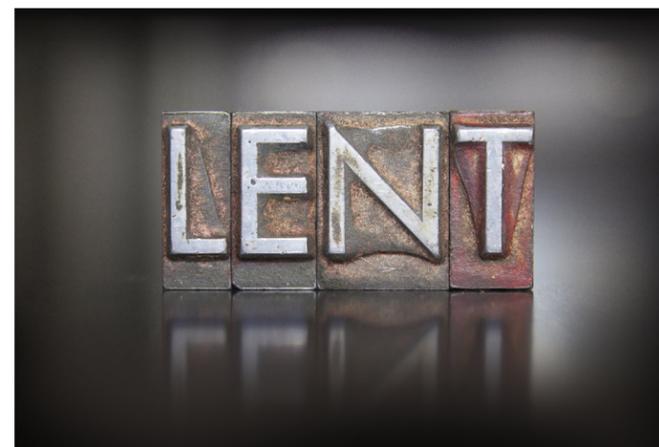
As some of you may have noticed, we are making the transition to a new Facebook page to allow us to sync out other social media accounts. Do not be alarmed if you get a request to follow this new page, it is simply Stormy reaching out to everyone to make sure they are on the new page and seeing new updates. We are trying to get as much information to all of you as possible, so if you have not already liked the page please do so!



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**Looking forward to Lent**

The season of Lent gets a late start this year in March, beginning just about the time we are really hoping for the spring thaw to melt snow and give way to the earliest flowers. Our theme for Lent this year is Cultivating & Letting Go as we tend to our spiritual lives much as we might tend to our gardens. Watch for ways you can be involved as we prepare for this season of introspection.



## Birthdays

2/1 George Humphrey  
2/1 Jonah Thompson  
2/2 Ralph Brenneman  
2/2 Irene Hamous  
2/3 Richard Harman  
2/5 Sarah Keuseman  
2/5 Rachel Nelson  
2/5 Chris Tyler  
2/6 Larry Simon  
2/6 Ben Wilding  
2/7 Harold Brown  
2/7 Todd Kiser  
2/7 Sheryl Smiley  
2/8 Audrey Bradford  
2/8 Barbara McNally  
2/8 Alison Mollman  
2/10 Cynthia Burdakin  
2/10 Elizabeth Lederer  
2/10 Calum Mollman  
2/11 James Klinger  
2/11 Sue Latham  
2/11 Alec Stein  
2/12 Grant Cornish  
2/12 Ian Fischer  
2/12 Joseph McKinstry  
2/12 Phil Thompson  
2/13 Callahan Moore  
2/14 Boyd Balvanz  
2/15 Brian Courtright  
2/15 John Cummings  
2/15 Stephen Kossayian  
2/16 Sonya Astor  
2/16 John Huey  
2/17 Kaiden Adolph  
2/17 Stephanie Wagor  
2/19 Marjorie Bobenhouse  
2/19 James Powers  
2/20 Joseph Kettelkamp  
2/20 Merlin Osborn  
2/20 Carol Wickey  
2/23 Annette Zimmerman  
2/24 Sara Sorensen  
2/27 Mackenzie Hayes  
2/28 Gloria Klinger  
2/29 Martha Wilding

## Anniversaries

2/9/1963 Horton  
Carolyn & David  
2/9/1963 Osborn  
Merlin & Ruth  
2/11/1956 Arthurs  
Darlene & James  
2/12/2002 Smith  
Rachel & Randy  
2/26/1946 Button  
Darryl & Karla

### Fellowship Hosts

#### Feb 3

Bill & Jill Ryder & Deb Sedlacek

#### Feb 10

Diane Hayes & Jim & Shari Stewart

#### Feb 17

John & Cynthia Burdakin & Julie & Don Vanous

#### Feb 24

Alec & Marissa Flemming & Ann Blazek

## February Calendar

### Sunday Feb 3

Fill the Cart for Food Bank  
9:00 am Children & Youth Sunday School  
9:00 am Insight Adult Education  
10:15 am Worship Service  
11:15 am Fellowship  
2:30 pm SEMP Prep  
3:30 pm SEMP Servers  
4:30 pm SEMP

### Tuesday Feb 5

6:00 pm Mission Committee  
7:00 pm Christian Education

### Wednesday Feb 6

6:00 pm Bell Choir  
6:00 pm Middle School Youth Group  
7:00 pm Chancel Choir  
7:00 pm Senior High Group

### Thursday Feb 7

12:45 pm Serendipity Book Club

### Friday Feb 8

9:00 am KIVA

### Sun Feb 10

9:00 am Children & Youth Sunday School  
9:00 am Insight Adult Education  
10:15 am Worship Service  
11:15 am Fellowship  
2:30 pm SEMP Prep  
3:30 pm SEMP Servers  
4:30 pm SEMP

### Tuesday Feb 12

10:00 am Women's Bible Study  
5:30 pm Deacon Meeting  
6:30 pm Finance Committee

### Wednesday Feb 13

10:00 am Methwick Bible Study  
6:00 pm Bell Choir  
6:00 pm Middle School Youth Group  
7:00 pm Chancel Choir  
7:00 pm Senior High Group

♥♥ *Happy Valentines Day* ♥♥

### Sun Feb 17

9:00 am Children & Youth Sunday School  
9:00 am Insight Adult Education  
10:15 am Worship Service  
11:15 am Fellowship  
2:30 pm SEMP Prep  
3:30 pm SEMP Servers  
4:30 pm SEMP

### Tuesday Feb 19

6:00 pm Fellowship Committee  
6:00 pm Stewardship Committee  
7:00 pm Session

### Wednesday Feb 20

6:00 pm Bell Choir  
6:00 pm Middle School Youth Group  
7:00 pm Chancel Choir  
7:00 pm Senior High Group

### Friday Feb 22

9:00 am KIVA

### Sun Feb 24

9:00 am Children & Youth Sunday School  
9:00 am Insight Adult Education  
10:15 am Worship Service  
11:15 am Fellowship  
2:30 pm SEMP Prep  
3:30 pm SEMP Servers  
4:30 pm SEMP

### Tuesday Feb 26

10:00 am Women's Bible Study  
6:30 pm Worship & Music Committee  
7:00 pm Membership Committee

### Wednesday Feb 27

6:00 pm Bell Choir  
6:00 pm Middle School Youth Group  
7:00 pm Chancel Choir  
7:00 pm Senior High Group

### Thursday Feb 28

6:00 pm Food Group

### Friday Mar 1

9:00 am KIVA

# First Presbyterian Church

310 Fifth Street

Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401

Non-Profit  
POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa  
Permit No. 124

## News and Views

Published Monthly

**Issue 2**

**February 2019**

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