



1st Pres

DOWNTOWN FOR GOOD

September 26, 2021 • 10:00 AM



We welcome all to First Presbyterian Church as we worship together, knowing that each of us is a beloved part of the body of Christ. Mission, education and fellowship are essential to the life of First Presbyterian Church. However, worship is the core of who we are and what we do. During worship, we respond to the grace of God with thanksgiving, celebration, and the dedication of our lives.

- Through worship, we teach and we learn.
- Through worship, we experience life together.
- From worship, we serve.

If you are visiting, we want to do all we can to help you feel at home.

We thank you for your presence among us today. If you need any assistance, our deacons are wearing green name tags and can answer any questions you might have.

Grace & peace,

Pastor Heather

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Worship begins as you enter the sanctuary. The prelude provides time for quiet, personal preparation for the worship of God.

Bold print indicates where the congregation speaks together.

*Please stand if able

First Presbyterian welcomes children and encourages them to participate in our worship service. You may pick up a children's worship pack at the entrances to the sanctuary.

Need a quiet spot for you and your child during the service? We have the parlor open for those littles who might need space for quiet or room to wiggle. Located across from the first floor restrooms, look for the signs.

We invite children to come to the front at this time for their own special message. At the conclusion of children's time, kids may return to the pews for the remainder of the service or participate in the Bridge activities in the upstairs Christian Education hallway. Nursery is open throughout worship for children 5 & under.

PRELUDE *Two Chorales* Max Reger

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Nancy Cobb

If God had not been with us,
the troubles of our world would have swallowed us whole.

If God had not been with us,
the sorrows of our times would have swept us away.

Are any among us suffering?

Come and pray.

Are any among us cheerful?

Come sing songs of praise.

Are any among us sick?

Come and ask for healing.

Our help is in our God,

the One who made heaven and earth.

Call upon God, creator and rescuer.

God is with us.

***HYMN** *Praise Ye the Lord, The Almighty* #482

***OPENING PRAYER**

***GLORIA PATRI**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE

In the beginning was the Word,

And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Matthew 28:16-20 (p866)

For the Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us,

Thanks be to God!

SERMON Pastor Heather Hayes

***HYMN** *Lord Jesus, Think on Me* #301

of Service

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH & BAPTISMAL REMEMBRANCE

OPENING STATEMENT & SCRIPTURE

QUESTIONS OF FAITH

Leader: Who is your Lord and Savior?

People: Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

Leader: Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love?

People: I will, with God's help.

PRAYER OVER THE WATER

All those who wish are invited to come forward, dip your hands in the baptismal water, and take a token of remembrance.

PRAYER FOLLOWING REMEMBRANCE

THE OFFERING

In abundance of caution, we are refraining from passing the plates throughout the pews during this time. We recognize that many are choosing to make online gifts to our congregation and you can do so by using the QR code found in the insert. If you would like to make a physical offering today, you may deposit those in the receptacles located at the entrances to our sanctuary. All gifts are very much appreciated and support our ministry as we continue to be Downtown For Good.

OFFERTORY

The Caged Bird

Mark Hayes

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Giving God, make us into a people who celebrate your goodness, drawing others into the celebration of your many blessings. Receive our offerings, our words, and our actions, even if they are as small as a drink for someone who thirsts. Transform them into the mystery of your reign here and now on earth, in the name of Jesus, your greatest gift, amen.

MOMENT FOR REMEMBRANCE OF ERIC STARK

*HYMN

Lord, You Give the Great Commission
(vs. 1,2,4)

#429

Visiting Today?

We'd like to get to know you, so please fill out your name and contact information on the fellowship pads as they are passed among the pews during today's service. When the pad comes back to the end of the pew, you can remove the information sheet to be placed in the offering plate later.

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings
~ Maya Angelou ~

A free bird leaps on the back of the wind
and floats downstream till the current ends
and dips his wing in the orange sun's rays
and dares to claim the sky.
But a bird that stalks down his narrow cage
can seldom see through his bars of rage
his wings are clipped and his feet are tied
so he opens his throat to sing.

The caged bird sings with a fearful trill
of things unknown but longed for still
and his tune is heard on the distant hill
for the caged bird sings of freedom.

The free bird thinks of another breeze
and the trade winds soft through the sighing trees
and the fat worms waiting on a dawn-bright lawn
and he names the sky his own.

But a caged bird stands on the grave of dreams
his shadow shouts on a nightmare scream
his wings are clipped and his feet are tied
so he opens his throat to sing.

The caged bird sings with a fearful trill
of things unknown but longed for still
and his tune is heard on the distant hill
for the caged bird sings of freedom.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday September 26

9:00 am Insight Adult Education
10:00 am Sanctuary & Live- Stream
Worship
10:20 am Bridge
11:00 am Online Fellowship
3:00 FPXperience - Mt. Trashmore
2:30 S.E.M.P. Prep
4:00 S.E.M.P. Distribute Meals

Monday September 27

7:00 pm Insight Discussion Meeting

Tuesday September 28

10:00 am Women's Bible Study
6:00 pm Worship & Music
7:00 pm Session Meeting

Wednesday September 29

5:30 pm FPC Kids
6:00 pm Christian Social Action
Group
6:00 pm Middle School Youth
7:00 pm Chancel Choir
7:00 pm All Church "Follow Me" Bibli-
cal Practice Study
7:30 pm High School Group

Friday October 1

10:00 am Small Group Movements
of Christian Faithfulness

Sunday October 3

World Communion Sunday
9:00 am Insight Adult Education
10:00 am Sanctuary & Live- Stream
Worship
10:20 am Bridge
11:00 am Online Fellowship
2:30 S.E.M.P. Prep
4:00 S.E.M.P. Distribute Meals

1st Pres

310 Fifth Street SE
Cedar Rapids, IA
www.fpccr.org
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LITANY OF THE GREAT COMMISSION

Leader: Jesus calls us. Come follow me!

All: He spoke of turning the world upside down, where

Right side: leaders were servants,

Left side: hungry people were fed,

Right side: prisoners were set free,

Left side: sick people were healed,

All: and peace ruled over hatred and war.

Leader: To everyone he said, "Follow me, and I will show you the way to
God."

All: We have good news to share!

Leader: Jesus commissions us, Go and make disciples of all nations,

Right side: baptizing them

All: in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

Left side: and teaching them

All: to obey everything that I have commanded you:

Right side: Repent.

Left side: Rejoice and be glad.

Right side: Let your light shine.

Left side: Be reconciled.

Right side: Do not fear.

Left side: Seek God's kin-dom first.

Right side: Let the little ones come to me.

Left side: Forgive one another.

Leader: Love one another as I have loved you.

All: We have good news to share!

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *Fourfold Amen*

***POSTLUDE** *They Will Know We Are Christians* arr. Peter Scholtes

Leading in Worship

Preaching - Pastor Heather Hayes

Music - Fred Kiser

Liturgist - Nancy Cobb

Offertory - Chancel Choir



Announcements

JOYS & CONCERNS

WHEN THEY CANNOT JOIN US, WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:
Margaret Jackson, Pauline Weber

RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED: If you or others are hospitalized, please let the office know. Because of privacy laws the hospital is often not able to let us know.

BIRTHDAYS: 9/27 Barnes O'Donnell, Bob Schley 9/28 Garrett Rasmussen 9/29 Bob Latham 9/30 Sally Miller

SYMPATHIES are extended to the family of Eric Stark who passed away Saturday September 18th. Eric was a beloved employee of First Presbyterian for over 20 years and made a large impact on everyone's lives. We will never be able to fill the void that he left in this world but will continue to keep his family in our prayers.

CONGRATULATIONS to Emily & Zach who tied the knot September 25th. Emily is the daughter of Greg & Marcia Smith, granddaughter of Bob & Ann Schley.

TODAY

A TIME OF REMEMBRANCE

Today we are recognizing the loss of Eric Stark and celebrating his life and his service to our church and the community. After worship all are invited to linger, to share stores and refreshment and to write a note or memory to be sent to Eric's family. This gathering will be held in the grassy areas along our parking lot. All are invited to join in this time of grief and memory.

INSIGHT ADULT EDUCATION

9:00 AM

Today we continued with our series: *Justice*. How has our understanding of justice changed over time? How critical is justice to the functioning of societies?

Justice at Home – What is the state of justice in Cedar Rapids? Should it, can it, be better? Brad Hart spoke about *Group Discrimination: Police, Guns, Workforce Training*.

Join us next week when Neal McNabb, Coe-Social & Criminal Justice speaks about *Social & Economic Inequality*.

FPXperience - September 26th - TODAY

Mt Trashmore Hike & Bike

3:00pm - 5:00pm

Take some time to enjoy the fall, stretch your legs, connect with others, and Follow Jesus. Our FPXperience for September takes us to Mt. Trashmore. We will meet at 3:00pm and check in at the Recreation Building parking lot before heading on a walk/bike ride to the top. Along the way there will be several stations with activities to help us think about Following Jesus in our own lives. You can get directions to our meet-up point here : www.solidwasteagency.org/mount-trashmore. Any questions? Talk to Stasia or Heather.

Sunday School Resumes

Sundays 9 - 10 a.m.

We hear Jesus say, "Come, Follow Me," and we are given many opportunities to do so. This fall we will be using a PC(USA) curriculum with that title, "Follow Me," for our Sunday School programming. As a church we will be learning about and digging deeper into common Christian practices for faithful living. Our Sunday School children will learn about these practices through art, active movement, conversation, theatre, games, music, science, and technology. We hope that your children will "Come" and learn more about following Jesus as we learn about God's love, welcoming others, and reconciling confession. Volunteers are still needed, so if you are interested in helping with any age group, please let Stasia know.

Next Week

Next Sunday, October 3, we will be sharing the Downtown streets and Greene Square with the Especially For You race. While the race will be winding down as we gather for worship, the best route to the church will be as follows:

Approach the church from 8th Ave SE. You can head toward the church on 5th Street, but will need to jog back to 6th Street in order to enter the parking lot from the 6th Street side. 5th Street will be blocked off at Greene Square

UPCOMING EVENTS

Youth Group

Wednesday Night, September 29th

Middle School @ 6:00

Dinner for All @ 7:00

High School @ 7:30

Join us for a game night kick off at the church. We will be meeting indoors and using the larger spaces of the church for our gathering - Fellowship Hall and the Gathering Space. Come to meet up with old friends, make new ones, and find out all the things we are looking forward to in the coming year.

Introducing: Bridge -

Sundays around 10:20ish

A bridge provides a connection between two places and two moments of time. When we are on a bridge we are usually in transition from one place to another. This fall we are offering a Bridge, for our young families. A bridge between online and outdoor programming and in person worship. And we are of course calling this new experimental and for-this-moment program "Bridge." If you are a child in elementary school, you are welcome to attend Bridge this fall during the second half of worship. This interactive Bible program will take place starting after the children's message on every Sunday except the first Sunday of the month. Research shows it is important for children to regularly experience multi-generational worship services and we don't want you to miss out on the first Sunday of the month communion Sunday. Jaime Weldon and Kayleigh Bryant will take turns leading the Bridge using our all-church curriculum "Follow Me." We are still looking for adults to volunteer as the second adult presence. Please let Stasia know if you are an adult who would be willing to serve in this role one or more Sundays.

FPCKids Online!

Wednesdays 5:30

Making connections and building community within FPC Kids! Pondering thoughts: "I've been wondering about..." K-5th graders on Wednesday nights at 5:30 p.m. Gather for conversation and connection on a parent moderated Zoom call. Zoom links are posted on the FPC Parent page. If you need access to that page, contact Pastor Heather or request to join through the page itself.



If a special friend or relative precedes you in death, consider commemorating this individual through a memorial gift to 1st Pres. This will show your appreciation for this treasured relationship and help 1st Pres. An acknowledgment card will be sent to the surviving family, letting them know of your gift, without disclosing the amount.



Scan this QR code to give an
online gift to First Pres