First Presbyterian Church ● Cedar Rapids ● Iowa

Dear Friends,

Do you remember those books when you were young, the ones which several pages in would give you a chance to choose which path the main character would take? Would he open the mysterious package left on his front door? If you said yes, you would be directed to page 17 to find the consequences of that action. If you said no, you might be directed to page 25 as the story would take a different turn. Again and again choices would be made, and there were many different endings all housed within the same book.

This fall we are inviting people to "choose their own adventure" at First Presbyterian. We recognize that people enter our church from all sorts of different places along the journey of faith and may be looking for different experiences as they continue on that journey. At the same time, however, we also believe that we are united in the desire to live faithfully in God's world, seeking a pathway of hope into the future. I'd invite you to join us on Rally Sunday, September 8th, to have some fun, and also to learn more about the choices you have as you choose your journey here at First Presbyterian. Maybe your pathway includes music...or mission...or education. You are bound to find offerings and people you can connect with.

I'm looking forward to starting off an exciting year, and an exciting adventure with you all!

Grace & peace,

Partor Hearlier

Making a Difference With Mission Dollars

Every year, First Presbyterian Church as a congregation and some of our members as individuals support the educational ministries of the Presbyterian Education Board of Pakistan. These monies go toward scholarships for young women (and now young men) who attend school and sometimes board at the schools run by PEB. In the past, we've also supported the renovation and construction of new buildings to help PEB keep pace with the demand for a top-notch education. In these schools, Christians and Muslims attend side-by-side growing in knowledge but also in understanding of one another.

Dear Friends in CR's FPC,

As we celebrate Easter victory and joy, friends of Pasrur are also rejoicing that 100 girls are able to enroll in another year of education that starts this month. Your faith community's generous gift to the scholarship fund helped make that happen, and we are grateful. This ministry supports the practice of justice, mercy and faith. Thank you!

Sincerely, Anita W Burnett for Friends of Pasrur



From The Youth Director

I have been very blessed and grateful to be called by God into the positions that I am currently serving in here at First Presbyterian Church. What does God's calling look like? Within our own lives, God creates patterns of assessment and assumes that a few of us, just the right number of us, will be led into various occupations in our lives. This also pertains to areas of ministry that God calls you to get involved with, right here at First Pres. We are all blessed with many gifts and talents, some that we may not be utilizing because we are unsure of where they are needed or how to use them.

Often times we become hesitant or even reluctant to do the things that God is calling us to do within each of our lives. God says, "Are you kidding, I made you, I created you, I considered who you were when I called you and yet I'm still calling you because there's something within you that I know I can use to get through to this generation.' This is for all of us. So what's tripping you up? that one thing that you're like, "Yeah, but..." Perhaps it's like Moses--was it your past or is it the present? Whatever it is that you need to figure out, talk it out with God so you can get to a place where even though you know you might not be ready, you might not feel sent--but you need to go. Because you are gonna trust that people can use you through Him.

Jesus wasn't born to be a carpenter, but for 30 years he did what he was not born for and you know his own spirit knew that, "I'm not fulfilling my highest role as I build tables, or as I build furniture." Yet, it was part of the preparation. Why, because God can prepare you in the every day responsibilities of life for a supernatural call. People think that they have to be in a spiritual role to be prepared spiritually. That's just not true! God prepares you spiritually while your doing your natural God-given responsibilities. He's not using the spectacular to build your life on. He's using the routine of your every day life of obedience and faithfulness.

Stan Letscher Director of Youth Ministry

Hero Hotline VBS - Thank You!

The Hero Hotline was up and operational at First Presbyterian this July thanks to the super-hero efforts of Cindy Monroe our VBS director. She shepherded the many volunteers that made our VBS week possible.

Thanks to Linda Cosgrove, Kayleigh Bryant, Tim Seymour, Elbert Kocharla, Barb Kean, Stasia Fine, Priscilla Polehna, Jaime Weldon, DeEtta Andersen, Kris Keuseman, Sarah Keuseman, Christina Hunt, Stan Letscher, Todd Kiser, Maclane Bryner, Amanda Colbert, Mackenzie Hayes, Stormy Garretson, Oliver Davis, Ruby Davis, Peyten Weldon, Aubrey Weldon, Kinsley & Parker Garretson, Sylvia, Karen Carver, Dave and Martha Booth, Mary Noland Houtz, Allie Hayes, Sue Latham, Pastor Heather, and the special guest star on Monday night, Fred Kiser, who sang us through the storm while we huddled in the basement.

September 8th - Rally Sunday First Pres Carnival

Greene Square Park -After Worship

loin us for food, fun and games for all ages after church on September 8th.

Games will include: Baked Goodies Walk; Fishpond, Big Jenga; Ring Toss and Bingo. Responding to popular demand, the balloon artist will be back again this year. Food will be provided by La Rayna Food Truck.

We are looking for people to bring pop-up tents (shade is great!). We also need donations of cupcakes, brownies, cookies etc. for the Baked Goodies Walk (Goodies are great!).

There are other ways to help: setting up tents, chairs and games before church; supervising games; and help to get everything back to church at the end of the Carnival. Please look for sign-up sheets in the Gathering Space to volunteer; many hands make light work!

Contact Dan Ottemoeller, Stan or Stormy with Carnival suggestions and questions.

















August:

The First Presbyterian Book Club will meet at 6:30 pm on Aug. 19th at Cindy and John Monroe's house, 449 Dows Road SE, to discuss Bill Lascher's Eve of a Hundred Midnights. Three weeks after the Japanese raid on Pearl Harbor two American foreign correspondents, Mel and Annalee Jacoby, married only a month, find themselves caught up in the Japanese invasion of the Philippines. This 2016 work traces their escape from the Philippines, then their lives as war correspondents during WW II. Good Reads describes Eve of a Hundred Midnights as "a tale of an unquenchable thirst for adventure, of daring reportage at great personal risk, and of an enduring romance that blossomed in the shadow of war." Please call Cindy at 319-981-8356 if you plan to attend.

September:

Playing for Pizza by John Grisham provides a change of pace. With nary a lawyer in sight, Grisham creates the story of Rick Dockery, 3rd string quarterback for the Cleveland Browns who watches his would-be career collapse in a single game of monumental bad play. Dockery is recruited by the Parma (Italy) Panthers, an Italian semi-pro football team desperate for any NFL player, good, bad, or indifferent, and to his surprise finds that there is life outside the bright lights of the NFL, at least if that life is in Italy. We will meet at **6:30 pm on Sep. 16** at Nan Riley's house, 5300 Lakeside Rd SE. Please call Nan at 319-389-4495 if you plan to attend.





Especially for You Race Sunday, October 6

This year, those participating in the race are still planning to run past our location but they will actually be finishing at Hall-Perrine Cancer Center, (not Greene Square Park). They suspect that the last walkers should be flowing past our location around 9:40 a.m.



FPXperience Summer of Parks

Join us any Wednesday this summer for a time of casual fellowship at one of our "local" parks. We will meet from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Bring your own sack meal, hiking shoes, lawn furniture, and any recreational activities you would like to share. Explore what the park has to offer online before arriving.

August 7th - (Exploring Linn County) Manatee Park, 2001 Big Bluestem Circle, Marion, IA - Meet at the reserved Meadowlark Shelter.

August 14th- Bever Park - Meet at the playground.



9:00 AM - SUNDAYS WERNIMONT ROOM LOWER LEVEL

ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

What environmental challenges do we face? How can our Christian values help us preserve the environment?

8/4/24

Water Quality In Iowa Marty St. Clair

Research Scientist, IIHR, University of Iowa Professor emeritus of Chemistry and Environmental Science, Coe College

8/11/24

Solar Power at Churches
Rob Hogg, Attorney, Former State Senator.

8/18/24

Cedar Lake: Past, Present & Future Dale Todd, CR City Council

8/25/24

Impact of a Warming Climate On the Sub-Arctic Tamara Marcus, PhD

Owner of Empowered Solutions Collective Former Sustainability Director for Linn County

CHRISTIAN AUTHORITARIANISM

By Peter Jauhiainen, Professor of Religion, Kirkwood College

Why are we seeing a significant increase in Christian authoritarianism in American Life today? Why is the language of "spiritual warfare" dangerous to American democracy? Why Are we heading down the path to minority rule by Christian authoritarians?

9/15/24

Historical Perspective

9/22/24

Spiritual Warfare and Fear of the Other,

9/29/24

The Future of American Pluralistic Democracy



Jazz Sunday

August 11

We're delighted to once again have an all-star line up of area jazz musicians for our annual Jazz Sunday, including Al Naylor, Steve Shanley, Vivian Shanley, Rod Pierson, and Jim Drier.

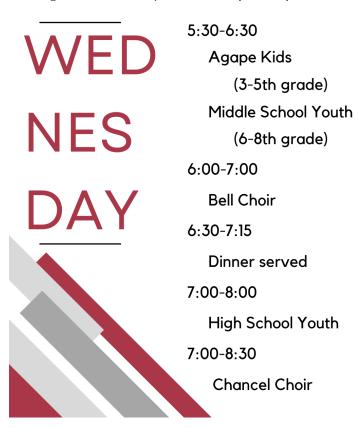


Take Me Out to the Ballgame! Night at the Kernels September 7th @ 6:30

Come join us for a night out enjoying America's favorite pastime with your FPC friends. We've reserved some tickets to a Kernel's ball game as they take on the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers! Your \$12 gets you a seat in the First Presbyterian section and the opportunity to see an FPC member throw out the first pitch! Reserve your spot by calling the church office or contacting Stormy Garretson or Pastor Heather by **August 19th.** Friends are welcome - let's fill up a section with FPC spirit!

Wednesday Nights @ FPC

We're making a few tweaks to our regular Wednesday nights. By moving the dinner a little earlier in the evening we hope it will be available to a broader swath of students and even include some adults. Choir will be back and practicing at the end of August. Bells and youth start up in September,



From the Director of Music

Thank you to everyone who has contributed their talents and gifts for our summer music! We've had a delightful mix of music choices.

September 1 - Kitchen Band! In honor of Labor Day weekend, our 3rd annual Kitchen band will be playing during the service. "Rehearsal" at 9:30. Bring your own "instrument" or we will have eclectic items available for use. It's a lot of fun.

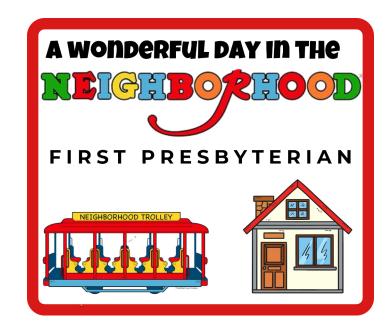
Chancel Choir rehearsals will start back August 28 at 7 p.m. Singing in the choir is a lot of work, a lot of fun, and great for your soul. We would love to have new voices join us. Weekly rehearsals, Sunday morning singing for the congregation. We will start our fall Sunday schedule with Rally Sunday on September 8.

Bell Choir rehearsals will start Sept 4 at 6:00 p.m.



Neighborhood Meals A Few More Slots Available August 5-9 & August 12-16

Housed in the lower level of St. Paul's United Methodist Church, the program provides a hot meal Monday through Friday throughout the summer for anyone that is hungry. This program has a few paid staff but has to have many volunteers to be successful. Sign up is available online at www.neighborhoodmeals.org or contact Katie Buresh.





Blessing of the Backpacks

During worship on August 18th, we will be having the "Blessing of the Backpacks and Bags." Children and youth are encouraged to bring their school backpack and adults may bring any kind of work case or bag. Our prayer is that everyone will receive a 'blessing to be a blessing." This worship service is a great way to recognize the beginning of a new school year and the fresh start that September brings with your church family as we pray for God's presence and protection in the coming months. It is a visible sign of our being together as the Body of Christ and an expression of the life of the people of God beyond the walls of our church and our mission in the "everyday."



Find Where You Fit New Members Class August 25th @ 11:30

Join us for a light lunch and program after church on Sunday, August 25th to learn more about the Presbyterian Church in general and First Presbyterian in particular. You'll have an opportunity to ask any questions you might have and learn more about the different ways to get involved and build your faith at First Presbyterian. Contact Pastor Heather if you are interested in attending or learning more about First Pres.



Readers 'R' LeadersReading Camp at Coe

Another week of Reading Camp is in the books! Our students from Jayne Boyd spent a week on a reading road trip exploring the various regions of the United States. They played reading games, researched a place that they want to visit and how to get there via car, and created postcards that they could send from along their route. And of course, there were the highlights of the Coe Cafeteria and swimming in the pool.

A big thank you to the FPC members who made this happen: Martha Wilding, Cindy Monroe, Cynthia Burdakin, Connie Richardson, and our own fantastic youth mentors: Peyton and Aubrey Weldon and Molly Buresh.

Middle School Youth

Please join us on Wednesdays starting September 11th. On the 11th we will gather together to catch up, meet new peers, and participate in some team building activities.

Then come back on Wednesday September 18th as we will begin a new series entitled "YOUnique" in this 8 week series, we will be taking a journey as we discover our hidden gifts, discovering why God created us the way He did, discovering God's plan for our lives, recognizing God's voice, relying on God in tough situations, and recognizing how to utilize all the dreams that you have for your future.

Wednesday September 18th we will be exploring and discovering our personalities.

Wednesday September 25th we will discovering what our love language us and how to effectively use it.

High School Students, please join us on Wednesday evenings as well beginning on Wednesday September 11th. This will also be a time to catch up, meet new peers and participate in some team building activities. Join us again on Wednesday September 18th as we will begin a new series entitled

"I AM" In this 8 week series we will journey together in studying the "I AM" statements in the book of John and we will be viewing the Father through the lens of His Son in identifying these "I AM" statements from the book of John and passages from the Old Testament which echo them.

Wednesday September 18th we will be looking at the statement:

I am the Bread of Life

Wednesday September 25th we will be looking at the statement:

I am the Light of the World

Youth Events & Activities

As a new school year approaches, so does a calendar filled with activities & events! Here is a rundown of the events/activities coming up in August and September for both middle school and high school students.

Thursday August 1st, rollerskating at Super Skate from 6-8 pm. Admission is \$11 and \$1 for skate rental.

Friday August 2nd, Outdoor Movie Night at the home of Tom & Nancy Lackner: 11 Blake Ct SE, Cedar Rapids. The movie we will be viewing is The Princess Bride. The movie will begin around 8:45 pm. Popcorn and drinks will be provided, please plan on sending a snack to share.

Biking that was scheduled for Monday August 5th has been canceled due to that trail being closed.

Wednesday August 7th, the Youth Gathering Space & Game Room will be open from 1-3 pm. Ping Pong, Foosball, board games, and video games will be available. Please come join us and hang out with your peers.

Mini Golf that was scheduled for August 13th, has been moved to Wednesday August 14th. Please come and join us at 1 pm at Airport National Golf for a round of mini golf. Cost is \$5 for students. Parents are welcome to join, the cost for you is \$7. Friday August 16th we will be enjoying our last Outdoor Movie Night which will be at Pastor Heather's Home. The movie will be E.T. and will begin around 8:45 pm. Popcorn and soda will be provided. Please be sure your student brings a snack to share.

Monday August 19th, we will be gathering at Palisades Park in Mount Vernon for some hiking from 1-3 pm. Please be sure that your student brings a bottle of water.

Thursday August 22nd, is the last time for skating at Super Skate from 6-8 pm. Admission is \$11 and skate rental is \$1.

Saturday August 24th, Back to School Bash at the Coralville Reservoir. Time, location and further details will be sent via email to parents and via text to students. Make sure and share your info with Stan so you don't miss the details! Friends are welcome to join in, have fun, and learn more about our student ministries for the upcoming year.

Sunday September 8th, please join us after worship for Rally Day as we gather together to celebrate and enjoy each others company through games and food as we kick off a new school year.

Saturday September 14th, Lazer Tag at Spare Time, cost is \$8

Saturday September 28th, a day out at Colony Acres in North Liberty from 10 am-2 pm.



Agape Kids

Agape Kids are back for another year! All 3rd-5th graders and their friends are invited to participate in this Wednesday night gathering from 5:30-6:30pm. Pastor Heather will be leading the group each night in a mix of fun and faith conversation. Then plan on joining us for the dinner served at 6:30. We will start back up on Wednesday, September 11th with the middle & high school group. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Heather.

Wednesday Night Meal Ministry

Throughout his ministry, we often find Jesus gathered around a table with people of all shapes, sizes and backgrounds. These moments were a time of fellowship but also a time to live into the community that he was creating. In that spirit, and because we are finding more and more young people are participating in our Wednesday night ministries, we're shifting how we are providing dinner on Wednesday nights.

Instead of one person/family being responsible for the costs and preparation of dinner each week, we'll be forming teams that prepare dinner from ingredients provided by the church. These simple meals will be served on a rotating basis - with a few pizza nights in between. If you would like to be a part of a team, or just learn more, reach out to Pastor Heather. **Thursday August 1**

6:00 pm Youth at Super Skate

Friday August 2

7:00 pm Youth Outdoor Movie

Sunday August 4

Fill the Cart & Communion Sunday

9:00 am Insight & Nursery 10:00 Worship & LiveStream 11:00 am Fellowship

SEMP SCHEDULE

Wednesday August 7

1-3pm Youth space open 6:00 FPXperience @ Wanatee Park Thursday August 22

Sunday August 11

9:00 am Insight & Nursery 10:00 Worship & LiveStream 11:00 am Fellowship

SEMP SCHEDULE

Tuesday August 13

5:30 pm Deacons 6:30 pm Care Commission

Wednesday August 14

1:00 pm Youth Mini Golf at Airport 6:00 pm FPXperience @ Bever Park Tuesday August 27

Friday August 16

7:00 pm Youth Outdoor Movie

Saturday August 17

First Pres at the Market

Sunday August 18 Blessing of the Backpacks

9:00 am Insight & Nursery 10:00 Worship & LiveStream 11:00 am Fellowship

SEMP SCHEDULE

Monday August 19

1:00 pm Youth Hiking at Palisades 6:30pm Evening Book Group

Tuesday August 20 5:30 pm Administrative

Commission

6:00 pm Youth at Super Skate

Sunday August 24

Back to School Bash @ Coralville Reservoir

Sunday August 25

9:00 am Insight & Nursery 10:00 Worship & LiveStream 11:00 am Fellowship 11:30 New Member's Class

SSEMP SCHEDULE

5:30 pm Proclamation Meeting 7:00 pm Session Meeting

Sunday September 1 Fill the Cart & Communion Sunday

9:00 am Insight & Nursery 10:00 Worship & LiveStream 11:00 am Fellowship

SEMP SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS:

7:00-8:30 Chancel Choir

5:30-6:30 Agape Kids (3-5th grade) Middle School Youth (6-8th grade) 6:00-7:00 Bell Choir 6:30-7:15 Dinner served 7:00-8:00 High School Youth

SEMP SCHEDULE:

2:00 SEMP Prep 3:30 SEMP set up, hand out, clean 4:15 SEMP Greeter & Guide

Food Bank Hospitality every Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 12:30pm

Witwer Bridge Group meets every Monday at 10:00 am

Mahjong meets every Wednesday at 2:00 pm

Tuesday September 3

5:30 pm Discipleship Comm

Sunday September 8 Rally Sunday

9:00 am Insight & Nursery 10:00 Worship & LiveStream 11:00 am Fellowship

SEMP SCHEDULE

Tuesday September 10

5:30 pm Deacon Meeting 6:30 pm Care Commission

Wednesday September 11

*Wednesday Night Activities

Sunday September 15

9:00 am Insight & Nursery 10:00 Worship & LiveStream 11:00 am Fellowship

SEMP SCHEDULE

Monday September 16 6:30 pm Evening Book Group

Tuesday September 17 5:30 pm Admin Commission

Wednesday September 18

*Wednesday Night Activities

Saturday September 8 Lazer tag at SpareTime

Sunday September 21 First Pres at the Market

9:00 am Insight & Nursery 10:00 Worship & LiveStream 11:00 am Fellowship

SEMP SCHEDULE

Tuesday September 24

5:30 pm Proclamation Meeting 7:00 pm Session Meeting

Wednesday September 25

*Wednesday Night Activities

Saturday September 28 10-2 - Youth at Colony Acres

Sunday September 29

9:00 am Insight & Nursery 10:00 Worship & LiveStream 11:00 am Fellowship

SEMP SCHEDULE

RIDTUDAVS

DIF	KIHVAYƏ	0/1/
		8/17
8/1	Sherrie Bouton	8/18
8/1	Bob Kolar	8/22
8/2	Maclane Bryner	8/23
8/4	Pamela Baseler	8/24
8/4	Sam Miller	8/24
8/6	Adam Tow	8/26
8/7	Peter Riley	8/26
8/7	Dick Shoemaker	8/27
8/8	Calvin Gehring	8/28
8/8	Linda Willard	8/28
8/10	Ted Cronbaugh	8/29
8/10	William Wilding	8/29
8/10	Landon Witt	8/30
8/11	Heather Golden	8/31
8/12	Glenn Dodd	8/31
8/13	Bill Dittmar	9/1
8/14	Jon Brown	9/1
8/14	Stephen O'Donnell	9/2
8/15	Laura Runkle	9/3
8/16	John Fischer	9/4
8/16	Melissa Healy	9/4
8/16	Pat Lusted	9/4
8/16	Charlotte Ottemoeller	9/5
8/16	Keeler Pettyjohn	9/5
8/16	Zach Shields	9/5

9/6	Jan Jauhiainen
9/7	Eileen Kunz
9/8	John Farrier
9/9	Vivian McClimon
9/11	Jessica Witt
9/12	Ed Popelka
9/12	Charity Tyler
9/13	Amy Morris
9/14	Caroline Giddings
9/15	Calvin Meyer
9/16	Joe Shoemaker
9/16	Kyle Wilcox
9/19	Sue Mollman
9/19	Sandy Shoemaker
9/20	Logan Engels
9/21	Betsy Kutter
9/21	Virginia Lyttle
9/21	Elizabeth Mitchell
9/22	Lillian Buresh
9/22	Janice Dockendorff
9/22	Laura Koontz
9/25	Debra Salz- Steenblock
9/26	Dorris Hotchkiss
9/27	Bob Schley
	5 L . I

9/29

Debra Salz- Steenblock & Kent Steenblock 8/7/1992 8/7/2010 Jessica & John Witt

8/8/1992	Jan & Peter Jauhiainen	0/21/13/1
8/8/1987	Alan & Rochelle Naylor	8/22/1964 8/26/1967
8/10/1991	Greg & Marcia Smith	9/3/2005
8/12/1989 8/13/1994	Bill & Sally Brause	9/4/1971
8/13/1994	David & Susan Gehring Darby & Matthew Winger	9/7/1969
8/15/1981	Joan & Peter Riley	9/8/1968 9/10/1977
8/16/1986	Dave & Janice McInally	9/11/1965
8/20/2011	Cherie & Phil Thompson	9/21/2012

8/17

Sergio Apely

Evan Privett

Laura Behrens

Kent Steenblock

Moses Atchou

Connor Davies

Precious Ayewu

Doug Schoff

Tricia Bowen

Tiffany Elwick

Lisa Thirnbeck

Philip Andersen

Sydney Proctor

Priscilla Polehna

Elizabeth Shoemaker

Kaelyn Pettyjohn

John Carver

Tracy Tow

Elijah Davis

Jace Winger

Stasia Fine

Lauren Stobb

Sallie Streib

Amy Brause

Cindy Monroe

Melissa Randall

Ami Proctor

ANNIVERSARIES Ron & Sue Olson

Bob Latham

8/21/1971

Glenn & Jane Dodd **Jack & Pam Reynolds** Laura & Whealen Koontz Doug& Judy Schoff John & Karen Carver Cindy & John Monroe Priscilla & Tom Polehna Betsy & Rod Caszatt Andy & Beth Aalderks

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

8/4

Scott & Amy Shoemaker Heidi Kiser

8/11

Tom & Nancy Lackner Iani O'Bannon

8/18

Bob & Sue Latham Mary Ann Kucera

Sue Goettel (service only) Allen Armbrecht (food only) John & Cindy Mondroe

9/1

Kristen Wilcox & Connie Richardsor Catherine Mawusi & Roger Atchou

9/8

Gisela Steffe Dave & Betsy Kutter

9/15

Laura Runkle & Michael Miller Andy Aalderks

9/22

Kayleigh & Chris Bryant Barb Kean

9/29

Philip & DeEtta Andersen Harold & Marty Brown

First Presbyterian Church

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News and Views

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