

1st Pres NEWS VIEWS



January / February 2025

First Presbyterian Church • Cedar Rapids • Iowa

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. 1 John 4:7-8,11-12

Pastor and author Brian McLaren opens his book, *The Great Spiritual Migration*, by asking the reader to imagine they've just purchased a 12 pack of Coke from the store and tucked it in the fridge. Coming in from the heat of the day, you head over to the fridge, anticipating icy refreshment. You pull out a can, crack it open and raise it to your lips - only to find yourself spitting something that tastes like dirty dishwater into the sink. Shaking your head you pull out another can and this time tentatively take a sip - same thing. The third can comes out, but this time you only sniff at the open top as you recognize a sewage smell. How many more cans do you think you would even try to open?

Now imagine that you call the offices of Coca Cola to complain about your experience, but instead of a sympathetic ear you get a series of questions. Was the can red? Did it have white lettering? Was the box sturdy? Was it the right size to hold the cans properly? And once having determined that cans and boxes were in order, without asking about the taste, the company declared that all was well...thank you for purchasing Coke.

What is important to the essence of a can of Coke is the taste, not the shape of the box or the color of the can. Just like for a bike, what is important are things like weight, speed, ease of pedaling, not the color of the seat. Which then raises the question, what are the qualities of Christian faith that really matter regardless of packaging?

This actually is a pretty easy question to answer since a quick scan of the gospels will bring you head to head with Jesus' words that the greatest commandment is to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind," and the second, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Jesus' whole life was an embodiment of that directive and without exception he related to God and to others in loving, life-giving ways.

The early writers in the church, penning epistles to the communities of faith cropping up across the Mediterranean, encouraged one another in practicing that kind of love in their own communities. We have James positing that loving actions towards our brothers and sisters are an essential barometer to the inner recesses of our faith life. The author of First John denotes loving action as the proper response to the actions of a loving God. Paul paints a picture of what love looks like and shares the belief that nothing else we do matters if it is not done in a spirit of love.

As we look across the landscape of churches in our community, we see nearly one hundred different communities of believers. These pockets of Christians, us included, define themselves by their beliefs, their buildings, the rituals or worship styles, what they embrace or what they oppose - but all of those things have no meaning apart from the quality essential to our faith, the Coke inside the can as it were, the quality of love they embody. As Paul would say, you may have dozens of programs, 100's of small groups, packed pews every Sunday, and offering plates filled to the brim...but without love that is a noisy gong...without out love, it means nothing.

As we begin 2025, we'll continue discerning the Coke in our particular can. In worship we'll be reading about the calling of disciples and exploring the nature and values of discipleship. You'll have an opportunity to share information about yourself (see inside this newsletter) as we come to understand who we are more fully as a congregation. We'll be preparing ourselves for a Lenten small group experience that will dive into how we particularly express and follow Jesus' path as a congregation. All of this will be done in an effort to be more fully faithful to who we are and whose we are. And that people might know that by participating in our community's worship and life together they will, and we will, find ourselves becoming more loving versions of ourselves. That we embody that essential quality of Christian love in all we do and say. Welcome to 2025!

Grace & peace,

Pastor Heather



January 5th “Gift Exchange”

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

Much has been made of the three gifts the magi brought the infant Christ: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These gifts were expensive and beautiful and deeply symbolic, but would Mary and Joseph, in their working class home, known what to do with them? This first gift exchange is marked by gifts that may not have been exactly what either party would have wanted, and yet it is suffused with graciousness, worship, and joy. Not every gift that our faith offers us is what we would expect or ask for, yet with a posture of joy, we too can learn to celebrate each one.

January 12th “The Gift of the Spirit” *Scripture: Luke 3:15-22*

At his baptism, Jesus was given the gift of the Spirit, and while we often focus on the gentleness of the dove, John the Baptist offers a very different image of what Jesus will do through the Spirit just a few verses earlier. He describes Jesus as a “holy housecleaner,” separating out the useful and burning away what is unneeded. The Spirit can come into our lives both ways: as a gentle companion and as a fiery challenger. Learning to celebrate the gift of the Spirit in all her work is part of maturing as a disciple.

January 19th “The Gift of Community” *Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11*

This famous portion from Paul’s letter to the church at Corinth is a gorgeous exploration of what it means to be in community with each other. It is particularly poignant since Paul was not embedded in any single congregation; as a traveling preacher, time spent with others in community was a gift for him, not a given. The letter lifts up the joy of our

different gifts working together in one Spirit. Invite your congregation to reflect on the communities they are part of (within and beyond the congregation) and what gifts they receive from being a part of those communities.

January 26th “The Gift of Scripture”

Scripture: Nehemiah 8:1-11 and Luke 4:14-21

Scripture is a complicated gift. Sometimes we treat the Bible like an instruction manual, or an interesting artifact, or an obligation we as good Christians must get through. Yet it comes alive when we treat it like a piece of art to engage with. The text from Nehemiah is a hidden gem in our scripture—the first time God’s people consider scriptures as a cannon of God’s word rather than a collection of stories and poetry. Their response is to host a Bible study, then throw a party, then make sure everyone who wasn’t there gets food to eat. How often do we respond to scripture with that kind of joy? How often do we reach for scripture like Jesus did, when we quoted scripture as his inspiration for ministry?

February 2nd “The Gift of Love”

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Here we have possibly the most famous piece of the Christian scriptures, beloved as a wedding reading. Yet the love in 1 Corinthians 13 is not the love of romantic partners, but the love that makes a bunch of disparate and cantankerous people into a community of faith. Invite your people to think of a time when they have experienced that love that is patient and kind and so forth (specifically not from a romantic partner), and to share that story with a partner in the pew.

February 9th The Gift of Worship

Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-8 and Psalm 138

At the worst, worship can feel like a weekly chore or obligation. But when we see worship as a gift, we open ourselves to the full glory of God’s presence in our lives, beautifully imagined by the prophet Isaiah. Worship trains us to be open. Like runners training for a marathon, worship strengthens our spiritual muscles. When we have worshipped well and long, with years of dedication and practice, we find ourselves with the strength to keep worshipping when it’s hard to find words of praise. Then worship becomes a gift when we need it most.

February 16th

“The Gift of Warnings”

Scripture: Jeremiah 17:5-10 and Luke 6:17-26

Most of the gifts highlighted in this series are easy to find joy and delight in— not so much the curses, warnings, and woes that make up the under-read portion of the beatitudes. And yet, the curses from the gospel are not curses of cruelty or vengeance, but of consequences to our own behavior. These warnings can function as boundaries that keep us centered safely in the kind of life God wishes for us. The gift of warnings can feel as scratchy and uncomfortable as the unwanted wool sweater you got for Christmas, but ultimately they are counsel from a wise and loving God.

February 23rd

“The Gift of Resurrection Mystery”

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:35-50

The gift of the promise of our bodily resurrection is beautiful, but also strange and incomprehensible. Paul’s letter to the Corinthians is itself somewhat muddled, as he tries a variety of metaphors to explain the mystery. Ultimately, what Paul insists upon is that our bodies and souls are not separate (and certainly not opposing forces); that we are an embodied soul. Moreover, in eternity, we will still be in some indefinable way ourselves. Our lives here, right now, are not just a waiting game for God to eventually transform us into something and someone else entirely. The wisdom we learn here, the love we share, the challenges we face, the faith we nurture— all that means something. It all goes into the seed of who we are, that God is eagerly watching to see bloom into something even more beautiful.

March 2nd

“The Gift of Revelation”

Scripture: Luke 9:28-43a

The story of the Transfiguration closes out the season of Epiphany, a season where we are offered the gifts of God bathed in light. The story of the transfiguration offers the disciples one of those rare moments of clarity, seeing Jesus for exactly who he is. While the life of faith doesn’t offer us many of those moments, sometimes God gifts us with seeing something with clarity—whether it is a change we need to make in our life, an opportunity to pursue, or a call to answer. The transfiguration reassures us that we are not “crazy” in our moments of clarity, but, with discernment, may in fact be receiving revelation from God.



Lenten Small Groups

During Lent we will be visiting the wilderness in our worship and our study, following the lead of Jesus who incorporated times of prayer in deserted places into the pressing demands of his daily life. In our scriptures, wilderness functions as a place to listen for God’s voice and re-orient oneself to God’s call. As is our custom at First Presbyterian, there will be an opportunity to participate in a church-wide small group experience during these weeks. This year, however, our small groups will not only study and discuss scripture while building relationships with each other, they will also spend time in discernment about the direction and priorities of our congregation.

Lent starts late this year (March!) but Pastor Heather will be recruiting small group hosts & leaders in January and you’ll have an opportunity to join a group in February. If you are interested in hosting/leading a group, contact Pastor Heather for more information. If you are currently a part of an existent group and need more info on our Lenten series, please do the same.



Unhanging of the Greens

The last day of Christmastide is Sunday, January 5th. Plan on lingering a few moments after worship to help us tuck away our decorations for another year. Ornament storage boxes will be at each of the trees around our church and we're looking for people to take ornaments off the trees and put them in the boxes. You do not need to disassemble trees or remove lights! We'll also need a few people to take down and box up our balcony roping. Our Epiphany elves will be then easily able to take everything downstairs and ready them for next Advent. Remember - many hands make light work! Thanks for helping.



Sewing group

In January, FPC will begin building a relationship with a local quilting group that creates items for a variety of charities (from kid's quilts to gifts for cancer patients). Using some of our space and donated machines and fabrics alongside the group's materials and expertise, we look forward to seeing what opportunities and ministries present themselves. If you would like to be a part of the exploration and setup of space, please contact Pastor Heather for more information. Make sure and watch the bulletin & email for future announcements and sewing opportunities in the coming months.

Star Tree

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the Star Tree this year! Your generosity continues to overflow into our community. 72 young persons received gifts and support for a merrier Christmas! Thank you to Mary Noland-Houtz & Carrie Bryner for their hard work in organizing and delivering gifts.

Information Needed

Just as Joseph and Mary were required to travel to Bethlehem to be counted, each Presbyterian church is required to count its members each year, along with certain statistics, and report the numbers to our Presbytery. The composite information is compiled every year for the previous year.

Some of the questions we are required to report annually change over time, and our church data base has blank spaces instead of categories. We would like to report correctly, so we are asking all members to confirm the following information. You can do so by complete the Google form sent to you by Stormy and linked here <https://forms.gle/nN8N8Fn1wam9oV5x5> or by filling out a paper form found in the bulletin or at the Welcome Center in the Gathering Space. The two questions about email and phone number are for the church's records, to add or verify the information we have in our database. The other questions are exactly as the Presbytery has given them to us. This statistical information will be shared only anonymously and in the aggregate. Your birthdate, email, and phone, will be stored securely in our database, Realm, and only shared as you have allowed in the past. Thank you for your participation in helping 1st Pres to correctly describe our congregation in a statistical overview. If you have any questions, please contact Stormy at stormy@fpccr.org or 319-364-6148.

Thank you,
Connie Richardson
Clerk of Session

Annual Meeting

The Session of First Presbyterian Church has called the Annual Meeting of the congregation to be held following worship on January 26, 2025 at 11:00am. The items to be addressed at this meeting include:

- The receiving of annual reports and financial statements from 2023 and the attendant business of the corporation.

- Approval of the terms of call for Reverend Heather Hayes.

Annual reports and meeting packets will be available online and to pick up on Sunday, January 19th.

Right: All Church Pageant



Below: Blue Christmas & Christmas Eve



FPC Book Group

Our FPC Book Group will meet Tuesday, January 21st at 6:30 pm at the Burdakin's home (rsvp to 248-701-2508 or cburdakin@hotmail.com) to discuss Exit West, by Mohsin Hamid. The novel illustrates the sacrifices and beauty of migration as it follows the love story of Saeed and Nadia. In February, we will meet at 6:30 pm on the 17th to discuss Elephant Company, by Vicki Croke at Lackner's home. This is the true story of how a troop of elephants trained to work in teak forests were employed to help British evacuees evade capture by Japanese forces in Burma in the days leading up to WWII. (rsvp tlackner@coe.edu or 319-365-6632).



FOOD GROUP

The Pines Pizza and Pub
4100 Ridge Dr NE
1/16 @ 6:00 pm
RSVP by 1/12
Carolyn Horton - 899-0255 / horton6902@msn.com



Emil's Hideaway
222 Gladbrook Drive SE
2/20 @ 6:00 pm
RSVP by 2/16

GRATITUDE - JOY - GRATITUDE - JOY - GRATITUDE

Thank you for Baby Jesus | Hosting people who come to the food bank brings me joy | I am thankful for trees, my dogs, health, family, reading, walking outdoors, friends | My Family! Our kids, our grandkids, our great grandkids | Being a part of such a supportive church family | Thank you, God, for the people in my life: friends, family, and loved ones | Thank you, God, Sunshine, Green Plants, My Husband, Music | Thank you, God, for: grandbabies who are pure joy; their parents, for their love and growth into loving and caring adults; new love in my life; music, a gift of love from my parents and many, many friends | Thank you for Friends | Thank you for my family, job, Church, and all the love and kindness. | Having all my girls back for Christmas | Those in need who I can find joy in helping make their life better in some small way | Thank you, God, for family who love me through all the ups and downs of life. | My Wedding Anniversary today | This Church | Clear weather today. No ice or snow, so we can all be here | Thank you for friends who are always here for me | Thank you for the years with my best friend. Take care of her up there for me! | Children and Grandchildren | Thank you for being here!! | The Church | Thank you for this congregation | Thank you for a warm house, healthy family, and a safe place to live | Spouse and children who provide joy and purpose to my life | Thank you, GOD, for good family that I have | Thank you for my Grandson's laughter that brings ears of pure joy | For Laura, Nolon, Rosemarie, Phi, and true friends | For mountains and music and singing and playing guitars and bass guitars | For eternal hope and some reprieve for more mortal days as well | Thank you for wonderful medical care and a great outcome for cancer treatment | Thank you for supportive friends through all life's challenges | Friends whose kindness uplifts my spirit | Thank you for everyone, because without them I wouldn't exist! | Thank you to the sweetest husband anyone could ask for | Grateful for family | Gratitude for the joy of grandchildren | Humility of receiving forgiveness | My wife. My kids. My Grandkids. My Church family | Thank you for children and thank you for food and Shelter that surpasses my hopes | Thank you for church | Thank you for my church, friends | Good health, never to be taken for granted, enough money to keep body and soul together, loving family near and far | I am so thankful for family and continuing good health. A loving church family also | Thank you for Pastor Heather | Thank you for family | Good job. Good health. Good family and all living in this area | Iowa, a good state to live in | Thank you for not giving up on me | Thanks for giving me really good friends | Thank you for the snow-capped mountains | Thank you for Earth, For air, For water, For starlight | Thank you for the joy 56 years of marriage has brought-even with its ups and downs | Thank you for family | Thank you for Loving me and letting me Love others | Thankful for my brother Steve, my cousin Elizabeth, and Cindy M | Having good friends who keep me alive and going strong | Thank you for my parent to live forever and my sister | Better health | Thanks God. Thank you for my wife and kids. Thank you for my community. Thank you for my parents and family. Thank you for my house, my car, my job, my business, the people who work for us and who will work for us | Thank you for my good health | I feel gratitude for my stepfamily who has helped me out in a sad, sad time | My Church and friends | My family, Grandkids and Great Grandkids. Nice home. My Friends | Thank you for the gift of LOVE | Jim and Shari shared Christmas day with me | Masseur friend who connects healing to Jesus and the word of the Lord | My children and those of family and friends | Good books! | Ability to travel | Friends who love and support me! | Thank you for freedom from myself | Thank you for the love of friends in the place of worship | Thank you for great blessings of family, health, love, and community | Health. My sister. Our community. Volunteer opportunities | Thank you for God's creatures who give us great joy | Thanksgiving for relationships of love, safety, laughter | Thank you for meaningful work | Mary Ellen. Little Children. 1st Pres. Great Health. Friends | Thank you, God, for bringing my family back into my life | Thank you, God, for showing me unconditional love | Thank you for my wife | Thank you, Lord, for my neighbors and friends whom I have shared the highs and lows in my life | Thanks to my sister who does so much for me | Our close and extended family | Thank you to my children who are raising the best grandchildren in the world, caring, sharing, considerate, loving, good citizens...| Family, relationships family gatherings | time to relax and enjoy the season | I thank God: that I survived open heart surgery | I am grateful of the many gifts of creativity that God has given me | Thank you for my friends, associates, and clients | Thank you for a grateful family whom I am so proud of their accomplishments and love | Thank you for friends and family | The beauty of this world in all seasons! | Thank you for a firm foundation of knowing and loving you the Lord our God! | Thank you for my home, my family, my dog and my Faith | I'm thankful for family and friends, and for God's love for us | Thank you, God, for family | I love monster trucks. I love my brothers. and legos | Thank you for the beauties of Nature | Thank you for FPC Friends | Thank you for the electric heaters! | Thanks for our kids and grandkids! | Thank you for the time I get to spend with mom. The joy and laughter | I thankful for family | Thank you, God, for taking my addiction from me and leading me into a new life | Thank you for the fellowship of church | Health | Thank you for my Family (Both new and old) | Thank you for my family, who are full of kindness | Thank you for Dr. Pepper | Thank you for keeping me safe after these two years | Family time together! | Thank you for my dog (Saint Bernard and Border Collie) BRANDI | Thanks for music and musicians: jazz & sacred, classical & popular (older) | Thank you for my good health at age 88! | Thank you for: family, music, snowflakes, reading, puzzles, good health, sunshine, friends, smiles

GRATITUDE - JOY - GRATITUDE - JOY - GRATITUDE



In case of Inclement Weather

Our general rule is that the church building will be closed any time the Cedar Rapids Community School District cancels or delays classes. Since conditions can change quickly, you should be in touch with your committee chair, music director or group leader regarding evening activity cancellations. We do our best to always have worship services on Sunday, despite the weather. If weather closing is necessary on a Sunday morning, we will announce closures via email, Facebook and through KCRG. As always, we hope that your first consideration is one of personal safety and that you will use your best judgement regarding driving in inclement weather.

If services are ever canceled on a Sunday morning, make sure and look for content available on our YouTube channel. Even if services aren't canceled, you always have the option to tune in to our livestream if the snow and ice keep you indoors.

PRAYERS OF GRATITUDE AND JOY

On the last Sunday of the year, we gathered in worship and leaned into the joy we find in the birth of Jesus. As part of our worship, we lifted up prayers of gratitude for the past year. We share them now with you.

May our gratitude for our past and present carry us boldly into the blessings of a new year!



9:00 AM - SUNDAYS
WERNIMONT ROOM - LOWER LEVEL



RECENT SCHOLARSHIP
IN JESUS' LIFE AND
TEACHINGS
Offered by Gary Connors-Boe,
former Lutheran pastor

What sociological context did Jesus find himself in?

What did Jesus teach about God,
and his relationship with God?

What actions did Jesus take and how
do they reflect his teachings?

- 1/12/25
Jesus' Birth and Early Years
- 1/19/25
*The Political and Societal Context
in Which Jesus Found Himself*
- 1/26/25
The Religious Context in Which Jesus Taught
- 2/2/25
Jesus' Ministry of Healing
- 2/9/25
A Month in Jesus' Galilean Ministry
- 2/16/25
Jesus' Theology



2/23/25
EASTER MUSIC THROUGH THE AGES
Great music inspires faith
Fred Kiser, Director of Music,
First Presbyterian Church

New Beginnings

The beginning of a new year always feels like a new chapter in each of our lives. A new year is filled with resolutions, goals, expectations, and an anxiousness for what's to come. New beginnings are filled with mixed emotions as we say goodbye to the previous year and hello to a new one. We know that in each new year there will be challenges and in those challenging moments and decisions we make, we can learn something valuable about ourselves.

I am reminded of the journey the Israelites took from Egypt to the promised land, it is a journey filled with similar emotional complexities. Their journey was long, filled with moments of fear, doubt, and complaining. They had no idea what lay ahead of them and they often longed for the familiarity of their old life in Egypt. Throughout their journey they grew as individuals, learning to trust themselves and in their relationship with God.

God taught the Israelites to trust in His divine guidance and to understand, that even in the moments of uncertainty, that we are not alone. We too, must have faith that new beginnings--such as a new year, will lead us to where we are meant to be. While the path of a new year may be unclear, every step we take is a part of a greater journey of personal and spiritual growth.

Every new beginning is a gift, an opportunity to start fresh, to build on what we have learned and set new goals in learning new things about ourselves and the things we will experience that the future brings us. With each new year, we are given a chance to pause, reflect, and embrace what lies ahead. May this new year bring you courage, growth, and joy as you move forward with hope and faith.

Stan

Wednesday Evening Youth Topics

Middle school students, get ready to embark on learning unbelievable stories from God's Word. We will be looking at multiple stories that will seem hard to believe, but are actually true.

January 8th: An Unusual Messenger-Baalam's Donkey (God Knows our hearts)

January 15th: Forgiving God, Forever Loyal: Ehud and the Fat King (God Forgives)

January 22nd: God's Rightful Place: Dagon's Fall (We must honor God)

January 29th: Unbelievable Power: Elisha & the Bears (God has amazing power)

February 5th: Amazing God: Ezekiel's Vision (God's glory is beyond our comprehension)

February 12th: Using the Unexpected: Jael and the Tent Peg (God can use anyone)

February 19th: Sight and Salvation: Jesus Places Spit on a Blind Man (God makes us whole)

February 26th: Fallings and failings: Eutychus' Fatal Nap (God is full of Grace)

High School students, be prepared to join us on Wednesdays in the new year as we explore Jesus as being a King as we look at His character, His followers and what it means to live in the Kingdom. This will allow us the opportunity to study the book of Mark.

January 8th: A glimpse at the beginning of Jesus' ministry (Mark chapters 1 & 2)

January 15th: Compassion through the Word (Mark chapters 3 & 4)

January 22nd: Waiting for Compassion (Mark chapters 5 & 6)

January 29th: Tradition and Worship (Mark chapters 7 & 8)

February 5th: One Who Believes (Mark chapters 9 & 10)

February 12th: Hail the King (Mark chapters 11 & 12)

February 19th: Sacrificial Servant (Mark chapters 13 & 14)

February 26th: Death and Resurrection of the King (Mark chapters 15 & 16)



Middle School Mission Trip June 8-13

Middle Schoolers will get a chance to “Be The Neighbor” this summer in St Louis the week of June 8th. Be The Neighbor is a justice-based service-learning trip ministry that equips youth and adults to live lives of love, service, and justice. Through the week young people will be encouraged to visualize a world where, through love of neighbor, justice is realized, people flourish, and communities are made whole.

Be The Neighbor values love for all people and creation being spiritually anchored in and moved by our faith building community and living as neighbors affirming the dignity and humanity of all. Talk to Stan Letscher to get signed up for this experience!

Youth Summer Trips 2025 Deposits Due By January 19th

Attention Parents: If your student is planning to join us for either the middle school mission trip to St. Louis MO or the high school trip to the Presbyterian Youth Triennium, deposits of \$100 per student will be due by January 19th. Again, the middle school trip is from June 8-13 and the high school trip is from July 28-31. Information regarding these trips was sent via email. If you have any additional questions, please contact Stan Letscher, Director of Youth Ministry.



Presbyterian Youth Triennium July 28-31st

God has reminded us again and again that when our young people “dream dreams” and see visions, the church wakes up. This is a time in the life of the church and the world that we need to listen to our young people, to see what they see, to hear what they DREAM about.

In July 2025, the Presbyterian Church (USA) will welcome thousands of its high school age youth and their adult youth workers to Louisville, Kentucky for four days of worship, recreation, bible study, outreach, and faith formation all around the theme of “As If We Were Dreaming”.

Most programming and meals will be held at the Kentucky International Convention Center (KICC) with all participants housed at nearby Triennium hotels.

The experience will be one of those life-shaping faith forming events that you will never forget! It will be “As If We Were Dreaming.” Talk to Stan Letscher to get signed up for this experience you won’t want to miss!

Youth Activities/Events

Nerf War Night, Saturday Jan 18th 6:30-8:30 pm

Combined Lock-in Friday Feb 7- Saturday Feb 8th, 2025 Lock-in begins Friday at 7 pm and ends Saturday morning at 8 am

Escape Room, Saturday Feb 22nd, 6:30-7:30 pm. Spots are limited, so please RSVP as soon as possible. Cost is \$25 per person

Movie Night, Saturday March 1st, *His Only Son* (2023) 6:30-8:30 pm.

Sunday January 5
Communion Sunday
Fill the Cart for Food Bank
10:00 am Nursery
10:00 Worship & LiveStream
11:00 am Fellowship
SEMP SCHEDULE

Tuesday January 7
5:30 pm Discipleship Commission

Wednesday January 8
*Wednesday Night Activities
NO AGAPE KIDS

Sunday January 12
9:00 am Insight & Nursery
10:00 Worship & LiveStream
10:15 am Sunday School
11:00 am Fellowship
SEMP SCHEDULE

Tuesday January 14
5:30 pm Deacons
6:30 pm Care Commission

Wednesday January 15
*Wednesday Night Activities

Thursday January 16
6:00 pm Food Group

Saturday January 18
6:30-8:30 - Youth Nerf Wars

Sunday January 19
9:00 am Insight & Nursery
10:00 Worship & LiveStream
10:15 am Sunday School
11:00 am Fellowship
SEMP SCHEDULE
Confirmation Lock in

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS:
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
7:00-8:30 Chancel Choir

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

Witwer Bridge Group meets every Monday at 10:00 am

Tuesday January 21
5:30 pm Admin Commission
6:30 pm Evening Book Group

Wednesday January 22
*Wednesday Night Activities

Saturday January 25
9:00-2:00 Session Retreat

Sunday January 26
Annual Meeting
9:00 am Nursery & Insight
10:00 Worship & LiveStream
10:15 am Sunday School
11:00 am Fellowship
SEMP SCHEDULE

Tuesday January 28
5:30 pm Proclamation

Wednesday January 29
*Wednesday Night Activities

Sunday February 2
Communion Sunday
Fill the Cart for Food Bank
9:00 am Nursery
10:00 Worship & LiveStream
11:00 am Fellowship
SEMP SCHEDULE

Tuesday February 4
5:30 pm Discipleship Commission

Wednesday February 5
*Wednesday Night Activities

Friday February 7
7:00 Youth Lock In

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

Sunday February 9
9:00 am Insight & Nursery
10:00 Worship & LiveStream
10:15 am Sunday School
11:00 am Fellowship
SEMP SCHEDULE

Tuesday February 11
5:30 pm Deacons
6:30 pm Care Commission

Wednesday February 12
*Wednesday Night Activities

Sunday February 16
9:00 am Insight & Nursery
10:00 Worship & LiveStream
10:15 am Sunday School
11:00 am Fellowship
SEMP SCHEDULE

Monday February 17
6:30 pm Evening Book Group

Tuesday February 18
5:30 pm Admin Commission

Wednesday February 19
*Wednesday Night Activities

Thursday February 20
6:00 Food Group

Saturday February 22
6:30-7:30 - Youth Escape Room

Sunday February 23
9:00 am Nursery & Insight
10:00 Worship & LiveStream
10:15 am Sunday School
11:00 am Fellowship
SEMP SCHEDULE

Tuesday February 25
5:30 pm Proclamation
7:00 pm Session

Wednesday February 26
*Wednesday Night Activities

BIRTHDAYS

1/2 Kendra Smiley
1/2 John Wagor
1/3 Susan Gehring
1/5 Jane Dodd
1/6 Roxi McCrane
1/7 Justin Balvanz
1/7 Elbert Kocharla
1/10 Amy Shoemaker
1/13 Catherine Crew
1/13 Lisa Morris
1/16 Caroline Gehring
1/18 Joanne Johnson
1/18 Ethel Knutson
1/19 Kristopher Keuseman
1/21 Suzanne Barnes

1/21 Dave Hayes
1/21 Ruth Ann Herbert
1/21 Ben Snapp
1/22 John Baseler
1/22 Dee Davis
1/22 Charlotte Pence
1/23 Catherine Basile
1/24 Joan Force
1/25 Steve Goettel
1/26 Mary Ellen Horak
1/27 Darrel Wrider
1/31 Micah Jauhainen
2/2 Irene Hamous
2/3 Dick Harman
2/5 Sarah Keuseman
2/5 Rachel Nelson
2/5 Chris Tyler
2/7 Harold Brown

2/7 Todd Kiser
2/7 Sheryl Smiley
2/8 Audrey Bradford
2/10 Cynthia Burdakin
2/11 Jim Klinger
2/11 Sue Latham
2/12 Phil Thompson
2/15 John Cummings
2/15 Steve Kossayan
2/17 Stephanie Wagor
2/19 Jim Powers
2/20 Merlin Osborn
2/20 Carol Wickey
2/23 Annette Zimmerman
2/27 Mackenzie Hayes
2/28 Gloria Klinger
2/29 Martha Wilding

ANNIVERSARIES

1/9/1975 Dick & Sandy Shoemaker
2/9/1963 Carolyn & David Horton

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

1/5
Caroline Giddings & Jim & Shari Stewart
1/12
Laura Behrens & Cherie Thompson
1/19
Darlene Elbert & **NO HOST**
1/26
NO HOSTS!
2/02
NO HOSTS!
2/09
NO HOSTS!
2/16
NO HOSTS!
2/23
Cynthia Burdakin &**NO HOST!**



First Presbyterian Church

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Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401

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News and Views

*January
&
February
2025*

First Presbyterian Church Staff

Head of Staff

Pastor Heather Hayes

Office Manager

Stormy Garretson

Godly Play Teacher

Mackenzie Hayes

Director of Music Ministries

Fred Kiser

Organist

Ted Cronbaugh

Godly Play Teacher

Christina Hunt

Bookkeeper

Janna Murra

Youth Director

Stan Letscher

Nursery

Lindsay Hopp

Phone: 319-364-6148