

# 1st Pres NEWS VIEWS

March / April 2025

First Presbyterian Church • Cedar Rapids • Iowa

Perhaps you've heard the analogy of a journey to describe Lent. Metaphorically, we "walk" alongside Jesus from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday as he goes from his ministry, to the Upper Room, to the Cross, and then to new life again. In that journey of discipleship, many Christians come to find a deeper sense of knowing God and knowing self. This particular year, we will be using the images of wilderness to evoke those many stories in the life of Jesus and in history of God's people where the journey led through unfamiliar and sometimes harsh landscapes.

Our own journeys through wilderness can take many different forms. Sometimes they are metaphorical as we experience changing circumstances in our lives. Additions or losses that create unfamiliar terrain for our days. Sometimes our wilderness can be spiritual, as we experience a season of dryness of spirit and the feeling of being far from God's presence. There are many in our world are on a more literal journey, having been displaced from their homes by warfare or violence or poverty.

Yet even our times in the wilderness can be fruitful as we discover new vision, are shaken from complacency, invited into mystery, and find surprising companionship along the way. During Lent, I encourage you to join this journey that is both metaphorical and literal, as we study Biblical texts of alienation and hospitality, of barrenness and rebirth, finding ourselves part of a long story that has always been leading to home for all.

*Pastor Heather*



## HOLY WEEK

APRIL  
13

### *Palm Sunday*

10:00 am Worship  
Selections from Handel's Messiah  
Walk with Jesus after church

APRIL  
17

### *Maundy Thursday*

6:00 pm Living Last Supper  
7:00 pm Service of Tenebrae  
with string quartet

APRIL  
20

### *Easter Sunday*

8:30-9:45am Easter Breakfast  
10:00am Worship  
with brass, choir, flowering of the  
cross, and the Hallelujah Chorus.  
11:00am Fellowship & Egg Hunt



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. This otherworldly moment is a balance to the grittiness of all that exists “down in the valley” yet both are needed for the whole expression of who Jesus is - and who we are.

Preaching in Lent: Wilderness

Lent begins in the wilderness. The Spirit guides Jesus into the wilderness where he comes face to face with temptation and struggle. Yet, in his forty days of fasting, resisting, and wandering, Jesus is shaped and formed for his ministry. Similarly, through the wilderness of Lent, we are invited to surrender to the leadings of the Spirit. Hopefully through our wandering we remember who we are and whose we are, and the wilderness can become sacred. Despite its sometimes harsh setting, we remember that God is the one that makes even the deserts bloom. This Lent, we welcome you to the journey.

March 9th

“Wilderness Beginnings”

Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11 | *Jesus is tempted*

Youth Sunday

The young people of our congregation will be assisting in worship leadership this morning as we hear of Jesus’ time in the wilderness at the beginning of his ministry and consider the ways we are all called to be the body of Christ.

March 16th

“The Wild Spirit”

Scripture: John 3:1-17 | *Nicodemus visits in the dark*

It can be particularly hard for those of us who think very concretely to be able to let go and truly experience this wilderness where the Spirit has led us. Nicodemus is one such thinker, and he tries so hard to understand that he ends up missing the point. This week we hold the shifting nature of God: both abstract and concrete, both incomprehensible and simple.

March 23rd

“Companions Along the Way” | Scripture: John 4:5-42

*The Samaritan woman meets Jesus at the well*

Preaching: Rev Seth Normington, Transitional

Presbyter, Presbytery of East Iowa

It is easy to think of the wilderness as a place of loneliness. In the hardest parts of our lives, we often feel like we are going at it alone. In fact, it is all too easy (and all too common) for us to isolate ourselves, assuming that others are enemies—or at least would never be our friends. Sometimes it takes a wilderness encounter, outside of our typical lives, to break us out of our patterns.

March 30th

“New Vision” | Scripture: John 9:1-41

*The man born blind regains his sight*

While this passage is about a miraculous healing, it is also not about that healing at all. Confusion about the blind man, how he was healed, and what power Jesus wields is central to the story. What is clear is that Jesus is disrupting the order that the community knows so well in an attempt to help them see the world in a new way.

April 6th

“Life Finds a Way” | Scripture: John 11:1-45

*Lazarus is raised from the dead*

We don’t expect life in the wilderness. It is easy to think of the wilderness as empty, barren, dead. But the truth is: there is life in wilderness, in desert, in the arctic. In every place we dismiss as hopeless, there is life. Just as the resurrection of Lazarus changed the perspective of those who witnessed it, this account of the miracle begins to introduce us, even before Easter, to one of the central ideas of Christianity: death does not have the final word.

April 13<sup>th</sup> | Palm Sunday

Scripture: Matthew 21:1-11

Join us for palm frond procession and the Chancel Choir’s presentation of selections from Handel’s Messiah.

April 20<sup>th</sup> | Easter Sunday

Scripture: John 20:1-18, Psalm 46

With song and scripture we celebrate our resurrection hope, yet the end of our wilderness wanderings is only the beginning of a new story. For the next 40 days Jesus makes appearances. Showing up. Teaching. Revealing. Communing. Jesus is also preparing. Preparing them for his ascension. His disciples will stay in the world. But they won’t be alone. God’s Spirit is coming.



Join us at First Presbyterian for a meaningful evening of reflection.

At 6:00 PM, share a simple supper (vegetarian and gluten-free options available) as we hear from the disciples and reflect on Jesus’ final meal. A child-friendly activity will be offered.

At 7:00 PM, we transition into a solemn Tenebrae service with communion, scripture, and song, gradually moving into darkness as we walk with Jesus toward the cross.

Come experience this powerful journey of faith and remembrance.



Join us on Sunday, April 13th after church for an immersive event that guides individuals and families along Jesus' footsteps during his last days on earth. Travel to Jerusalem for Palm Sunday, sit down for the Last Supper, pray in the Garden of Gethsemane, reflect on the sadness of Good Friday, and celebrate the joy of resurrection at the empty tomb that first Easter morning.

This event is designed for families and individuals of all ages to experience Holy Week together. Make plans to linger after worship and join us!

EASTER FLOWERS

On Easter Sunday, the Sanctuary will be adorned with Tulips & Lilies. Now is the time to get your order in! These may be ordered “In Memory Of” or “In Honor Of” loved ones. Your order must be turned into the office by **Sunday April 6<sup>th</sup>**. The plant(s) you order may be picked up after the 10:00 am worship service on Easter Sunday or it can delivered to a home-bound member.

**The cost is \$10 a plant.** Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church.

Name of Purchaser \_\_\_\_\_

Tulips \_\_\_\_\_ Lily \_\_\_\_\_ Please check Tulip or Lily. Write quantity if more than one.

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

☐ Please deliver the plant to a home-bound.

☐ I plan to pick up the plant.

☐ I wish to help Deacons deliver plants.



## APG Cancer Foundation Annual Pancake Breakfast Saturday, April 26 from 8 – 11 AM First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall

In the past 22 years this foundation has provided more than \$850,000 in financial assistance to over 1,200 cancer patients in the Cedar Rapids area. Patients who have no other available means of paying for cancer medications and prostheses qualify for APG grants. The guiding spirit behind the foundation is Dr. Chirantan Ghosh, a local oncologist who is much beloved for his superb and compassionate care for his patients and his great personal generosity to our community. First Pres members Dave and Betsy Kutter are long time volunteers for the Foundation; Dave serves as board treasurer. First Pres member Patty Powers is a past board member. Plan to join friends and neighbors on April 26th for a delicious breakfast in support of a worthy cause. There is no admission charge, but a free will offering will be gratefully accepted.

## Wednesday Evening Studies

As we head into the season of Lent, we prepare our hearts and minds as we await to experience the sadness, the pain, and the joy of Easter. Here are the themes we will be exploring for March & April.

Middle school students will be exploring the days leading up to Jesus' death and resurrection. We will experience the journey that Jesus takes as it is the will and purpose of God the Father. We will learn the significance of this journey and how we can extract meaning from these moments that Jesus experiences and apply them as a simple message to our own lives.

**March 12** - Surrender (*Matthew 6:24-34*)

**March 26** - Return to God (*Luke 15:11-32*)

**April 2** - The Power of the Outcast (*John 4:1-42*)

**April 9** - Hope (*John 5:1-18*)

**April 16** - A Representative of Christ (*John 9:1-41*)

**April 23** - Stillness in the Fast Lane: Being present with God (*Psalms 46:10*)

**April 30** - Pump Up Your Faith: Delighting in God's provisions (*Psalms 37:4*)

During Lent, the high school students will be exploring the grace of Jesus and understand what grace means in a modern context. We will explore moments from the book of John to help us understand how the Lord's favor extends to each one of us. We will learn more about the idea of grace and how it relates to lent and journey with Jesus as we are surrounded by His grace.

**March 12**-Grace for those awkward moments (*John 2:1-11*)

**March 26** - Grace for the times when life's too hard (*John 6:1-24*)

**April 2** - Grace for the broken heart (*John 11:17-44*)

**April 9** - Grace for when things are chaotic (*John 16:17-33*)

**April 16** - Grace on display (*John 19:16-37*)

**April 23** - Faith in Action: Serving others (*Matthew 25:31-46*)

**April 30** - Why Church? Understanding the vital role you play in being members of God's family (*1 Corinthians 12:12-27*)



## Senior High Summer Trip: Presbyterian Youth Triennium

This July we will have several high school students that will make the trip to Louisville Kentucky to experience the Presbyterian Youth Triennium, July 28-31. This four day gathering of Presbyterian youth from across the country (which happens every three years) will include four days of worship, recreation, bible study, outreach, and faith formation all around the theme of "As If We Were Dreaming". If you have a high school student who has not yet registered, there is still time. We would love to have as many students as possible to join us in this life-changing trip. This trip is for students who graduating this spring and students entering grades 9-12 for the 2025 school year. The costs for the trip are shared by families, church, and presbytery - and no student will be turned away. Scholarships are available. If you have questions, please speak to Pastor Heather or Stan.



## Middle School Mission: St Louis

This June, June 8-13, we have students that will be traveling to St. Louis Missouri for a week of learning and growing. Our group will connect and work with Delmar Divine and other nonprofits, including churches who serve and advocate for people who experience the poverty, barriers, and challenges created by this history and present-day reality of a racial divide. Students will see how churches and local organizations strive to live out their faith, to bring hope and new possibilities through direct service, advocacy, and the arts. Our group will explore how the topics they learn about are relevant to our own community and our group will then develop a plan for how we can continue this work when return back to Cedar Rapids. This trip is for any students entering grades 6-8 for 2025. The cost for the trip will be shared by First Presbyterian Church and no student will be turned away. We have scholarships available. We have several students already registered for this trip, but there is still room for a few more. If you have any questions or have a students in this age group that may be interested in joining us for this trip, please speak to Stan as soon as possible.

## Senior Recognition

Is your child graduating from high school this year? We'll be celebrating their accomplishments as the 2024-25 school year comes to a close. Be on the lookout for information and requests from Stan, but know that we'd love to have pictures and plans to share with the congregation. Contact Stan Letscher at stan@fpccr.org to share.



## Lenten Small Groups Beginning March 9th

Journey through the Wilderness this year with a Lenten Small Group. Gather with other FPC members and friends to explore questions of faith centered around the practices of worship, biblical study, compassionate mission, and hospitality. Groups will be using materials from Living the Questions, which include a short video featuring leading theologians and discussion questions for the group. In addition, each group will be able to spend time reflecting on how our congregation engages those practices and can share those thoughts with our Vision Team as we craft a direction for our congregation in the coming years.

Options for groups include:

- Sunday Morning, 9:00am - Wernimont Room
- Sunday After Church, 11:30am - Parlor
- Wednesday Evening, 5:30pm - Parlor
- Thursday Morning, 10:00am - Parlor
- Online Zoom, time TBD
- Online Facebook

Contact Pastor Heather if you would like to connect with a group.

## Youth Events/Activities

Wednesday March 19, 6-8 pm at AirFx, cost is \$20 per person.

Friday March 28, 6-8 pm, movie night. Popcorn, snacks, and drinks will be provided. Join us as we watch and discuss the film: *The Forge*.

April 12, The Potter's Obsession, 4-5:30 pm. We will gather to connect, get crafty with some painting and share in conversation. The church will pay for the sitting fee, you will need \$15-20 depending on what you choose to paint.

Parents and students serving in action on Easter Weekend. A signup link will be emailed out soon. The students will be serving the Easter breakfast brunch on Sunday April 20th. The signup will include opportunities for families to come in on Saturday the 19th to help prepare the foods we will serve on Easter morning. Parents, be on the look out for further details in the weekly email updates.



## New Sewing Group Starting In March!

Are you interested in sewing, quilting, or crafting with fabric? Whether you're a seasoned seamstress or just learning how to thread a needle, we invite you to join our new Sewing Group, launching this March! We will meet Mondays from noon to 3:00 PM in the downstairs Bell and Sewing Room, creating a space for fellowship, learning, and creativity. Whether you want to work on personal projects, learn new skills, or participate in service projects to bless others, there's a place for you!

No experience? No problem! We'll have experienced members happy to teach and guide you. The church has several sewing machines available for use, and you're welcome to bring your own supplies or use materials that have been generously donated. We can't wait to stitch together new friendships and projects! To sign up or learn more, please contact Cindy Monroe at cmonroe1947@gmail.com.



## One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Received April 13th-April 27th

Scripture reminds us time and again that God's people belong with those in need. In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope

Through One Great Hour of Sharing, we build God's house and extend shelter to those who have no place to stay, offer compassion to those who have pain — be it physical, emotional or spiritual — and we set a feast, with God, for those who lack access to enough food to eat. There are several ways you can choose to contribute to this offering. Pick up a fish bank and giving guide at the beginning of Lent. Then bring the filled bank back for collection on Palm Sunday. Or make a gift to the offering using the special envelopes, a designated check, or an online gift. Those options will be available beginning on Palm Sunday and continuing through the week after Easter. We'll be highlighting the work made possible by this offering until then. Please consider a special life-changing gift this Easter Season.

# BEAR CREEK

## Camp Bear Creek

Hey parents, are your students looking for an enriching and fun experience for the summer? Well, then look no further. Camp Bear Creek is gearing up for another exciting summer of five weeks of camp. Summer camp is an opportunity for your kids to get away from home, get outside, and become immersed in God's creation while being provided with a faith-forming experience that is unique and impactful. At camp, kids get to live in the moment, be away from their phones and screens and have the opportunity to be their authentic selves and share their faith in a supportive community of peers their own age. Kids get to explore nature, they get the chance to grow in their faith, spend time in worship and escape the ordinary for one special week each summer,

Bear Creek offers summer programs that include both full and partial week time frames. You can get your kids registered for camp through their website: [www.bearcreek.camp](http://www.bearcreek.camp) and early bird pricing for camp is available through March 15th, after this date, the price will increase by \$25. If your student has an interest of attending camp this summer, please register them soon as possible, as each year the number of kids that attend camp continues to increase and each camp week fills up quickly. The camp provides a family friendly three-tier based pricing program which gives families the opportunity to choose a pricing tier that is most suitable for you and your family.

The following are the camp weeks for the summer:

- Week 1: June 15-20**
- Week 2: June 22-27**
- Week 3: July 6-11**
- Week 4: July 13-18**
- Week 5: July 20-25**

If you have any additional questions, please contact Stan Letscher



The First Presbyterian Book Club will meet at the home of Cindy and John Monroe (449 Dows Rd SE; if you use GPS be sure you enter Dows Rd, not Dows Lane) at **6:30 pm on March 17**, when we will discuss *The Last Devil to Die* by Richard Osman. This is the fourth book in the Thursday Murder Club series. Although most of the old gang is back, one is missing, murdered in a forest for no apparent reason. Several old suspects return as well, in a plot revolving around antiques and missing heroin. There are always subplots in Osman's books, and this one is no exception. Without giving anything away, the ending is something of a surprise. Contact **Cindy at 319-981-8356 or cmonroe1947@gmail.com** if you plan to attend.

On **April 21 at 6:30 pm** the book club will meet at the home of Gisela Steffe on the Meth-Wick campus (Oakwood building, 1225 13 St NW, Apt. 302). We will open the baseball season with *The Curious Case of Sidd Finch* by George Plimpton. Plimpton developed this out of a piece in *Sports Illustrated* in the April 1, 1985, edition. Sidd Finch was a flame-throwing barefooted Buddhist pitcher for the NY Mets who took the National League by storm, then disappeared. Contact **Gisela at 319-775-7498 or giselasteffe@msn.com** if you plan to attend.

The book for the May 19 meeting is *Jame: a Novel* by Percival Everett.



# FOOD GROUP

**Napoli's Italian Restaurant**  
2360 Edgewood Rd SW #600  
**3/20 @ 6:00 pm**  
RSVP by 3/16  
**Carolyn Horton - 899-0255 / horton6902@msn.com**

**Irish Democrat**  
3207 First Avenue SE  
**4/17 @ 6:00 pm**  
RSVP by 4/13



## Calling all Singers!

Join the choir on Palm Sunday as they sing their major work for the season: selected choruses from Handel's "Messiah". Although we typically hear this work at the Christmas season, "Messiah" incorporates the death and resurrection of Christ. If you would like to sing with the choir, rehearsals are Wednesday at 7 o'clock. We will begin with time on the "Messiah" before moving to our weekly anthem.

## Lenten Music Offering: Handel's Messiah

On Palm Sunday, April 13, our Chancel choir will present Lenten portions of Handel's Messiah during worship. Through powerful choruses and moving solos, we will reflect on Christ's sacrifice and His journey to the cross. This sacred music invites us to deepen our faith and prepare our hearts for Easter. Come and experience the beauty and devotion of this timeless masterpiece as we worship together. Let the inspiring message of Messiah uplift your spirit this Lenten season. We look forward to sharing this special musical offering with you!

## Journey to Calling a Second Pastor

At this year's annual meeting, the Session shared an important step in our church's future—we are moving forward with the process of calling and installing a second pastor. As we continue to rebuild from the challenges of the pandemic and flooding, we see new opportunities for growth, renewal, and strengthened ministry. Additional pastoral leadership will help us embrace this next chapter with faith and vision. As we embark on this journey, we commit ourselves to seeking God's will with patience, trust, and prayer.

### The Steps in the Search Process:

**1. Preparation:** Our Vision Team has already laid the groundwork by gathering insights from last fall's Celebration Sunday, and this will be added to information gleaned from Lenten Small Group conversations and the Holy Cow! Congregational Assessment. These reflections on our needs and vision will guide the search and help potential candidates understand who we are.

**2. Form the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC):** The congregation elects a PNC to lead the search process. This dedicated group represents the voices of the church and works to find a pastor who aligns with our mission and vision. In the coming weeks, our Nominating Committee will present a slate of candidates for election.

**3. Discernment and Seeking Candidates:** With guidance from the presbytery, the PNC will create a Ministry Information Form (MIF) that describes our congregation and pastoral needs. This profile will be shared with potential candidates, and the committee will prayerfully review applications, conduct interviews, and listen to sermons. Pastor Heather may provide insights if requested, but the PNC will make independent decisions.

**4. Final Selection and Call:** After much discernment, the PNC will select a candidate and present them to the Session and congregation. The candidate will preach for the church, followed by a congregational vote to extend the call. If approved, the pastor will accept the call and be officially installed in a special worship service, marking the beginning of a new pastoral relationship.

**The Role of the Congregation:** While the PNC leads the search, every member of our church plays a vital role. Your prayers, patience, and engagement are essential. Stay connected through newsletters and announcements, and trust in God's guidance through this exciting journey. May this season be one of joy and hope as we look forward to the future God has prepared for us.

## What is a Sabbatical?

### A Time For Renewal

In February, the Session voted to grant Pastor Heather a sabbatical leave to be taken in the year 2026. Over the next year, plans for that time for renewal will be developed by Heather in conversation with the Session, including the application for some grant funding to support the time away.

Sabbatical Leave is an extension of the Biblical concept of the Sabbath day and Sabbath year for renewal and education. It is both an act of faith that God will sustain us through a period of reflection and changed activity and an occasion for recovery and renewal of vital energies for both the pastor and the congregation. This "extended time" is qualitatively different from "vacation" or "days off" in that it provides an opportunity for the individual to strategically disengage from regular and normal tasks so that ministry and mission may be viewed from a new perspective. It is our hope that this provides of time of renewal both for Heather and for the entire congregation. Look for more information over the coming months as year as we prepare for this journey together and if you have any questions don't hesitate to ask Pastor Heather or one of the members of Session.



**Sunday March 2**  
**Communion Sunday**  
**Fill the Cart for Food Bank**  
10:00 am Nursery  
10:00 Worship & LiveStream  
11:00 am Fellowship  
11:30 New Members Class  
**SEMP SCHEDULE**

**Tuesday March 4**  
5:30 pm Discipleship Commission

**Wednesday March 5**  
\*Wednesday Night Activities

**Sunday March 9**  
**Daylight Savings Time**  
9:00 am Insight & Nursery  
10:00 Worship & LiveStream  
10:15 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Fellowship  
**SEMP SCHEDULE**

**Tuesday March 11**  
5:30 pm Deacons  
6:30 pm Care Commission

**Wednesday March 12**  
\*Wednesday Night Activities

**Thursday March 20**  
6:00 pm Food Group

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

**Monday March 17**  
6:30 Evening Book Group

**Tuesday March 18**  
5:30 pm Admin Commission

**Wednesday Night Schedule:**

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

**Wednesday March 19**  
\*Wednesday Night Activities

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

**Tuesday March 25**  
5:30 pm Proclamation  
7:00 pm Session

**Wednesday March 26**  
\*Wednesday Night Activities

**Sunday March 30**  
9:00 am Nursery & Insight  
10:00 Worship & LiveStream  
10:15 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Fellowship  
**SEMP SCHEDULE**

**Tuesday April 1**  
5:30 pm Discipleship Commission

**Wednesday April 2**  
\*Wednesday Night Activities

**Sunday April 6**  
**Communion Sunday**  
**Fill the Cart for Food Bank**  
9:00 am Nursery  
10:00 Worship & LiveStream  
11:00 am Fellowship  
**SEMP SCHEDULE**

**Tuesday April 8**  
5:30 pm Deacons  
6:30 pm Care Commission

**Wednesday April 9**  
\*Wednesday Night Activities

**S.E.M.P.**

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

Food Bank Hospitality  
M•W•F @ 12:30pm

**Sunday April 13**  
9:00 am Insight & Nursery  
10:00 Worship & LiveStream  
10:15 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Fellowship  
**SEMP SCHEDULE**

**Tuesday April 15**  
5:30 pm Admin Commission

**Wednesday April 16**  
\*Wednesday Night Activities

**Thursday April 17**  
6:00 Food Group

**Sunday April 20**  
**Easter Sunday**  
9:00 am Insight & Nursery  
10:00 Worship & LiveStream  
10:15 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Fellowship  
EGG HUNT?  
**SEMP SCHEDULE**

**Monday April 21**  
**Easter Monday**  
6:30 pm Evening Book Group

**Tuesday April 22**  
5:30 pm Proclamation  
7:00 pm Session

**Wednesday April 23**  
\*Wednesday Night Activities

**Saturday April 26**  
Anna Ghosh Breakfast

**Sunday April 27**  
9:00 am Nursery & Insight  
10:00 Worship & LiveStream  
10:15 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Fellowship  
**SEMP SCHEDULE**

**Wednesday April 30**  
\*Wednesday Night Activities

**BIRTHDAYS**

3/1	Rod Caszatt	3/24	Kossi Kokou	4/12	Tim Kossayian
3/3	Denise Ellis	3/24	Jill Ryder	4/14	Sarah Richardson
3/4	Carolyn Davis	3/25	Kristin Murphy	4/15	Olivia Bryner
3/4	Kelli Eggert	3/28	Matthew Smith	4/15	Brian Mollman
3/6	Don Vanous	3/28	Brayden Stolba	4/16	Marty Brown
3/7	Dick McGaughy	3/29	Levi Adams	4/16	Dave Kutter
3/9	Molly Buresh	3/30	Angela Davis Evans	4/17	Jay Aisenbrey
3/10	Dave Booth	3/31	Joan A Riley	4/18	Betsy Caszatt
3/10	Lexi Frese	4/1	Carolyn Crew	4/18	Steve White
3/11	Olivia Proctor	4/1	John Monroe	4/19	Jerry Shirk
3/12	Lucas Smiley	4/1	Alan Naylor	4/19	Kristen Wilcox
3/14	Paula Meyer	4/2	Karen Nelson	4/20	Steve Barry
3/15	Sally Brause	4/3	Laura Chadima-Beer	4/21	Dave Davidson
3/15	Anna Ryder	4/4	Mary Noland-Houtz	4/21	Lois Willhoite
3/15	Susan White	4/5	Michael Miller	4/23	Lauren Beer
3/16	Brian Frese	4/6	Jane Looker	4/26	Johanna Hayes
3/17	Emily Smith	4/6	Matt Mitchell	4/26	John Van Heukelom
3/18	Nancy Lackner	4/6	Claire Streevy	4/26	Judith Wagner
3/18	Peyten Weldon	4/8	Macy Bryner	4/28	Glenna Houtz
3/20	Joe Houtz	4/8	Barbara Cole	4/28	Matt Spellman
3/20	Leo Olson	4/11	Charlie Rohde	4/30	Nolan Evans
3/20	Henlee Younger	4/11	Scott Stevenson	4/30	Clete Younger
3/22	Joan Beach	4/12	Ryan Buresh		

**ANNIVERSARIES**

3/2/1970	Ada & Art Potratz	4/11/1969	Bob & Sue Latham
3/9/1996	Jeff Beer & Laura Chadima-Beer	4/15/1976	Albert & Julie Christophersen
3/13/1993	Heather & Mitch Golden	4/19/1969	Ed & Mary Ellen Horak
3/17/1990	Dave & Holly Rasmussen	4/23/1977	Diane & Scott Stevenson
3/21/1992	Martha & Matthew Wilding	4/30/2005	Allie & Justin Adams
4/1/1995	Joe Houtz & Mary Noland-Houtz		

**FELLOWSHIP HOSTS**

3/2	Martha Booth & Priscilla Polehna	4/6	HOST NEEDED
3/9	Susan Baker & charity Tyler	4/13	HOST NEEDED
3/16	Roxi McCrane & Gisela Steffe	4/20	Katie & Ryan Buresh
3/23	Dave & Carolyn Crew	4/27	Paula Meyer, DeEtta Andersen
3/30	Alisa Shields, Darlene Elbert		

## First Presbyterian Church

310 Fifth Street

Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401

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## News and Views

*March  
&  
April  
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

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