

## JOYS & CONCERNS

**WHEN THEY CANNOT JOIN US, WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:** Jeremy Brigham. Dick McGaughy

**BIRTHDAYS:** 1/13 Catherine Crew, Jason Evans, Lisa Morris  
1/15 Michelle Ayewu 1/17 Sam Tyler, Evelyn Wilcox

## Insight Adult Education

**Series:** *Christian Ethics* featuring Gary Connors Boe, former Lutheran Pastor. Today, Gary spoke about *The Sermon on the Mount*. Join us next Sunday when Gary speaks about *Biblical Justice*.

## Lent With Lewis: Lessons From Beyond the Wardrobe

This Lent, our small groups will be invited into a rich and imaginative journey through The Chronicles of Narnia by C. S. Lewis. Many of us first encountered Narnia as children, through a wardrobe door, a snowy forest, or the quiet strength of Aslan. But these beloved stories also hold deep wisdom for adults navigating faith, doubt, temptation, grace, and hope. During Lent, we'll explore how Lewis's stories can help us reflect on our own spiritual lives and walk more intentionally toward Easter.

Each week, groups will draw from a different book in the series, exploring themes such as temptation, trust, transformation, perseverance, belonging, responsibility, and resurrection hope. Participants will engage with selected passages from the books, paired with Scripture and guided conversation. No one needs to read all seven books, short excerpts and audio listening options will be provided, making this study accessible to all.

This is a study designed for conversation, curiosity, and formation, not literary expertise. Whether you've read Narnia many times, or never at all, you are welcome.

## A Word to Potential Leaders

If you've ever thought, "I don't know enough to lead a group," this may be the perfect opportunity. Leaders will be provided with clear weekly guides, discussion questions, and optional spiritual practices. What matters most is not having all the answers, but a willingness to open the door and journey alongside others.

Registration for groups and leaders will open soon. We hope you'll consider stepping through the wardrobe with us this Lent.

## The First Presbyterian Evening Book Group

Jan. 19 at 6:30pm at the home of Tom and Nancy Lackner (11 Blake Ct. SE). The book for discussion will be *The Queens of Crime* by Marie Benedict. Set in 1931 London, this is a work of historical fiction about five famous female mystery writers who form a secret group to prove their worth. Please call or text (319-270-0087) or email Tom (tlackner123@gmail.com) to reserve your seat near the dock.

**The Food Group** will meet on **January 15th at 6:00 pm** at Starlight, 3300 1st Avenue SE, Please RSVP by January 12th to Carolyn Horton at 319-899-0255 or horton6902@msn.com All are welcome for food and fellowship!

## Stewardship 2026

Your pledge is essential for proclaiming Christ's love and forgiveness to ourselves and to others. In this season of thanksgiving and joy, please remember how God's love is shared through the ministry of First Pres.

**We have received 102 pledges totaling \$392,378. Our goal this year is 440,000.00.**

To make your pledge, you may use the card that was mailed to you, or pick up a card next time you're at church. Any Questions? Contact Stormy- stormy@fpccr.org

## Annual Meeting & Potluck | January 25th

Mark your calendars! The Session of First Presbyterian Church has called the Annual Meeting of the Congregation for Sunday, January 25, immediately following worship at 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. At this meeting, we'll receive annual reports and 2025 financial statements, conduct the necessary business of the corporation, and vote on the terms of call for the Rev. Heather Hayes. Annual reports and meeting packets will be available online and in print beginning Sunday, January 18.

And this year, we're adding something extra to look forward to! Since we'll be gathering in Fellowship Hall, we'll enjoy a potluck lunch featuring beloved recipes from the First Presbyterian Church cookbook. Come hungry—for good food, good conversation, and good company—as we reflect on the year behind us and look ahead to what God is calling us to next.

Whether you're new to the church or have been part of this community for decades, we hope you'll stay, eat, and take part in this important and joyful moment in the life of our congregation.

## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

### Sunday January 11

9:00 Insight & Nursery  
10:00 am Worship Service  
11:00 am Fellowship  
2:30- 6:00 pm S.E.M.P.

### Monday January 12

1:30-3:30 pm Bridge to Opportunities

### Tuesday January 13

11:30 am Care Commission  
5:30 pm Deacons

### Wednesday January 14

2:00 pm Mahjong  
5:30 pm Middle School Youth & Agape  
6:00 pm Bell Choir & 6:30 pm Dinner

7:00 High School Youth & Chancel Choir & Confirmation

### Thursday January 15

1:30-3:30 pm Bridge to Opportunities  
6:00 pm Food Group

### Sunday January 18

9:00 Insight & Nursery  
10:00 am Worship Service  
11:00 am Fellowship  
2:30- 6:00 pm S.E.M.P.

# First Presbyterian Church

Cedar Rapids • Iowa

**Jan 11, 2026**



Welcome to worship! If this is your first time here or your fortieth, we want you to feel at home.

Here are a few items that may help you as you worship with us. **Bold print** indicates where the congregation speaks together.

An asterisk\* invites you to rise in body or spirit.

Need a quiet spot for you and your child during the service? We have a nursery open on the second floor to welcome you.

Please sign the friendship pad so we may take note of your presence and you may greet your neighbors by name.

## WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

**PRELUDE**      "Gather Us In"      arr: J. Behnke

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

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

God calls us from many places to gather as one.

**We come with open hearts.**

God welcomes us, just as we are.

**We come seeking grace and truth.**

God invites us to worship and be renewed.

**We come to meet the God who loves us.**

**\*HYMN**      *Here in this Place (vs 1, 2, 4)*      #401

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Merciful God, we confess that we are quick to judge and slow to understand. We see the faults of others more clearly than our own. We build walls of separation when you call us to be bridge-builders of reconciliation. We forget that we are all in need of grace. Forgive us, and help us to see others through your eyes of compassion. Restore in us the identity we claimed in baptism: that we are beloved, forgiven, and called to love as you have loved us. Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news: Jesus does not condemn us, but calls us to new life. In Christ, we are forgiven fully and sent forth to extend the same grace we have received. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

### \*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

During the passing of the peace, we share signs of peace and welcome others in our pews. Please turn to those around you as we celebrate God's peace among us.

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD TO US

### TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH

We invite children to come to the front at this time for their own special message. At the conclusion of children's time, kids 5<sup>th</sup> grade and under are invited to join us upstairs for Sunday School. An adult will be at the back of the sanctuary to escort them to their room.

## SCRIPTURE

In the beginning was the Word,  
**And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**  
John 8:1-11 (p 931)

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**      *The 3rd Way*      Rev. Jordan Warntjes

## WE RESPOND IN FAITH

**\*HYMN**      *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*      #475

## RENEWAL OF OUR BAPTISMAL VOWS

### OPENING WORDS

### QUESTIONS OF COMMITMENT

### APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

## PRAYER OVER THE WATER

**MUSIC**      *Down to the River to Pray*

### QUESTIONS OF COMMITMENT

### \*REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISM

You are invited to come forward, dip your hand in the water, and take a small stone if you desire.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

## THE OFFERING

**OFFERTORY**      *“Baptized in Water”*      arr: A. Eckhardt

## \*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of grace and empathy, receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude and commitment to your way of love. Use our offerings to extend your compassion to a world that so desperately needs it. May what we give embody your mercy and remind all people that your love knows no bounds. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

## WE LEAVE TO SERVE THE LORD

**\*HYMN**      *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*      #700

## \*BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE**      *Finale on “Baptized in Water”*      arr: L. Trapp

### Leading In Worship

Pastor | Rev. Jordan Warntjes

Organist | Ted Cronbaugh

Director of Music | Fred Kiser

Liturgist | Laura Behrens

Special Music | Todd Kiser, Fred Kiser

Ushers & Greeters | Dave & Carolyn Crew, Carolyn Horton, Susan Baker, Joseph Ryder