

JOYS & CONCERNS

WHEN THEY CANNOT JOIN US, WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS: Irene Hamous. Lois Willhoite.

BIRTHDAYS: 3/9 Molly Buresh 3/10 Dave Booth, Lexi Frese 3/11 Olivia Proctor, Kaye Williams 3/12 Lucas Smiley 3/14 Paula Meyer

ANNIVERSARIES: 3/9/1996 Jeff Beer & Laura Chadima-Beer 3/13/1993 Heather & Mitch Golden

News & Views- Input Needed!

As we look for ways to reduce printing costs and care more thoughtfully for our resources, we're reviewing how our newsletter is delivered. If you currently receive a printed copy and would like to continue doing so, please let Stormy know. We will also have copies available to pick up. If you're happy receiving it electronically, please let her know that as well so we can remove you from the physical mailing list. Thank you for helping us steward our resources wisely and stay connected in the way that works best for you!

The Food Group will meet on **March 19th at 6:00 pm** at Casa Don Julio, 107 Marion Blvd. Please **RSVP by March 16th** to Carolyn Horton at 319-899-0255 or horton6902@msn.com All are welcome for food and fellowship!

FPC Evening Book Group

On **March 16** we will meet at the home of John and Cindy Monroe, 449 Dows Rd. SE, to discuss *When the Cranes Fly South* by Lisa Ridzen. This is a novel about Bo, an elderly man who reflects on his life, his strained relationship with his son, and his deep bond with his dog, Sixten, as he faces the end of his life. The plot is triggered when his son threatens to take Sixten away, prompting Bo to confront past regrets and unspoken feelings, all while his wife is in a care home with dementia. If you would like to join us, please email (cmonroe1947@gmail.com) or call (319-981-8356)

Ties That Bind | FPC Quilters | March 10 at 1:00pm

Learn how to and then make quilted prayer squares to be shared with people who need comfort and healing. Even if you haven't yet participated in the group, you are welcome to join in on this stand-alone project. Also, if you would like to contribute but can't meet on Tuesday afternoons, contact Carolyn Horton to join in from home.

Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser – Thank You!

Thanks to your generosity, we have reached our congregational fundraising goal of \$4250 for this summer's youth mission trips! Because of your support, our middle schoolers will serve in Columbia, MO and our high schoolers in Fort Collins, CO. We are deeply grateful for a congregation that invests in the faith and service of our young people. Thank you for helping make these experiences possible!

Sign up for a Travel Devotional!

Pastor Heather is putting together a daily devotional for her use on the trail. If you would like a copy, for your own use over the summer, sign up in the Gathering Space or let Heather know.

Care Commission

The Care Commission helps nurture the relational heart of our congregation. This group works to ensure that all who come through our doors are warmly welcomed, meaningfully incorporated into the life of the church, and cared for in times of joy and need. The commission supports membership and fellowship ministries and works closely with our Board of Deacons to help ensure that no one in our community is forgotten. Current members of this commission are: Martha Booth, Nancy Lackner, Sue Latham, Susie McDermott, Sue Stancato, and Shari Stewart. If you have a heart for hospitality, connection, and caring for others, the Care Commission offers a wonderful way to serve.

2 Mile High Resupply

In conjunction with the April 12, 2026, Bon Voyage sendoff for Heather, Dave Booth is initiating a project for folks who would like to send Heather off with a token of support. We will be collecting appropriate Thru-Hiking food items Heather can use during her journey. Dehydrated and Freeze-Dried food is expensive, so the benefit to her will be significant. We are working on a list of suitable items and where to purchase. Check out the list in Signup Genus and the Gathering Space. Sign up online or talk to Dave Booth for assistance. Please bring all purchases to the church by Sunday, March 29th to be presented on April 12th.

Sunday March 8 | Daylight Savings

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

Tuesday March 10

11:30 Care Commission
1-3 Ties that Bind
5:30 pm Deacons Meeting

Wednesday March 11

2:00 pm Mahjong
5:30 pm Middle School Youth & Agape Kids
6:00 pm Bell Choir & 6:30 pm Dinner
7:00 High School Youth & Chancel Choir & Confirmation

Sunday March 15

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

You're not just visiting, you are welcome! Scan this QR code to check in, explore ways to connect and share any prayer requests or pastoral needs.



First Presbyterian Church

Cedar Rapids • Iowa

March 8, 2026 | 10:00 am



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 *In The Cross of Christ I Glory* arr. Cathy Moklebust
Worship begins as you enter the sanctuary. The prelude provides time for quiet, personal preparation for the worship of God.

As we prepare for worship, if there are prayer requests you would like lifted up today in worship and/or brought to the attention of Pastor Heather or Pastor Anna, please fill out a prayer request card and place it in the available baskets before worship or during the passing of the peace.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT *Jesus, We Are Here*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather in this world that is created by the stories we tell,

But we hear of a truer and harder story to believe.

We come with stories of shame, blame, inadequacy, and loneliness,

But we come to the One who walks besides us, wanting to hear our sorrows.

The story of the world tells us we will never be enough

But Love enters and reminds us that we are known. We are loved.

The road is long but we do not walk alone.

Come, let us worship the God whose story renames us and reclaims us.

***HYMN** *O Sing to the Lord (vs. 1-3)* #637

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Holy God, we confess that we have listened to the stories that tell us that we will never make a difference, so we do not try. We listen to stories that tell us we will never be known, so we do not try. We listen to the stories that we will never be loved.

We confess that this story of faith is hard to believe. We have sometimes worshipped a God of far-off disinterest, believing that would be easier. We have let exhaustion, doubt, and fear claim us more than your story of care, resurrection, and new life. Forgive us. Open our eyes to see the ways you care for us, even when we cannot recognize you.

time of silent confession

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news:

Even when we believe we are alone, the story reminds us that God provides.

God does not abandon us. God does not leave us in despair and sorrow. God reveals to us the care and intention that has been there all along. You are not abandoned.

We will tell a new story.

In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

*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 5th 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.

ANTHEM *"If Ye Love Me, Keep My Commandments"* Thomas Tallis

SCRIPTURE

In the beginning was the Word,

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

Psalm 42:1-5 (p 487)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

1 Kings 19:1-10 (p 313)

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 Unluckiest Person in the Whole World!*
The Horse & His Boy Rev. Anna Sheetz

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

***HYMN** *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian (vs. 1, 2, 4)* #729

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | Belhar Confession 10.5

We believe

that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ;

that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells;

that God's life-giving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God's life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world;

MINUTE FOR COMMISSIONS

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 *Garnet* Vander Cook

*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

Large Voiced God, receive these gifts as signs of our trust in you. You have already provided for us in mind, soul, and body. May these gifts join the work you are always doing- making your story known, inviting others into wholeness, offering hope in the loneliest places. Use these gifts, and use us, for your Kingdom's sake. Amen.

WE LEAVE TO SERVE THE LORD

***HYMN** *Lift Every Voice and Sing (vs. 1, 3)* #339

*BENEDICTION

***CHORAL BENEDICTION** *God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me*

POSTLUDE *"Christ Lag in Todesbanden"* J.S. Bach

Don't forget to stop by the prayer table in Fellowship Hall after church and sign your name on the cards that will be sent out this week to those we have mentioned in prayer today or who may need a word of encouragement. The office sends these out each Monday to let others know of the care and prayerful support of our congregation.

Leading In Worship

Pastors | Rev. Heather Hayes & Rev. Anna Sheetz

Organist | Ted Cronbaugh

Director of Music | Fred Kiser

Liturgist | Amy Shoemaker

Special Music | Timothy Blazek & the Bell Choir