

1st Pres NEWS VIEWS

March/ April 2026

First Presbyterian Church • Cedar Rapids • Iowa

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday

MARCH 29

10:00 am Worship
Palm Processional
Confirmation & Baptisms

Maundy Thursday

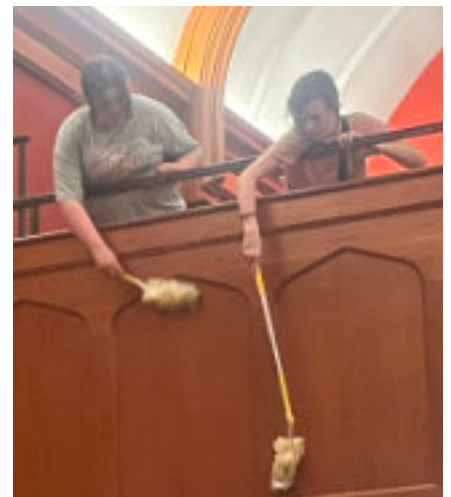
APRIL 2

6:00 pm Soup Supper & Dramatic Reflections
7:00 pm Service of Tenebrae with string quartet

Easter Sunday

APRIL 5

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



Sermons in March & April

Lent With Lewis Series Overview

As we move deeper into Lent, we continue to trace the shape of the whole Biblical story through the lens of C.S. Lewis's Chronicles of Narnia. Each week pairs a Narnia book with scripture and a central truth emerges: self-giving love, not domination or certainty, is at the heart of God's reality.

Lent 2: March 1

The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe

Romans 5:6-11 & John 10:1-18

God doesn't wait for us to be ready. While we were still far off, Christ moved toward us, laying down his life not because we deserved it, but because that's who God is. That kind of surrender and self sacrifice isn't defeat; it's the deeper magic that breaks death's power.

Lent 3: March 8

The Horse & His Boy

Psalms 42:1-5 & 1 Kings 19

We continue on in our Lent with Lewis by examining the book, "The Horse and His Boy." A desperate Shasta calls himself, "the unluckiest boy," but is that true for him? In 1 Kings 19, Elijah believes his work is done, but is that true for him? Let's learn how our stories can be reframed, even when we least expect it.

Lent 4: March 15

Prince Caspian

Psalms 145:13b-21 & Deuteronomy 6:1-8

Faith was never meant to be a solo project. When our own vision narrows, the community remembers on our behalf, rehearsing God's faithfulness across generations and embedding it into the rhythms of daily life. We inherit true stories, and we pass them on.

Lent 5: March 22

The Voyage of the Dawn Treader

John 9:1-34 & 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

To become who God made us to be, something in us has to come undone. Seeing clearly costs us comfort. The outer life may waste away, but God is doing hidden work beneath the surface. What feels like death is the path to becoming truly human.

Palm Sunday: March 29

The Silver Chair

1 Corinthians 13:9-13

We see dimly. We know in part. The world offers enchanting certainties, but mature faith chooses the "foolishness" of love over the false clarity of control. We don't need to see the whole picture, instead, we need to trust what endures, and what endures is love.

Easter Sunday: April 5

The Last Battle

Mark 16:1-8, Philippians 2:5-11

Revelation 21:1-6

The tomb is empty and the women are terrified. Easter doesn't begin with triumph, it begins with shock and fear. But what resurrection reveals is that self-giving love cannot stay buried. Here is the beginning of a new (and renewed) creation. Heaven comes down. God dwells among us. We are finally welcomed to our true home.

Sabbatical Farewell: April 12

Peace for the Road Ahead

John 20:24-31

Thomas longs for certainty. The risen Christ meets him there and then speaks a blessing for those who will believe without seeing. Resurrection faith is rooted not in constant visibility, but in enduring presence. As we move into a season of sabbatical and shared leadership, we trust the promise that Christ's life among us does not depend on any one person, but on the Spirit who sustains the whole church.

April 19

What do We do Now?

Psalms 116: 1-4, 12-19 & Acts 2:42-47

The Disciples are left by Jesus, their faithful leader and they believe that Jesus is the Messiah; they ask themselves, "What should we do?" I wonder if we find ourselves asking the same questions as Pastor Heather departs on her Sabbatical. What can we learn and where can we look when we don't know what to do?

April 26

Living at Our Best

Psalms 23, Acts 2:42-47

We get a glimpse of that early Church and we see the outcomes of what happens when we follow the path we discover on April 19. What are the hallmarks of a faithful community and how might we live into this vision in the upcoming season?

Pastor Article

This year at its January retreat, Session has named a guiding conviction for our life together: "At FPC we believe that we are deeply known and loved by God; therefore we will be a community where all people can know and love others and be fully known and loved." That statement is not simply about friendliness or even belonging. It finds its roots in the Easter stories.

On Easter morning, the risen Christ does not appear as a vague symbol of hope. He calls Mary by name. He stands among frightened disciples who had failed him. He meets Thomas in his doubt. He eats with Peter on a beach and walks alongside others on a road, speaking the promises of scripture. Again and again, resurrection takes the shape of recognition. The living Christ knows his people completely, their fear, their confusion, their love, their failure, and he does not withdraw, but instead offers them what they need in order that they might believe.

Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 13 that now we see only dimly and know only in part, but one day we will know fully, even as we have been fully known. Easter is a glimpse of that promise breaking into the present. The resurrection tells us that we are already seen fully by a God whose knowledge of us is not cold or condemning, but loving.

To be deeply known can feel vulnerable. We spend much of our lives managing impressions, protecting ourselves, keeping certain parts hidden. But Easter proclaims that there is nowhere we can go, not even into death, where God's knowing love does not reach us first. And if that is true, then it reshapes how we live together. We become a community where masks can fall away. Where stories can be told honestly. Where doubt is not shamed. Where grief is not hurried. Where joy is shared without envy. Where we practice the patient, steady love Paul describes, a love that bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Easter does not simply give us hope for life beyond the grave. It gives us a new way to be alive right now: seen and loved by Christ, and therefore committed to building a community where others may be seen and loved too.

Christ is risen. Alleluia & A

Pastor Heather

A Sabbatical Journey: Walking Together

As many of you know, beginning this spring (April 13th to be exact) I will enter a season of sabbatical, a time set apart for renewal, prayer, and restoration. A significant portion of that time will include walking the Continental Divide Trail, step by step through mountains and wilderness. I am deeply grateful to this congregation, and to the Lilly Foundation, whose grant funding makes this sabbatical possible, for sharing this gift that will strengthen our shared life for years to come.

And before I lace up my shoes, we're going to celebrate!

Bon Voyage Luncheon on April 12

On Sunday, April 12, following worship, we'll gather for a catered luncheon (funded through the Lilly grant) as a way of marking this moment together. I'll have my trail gear laid out so you can see what I'll be carrying. There will be maps of the route, space for questions, and time simply to bless this journey as a congregation.

One of my favorite parts of the celebration? There will be a table filled with labels for you to write short notes of encouragement - prayers, jokes, scripture, reminders of home - that we'll stick directly onto my electrolyte pouches. Each day on the trail, as I mix water and powder, I'll receive a small word from you. I can't think of a better daily boost.

Throughout the months I'm away, a large map will hang in Fellowship Hall marking the trek as it unfolds. You'll be able to follow along visually as the miles add up.

In addition, I've been working on a daily trail devotional, Scripture, poetry, and a short reading for each day of the journey. If you would like a printed copy so that you can share in the same rhythm of reflection during these months, you may fill out an interest form online or in the Gathering Space in early March. I would love to know we are praying through the same words, even from different landscapes.

There will also be a dedicated website where updates, photos, and occasional reflections from the trail will be posted.

This sabbatical is an investment in the long, faithful road of ministry we continue to walk together. I go with your blessing — and I go knowing that in a very real way, I am not walking alone.

With gratitude, Pastor Heather

Church Safety & Access Policy: A Faithful and Consistent Approach

At its recent meeting, Session approved a Church Safety & Access Response Policy to guide how we respond to outside disruptions, government agencies, or unexpected incidents on church property.

This policy has been enacted for the safety of our congregation members, staff, volunteers, and the many neighbors who participate in our community ministries each week. From Sunday morning worship to Food Pantry hours to our Senior Learning Group and evening meals, our building is a place of welcome and connection. We want to ensure it remains both hospitable and appropriately boundaried.

The goal of this policy is consistency. In moments of uncertainty, clarity matters. Rather than individuals having to make decisions in isolation, we now have a shared plan that emphasizes:

- Compassion and dignity for all people
- Legal compliance
- Calm, consistent leadership response
- Clear boundaries between public & private spaces
- Protection of personal information and records

The policy identifies a designated response team and outlines clear procedures for staff and volunteers should any disruption occur. It also affirms something deeply important to who we are as a congregation: our role is to provide spiritual support and community care.

In the coming weeks, we will be offering training sessions for key constituencies, including SEMP volunteers, Deacons, and Staff, so that those serving in leadership roles feel prepared and confident in responding appropriately. We will announce those trainings in the bulletin. If you'd like to join one, you are welcome to do so.

This policy is not about fear. It is about faithful preparation. It is about ensuring that we can continue to extend Christ's welcome while also protecting the safety and privacy of all who gather here. If you have questions about the policy or would like to learn more, please reach out to Pastor Heather or Pastor Anna. We are grateful for a congregation that takes both hospitality and responsibility seriously.

Youth Wednesday Bible Studies

The Season of Lent has begun. Students, I hope that you will join us on Wednesdays during Lent as we begin our journey, exploring the land of Narnia with our Lent Bible Study Series: Lent With Lewis--Lessons From Beyond the Wardrobe.

Here is the timeline for our sessions:

Week 1: February 25th--The Magicians's Nephew: Recognition & Creation Our focus themes will be: creation, choice and temptation, the power of sacrifice and love, and drawing closer to God through story.

Week 2: March 4th--The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe: We take a journey through the wardrobe and explore Aslan's grace.

Week 3: March 11th--The Horse and His Boy/ Prince Caspian We discover that God has been present in the journey.

Week 4: March 25th--The Voyage of the Dawn Treader & exploring transformation.

Week 5: April 1st--The Silver Chair Even when we are enchanted by worldly wisdom--we learn to choose the world of foolish faith.

Week 6: April 8th--The Last Battle Everything in our Narnia Journey has been leading up to this--a new creation that is an arrival back to home.

Beginning Wednesday April 15th the middle school students will be starting a new Bible Series entitled: The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss as we explore several stories from one of the world's most well known children's authors.

On April 15th we explore How the Grinch Stole Christmas alongside the gospel.

On April 22nd we look at the story of Horton Hears a Who and the theme of humanity.

On April 29th we revisit the story of Green Eggs & Ham and the encouragement to try a new perspective.

After Easter, the high school students will explore a variety of themes relating to our life.

On April 15th our theme will be on God's Guidance in Our Lives.

On April 22nd we will learn and explore the importance of connecting with others.

On April 29th we will look at the theme of how we deal with prejudice in our world.



The FPC Evening Book Club meets at 6:30 pm on the third Monday of each month except for a combined November-December meeting after Thanksgiving. Members select the books to be read, one per month, and the person recommending the book leads the discussion.

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) Cindy.

On April 20 we will discuss *Guilty by Definition* by Susie Dent. This is mystery novel blending lexicography with crime fiction, wherein a team of dictionary editors investigates cryptic letters related to the decade-old disappearance of a colleague's sister, Charlie, uncovering secrets and lies in Oxford (UK, not Mississippi). This meeting will be at the home of Cynthia and John Burdakin, 1227 Forest Glen Ct SE. If you want to join the discussion, please contact Cynthia at (248) 701-2508 or cburdakin@hotmail.com.

Ties That Bind - FPC Quilters

Participants will make a variety of items! Last May we created lap quilts for all of our high school graduates and we look forward to share our talents again this year.

Martha Booth and Cindy Monroe, Organizers
Mark your calendars and join us in the basement quilting room from 1:00 to 3:00 on:

- Mar 3 & 10** | Learn to make cat & dog blocks
- April 7** | Shop Hop-Travel to area quilt shops
- April 14** | Make a crazy quilt block

Helping Us Share the Story

You may have noticed some fresh energy around our church's online presence. Under Stormy's leadership, a newly convened Social Media Team has begun refreshing our website and working toward greater consistency across our social media platforms.

Why does this matter?

Because for many people, the first "front door" to First Presbyterian isn't our wooden doors on Sunday morning, instead it's a website visit, a Facebook post, or an Instagram story. A clear, welcoming, and consistent online presence helps others discover who we are and what God is doing in and through this community.

Here's where you come in.

When you like, share, comment on, or interact with a church post, it expands our reach. Social media platforms show content to more people when others engage with it. A simple click or short comment can help someone new find worship information, a mission opportunity, or a word of encouragement they didn't even know they needed.

You can support this effort by:

- Following our official accounts
- Liking and sharing posts that resonate with you
- Tagging friends who may be interested in events
- Leaving a positive review or comment
- Subscribing to website updates or e-news

Think of it as digital hospitality. Just as we greet visitors in the narthex, we can extend welcome online, helping others see that at FPC, people are deeply known and loved.

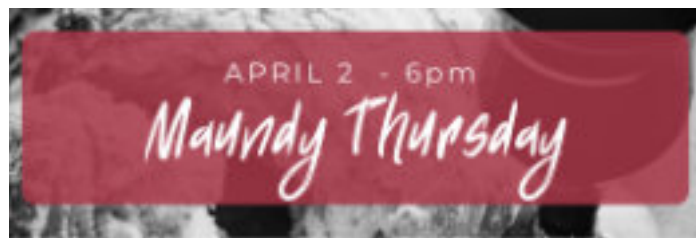
Thank you to Stormy and the team for their creativity and dedication and thank you for helping us tell the story.

Food Group March & April

March 19th | 6:00 pm at Casa Don Julio, 107 Marion Blvd | **RSVP by March 16th**

April 16th | 6:00 pm at Goldfinch Tap & Eatery, 740 10th St | **RSVP by April 13th**

Contact Carolyn Horton at 319-899-0255 or horton6902@msn.com All are welcome for food and fellowship!



Maundy Thursday – April 2nd

Living Last Supper – 6:00 PM | Tenebrae – 7:00 PM

Join us at First Presbyterian for a meaningful evening of fellowship, reflection, and worship.

At 6:00 PM, we'll gather around the table as Jesus did with his friends, and share a simple soup supper. During our time, there will be some dramatic reflections offered by individuals who met Jesus during the last week before the crucifixion. Alisa Shields will be coordinating soups and breads, if you'd like to contribute, contact her (or say yes when she contacts you!) We'll make sure there are vegan and gluten free options available.

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. A child-friendly activity will be offered in the nursery during this time.

Come experience this powerful journey of faith and remembrance.



Bridge to Opportunities Group Mon & Thurs 1:30-3:30pm

Mon, March 2 | Wisdom Circle : The Power of Planning: Trusts and Tools for Your Financial Future. Join us for an informative session on financial and estate planning. Also learn about trusts and other planning tools that can help protect your assets.

Thurs, March 5 | Game Day: Join us to play Phase 10 (a rummy-like card game), Hand and Foot (card game), Mexican Trains (a version of Dominos), Euchre or Scrabble. Or bring a favorite board game.

Mon, March 9 | Good Reads & Good Listens: Join us for a relaxed, social gathering to share book recommendations, favorite podcasts, audiobooks, and other engaging listens.

Thurs, March 12 | Our Struggle for an Honest History: The Deep Roots of White Christian Nationalism. We'll screen Dr. Robert Jones' discussion of these competing visions of the nation that have divided Americans throughout our history.

Mon, March 16 | Tech Cleanout: Securely Wipe & Retire Your Old Devices: Do you have a "junk drawer" full of old cell phones, tablets, or laptops? Join us for a hands-on workshop dedicated to clearing the clutter safely!

Thurs, March 19 | Chair Yoga: Tammy Bayer will be leading a beginner level chair yoga class. She will adapt the class as needed to fit your needs and mobility levels. Chair yoga uses a chair for support with seated and (occasional) standing postures.

(following Chair Yoga) Disaster PrepWise: Participants will learn practical strategies to prepare for emergencies and natural disasters, including creating emergency kits, developing family communication plans, and understanding local resources.

Mon, March 23 | Bingo Day!

Thurs, March 26 | Crafting for a Cause & Creative Showcase: Join us for a special day of creativity and community spirit! Lisa Ritchey will guide us in making Easter baskets for Meals on Wheels clients—spreading kindness one craft at a time. Let's also celebrate our talents and craft projects we enjoy. Bring a completed craft and, if possible, a few of the tools or supplies you use. We'll chat about what inspired our crafting interests and where we find materials (and tips on cost).



One Great Hour of Sharing

In Isaiah 58, the prophet reminds God's people what true faith looks like: "to share your bread with the hungry... to bring the homeless poor into your house... to be called repairers of the breach, restorers of streets to live in."

These are not abstract words. They are a calling. Through One Great Hour of Sharing, we join Presbyterians across the country in that holy work of repair. Our gifts support three vital ministries of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.):

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance – responding to natural disasters and humanitarian crises

Presbyterian Hunger Program – addressing hunger and systemic poverty

Self-Development of People – partnering with communities as they build sustainable change

Together, these ministries respond when disaster strikes, help families access food and clean water, support refugees and migrants, and walk alongside communities working toward long-term stability and dignity. During this Easter season — when we proclaim resurrection hope — we are invited to participate in God's restoring work in tangible ways. You can take part by:

- Picking up a fish bank and giving guide at the beginning of March and returning it filled on Palm Sunday
- Using a special OGHS envelope
- Writing a designated check
- Giving online through the church website

We will receive the offering during worship from March 29 through April 12, and we will highlight stories of impact throughout those weeks in our bulletin. Small gifts, offered faithfully, become part of something much larger — the rebuilding of lives, the restoring of communities, the repairing love of Christ made visible in the world.

Please prayerfully consider a generous gift to One Great Hour of Sharing this year.



Stop by the library and choose one of these books to accompany you on your Lenten journey.

The Cup of Our Life, Joyce Rupp

This beautiful book will both revitalize and enrich your relationship with the Divine. Over six weeks, daily thoughts, scripture, poetry and prayer will draw you closer to the resurrected Savior.

Amazing Grace – A Vocabulary of Faith, Kathleen Norris

In this book you will find an engaging meditation on the language of faith. Salvation, Incarnation, Repentance – Norris uses these and more "words of faith" as a starting point for reflection, and offers a moving account of her own gradual conversion. She offers believers and doubters alike an illuminating perspective on how we can embrace ancient traditions and find faith in the contemporary world.

An Altar in the World, Barbara Brown Taylor

Taylor reveals meaningful ways to discover the sacred in the small things we do and see every day – making eye contact with a grocery store cashier becomes a true moment of human connection, allowing yourself to get lost leads to new discoveries. This book will help to learn to live with purpose, pay attention, slow down and practice reverence.

Small Graces – The Quiet Gifts of Everyday Life, Kent Nerburn

Twenty short thoughts on the sacred moments of our everyday lives. They remind us to chart a course each day that nourishes the soul, honors the body and engages the mind.

A Short Guide to a Happy Life, Anna Quindlen

This small book reflects on what it takes to "get a life" – to live deeply every day and from your own unique self, rather than merely to exist through your days.



Camp Bear Creek

Looking for something to do this summer? Camp Bear Creek, located in Wyoming, IA, is a summer camp for all ages and interests! Oliver and I have been attending “Me and You” camp for the last 3 years, where we together spend 24 hours at camp, getting us both comfortable before he sets out for his first full week away at “Pirates” Camp this Summer! I love supporting an ‘unplugged week’ for students to go and have fun in the sun, growing in faith and closer to new friends and counselors. Camp Bear Creek is part of the East Iowa Presbytery so it’s even part of our PC(USA) family! To celebrate this, First Pres pays 50% of all registration fees for each student who attends from this congregation. Please come talk to Pastor Anna for more information or check out <https://bearcreek.camp/programs/> today.



This Summer! Pool Rules!

Join us for five Thursday evenings this June and July for something a little different; faith conversations, snack and activity, and open swim at a pool, TBD Each Thursday, starting June 18 and running through July 16, we'll gather weekly from 6:30–8:30 p.m. We'll learn together the Pool Rules of Faith:

Community and Storytelling, Prayer and Scripture, Service and Care, Sabbath and Rest, and Hospitality and Celebration.

Come for one, come for all, each night stands on its own.

Let's create a space for people of ALL AGES to be together, for kids to splash around, and for adults to dive a little deeper.

More Details to come; Save the Dates!

Thursdays -- June 18, June 25, July 2, July 9 & July 16 -- 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Sign-ups begin Easter Sunday, April 5!

Knock Knock!

This Easter season, Session has named a guiding conviction for our life together: that we are deeply known and loved by God, and are therefore called to build a community where all people can know and love others and be fully known and loved in return.

In the coming months of April and May, we want to live into that conviction by doing something simple and important: sitting down with as many members of this congregation as possible to listen, to learn your stories, and to understand what it means to you to belong here.

Don't be surprised when someone reaches out to schedule a conversation (they're not asking for money), they're simply want to get to know you because your voice, your experiences, your doubts, griefs, and joys are the threads that weave First Pres together as place were all people can be deeply known and loved by God.



APG Cancer Foundation

Annual Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, April 18 from 8 – 11 AM

First Presbyterian Fellowship Hall

In the past 23 years, this foundation has provided more than \$900,000 in financial assistance to over 1,300 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.



Summer trips and contributions

Our Summer trips are quickly approaching and for those of you that have already made a donation or contribution to fund these trips, we thank you. We are currently have received \$2,498 of our goal of \$4,240. This means we still need \$1,742 to reach our funding goal to help with the expenses for these summer trips.

If you have not made contribution for our trips this summer, there is still time to do so. Checks can be made out to First Presbyterian Church, with Summer Youth Trips included in the memo. These trips through Be The Neighbor are very impactful and I am so excited for both of our trips and for our students attending to be stretched, impacted and influenced in ways that are beyond comprehension. Thank you so much for your supporting these summer youth trips.

Youth events

Friday March 6: Lock-in (starting on Friday at 7pm and ending Saturday morning at 8 am; breakfast will be served before you are sent home)

Wednesday March 18: Join us at AirFX for some jump time from 6-8 pm. Cost will be \$20 per person and if you wish to do the climber zone, that will be an additional \$5.

Saturday March 28: Join us for an evening of bowling at Cedar Rapids Bowling Center. We will meet from 7-9 pm and bowl 2-3 games. Cost is \$4 per game and shoe rental is \$3.50 per person.

Saturday April 11: Join us from 6-7:30 pm as we experience an escape room here in Cedar Rapids. Time and Cost TBD.

Saturday April 18: Join us from 6-8 pm at First Pres in our youth room for a game night. Game tables and board games will be available to play and there will also be a few TV's set up with some game systems!

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 5th**. 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.

**Sunday March 1
Communion Sunday**

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

SEMP SCHEDULE

Monday March 2

5:30 pm Discipleship Commission

Tuesday March 3

1-3 Ties that Bind

Wednesday March 4

*Wednesday Nights

Friday March 6

Youth Lock In

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

Wednesday March 11

*Wednesday Nights

Sunday March 15

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

SEMP SCHEDULE

Tuesday March 17

5:30 Admin Commission

Wednesday March 18

6-8pm Youth at Air FX

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
7:00-6:00 High School Youth
7:00-8:30 Chancel Choir

**Thursday March 19
6:00 Food Group**

Sunday March 22

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

SEMP SCHEDULE

Tuesday March 24

5:30 pm Proclamation
7:00 pm Session

Wednesday March 25

*Wednesday Nights

Saturday March 28

7-9 Bowling at CRBC

Sunday March 29

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

SEMP SCHEDULE

Wednesday April 1

*Wednesday Nights

Thurs April 2 | Maundy Thursday

6:00 Living Last Supper
7:00 pm Service of Tenebrae

**Sunday April 5 | Easter Sunday
Fill the Cart**

10:00 Worship & LiveStream
11:00 am Fellowship

SEMP SCHEDULE

Monday April 6

Church Closed
5:30 pm Discipleship Commission

Tuesday April 7

1-3 Ties that Bind

Wednesday April 8

*Wednesday Nights

Saturday April 11

S.E.M.P.

2:00 SEMP Prep
3:30 SEMP set up, hand out, clean up
4:14 SEMP Greeter & Guide

Mahjong Wednesdays at 2:00 pm

Food Bank Hospitality M | W | F @ 12:30

Bridge to Opportunities Mon & Thurs 1:30-3:30

6:00 Youth Escape Room

Sunday April 12

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

SEMP SCHEDULE

Monday April 13

6:30 Evening Book Group

Tuesday April 14

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

Wednesday April 15

*Wednesday Nights

Thursday April 16

6:00 Food Group

Saturday April 18

6-8:00 Game Night with Youth

Sunday April 19

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

SEMP SCHEDULE

Tuesday April 21

5:30 pm Admin Commission

Wednesday April 22

*Wednesday Nights

Sunday April 26

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

SEMP SCHEDULE

Tuesday April 28

5:30 pm Proclamation
7:00 pm Session

Wednesday April 29

*Wednesday Nights

Birthdays @ First

3/1 Rod Caszatt
3/3 Denise Ellis
3/4 Carolyn Davis
3/4 Kelli Eggert
3/6 Bob Bouton
3/6 Nyaihok John Koang
3/6 Don Vanous
3/7 Dick McGaughy
3/9 Molly Buresh
3/10 Dave Booth
3/10 Lexi Frese
3/11 Olivia Proctor
3/11 Kaye Williams
3/12 Lucas Smiley
3/14 Paula Meyer
3/15 Sally Brause
3/15 Anna Ryder
3/15 Susan White
3/16 Summer Dawson
3/16 Brian Frese
3/17 Lindsay Hopp
3/17 Emily Smith
3/18 Beth Aalderks
3/18 Nancy Lackner
3/18 Peyton Weldon
3/20 Joe Houtz
3/20 Leo Olson

3/20 Henlee Younger
3/22 Joan Beach
3/24 Kossi Kokou
3/24 Jill Ryder
3/25 Kristin Murphy
3/25 Lenore Negi
3/28 Matthew Smith
3/28 Brayden Stolba
3/29 Levi Adams
3/29 Jay Baker
3/30 Angela Davis Evans
3/31 Joan A Riley
3/31 Brant Vermeer
4/1 Carolyn Crew
4/1 John Monroe
4/1 Alan Naylor
4/2 Karen Nelson
4/3 Laura Chadima-Ber
4/4 Heather Hayes
4/4 Mary Noland-Houtz
4/5 Michael Miller
4/6 Jane Looker
4/6 Matt Mitchell
4/7 Shelby Stark
4/8 Macy Bryner
4/11 Charlie Rohde
4/11 Scott Stevenson

4/12 Ryan Buresh
4/12 Shephard Colbert
4/12 Tim Kossayan
4/14 Sarah Richardson
4/15 Olivia Bryner
4/15 Brian Mollman
4/16 Marty Brown
4/16 Dave Kutter
4/18 Betsy Caszatt
4/18 Steve White
4/19 Jerry Shirk
4/19 Kristen Wilcox
4/20 Steve Barry
4/20 B J Klinger
4/20 Matt Stolba
4/21 Dave Davidson
4/21 Lois Willhoite
4/23 Lauren Beer
4/24 Jacob Wagner
4/26 Johanna Hayes
4/26 John Van Heukelom
4/26 Judith Wagner
4/28 Glenna Houtz
4/28 Matt Spellman
4/30 Nolan Evans
4/30 Clete Younger

Anniversaries

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

Fellowship Hosts

1/04 Sue Latham, Paula Meyer
1/11 Laura Runkle & Mike Miller
1/18 HOSTS NEEDED!
1/25 Julia Luna & HOSTS NEEDED!
2/1 HOSTS NEEDED!
2/8 Lisa & Dave Morris
2/15 HOSTS NEEDED!
2/22 HOSTS NEEDED!

First Presbyterian Church

310 Fifth Street

Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401

News and Views

March

&

April

2026

First Presbyterian Church Staff

Head of Staff

Pastor Heather Hayes

Associate Pastor

Pastor Anna Sheetz

Office Manager

Stormy Garretson

Director of Music Ministries

Fred Kiser

Organist

Ted Cronbaugh

Youth Director

Stan Letscher

Bookkeeper

Janna Murra

Nursery

Lindsay Hopp

Godly Play Teacher

Glenna Houtz