

# 1st Pres NEWS VIEWS

September/ October 2026

First Presbyterian Church • Cedar Rapids • Iowa



## Sermons in September & October

### September 6

*Matthew 22:37-40*

*1 Thessalonians 5:11*

Guest Preacher Cassie Oliver brings the message this week, reflecting on Jesus's greatest commandment and what it looks like to be known by our love for one another.

### September 13 Rally Day!

*Psalm 114*

*Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21*

Rally Day kicks us off with a new series! As we return to routine and the pattern of a new year ahead, we're reminded that faith isn't just words on a page; it's a story we are learning with God.

### September 20

*Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45*

*Exodus 16:2-15*

The Israelites complain in the wilderness after a miraculous save; how does God respond? Let's find out! The Walking Straight Stewardship Campaign kicks off with some fun!

### September 27

*Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16*

*Exodus 17:1-7*

Thirst turns to conflict and God meets it in the most surprising way. What do we do with our own dry seasons and how might God meet us in totally unexpected ways?

## Reformation & Volunteers Sunday

Celebrating the Priesthood of All Believers

On October 25th, we'll celebrate Reformation Sunday by honoring a revolutionary idea that changed Christianity forever: the priesthood of all believers. Martin Luther proclaimed that every Christian, not just ordained clergy, is called to serve God through their work and witness.

This Sunday, we celebrate that truth by recognizing the volunteers who embody this reforming spirit here in our own congregation. Whether teaching children, serving meals, maintaining our building, welcoming guests, singing in the choir, or caring for neighbors near and far, our volunteers demonstrate that ministry belongs to the whole church, not just the pastor or staff, but every member of the body.

Their faithful service proves that the Reformation continues today, not through posting theses on cathedral doors, but through showing up, week after week, wherever God calls.

Join us as we give thanks for our Protestant heritage and for those who live it out daily among us. Worship will include special recognition of our volunteers, so come ready to celebrate the people who make this church's ministry possible.

### October 4

*Psalm 19 & Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20*

We will celebrate World Communion Sunday at 11am at the First Presbyterian Church Near Ely. Afterwards, stick around for the Fall Festival! Let's talk about covenant and what God requires of the Israelites; and what that mean for us today.

### October 11

*Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23 & Exodus 32:1-14*

Impatience leads to idolatry; let us talk about one of the most vital stories of faith. A big bad mess up and how God responds.... And how Moses responds to God!

### October 18

*Psalm 99 & Exodus 33:12-23*

The Ask & The Answer

Moses has a request of God. After a long journey on this path in the wilderness, Moses asks God the most vulnerable thing; Moses wants to see God's face. Let's see how God responds.

### October 25

Rev. Heather Hayes back at the Pulpit

*Matthew 22:34-40*

The Path of Love

Straight Paths: Walking in Faith Together

*Let your eyes look directly forward...*

*Keep straight the path of your feet... Proverbs 4*

Following Jesus is not simply about where we are going, but how we walk the road together. We'll follow the lectionary readings in Matthew's gospel to explore how love, faithfulness, courage, generosity, and care for our neighbors shape the path we share—and how the gifts we offer help us travel that path together.

## Pastor Article

*The LORD is my strength and my might,  
And he has become my salvation;  
This is my God, and I will praise him,  
My father's God, and I will exalt him.  
Exodus 15:2*

Wow! As this summer comes to a close, I give thanks for all the goodness we've experienced this season. It was a gift to see so many head to various camps- Camp Bear Creek, long-attended family camps, Summer Mission Trips through our Youth Groups. And it was wonderful to hear eight different students share, this past Sunday, how their summer experiences deepened and widened their faith. Studying and developing our Summer Sunday School Song series has been a gift for my own faith too; but even more meaningful has been hearing the congregation sing those songs together each week during Time with Young Disciples. Beautiful moments of worship I'll cherish for years to come!

As we pivot into this new season, there's so much ahead. First and foremost- Pastor Heather is coming back! I can't wait to see how her sabbatical has refreshed and restored her, and I'm just as eager for her to meet the "us" we've become while she's been away. I wonder what stories we'll get to tell her. Before her return, I'll be leading a six-week sermon series called The And's of Faith; an exploration of Exodus, the freed slaves' experience in the wilderness, the trouble they get up to, and God's response through it all. Some surprising things, some wonderful things. (I love me some Old Testament, as you may have heard this summer.)

I look forward to Wednesday nights being full again; Bells, Choir, Youth Groups, games, and dinner together; and to all that fall holds: World Communion Sunday, Fall Festival, Stewardship Skits, the Women's Retreat, and so many other ways we'll be together this season.

It all starts Rally Sunday, September 13. Join us for our "Homecoming" celebration, with a delicious lunch afterward, and see where you might get involved in a ministry that fits you, if this is the season for that in your life.

The Lord has been our strength through this summer, and I can't wait to see what God is up to in the months ahead.

Love and peace, joy and grace,  
Pastor Anna



## World Communion Sunday October 4

On the first Sunday of October, something amazing happens across the globe: Christians of every language, culture, and tradition come to the same table. In storefront churches and stone cathedrals, in villages and cities, in languages we'll never learn to pronounce, believers break bread and remember together that we belong to one another in Christ. This is World Communion Sunday; a day set aside not to imagine our unity, but to practice it.

It can be easy, gathered in our own sanctuary with people who look and sound like us, to lose the sense of how vast this family really is. World Communion Sunday interrupts that. It asks us to picture the Table stretched wide enough to hold every nation, every tongue, every story, and to remember that when we come forward to receive the bread and cup, we are joining a meal already in progress, one Christ has been hosting since before we arrived and will keep hosting long after we're gone.

It's also the day we'll culminate this year's World Communion Offering, joining Presbyterians across the country in supporting ministries of racial justice, gender justice, peacemaking, global witness, and ecumenical and interfaith relations, the tangible, hands-and-feet work of the same unity we celebrate at the Table.

And we won't be sitting still to do it. This year, we're taking worship out into the community with our Fall Festival service at Ely, 11am, a chance to carry the spirit of World Communion Sunday beyond our own walls, into new spaces near and far.

Come prepared to receive the bread and the cup, but also come prepared to remember: this Table is bigger than this room. Around the world, on the very same day, our siblings in Christ will be gathering too. We are one Church, one Body, one Table; stretched across the whole earth, and set, always, with room for more.

Where in the World is Pastor Heather?

Heather is really taking this trail thing seriously! She's been to Wyoming, took another route through Colorado and will be finishing up in Montana. Rest easy folks, she's almost done and plans to return the first week of October and will be back in the pulpit October 13th!



Sunday School

Hi to all my Godly Play Sunday School friends! Hello as well to all the new friends who might be interested in joining us! I'm Ms. Glenna, and I'm looking forward to spending time together.

Godly Play Sunday School is for kids in kindergarten through fifth grade. Godly Play is a Montessori-inspired way of telling the stories of the Bible, using story time, tactile objects (little figures the kids can hold and use), and open-ended wondering. If you enjoy listening to a story, creating something, or telling a story yourself, join us this fall!

We'll meet regularly, except on communion Sundays, so we can all worship together in service.

We'd also love to have adults join in the fun! Whether you'd like to help tell the stories, set up our materials, or simply be a warm presence for our kids, there's a place for you. No experience with Godly Play is needed, just a willingness to learn alongside the children.

Child Protection Policy: Creating Safe & Nurturing Spaces

At First Pres, we believe that every child, youth and vulnerable adult is a valuable and precious gift from God. We are called to provide safe spaces where everyone can grow in faith, feel safe, and be nurtured in body, mind, and spirit.

Last year, the Session adopted a new Child, Youth, Adult Protection Policy. The purpose of this policy is simple: To keep our children and youth safe, to protect volunteers and staff and to strengthen trust across our community.

This is a reminder of the policy and a few of the core practices every member of our church family should be aware of:

**Two-Adult Rule:** At least two screened adults are always present in activities with children or youth.

**Screening & Training:** All staff and volunteers need to complete an application, background check, and training before serving.

**Safe Spaces:** Classrooms and activity areas are open, visible, and supervised.

**Check-in & Check-Out (Sunday School):** Children in second grade and younger are signed in and released only to a parent or guardian.

**Boundaries:** Volunteers and staff are committed to appropriate, respectful, and caring interactions at all times.

In addition, clear procedures are in place for reporting and responding to any concerns. We want parents and children to know: If something ever feels wrong, it will be taken seriously, handled promptly, and always with the safety of the child being the highest priority.

This policy is not only about rules and guidelines--it is about living out our faith. Jesus welcomed the children, blessed them, and calls us to do the same. By caring for the most vulnerable among us, we live into our baptismal promises and our calling as disciples.

If you have questions about this policy or want to read the full text, head to our website <https://fpccr.org/child-protection-policy/> You may also contact Pastor Anna or Stan, our Director of Youth Ministry.



The FPC Evening Book Club meets at 6:30pm on the third Monday of the month and is open to all. The meeting venue rotates among club members.

**September 21** | @ the Monroe's (449 Dows Rd. SE) *Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books*, by Kirsten Miller. Beverly Underwood and her arch enemy, Lula Dean, live in the tiny town of Troy, Georgia. Lula has become a local celebrity by embarking on a mission to rid the public libraries of all inappropriate books, and has established her own little free library. Beverly's daughter Lindsay sneaks in by night and secretly fills Lula Dean's library with banned books wrapped in "wholesome" dust jackets. When Lindsay is forced to own up to what she's done, the showdown that's been brewing between Beverly and Lula will roil the whole town...and change it forever (goodreads). Please call (319-981-8356) or email (cmonroe1947@gmail.com) if you plan to attend.

**October 19** | @ Lynda's (2214 Meadowbrook Dr. SE) *The Quiet American*, by Graham Greene. Alden Pyle is a neophyte American diplomat in the closing days of the French involvement in Indochina in the early 1950s. Narrated by a cynical English journalist who shares a Vietnamese paramour with Pyle, we watch as both the relationship and Indochina subside into chaos. Considered by some to be Greene's greatest work, *The Quiet American* has twice been made into a movie and has recently been reprinted with a new forward. Please call (319-444-0500) or email (lbarrow@coe.edu) if you plan to attend.

FOOD GROUP

 **9/17 @ 6:00 pm | Ox Yoke Inn**  
4420 220th Trail, Amana | RSVP 9/14

 **10/15 @ 6:00 pm | Olive Garden**  
367 Collins Road | RSVP by 10/12

Carolyn H | 899-0255  
horton6902@msn.com



Straight Paths: Walking in Faith Together Stewardship Campaign

*Proverbs 4:25-27*  
*Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you. Keep straight the path of your feet, and all your ways will be sure.*

This fall, our Stewardship Campaign, Straight Paths: Walking in Faith Together, invites us to trust God with every step, inspired in part by our own Pastor Heather's journey this year. Stewardship isn't fundraising; it's discipleship, giving out of gratitude and trusting God to make our paths straight. It's about not knowing exactly where we're going, but knowing where we've been, and trusting that God will lead the generations to come into a sure future.

We'll walk this trail together through worship this fall: kicking off September 20, pausing throughout October for the Fall Festival, mission testimonies, and Volunteer Sunday, and arriving at Pledge Sunday on November 15 to celebrate and dedicate our gifts. Watch for two letters (September and October) and a weekly Stewardship Moment along the way.

Every journey is made of small, faithful steps. This summer, we've talked many times about the small, simple ways to be faithful. The simple songs to sing, the simple ways to tend to friends and strangers, and here we are; in a new season where there may be simple ways to get involved.

Already pledging? Consider stepping up by 1% or more this year.

New to pledging? Even \$5 a month is a meaningful discipline of faith.

Prefer another way? Help fill our resource tent for neighbors in need across Cedar Rapids.

However you're able to walk this path, we're grateful to walk it with you.



## Rally Day & Homecoming Celebration September 13

Come on Home!

Join us for Rally Sunday on September 13th as we celebrate Homecoming and kick off a new program year together. This special day marks the return of Sunday School Season (with the first class being September 20), choirs, youth groups, and the rhythms of church life that we've missed over the summer— a chance to come back as a church family, or to come and see us for the very first time!

We'll celebrate Communion together and begin a brand new sermon series: "The And's of Faith." Over the next six weeks, as we anticipate Pastor Heather returning from sabbatical, we'll explore the wilderness stories of Exodus; the journey between humans AND God.

Whether you've been part of First Presbyterian for years or you're wondering if this is the right season to step in, Rally Sunday is your invitation. Come and see what the Church is up to. Come and find your place in this story; our story between humans AND God.

Let's linger a little longer and enjoy a delicious potluck-style meal. Let's create space for fellowship and conversation as we welcome each other home to this space, in this season.



## A New Way to Give The World Communion Offering

I am so excited to share a new way our denomination, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), is inviting congregations to participate in World Communion Sunday on October 4: the World Communion Offering. On this day, Christians around the globe gather around Christ's table to celebrate our unity. And we Presbyterians will join together through the Offering to cultivate reconciliation and support PC(USA) ministries that embody Christ's love and justice in the world alongside our partners.

The World Communion Offering supports ministries focused on racial justice, gender justice, peacemaking, global witness, and ecumenical and interfaith relations. Through our gifts, we participate in God's work of reconciliation around the corner and around the globe. In our divided and hurting world, this Offering reminds us that Christ's table is open to all people and that we are called to build communities shaped by compassion, justice, peace and hope.

Our generosity will go a long way as the PC(USA), alongside global partners, addresses some of the most pressing challenges facing our communities and world. Together, we work to foster understanding across differences, accompany communities impacted by violence and injustice, strengthen relationships across cultures and faith traditions, and bear witness to the reconciling love we know in Jesus Christ.

I am also sensitive to name that this will run parallel to our stewardship season, this month long offering (culminating on World Communion Sunday, October 4) is one of the four special offerings each year. The denomination sets the timeline for these dedicated opportunities to give beyond our regular, FPC budget in support of the wider mission and ministry of the Church. The World Communion Offering is one of these four, received each year.

We invite you to give generously as we join in this global celebration. You can give online at <https://onrealm.org/fpcpr/-/form/give/2> or using the special envelopes provided in the pews.

Learn more about the World Communion Offering and its impact at [pcusa.org/wco](http://pcusa.org/wco).



**9:00 am Sundays**  
Wernimont Room  
Lower Level

## DIFFERENT WORLD: TODAY'S CHALLENGES

How can we help every person find inspiration & hope in today's world? How can we learn to love our neighbors as ourselves?

**9/6/26**

**Labor Day Weekend, No Insight**

**9/13/26**

**Rally Sunday, No Insight**

**9/20/26**

*Update on Linn County Initiatives*

**Sami Sheetz**, Linn County Supervisor

**9/27/26**

*Pope Leo XIV, and the Octoberinian Order*

**Kristy Nabhan-Warren**, PhD. Figge Chair of Catholic Studies at the University of Iowa

**10/4/26**

**No Insight- Especially for You Race**

**10/11/26**

*Assault on Christian Empathy, Part 1*

**10/18/26**

*Assault on Christian Empathy, Part 2*

**Peter Jauhianen**, PhD. Kirkwood Community College

**10/25/26**

*The Immigrant Next Door*

**James Kenyon**, DVM. Veterinarian, Public Speaker

## Annual Crop Walk

**Sunday October 11th | Thomas Park at 1:30 pm.**

What is a Crop Hunger Walk? It is an annual event designed to raise funds and awareness to end hunger locally and around the world. In many nations, people will walk up to six miles a day to get food and water. 1 in 9 people across the world lack access to clean water and a healthy diet. There are people in our own communities that are suffering without ways to receive this food.

Last year the local Crop Hunger Walk group raised just over \$32,000. 25% of the funds raised by this walk stay in the Cedar Rapids/Marion metro area to support some local food organizations that include: The Linn Community Food Bank, Green Square Meals, and Churches of Marion Food Pantry.

Stan Will have a table set up in the gathering space on Sundays starting mid September, where you can register, donate, and get more information about this event.



## College Care Packages

We are collecting items to send to our college students later in the month of November. We heard back from so many of our college students who are so grateful and thankful to receive these packages! We need boxes to fill for this project and are looking for a specific size of box that is 18 inches X14 X 6. If you would like to make a donation, you can bring drop them in the Gathering Space on Sundays or in the church office throughout the week. The following are the items that we are asking you to donate:

- Ramen Noodles in a cup (*microwaveable kind*)
- Small packaged pretzels/chips/other snacks
- Mechanical pencils/pens & Post it notes
- Microwave Popcorn
- Fruit Snacks & Gum
- Health Items (Travel Sized Advil/Ibuprofen, packets of Emergen-C, pocket sized hand sanitizer)
- Homemade cookies (*accepting mid November*)

Thank you so much for your donations and helping to keep this tradition going strong of supporting our college students in their academics in this way.

## Fall Festival

Hang out after World Communion Sunday for our Annual Fall Festival!

Join us on Sunday, October 4 from 12-3 p.m. for our Annual Fall Festival!

After an amazing worship service (starting at 11am), celebrating the world wide table, let's celebrate in our own corner of Iowa. We'll soak in the gorgeous fall scenery and open space, while having access to air conditioning and bathrooms! The afternoon will be full of activities for all ages, including games, pumpkin painting and more. After service, we'll have a chili lunch.

This is a wonderful chance to experience the beauty of rural Iowa while enjoying each other, after a World Wide Celebration of fellowship. Bring a lawn chair and keep an eye out for how you get involved!

**At First Presbyterian Church, we are often reminded of a simple truth about stewardship:** Endowments are created and sustained not by organizational planning, but by the heartfelt intentions of individuals who choose to give.

Tom and Nancy Lackner have beautifully illustrated this truth. They have established—and provided the initial funding for—the *First Presbyterian Pastoral Endowment Fund* at the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation. By aligning its purpose with the *Osborn Congregational Pastoral Support Fund*, these two funds will work together to provide perpetual annual distributions to support FPC’s pastoral staff.

A key part of Tom and Nancy’s vision was to make it easy for anyone to contribute—at any level—and strengthen a dependable, perpetual stream of support that will help keep FPC strong for generations to come.

This generosity echoes the legacy of others who came before. In 1931, a \$1,000 gift from Mrs. Charles Arnott inspired the Session to establish an endowment. Since then, modest estate gifts, direct contributions, and steady investment growth have built that \$1,000 gift to a market value of \$2.8 million, distributing more than \$106,000 to the church in 2026 alone.

More recently, several members created the *First Presbyterian Church of Cedar Rapids Friends Fund* at the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation with gifts totaling \$10,000. Today, that fund has grown to more than \$115,000 and provides over \$4,000 annually to FPC’s operating budget—growth strengthened each year by additional contributions from members.

If you would like more information about any of these funds or how to participate, please contact Pastor Anna or Connie Richardson.



**Women's Retreat: Faithful Together**

Women of all ages are invited to gather at Camp Bear Creek for a weekend of connection, story-sharing, and building relationships that go beyond Sunday mornings. There's something about stepping into God's wilderness together. Away from the noise of daily life, this opens space for us to slow down, be known, and grow in faith alongside one another. We'll share meals together, share stories together, and simply be together in a way our regular Sundays don't always make space for. Whether you've been part of this community for decades or you're still getting to know folks, whether you have to a hundred Women's Retreats or none, whether you have your driver’s license or not; this retreat is for you.

Location: Camp Bear Creek  
Cost: \$45 per person  
RSVP: Contact Pastor Anna by October 1

We need you on the planning team! We're looking to gather a team of 3–4 women to help shape this year's retreat, from planning activities to organizing logistics. If you'd like to be part of bringing Faithful Together to life, reach out to Pastor Anna to join the planning team by September 13.

Do you have a gift to share? Do you have a skill, talent, or passion you'd love to share with the group, whether it's leading a craft, teaching a devotional, guiding a creative activity, or something else entirely? We'd love to have you lead a session at the retreat. Contact Pastor Anna if you're interested in teaching or leading a piece of the weekend by Sunday, September 20.

**Wednesday Night Youth Studies  
Starting September 9th**

**Middle School | 5:30-6:30 pm.**  
This time will consist of a brief game together followed by a Bible Study.

**9/9 |** Series: *Surviving Middle School*. We will explore the major shifts that happen during middle school.

**9/9 | Week 1 |** *The Grief of Growing Out of Childhood*  
**9/16 |** No Youth Activities

**9/23 | Week 2 |** *The Discomfort of Rapidly Changing Teenage Bodies*

**9/30 | Week 3 |** *The Struggle to Create & Find Belonging*

**10/7 | Week 4 |** *Shaping Your Own Identity in the Midst of Middle School Life*

**10/14 |** *Who Are You Following: Following Jesus in a Social Media Obsessed World.*

**10/ 21 |** *Who are we seeking?*  
**10/28 |** *Who are you comparing yourself to?*

**High School | 7-8:30 pm.**  
This time will also include a brief group game together followed by a Bible Study.

**9/9 |** This time will be focused on getting to know new friends, an overview of our fall studies and a challenge for a new year.

**9/23 |** The high school students will begin a three week series entitled: *Love in Action*. This series will be focused around the theme of compassion.

**9/23 | Week 1 | MOVEMENT:** Understanding that people experiencing homelessness are human beings in need of love; Confronting the stereotypes of drug & alcohol abuse; Learning that putting compassion and love into action can help so many.

**9/30 | Week 2 | RELIEF :** We explore the often over-complicated relationships between Christians & Muslims. We will discover how Jesus acted towards marginalized people--just another example of infusing the world with more compassion.

**10/7 | Week 3, | ACTION:** We explore where compassion is lacking in our world. Our focus will be less on acts of compassion and more on the lack of compassion. We will learn how compassion requires more actions.

**10/14 | The Frozen Factor:** Finding Freedom In God's Grace, Lessons From the Film *Frozen*. We explore the theme: *Conceal, Don't Feel-The Danger of Hiding Our Identity*

**10/21 |** *Into The Unknown--Stepping out and Trusting the Journey*

**10/28 |** *Let It Go: Releasing the Things That Hold us Back*



**Agape Kids**

Agape Kids (3rd-5th graders) are setting off on a journey this year! Four students receive a mysterious object from a stranger who vanishes, and discover it only works if they're together! But there's another team chasing after the same prize. Through setbacks, small victories, and moments that test their friendship, we'll see how the Agape Kids live into the quest ahead of them!

All summer, Pastor Anna has been working on something special for some of our most curious students. Knowing how kids in 3rd-5th grade learn. and how much more powerful faith becomes when it's learned through story (hello, Bible!)- this year is one to look forward to every single week. Each week will include the serialized story above, the Bible story of the week, and a different hands-on activity highlighting a different skill.

All 3rd-5th Graders are invited to join us each Wednesday night from 5:30-6:30pm and dinner with the youth groups from 6:30-7p.m. Contact Pastor Anna for more information today!

**Wednesday Night Meals**

Welcome back to another wonderful year of church programming!

Wednesday evening meals are between our group times and will take place from 6:30-7 pm. Our meals will begin on September 9th, when youth programming begins for the year.

We are asking all parents that have kids involved on Wednesdays to submit a payment of \$100 (per student). If you write a check, please make it out to First Presbyterian Church, and let us know who the payment is for.

This meal time is a wonderful time for our students to gather around a table with peers and adults and enjoy in great conversation and delicious meals.

If you would like to join us for these meals, you are welcome to do so, please let Stan know in advance so he can inform the meal prep teams.

**Wednesday September 2**  
Chancel Choir starts  
5:30 pm Stewardship Meeting

**Sunday September 6**  
**Communion Sunday**  
9:00 am Nursery  
10:00 Worship & LiveStream  
11:00 am Fellowship  
**SEMP SCHEDULE**

**Monday September 7**  
**Church Closed**

**Tuesday September 8**  
4:00 pm Care Commission  
5:30 pm Deacons

**Wednesday September 9**  
Youth Programming  
& Bell Choir starts

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

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

**Wednesday September 16**  
*NO YOUTH PROGRAMMING*  
\*Wednesday Nights

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

**Sunday September 20**  
9:00 am Nursery & Insight  
10:00 Worship & LiveStream  
10:15 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Fellowship  
**SEMP SCHEDULE**

**Monday September 21**  
6:30 FPC Book Group

**Wednesday Nights**  
5:30 - 6:30  
Agape Kids (3-5<sup>th</sup> grade)  
Middle School Yth (6-8<sup>th</sup> grade)  
6:00-7:00 Bell Choir  
6:30 Dinner  
7:00-6:00 High School Yth  
7:00-8:30 Chancel Choir

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

**Wednesday September 23**  
\*Wednesday Nights

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

**Wednesday September 30**  
\*Wednesday Nights

**Sunday October 4**  
**Fall fest & Worship at Ely**  
9:00 am Nursery & Insight  
11:00 Worship  
12:00 Fall Festival!  
**SEMP SCHEDULE**

**Monday October 5**  
5:30 pm Discipleship Commission

**Wednesday October 7**  
\*Wednesday Nights

**Sunday October 11**  
9:00 am Nursery & Insight  
10:00 Worship & LiveStream  
11:00 am Fellowship  
**SEMP SCHEDULE**

**Tuesday October 13**  
4:0 pm Care Commission  
5:30 pm Deacons

**Wednesday October 14**  
\*Wednesday Nights

**Thursday October 15**  
6:00 Food Group

**October 16 &17**  
Faithful Together Women's Retreat

**Mahjong**  
Wednesdays at 2:00 pm  
**Food Bank Hospitality**  
M | W | F @ 12:30  
**Bridge to Opportunities**  
Mon & Thurs 1:30-3:30

**Sunday October 18**  
**Celebration Sunday**  
9:00 am Nursery & Insight  
10:00 Worship & LiveStream  
11:00 am Fellowship  
**SEMP SCHEDULE**

**Monday October 19**  
6:30 Evening Book Group

**Tuesday October 20**  
5:30 pm Admin Commission

**Wednesday October 21**  
\*Wednesday Nights

**Sunday October 25**  
**Volunteer & Reformation Sunday**  
9:00 am Nursery & Insight  
10:00 Worship & LiveStream  
11:00 am Fellowship  
**SEMP SCHEDULE**

**Monday October 26**  
5:30 pm Endowment

**Tuesday October 27**  
5:30 pm Proclamation  
7:00 pm Session

**Wednesday October 28**  
\*Wednesday Nights

**Saturday October 31**  
Happy Halloween!

**Please Take Note!**

The "Especially for You" Race is taking place on Sunday, October 4 in Cedar Rapids.

We will NOT have service on that Sunday in the Church building. We will begin worship at 11 am at First Presbyterian Near Ely's Life Center (11100 Spanish Rd. Ely, IA 52227).

**S.E.M.P.**  
2:00 SEMP Prep  
3:30 SEMP set up,  
hand out, clean up  
4:14 SEMP Greeter &  
Guide

*Birthdays @* **First**

**9/1** Elijah Davis  
**9/1** Jace Winger  
**9/1** Nyakatarn Yiey Koang  
**9/2** Derek Horak  
**9/2** John Pisney  
**9/2** Elizabeth Shoemaker  
**9/4** Kaelyn Pettyjohn  
**9/4** Lauren Stobb  
**9/4** Sallie Streib  
**9/5** Amy Brause  
**9/5** Cindy Monroe  
**9/5** Melissa Randall  
**9/5** Frances Sessions  
**9/6** Jan Jauhiainen  
**9/6** Herb Neubauer  
**9/7** Eileen Kunz  
**9/8** John Farrier  
**9/9** Vivian McClimon  
**9/11** Jessica Witt  
**9/12** Charity Tyler  
**9/13** Amy Morris  
**9/14** Caroline Giddings  
**9/15** Calvin Meyer  
**9/16** Joe Shoemaker  
**9/16** Kyle Wilcox  
**9/17** Katie Rohde  
**9/18** Matthew Wagner  
**9/19** Sue Mollman  
**9/19** Sandy Shoemaker

**9/20** Logan Engels  
**9/21** Emilee Horak  
**9/21** Betsy Kutter  
**9/21** Virginia Lyttle  
**9/21** Elizabeth Mitchell  
**9/22** Lillian Buresh  
**9/22** Janice Dockendorff  
**9/22** Laura Koontz  
**9/25** Debra Salz  
**9/26** Dorris Hotchkiss  
**9/27** Bob Schley  
**9/29** Bob Latham  
**10/1** Lisa Alexander  
**10/2** Tyler Denning  
**10/2** Peter Jauhiainen  
**10/4** Alisa Shields  
**10/5** Chad Pettyjohn  
**10/7** Sherry Purdie  
**10/8** Anna Sheetz  
**10/9** Carlo Dannenfelser  
**10/9** Charles Jepsen  
**10/9** Ruth Osborn  
**10/11** Hannah Brown  
**10/11** Ruby Davis  
**10/13** Katie Buresh  
**10/14** Kris Hale  
**10/16** Kate Balvanz  
**10/17** Mary Humphrey  
**10/18** Winston Mitchell

**10/18** Alyssa Privett  
**10/19** Carter Morgan  
**10/19** Patty Powers  
**10/19** Scott Shoemaker  
**10/20** Jeff Beer  
**10/20** Stormy Garretson  
**10/21** Karen Stewart  
**10/22** Cory Elwick  
**10/22** Bonnie Neubauer  
**10/24** Art Potratz  
**10/25** Michael Denning  
**10/25** Carol Kirby  
**10/26** Cassie Oliver  
**10/26** Judy Schoff  
**10/26** Tim Seymour  
**10/29** David Crew  
**10/30** Doris Courtright  
**10/30** Susan Goettel  
**10/30** Ed Horak  
**10/31** Dave Morris  
**10/31** Rick Richardson

*Anniversaries*

**9/3/2005** Laura & Whealen Koontz  
**9/7/1969** John & Karen Carver  
**9/8/1968** Cindy & John Monroe

**9/10/1977** Priscilla & Tom Polehna  
**9/11/1965** Betsy & Rod Caszatt  
**9/21/2012** Andy & Beth Alderks  
**10/4/1997** Carrie & Dave Bryner  
**10/8/2005** Mary & Bill Snapp  
**10/9/1999** Sheryl & Van Smiley  
**10/13/1984** Charles & Kissy Heins

**10/16/1999** Ami & Chad Proctor  
**10/19/1996** Nancy & Tom Lackner  
**10/20/2001** Alisa & Todd Shields  
**10/22/1983** Greg & Lisa Thirnbeck  
**10/23/1999** James & Tracy Tow

**Fellowship Hosts**

**9/6 HOSTS NEEDED!**  
**9/13 Rally Day!**  
**9/20** Laura Runkle, Mike Miller

**9/27 HOSTS NEEDED!!**  
**10/4** Worship @ Ely  
**10/11 HOSTS NEEDED!**

**10/18 HOSTS NEEDED!**  
**10/25 HOSTS NEEDED!**

# First Presbyterian Church

310 Fifth Street

Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401

## News and Views

*September  
&  
October  
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