

JOYS & CONCERNS

WHEN THEY CANNOT JOIN US, WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS: Rosie Strang. Charlene Reeder

BIRTHDAYS: 7/27 Evan Adams, Josh Dixon, Steven Dodd, Brantley Elwick, Delaney Golden, Mark Musker, Ann Schley 7/28 John Koang 7/29 Julie Christophersen, Lila Morris 7/30 Amanda Brause, Connie Richardson 7/31 Don Damsteegt, Mary Ann Peters, Hallie Younger

INSIGHT ADULT EDUCATION

Today we heard J'nae Peterman speak about *Homelessness*. Join us next Sunday when Bruce Nesmith, PhD, Prof. of Political Science, Emeritus, Coe College, speaks about *New Offerings for the Less Fortunate*.

OUR YOUTH NEED YOU!

It takes a village to help our youth group continue to grow, and Stan is looking for volunteers to make a lasting impact on our students. Can you start conversations, be a table parent during dinner, or help keep things running smoothly behind the scenes? If you're available on Wednesday evenings between 5:30–8:30 PM, we'd love to have you! Interested? Talk to Stan for more details!

PASTOR ANNA GOES BACK TO SCHOOL!

Pastor Anna will be away teaching at Synod School July 26-31st, and we welcome Anni Thorn back to the pulpit. If you need any support during this, simply contact the church office.

BLESSINGS & BEST WISHES BOUTONS!

Bob & Sherrie have been cherished members of our church family for many years. As Sherrie's cancer progresses, they have made the decision to move in with their daughter so she can be close during this season of life. While we will miss seeing them, we are grateful for the many years we've shared together and pray for blessings and peace to be with them in their new home. If you would like to send Bob and Sherrie a card or note of encouragement, you may mail it to: 4 Serenity Circle West Branch, IA 52358.

ALL MEMBER CANVAS

We are so close to the finish line! Please scan the code and fill it out TODAY! Already completed yours? Check with your fellow members and encourage them to fill it out!



THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday July 26

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

SEMP SCHEDULE

Monday July 27

1:30 pm Bridge to Opportunities

Wednesday July 29

2:00 pm Mahjong

Thursday July 30

1:30 pm Bridge to Opportunities

Sunday August 2

Communion Sunday

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

July 26, 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.

310 5th St SE | fpccr.org

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

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 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

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

We come to you, O God, to thank you for what is good.
We come to you, O God, to cry out for what is wrong.
We come to you, O God, to ask for help and restoration.
We come to you, O God, with aching hearts and glad souls.
Come, let us worship the one who works all things for our good.

***HYMN** *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty* #35

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess that sometimes our doubts overwhelm our faith. We wonder “if only”... If only things have been different. If only we had acted with more patience. If only we had trusted in God’s help.

We confess that the chatter in our minds and hearts keep us busy. Give us your peace, quiet our minds and settle our hearts so that we can hear the answer only you have for us.

A time for silent reflection

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The kindness of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.
Hear the good news, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God! Amen!

***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 they may return to the pews. Nursery is available for children kindergarten age and younger.

SCRIPTURE

In the beginning was the Word,
And the Word was with God, and the Word was God
Genesis 29:15-35 (p 29)
This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.
Romans 8:26-28 (p 983)
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 *If Only* Anni Thorn

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

***HYMN** *Be Thou My Vision* #450

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe in God, who works in all things for good; even our weakness, even our doubt, even the days we do not know how to pray. We believe the Spirit intercedes for us with groans too deep for words, and that God knows our hearts even when we cannot find the words ourselves. We do not always trust as we ought, but we believe, and we ask God to help our unbelief. Amen.

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

***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**

Gracious God, we bring you these gifts, our "if onlys", and our hope. Take what we offer, trusting that as you work all things together for good, you will use even this offering to bless your church and a world still longing to be made whole. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

WE LEAVE TO SERVE THE LORD

***HYMN** *When the Saints Go Marching In*

Oh when the saints go marching in (repeat)
Lord, I want to be in that number,
When the saints go marching in.
Oh when the sun refused to shine ...
Oh when the trumpet sounds its call ...
Oh when the saints go marching in ...

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Please stop by the prayer table in Fellowship Hall after church to 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
Pastor | Anni Thorn
Liturgist | Heidi Kiser
Organist | Ted Cronbaugh
Director of Music | Fred Kiser
Special Music | Rod Pierson, Saxophone
Steve Shanley, Piano
Vivian Shanley, Bass
Dexter Quanrud, Drum Set