

JOYS & CONCERNS

WHEN THEY CANNOT JOIN US, WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS: Doris Courtright, Rod Caszatt.

RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED: If you or others are hospitalized, please let us know. Due to privacy laws, the hospitals may be unable to provide your information.

BIRTHDAYS: 9/6 Jan Jauhiainen, Herb Neubauer 9/7 Eileen Kunz 9/8 John Farrier 9/9 Vivian McClimon 9/11 Jessica Witt 9/12 Charity Tyler

ANNIVERSARIES: 9/7/1969 John & Karen Carver 9/8/1968 Cindy & John Monroe 9/10/1977 Priscilla & Tom Polehna 9/11/1965 Betsy & Rod Caszatt

LET'S WELCOME CASSIE OLIVER TO THE PULPIT!

Cassie Oliver, grew up in Cedar Rapids, moved around the eastern half of the country during her college and graduate studies. She attended Columbia College (SC) with a Religious Cultural and Ethical Studies Major and then attended Methodist Theological School in Ohio for her Masters of Divinity. She now lives in Center Point and will be getting married next summer. She is also currently attending Coe College for her history and secondary education degree. In her free time she likes to color, volunteer and hang out with the two family dogs, Daisy and Cassius.

RALLY DAY & HOMECOMING CELEBRATION SEPTEMBER 13

Mark your calendars for Rally Day on Sunday, September 13! As we kick off a new programming year together, we'll celebrate with a homecoming-themed worship service, share communion, and enjoy a church-wide lunch after worship.

Rally Day is a chance to reconnect after the summer, welcome one another back, and remember what makes our church family so special. Come ready to worship, laugh, catch up with friends, and get excited about the ministries, opportunities, and adventures that await us in the year ahead. We can't wait to celebrate with you!

THE CHOIR IS BACK!

Chancel Choir will start rehearsing September 2nd and Bell Choir will pick up September 9th. They always welcome new singers, so if you've heard a fantastic voice in the pews over the summer, invite them to join! (extra signing bonus for sopranos and altos).

YOUTH PROGRAMMING STARTS SEPTEMBER 9TH!

Youth Groups are back for the school year! Middle School and Agape Kids meet from 5:30-6:30, dinner is from 6:30-7 and High School meets from 7-8:30. If you have any questions about our youth programs reach out to Pastor Anna or Stan!

FPC BOOK GROUP

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).

FPC FOOD GROUP

We will meet on August 20 at 6:00 pm at Tuscany Grill, 475 Northland Ave. Please **RSVP by August 17th** to Carolyn Horton at 319-899-0255 or horton6902@msn.com All are welcome for food and fellowship!

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday September 6

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 start

Sunday September 13

Rally Day & Communion

9:00 am Nursery

10:00 Worship & LiveStream

10:15 am Sunday School

11:00 am Rally Day Lunch

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

September 6, 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 *“Nimrod” from the Enigma Variations* Edward Elgar
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**

When disaster strikes, tragedy strikes and destruction happens,
They will know we are Christians by our love.

When there is a cry for water, a cry for food and a cry for shelter,
They will know we are Christians by our love.

When others use our name in vain, to hurt and destroy,
They will know we are Christians by our love.

***HYMN** *We Gather Together* #336

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Almighty God, we acknowledge and confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. You have commanded us to love one another as Christ loved us, yet we turn away from need, harbor judgment, and let fear guide our actions instead of grace. Forgive us, Lord. Deepen within us our sorrow for the wrong we have done and the good we have left undone. In your mercy, heal us, set us free from our sin, and renew a steadfast love within us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

time of silent confession

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

For God so loved the world, that He gave us his one and only begotten son so that we may be freed to love and serve his world. You 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.

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC *Light of a Clear Blue Morning* Dolly Parton

SCRIPTURE

In the beginning was the Word,
And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
Matthew 22: 37-40 (p 856)

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.
1 Thessalonians 5:11 (p 1031)

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 *They Will Know* Cassie Oliver
We Are Christians by Our Love

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

***HYMN** *They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love* #300

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

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 *Voluntary on “Thaxted”* arr: Al Travis

***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**

Generous and loving God, you have poured out your blessings upon us, and you call us to share your love with the world. We dedicate these offerings to you now, asking that you bless and multiply them. Use these gifts to feed the hungry, comfort the lonely, and welcome the stranger. May our giving be just the beginning of our service, as we commit our whole lives to loving our neighbors as ourselves.

WE LEAVE TO SERVE THE LORD

***HYMN** *When Morning Gilds the Skies* #667

***BENEDICTION**

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Light of a Clear Blue Morning*

POSTLUDE *Recessional on “St. Anne”* arr: Paul Man

Leading In Worship
Preaching | Cassie Oliver
Liturgist | Diana Richardson
Organist | Ted Cronbaugh
Director of Music | Fred Kiser
Special Music | Kristen Wilcox, soprano; Fred Kiser, piano
Streaming Director | Parker Garretson
Ushers | Linda Cosgrove, Logan Engels, Landen Engels, Cindy Monroe, Mary Ann Kucera, John Monroe