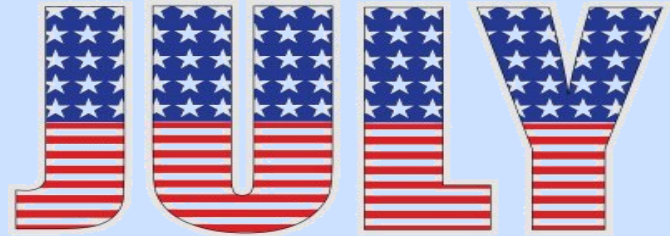


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE PULSE

CLASSES FOR ALL AGES - 9:00 A.M.

SUNDAY WORSHIP - 10:30 A.M.

www.firstpresbymc.com

A Note from Pastor Paul

Now that the solstice has come and gone and daylight lingers for more than 12 hours, now that trees are leafy and lawns are green, now that gardens are planted and flowers in bloom, and even though the temperature feels more like early autumn—summer has arrived!

Maybe you've already slipped into that summer-time mode of being. Eating lunch or dinner out on the deck. Spending time out on the lake. Cycling the trails. Hitting a few tennis balls around the court. Taking off for a road trip.

Typically at the start of a summer season your pastor wags a finger and issues stern admonitions about taking a vacation from church attendance. But frankly, I am more concerned about taking a vacation from our everyday spirituality.

Each season has its own qualities, and we are cheating ourselves if we do not recognize in the turn of the seasons, and in each season of the year, the unique ways in which the Holy is present and active and available.

Summer provides a whole garden of opportunities to engage Creation in ways that, if we are open to them, provide glimpses of God's presence and purpose. At the end of the six days of creation, even God took a day off and strolled in the garden.

Whether you go out on a vacation adventure to some far-away place, or whether you go out into your back yard, think of this world as God's great cathedral, more colorful than stained-glass windows, more spacious than Chartres, full of music and praise. If you need some imaginative help, read Psalms 8 or 19 or especially 104.

God's presence is known indoors as well and can be recognized not only in the Grand Canyon or the Grand Tetons, but equally in Grand Central Station. But perhaps the best way to experience summer-time spirituality is to get your hands into the soil. Whether you plant a large vegetable garden, or grow a few petunias in a pot on the porch, remember that you are participating in the great miracle of life and growth, providing food for the body, beauty for the soul, and restoring the health of the planet. Reflecting on gardening is a way of reminding ourselves that we are not self-sufficient; we plant and water and nurture, but we create nothing. It is God's hand that is open, giving all creation its food in due season. We also realize how dependent we are upon the resources of the earth, the soil and water and air that sustain all life-forms, and we remember our role as stewards of creation.

And, of course, your church will not take a vacation from worship. We will continue to gather each Lord's Day at 10:30 here in this beautiful sanctuary, with its Creation Window that opens our spirits to ponder the mystery of creation. We will join our voices in song and prayer, hear God's Word, and be reminded that we are not in this world alone, but are deeply connected to each other. The Blessings of Summer to you!



Upcoming Dates

Wednesday, JUNE 28

Bible Study—10:20 am

Friday, JUNE 30

PALS @ PM Park in Clear Lake—5:30 pm

Sunday, JULY 2Worship—10:30 am, Communion
Hawkeye Harvest Food Bank SundayTuesday, JULY 4

Office is closed—Independence Day

Wednesday, JULY 5

Bible Study—10:20 am

Thursday, JULY 6

Prayer Shawl at The Willows—1:00 pm

Saturday, JULY 8

Eat, Pray, Love, Group—9:00 am

Sunday, JULY 9Worship—10:30 am
Guest Preacher—Kathy BellesTuesday, JULY 11Coffee & Conversation—9:00 am
Membership and Outreach—11:00 am
VBS Volunteer Training—6:00 pmWednesday, JULY 12

Bible Study—10:20 am

Sunday, JULY 16

Worship—10:30 am

Wednesday, JULY 19

Bible Study—10:20 am

Saturday, JULY 22

Eat, Pray, Love Group—9:00 am

Sunday, JULY 23Worship—10:30 am
Guest Preacher—Justin Ashe

(Upcoming Dates cont. on page 2)

Upcoming Dates (cont.)

Wednesday, JULY 26
Bible Study—10:20 am

Sunday, JULY 30
Worship—10:30 am

Monday, JULY 31
Pulse articles due—Noon
VBS—5:15-8:00 pm, through August 3

Tuesday, AUGUST 1
Community Kitchen—4-6:30 pm

Wednesday, AUGUST 2
Bible Study—10:20 am

Summer Sermon Series— Stories from the Book of Genesis

These are the texts from Genesis Pastor Paul will be preaching on this summer:

- July 2 Gen 21: 8-21—*Hagar & Ismael*
July 9 Guest Preacher—Cathy Belles
July 16 Gen 25: 19-34—*Esau & Jacob*
July 23 Guest Preacher—Justin Asche
July 30 Gen 28: 10-19—*Jacob's dream*
Aug 6 VBS Celebration
Aug 13 Gen 29: 15-18—*Jacob, Leah, Rachel*
Aug 20 Gen 37: 1-4, 12-28
Joseph & his brothers, pt. 1
Aug 27 Gen 45: 1-15
Joseph & his brothers, pt. 2

Summer Pulpit Exchange

This summer we will be participating with our sister churches in North Iowa in a pulpit exchange. On July 9, we will welcome to our pulpit Catherine Belles, pastor of Eden Presbyterian in Rudd, and First Presbyterian in Greene, and Pastor Paul will be preaching at First Presbyterian, Garner. On July 23, we will welcome Justin Asche, from the Garner church, and Pastor Paul will be in Rudd and Greene.



Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Steve Adair; Julie Eaton, daughter of Lee and Judy Butler;
Kelly Koenen, daughter of Bob and Sarah Kress, undergoing treatment; **Lucretia Green**, Good Shepherd Care Center; **Dick Attleson; Kay Sloan**, returning home on June 29; **Don Lee**, Dennis Lee's father, IOOF Home; **Glenn Wilson**, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery; **Ralph Davey**, hospitalized.



June Birthdays

29—Bob Lind

July Birthdays

3—Ron Hanna, Jim Mock
7—Noah Eckholt
9—Randy Davenport
12—Deborah Howell
17—Claudia Collier, Pat Dunavan
20—Rex Davenport, Gwen Smith
21—Susan Hamzawala, Bob Snyder
22—Bob McCoy
25—Joyce Hanes
27—Jill Thoreson
28—Dick Attleson
29—Shirley Opheim

Community Kitchen



For those of you who help serve at the Community Kitchen, there will NOT be any meals served on July 4.

Climate Change Organization Forming

A group of individuals, including several from our congregation, have created a climate organization with the vision of creating a world free from the dangers of global warming induced climate change.

The formation of this group follows from the informative and galvanizing presentations Don Hofstrand shared last September and as part of the Life-Long Learning series at NIACC. If you are interested in joining this group or would like more information about it, please contact Don Hofstrand at dhof0613@gmail.com.

Thank You

for your Kindness

We were serenaded by choir members (plus extras) last Friday night and what a blessing. The Presbyterian Church choir has been an important part of Dick's life for 49 years. We loved the evening performance on our deck and in our living room more than you can imagine. Dick was especially moved when the choir sang the Navy hymn. He sang that hymn with the Bluejacket choir in Los Angeles every Sunday when he was in the Navy. We have always felt loved and cared for by our congregation but never more so than on Friday. A special thank you to Nancy Nickerson for initiating this idea, to Sarah Kress and others for organizing the 32 singers, and to Dennis Lee and Lynn Ullrich for leading the group.

~Dick and Adriana Attleson

Hawkeye Harvest Sunday



The first Sunday of every month is Hawkeye Harvest Food Bank Sunday. If you are able, please bring non-perishable food donations and place them in the grocery cart in the narthex. They will be delivered to our community food bank. You are also encouraged to make a cash donation using the envelopes in the pew rack.

Thank you for your support!

Help Needed



Habitat for Humanity of North Central Iowa is looking for some experienced construction staff and volunteers. Two house projects are planned in Mason City for this year, one new build and one rehab, and help is needed to lead and "train" the volunteers who will help do the work. Habitat is hiring for full or part-time construction staff, and also looking for experienced volunteers who just want to help when they are available. Ideal candidates would love working with people, have experience with different stages of construction, and want to put their "faith into action" by helping hard-working families in need of a little hand UP to better their lives. Anyone interested can call Melissa at the Habitat office at 641-424-8978 for more details.

PALS

It's time for a short road trip. We are going to try PM Park in Clear Lake for the first time for PALS. This is a popular place during the summer and we thought it was time for PALS to check it out. We have reservations for this Friday, June 30, at 5:30 pm. In case of poor weather, our reservations are for inside dining. If it is a nice night, we are welcome to go outside and enjoy the band that they have hired. You might want to bring lawn chairs. Let Sarah or Bob Kress know if this will work for you. Directions: Address is 15297 Raney Dr. if you are using GPS. Head West on South Shore Dr. past CL State Park (on right). You will pass Plamor Miniature Golf on the left and South Shore Sweet Spot on the left. You will see signs for PM Park and Clear Lake Boats on your right. (They share a driveway.)



Coffee Servers Needed



We are in need of people to sign up to serve coffee before the worship service. The sign up sheet for July and August are available in the Friendship Room. Please consider taking a turn to serve; it's a simple and easy ministry anyone can do.

Calling All Ice Cream Makers!



Membership & Outreach is hosting an Ice Cream Social, once again, to celebrate Vacation Bible School. We are looking for volunteers to offer their best ice cream recipe for the occasion. Ice cream can be made in advance and frozen in preparation for the big event. The celebration is Friday, August 4, following the VBS program. Please contact Nancy Nickerson at nnickerson@swadair.com or 641.231.8060 if you can contribute. We greatly appreciate it. Thank you!

Window Scavenger Hunt

Let's have a little fun this summer!

I'm sure you've spent time looking at the windows in our sanctuary, but how well do you know them?

Each Sunday morning we'll be posting a close-up photo of a window in our narthex. Find it and then write your name and answer on one of the slips of paper on the small table in the narthex to enter for a prize. We'll draw a name every week, so come back each Sunday and see what you can find!



Mission Connection

Thank you to all who contributed to the Mission Connection offering over the past few months. We exceeded our goal, raising \$2,248 to be divided between the two mission co-worker teams we have adopted, Karla Koll (Costa Rica) and Jim & Jodi McGill (Niger & South Sudan). This is an on-going relationship of support, so please don't forget them. If you have not already, please pick up one of the prayer cards on the bulletin board in the hall between the narthex and Friendship Room, and remember Karla, Jim, and Jodi in your prayers. On the back of the card there is information on how to support them at any time during the year, and how to receive information about their ministry. You can also use the Mission Connection offering envelopes in the pew racks and we will continue to collect and send funds for you.



VBS: Hero Central – Register & Volunteer

Monday, July 31 - Friday, August 4th

5:15-8:00 pm

It's time for VBS at First Presbyterian Church!
This year the theme is Hero Central!

During the week we'll be taking kids on awesome adventures alongside some of their favorite Bible heroes and discover the qualities that make us truly heroic in God. There will be epic music, spectacular science, crafty crafts, heroic recreation, and fantastic Bible stories to help kids discover their strength in God! Our VBS is open to all children in our community ages (completed) preschool—5th grade. Bring your kids, grandkids, neighbors, and friends. There is NO COST, just fill out a registration form at the church. We also have many volunteer opportunities, all you have to do is fill out and return a volunteer form to let us know where you're interested in helping out.

Minneapolis Mission Trip

July 5-8 | COST \$20

We're heading NORTH up to the Twin Cities!

We'll be taking part in activities each day to explore poverty and how it relates to faith. We'll be part of the Paint-A-Thon, painting homes for those who don't have the means or abilities. It should be a great couple of days and we hope it will encourage our students to think about how they can create change for their neighbors who are struggling in our own communities.

We have a few spots left so if you're interested, call Nate ASAP at 424-4273.



With the love of Jesus Christ, First Presbyterian Church welcomes you just as you are – a child of God.