



New Year Chapter Four

APRIL

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 4/8—BUNKO
- 4/10—WEO
- 4/11—Session
- 4/17—Ladies' Nite Out
- 4/18—Maunday Thursday Service
- 4/19—Good Friday Service Project & Movie for Youth & Children
- 4/21—Easter

The Need to Reconnect with God

Our theme for the season of Lent is "Busy: Reconnecting with an Unhurried God." Included in this is the encouragement to practice Lent through a daily "time out" with God.

One way of taking that time out is by using the Presbyterians Today 2019 Lenten Devotional, *Awakening to God's Beauty* (free copies are still available). It's been part of my practice and I have been blessed by Krin Van Tatenhove's photography and reflections on the psalms.

This reflection from Saturday, March 23 was particularly good and sums up for me our Lenten theme, Krin wrote:

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

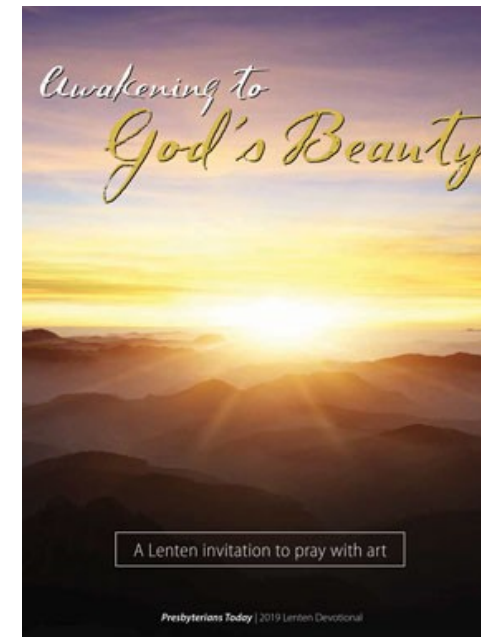
~Psalm 23:6

It is critical to take responsibility for our own happiness and inner peace. These inner states of spirit influence everyone around us. Our moods have ripple effects on our families, workplaces, churches and communities. It is one of the reasons that we seek to connect more gratefully with God's abundant presence.

This brings us to the beautiful crescendo of Psalm 23. If we trust God to meet every need, if we adhere to the discipline of finding green pastures and still waters, goodness and mercy will follow us. Our lives will shift from high-strung notes of anxiety and incompleteness until we find ourselves in harmony with the hymn of creation.

Don't we all want to be people who exude such goodness and mercy that we bring blessings to others around us? When this happens, we become ambassadors of abundance, bearers of the good news that God is working to illuminate our lives. May it be so...

Pastor Lori



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March Session Highlights

The Session met on Wednesday, March 13 at 6:30pm in the Community Room.

Present: Elaine Bishop, Carol Daly, Carole Frazee, Pat Hogan (Clerk), Roger Johanson, Scott Peterson, Larry Petrick, Larry Purvis, Allan Recalde, and Lori Wunder

Excused: Ed Bjork, Jonathan Walsh, Greg West

- Elders-elect Carole Frazee and Larry Purvis were examined and approved for ordination by the Session. They will be ordained and installed, along with Larry Petrick, on Sunday, March 31.
- Session agreed to do a study, "Faith Hope Love and Witness: The PC(USA) Form of Government" over the coming months. Pastor Lori will order copies.
- Session approved Nick and Kylea (Weber) Brautigam's request to baptize their infant son, Nicholas, on April 21, 2019. [Date has since been changed to May 12.] Amy Weber will serve as Elder.
- Meeting was called for 9:15am Sunday, March 31 for the purpose of receiving new members.
- Reviewed design plans for the choir space done by Jim Baty. Includes removing pews and replacing them with chairs. New risers would be higher (top level even with chancel), deeper, and rotated so that the choir faces the congregation. Elaine Bishop and Pat Hogan will research possible chairs. Scott Peterson will seek input from the choir. Session approved in principle moving forward with the project and seeking additional information.
- Session approved doing our own VBS this summer, "Water Around the World" (produced by Living Waters for the World, a PC(USA) ministry), the week of June 17-21 in the morning. We have a group of volunteers ready to help lead, and will need more. We will not donate the \$500 to the community VBS.
- Terry Jackson, our custodian, is having back surgery on March 18 and will be out recovering for 4-6 weeks. Session agreed to ask congregation to cover custodial duties through the end of April so that Terry can return to work.
- Deb Klopp, our office manager, has submitted her resignation, effective May 31, 2019. We are grateful for Deb's seven years with us. We hope to hire a replacement in time for Deb to help train this person on the database, etc.

Next meeting is Wednesday, April 10 at 6:30pm.

FAITH FORMATION

W.E.O. (Wednesday Early Out) - April 10
1:00-3:30pm at the church

What we do this day will depend on the weather and if we can be outside or have to stay inside.
Whatever it is, it will be fun, and there will be snacks! Stay tuned...

Good Friday Gathering for Kids
Friday, April 19, 1:00-4:30 pm

1:00-3:00 Serve others (still figuring out what this will be—playing games with Hallmark residents, doing some raking for neighbors in need, or jobs around the church)
3:00-4:30 Watch a movie (Possibly “The Iron Giant”)

Please RSVP to Pastor Lori (lewunder@gmail.com or 319-431-2227)



Vacation Bible School

Save the Dates!

June 17-21

Mornings 9:00 am to Noon

**Vacation Bible School
“Water All Around the World”**

Here at First Presbyterian Church

2019 Camp Wyoming Summer Camp Registration has Started



It's not too early to begin signing your kids up to attend a summer session at Camp Wyoming. Use the following link to view summer camp sessions, <https://campwyoming.net/summer-camp/camp/sessions/> and to register your child or children: <https://campwyoming.net/summer-camp/camp/forms/>

Note: The Keedick-Dolezal Scholarship Fund is no longer enough to pay for both camp and scholarships (camp is more expensive and we have more kids going). However, we remain committed to making the critical faith formation experience of church camp happen for our children. So we are seeking ways to cover the cost of camp for every camper from our church





Memorial Easter Flowers

Time to decorate the church to remember and honor people who have touched our lives. We purchase flowering plants from Blooming Acres (supporting local business) which can be transplanted after Easter. Actual plants are dependent on what is available at this time of the year. We try to obtain lilies, tulips and hyacinths.

If you would like to purchase a plant for our Easter display, the cost is \$13.00 per plant. There will be an insert in your bulletin and extra signup sheets at the back of the Sanctuary. Please provide your name(s) and the name(s) of those you wish to honor on the form provided. Make a check payable to the church and in the memo write "Easter Flowers" and place it in the offering plate.

Your order needs to be received in the Church Office by Wednesday, April 17th. Plants can be picked up after worship on Easter morning .



April 14th - Sunday Evening Meal Program at First Presbyterian Church in Cedar Rapids

It's our church's turn to serve the evening meal.
A sign-up sheet is in Social Hall. If you have questions contact Beth Simon at: 895-6966.

We meet as a group at the church at 3:30 pm and car pool to Cedar Rapids, serve the meal, clean up and return to Mount Vernon by 6:30 pm. Just a little bit of your time helps so many. What a neat way to be a blessing to others!

'A Neighbor Just Like You': The Music & Message of Fred Rogers

In 2018, an award-winning documentary and a best-selling biography reminded the world that there was once a television personality who embodied the lessons of neighborliness, empathy and compassion. **Fred ("Mister") Rogers (1928-2003)** was more than just the man in the cardigan sweater who made a daily television visit to millions of households across the country. He was also a skilled musician, a student of cutting-edge child development research, an ordained Presbyterian minister and a philosopher of childlike, simplistic wonder.

During the week after Easter 2019, **Saint Andrew Presbyterian Church** invites the Eastern Iowa area to a series of events examining life and legacy of **Fred Rogers**. Through film, through song and through in-depth conversation, we will explore how Fred Rogers answered the basic biblical question, "**Who is my neighbor?**"

Together we will trace how that question gets answered in Iowa City as well as in Mr. Rogers' real-life neighborhood of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.



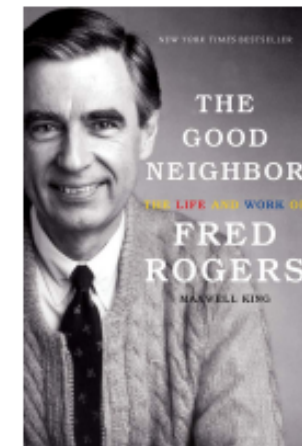
Thursday April 25: "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" Join us for a screening of Morgan Neville's documentary, which is being hailed as one of the Top 10 movies of 2018. Popcorn — along with plenty of Kleenex — will be provided. **(6:30 - 8:30 p.m., childcare provided)**

Friday April 26: "Beyond the Neighborhood" In their Iowa City debut, the **The Keri Johnsrud & Kevin Bales Quartet** will play from their recent jazz album covering the surprisingly sophisticated songs written by Fred Rogers. **(6:30 pm.)**

Saturday April 27: "Who Is My Neighbor?" Join us for an enlightening and inspiring conversation between **Maxwell King**, author of the 2018 biography "The Good Neighbor: The Life and Work of Fred Rogers," and **Saleem Ghubril**, an Iowa City native, founder of the Pittsburgh Project and director of the Pittsburgh Promise. **(6:30 - 8:30 p.m., childcare provided)**

All events will take place at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 140 Gathering Place Lane, near the intersection of Melrose Avenue and Highway 218 in Iowa City.

Events are made possible by support from Alan & Liz Swanson, Iowa City UNESCO City of Literature, the Iowa City Public Library, KCCK and Prairie Lights Bookstore.



April—Worship Assistants

Sunday, April 7 - 9:30 am – Worship, & Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Liturgist: Stephanie West
Ushers: Becky & Kevin Whitman
Bell ringer: Usher Selects
Communion: Carole Frazee,

Sunday, April 14 - 9:30 am – Worship & Birthday Blessing

Liturgist: **NEED VOLUNTEER**
Ushers: Carole Frazee & Donald Burch
Bell ringer: Usher Selects

Sunday, April 21 - 9:30 am – Worship & Noisy Offering PALM SUNDAY

Liturgist: Angie Paulson
Ushers: Al & Becky Ahrens
Bell ringer: Usher Selects

Sunday, April 28 - 9:30 am – Worship EASTER

Liturgist: Stephanie West
Ushers: Becky & Kevin Whitman
Bell ringer: Usher Selects



APRIL BIRTHDAYS



1—Dave Bennett
3—Carole Frazee
5—Brad Bechhold
6—Sue Deibner
6—Daniel Riechers
7—Vonni Bennett
7—Emily Walsh
9—Denver Dillard
14—Elizabeth Crawford
15—Susan Brust
15—David Taylor
16—Jonathan Corcoran
16—Rachel Quehl-Engel
17—Rod Davies
18—Mia Whitman
20—Becky Scheetz
21—Jennifer Corcoran
23—Corbyn Clark
24—Charlie Weldon
25—Maggie Willems
26—Carol Daly

*Please contact the church office
if we missed your birthday.*

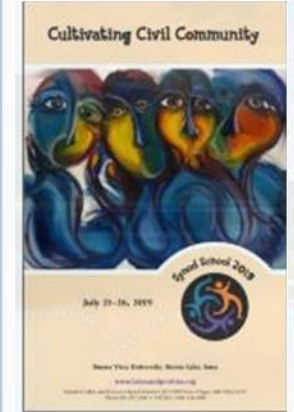


Celebrate Palm Sunday with Justice

For the past several years, we have purchased palm fronds for Palm Sunday through Eco-Palms, an organization that partners with palm harvesters in Guatemala. Our supplier makes a difference to the local environment and economy where they are harvested.

How? The typical harvester is paid 2 cents a frond for the palms they harvest. In the Eco-Palms model an additional 5 cents a frond is given back to the community harvesters for projects like pay for additional teachers in the communities, scholarships for children who otherwise may not attend school, pensions for palm harvesters and a number of other social programs and support for the palm business. Though it seems small, the 5 cent Eco-Palms premium means that an increase of 250% of the money from the Palms is going directly back into the harvesting communities.

Small moves can make a big difference!



Synod School 2019
'Cultivating Civil Community'

Buena Vista University
Storm Lake, Iowa
Sunday through Friday,
July 21-26, 2019

For more information about the Synod School go to,
<https://www.lakesandprairies.org/SynodSchool>
Where you will find details about the school and if interested in attending, a link to register is provided. Pastor Lori will be delivering one of the courses, "Won't You Be My Neighbor? Mister Rogers and the Kingdom of God."

Worship in April

Continuing the Season of Lent and our series, Busy: Reconnecting with an Unhurried God

April 7 – Lent 5: “A Time for Every Matter”

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 – “For everything, there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven...God has made everything suitable for its time...”

For many of us in our modern world, we have lost touch with “seasons.”

We want what we want, when we want it. Lines between busy-ness and rest, work and play have become blurred. We have strayed far from the rhythms of the natural world and the “pleasure of our toil” at great cost to ourselves and our planet.

Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

All Music Led by Guitar

April 14 – Lent 6: “Give it a Rest”

Palm Sunday including Procession of Palms

Exodus 20:8 – “Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy.”

The commandment to keep the sabbath is easily overlooked.

Our culture values economic security over mental and spiritual well-being.

As we give witness again to the story of Jesus’ entrance into Jerusalem, proclaiming justice for the oppressed, we must also proclaim justice and peace...and rest...for the weary of this world.

April Birthday Blessing (during Welcome and Announcements)

April 18 – Maundy Thursday

7:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Includes the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper
and Tenebrae Service (reading through John’s passion)

Featuring the Chancel Choir

April 21 - Easter Sunday

9:30 am in the Sanctuary

*includes the Flowering of the Cross
and our Chancel Choir*





April 2019
Worship Every Sunday
 9:30 am



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 <i>9:30 am Worship, Communion</i>	8 <i>Office Closed</i> 6:00 PM BUNKO Social Hall	9	10 1:00 PM WEO 6:30 PM SESSION	11	12	13
14 <i>9:30 am Worship & Birthday Blessing</i> PALM SUNDAY	15 <i>Office Closed</i>	16	17 10 AM -2 PM Quilting Group Social Hall 6:00 PM Ladies' Nite Out at Kava House, Swisher	18 7:00 PM Maunday Thursday Service	19 1:00 PM Good Friday Project & Movie for Children & Youth	20
21 <i>9:30 am Worship & Noisy Offering</i> EASTER <i>Children Easter "Egg" Hunt</i>	22 <i>Office Closed</i>	23	24	25	26	27
28 <i>9:30 am Worship</i>	29 <i>Office Closed</i>	30				

EVENTS



BUNKO—Monday, April 8, Social Hall, 6:00 PM



Session Meeting— Wednesday, April 10, Community Room, 6:30 PM



Knitting Group— Does not meet in April. Next scheduled meeting is Monday, May 13, 1:00 pm at the home of Diane Clay



Ladies Nite Out— Wednesday, April 17, at 6:00 at the Kava House in Swisher, IA. Contact Becky Sheetz for reservations.



Watch Us on YouTube!

Did you miss a service or want to watch one again?

Carl Riechers continues to record our Sunday services and now uploads them to our very own channel (FirstPresMV) on YouTube! Find it any of these three ways:

- Click on the link on our Facebook page (First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon)
- Search "FirstPresMV" at youtube.com
- Go to www.youtube.com/user/FirstPresMV



Hey, Facebook Users!

Want another way to find out what's going on at church? Be sure to 'Like' *First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon* on Facebook!

We use this page to promote events, post photos, and the occasional encouragement or interesting link.

First Presbyterian Church

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Each Sunday, "Weekly Announcements" bulletin insert contains the most current events and times..