

### *A Note from Pastor Kip*

#### **Scary Stuff**

While in seminary I had to take a class on the confessions of our denomination. These are the documents in our Book of Confessions, Part 1 of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). I distinctly remember studying the Second Helvetic Confession, a document written by Heinrich Bullinger in Zurich, Switzerland in 1561.

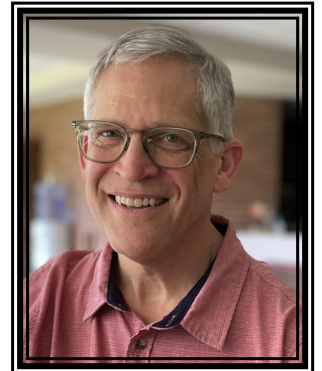
The first chapter of this confession is on the Holy Scriptures being the true Word of God. As part of this Bullinger makes the statement that “The preaching of the Word of God is the Word of God.” When I heard that I think my heart skipped a beat. Who was I to think that I could speak the Word of God. It was the scariest thing I learned in seminary, and I thought I might need to go back to doing biochemistry! However, the paragraph continues and states “neither any other Word of God is to be invented nor is to be expected...” and that “the Word itself which is preached is to be regarded, *not the minister that preaches.*” (emphasis added)

Preaching is scary stuff. As an ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament, I strive to preach faithfully. I study the Scriptures and endeavor, as another seminary professor put it, “tell them what it says and tell them what it means.” There are times when that is fairly straight forward, and there are times when it is more challenging. Sometimes I have preached an interpretation which seemed right at the time, but which I have later concluded that I no longer believe what I thought at the time.

I expect that by now you are aware that I hold a very high view of Scripture. I believe that the Bible, both Old and New Testament, is by the Holy Spirit the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ...and God's Word to me. While I am not a literalist, I believe that all Scripture is inspired and that we cannot ignore or discard any of it, even the parts we dislike. All Scripture is truth but faithfully interpreting it is a never-ending process of prayer, study, and contemplation. This is why we never hear the Word read and proclaimed without praying for illumination.

For me, preaching is a joy but also a burden. I am committed to never leading people astray nor forcing Scripture to fit with my ideas and beliefs, but instead to have my ideas and beliefs fit with Scripture. That can be scary stuff and this is why I continue to ask you to remember me and all preachers in your prayers, that I and they would never knowingly preach anything false but instead that when I preach you all would be able to hear the Word rather than the preacher.

~ Pastor Kip



The Vision of First Presbyterian Church is to glorify God by  
**GATHERING** as Children of God,  
**GROWING** together in faith, hope and love, and  
**GOING** out to make Christ known.

100 S. Pierce Avenue — Mason City, IA 50401 — 641-424-4273 — [firstpresbymc@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresbymc@gmail.com)

# Church Calendar

## This Week

### Tuesday | April 28

12:00 Noon  
6:30 pm

Arts and Crafts new committee meeting, light lunch served  
Small group gathering at the home of Pastor Kip and Lee

### Thursday | April 30

12:00 Noon

Bible Study

### Saturday | May 2

9:00 am

Eat, Pray, Love Group

## Next Week

### Sunday | May 3

9:00 am  
10:30 am

#### **Hawkeye Harvest Food Bank Sunday**

Adult Forum—Amgad Beblawi guest speaker  
Worship with Communion

### Monday | May 4

2 pm and 4 pm

NIACC Lifelong Learning class in the sanctuary for window presentation

### Tuesday | May 5

10:00 am  
6:30 pm

Coffee and Conversation  
Small group gathering at the home of Pastor Kip and Lee

### Wednesday | May 6

10:00 am

Staff Meeting

### Thursday | May 7

12:00 Noon  
1:00 pm

Bible Study  
Prayer Shawl Group

### Saturday | May 9

Pastor Kip on vacation May 9 through May 16

## Looking Ahead

### Sunday | May 10

9:00 am  
10:30 am

Adult Forum—Ann Kuhlman presenting on the sanctuary windows  
Worship

### Tuesday | May 12

6:30 pm

Small Group gathering at the home of Pastor Kip and Lee

### Thursday | May 14

9:30 am

Quilting Group  
**NO** Bible Study

5:00 pm

Finance and Special Needs and Endowment Ministry Team

### Saturday | May 16

9:00 am

Eat, Pray, Love Group

### Sunday | May 17

9:00 am  
10:30 am

Adult Forum—Pastor Kip presenting on Worship  
Worship

**The next Pulse newsletter will be Monday, May 18. Please have your articles in Word format attached to an email and sent to the office ([firstpresbymc@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresbymc@gmail.com)) by Noon on that day.**

## Please Keep the Following People in Your Prayers

- ◆ Diane Trimble recovering from surgery
- ◆ World leaders, our military, and others caught up in the middle east conflict, that they would be comforted and kept safe until peace is restored
- ◆ Kevin Green, nephew of Sarah Kress, completed cancer treatments; he sincerely thanks everyone for their prayers
- ◆ Lori Diehl, sister of Teri Elsbury, cancer diagnosis



## Summer Worship at FPC

There's something special about worshipping under an open sky—the gentle breeze, the warmth of the sun, and the sounds of creation joining in praise. This summer, we invite you to experience that beauty together as a church family.



On the second Sunday of June (14), July (12), and August (9), our 10:30 a.m. service will be held outdoors.

It will be a wonderful opportunity to step outside the walls of the sanctuary and gather in a relaxed, refreshing setting while still sharing in meaningful worship and fellowship.

Feel free to bring a lawn chair or blanket and settle in comfortably. If you don't have a lawn chair, don't worry—there will be a rack of folding chairs available for anyone who needs one. After the service, stick around and enjoy some fellowship time with donuts and beverages.

## Remembering Our Friends

The Membership and Outreach committee would like to remind our caring congregation that we have a few members that live in care facilities. If you are willing and able to call or visit any of these friends, please do so. Loneliness is a difficult hardship to endure, let's show them that we care.

Joan Eness	IOOF Home
Shirley Harmon	Kentucky Ridge #316
Nancy Kuehn	Homestead Apt #5
Kay Sloan	Good Shepherd, Room A128

## VBS 2026

Coming July 20-23  
5 pm—8 pm

Experience & Discover  
God Everywhere!

Watch for more details soon!



## May Birthdays

**May 3** — Rhonda Pyle  
**May 4** — Paula Warren  
**May 12** — Teri Elsbury  
**May 13** — Jim Lalor  
**May 15** — Travis Koenig  
**May 20** — Lee Murphy  
**May 20** — Bruce Wuttke  
**May 20** — Stan Zinnel  
**May 27** — Coni Samsel  
**May 28** — Ann Hanes  
**May 31** — Theresa Busch

## Community Prayers

The Membership and Outreach Team is excited to begin a program to reach out to our local businesses with prayer. Once a month we will present a business name that we ask everyone to pray for throughout the month. Pastor Kip will visit the business to let them know that our church is praying for them. This will be a time for him to ask if there is anything specific that they would like us to pray for. He will give them a card that shows First Presbyterian Church is lifting the business and employees up in prayer. If this is a business that you shop or eat at, it would be nice if you mentioned that you are praying for them. We decided to start with businesses near the church. Through the month of May we ask that you pray for Kwik Star. Pastor Kip has already called on them. If you have any businesses that you would like us to include, please share it with Pastor Kip or members of the Membership and Outreach team:



Sarah Kress, Teri Elsbury, Denna Hill, Beth and Steve Ehlers, Lee Murphy

This is all of us moving forward with our support and faith within our community.

## Report from Session Meeting 4/23/26

1. Pastor Kip reported we now have a Bluetooth device to allow streaming directly to the speakers from a computer/tablet/phone.
2. Approved allowing the Mason City Historic Preservation Commission to take photographs inside the church for potential use in the Mid-Mod Mason City 2027 Architectural Calendar.
3. Approved allowing Laurie McBride to continue to use the Fellowship Hall for practice with her martial arts group on specified Saturdays through early July.
4. Approved replacing the fellowship pads in the red books, with pew cards. These will be collected by ushers during the service.
5. Approved the procedure for email voting by Session, Board of Deacons, other committees.
6. Approved allowing a Benevolence Offering at the discretion of the Pastor.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Betsy Gross  
Clerk of Session

## Discernment Update Monday, May 4, 6:00 pm via Zoom

Please join us for an **update on the tri-presbyteries discernment process regarding unification**. Hear updates about the committees and councils of the presbyteries that have met together in the past few months, as well as from the three discernment teams about their work in the areas of administration, communication, and mission values. The meeting link will be on the presbyteries' websites on May 4. The meeting will also be recorded and available on the presbyteries' websites afterwards.

### Please Call First



Due to some maintenance issues, please contact the Building and Properties Team prior to using the kitchen in Fellowship Hall.

Thank you – Nancy Beenken  
641-420-5329

thank you

I have made a lot of progress in the two weeks since I fell and broke my wrist outside the church. I want to thank a number of you. First thank you to Dave and Brett for helping Bruce get me into a wheelchair. For those of you that were outside and saw me, I appreciate your quick offering of support and prayers. Bruce, Susan, and I especially appreciated the card signed by church members. I also enjoyed receiving cards, emails, and some food. Pastor Kip keeping in touch with Bruce surrounding my surgery was very meaningful. He also saw me in the hospital. Especially thanks to all of you for your prayers.

~Diane Trimble

## Board Members Needed for KCMR Radio

KCMR Radio, 97.9 FM, is looking for two new Board Members. Board Members can serve four, three year terms. We are looking for one Member to start immediately, with the other to start in 2027. The role of a Board Member involves attending monthly meetings, participating in strategic planning, and supporting fundraising efforts. Meetings are informational in nature. The Board votes on business pertaining to the operations of KCMR radio. For example, the Board just voted all in favor to spend \$50,000 on a new transmitter, as our current one is 20 years old. Amy Kuns serves as the current General Manager and she answers to the Board. Potential Board Members should contact Amy Kuns at KCMR at 641-424-9300 or email her at [amy@kcmrfm.com](mailto:amy@kcmrfm.com),

## Register Now for the 2026 U.S. – Mexico Border Trip—Nov. 30 – Dec. 4, 2026

The Presbytery of North Central Iowa invites you to register for the 2026 U.S. – Mexico Border Trip! This year we will be traveling to El Paso, Texas and Juarez, Mexico where we'll be hosted by Abara. North Central Iowa presbytery members Tom and Kristy



Parker and Dave and Sue Feltman are organizing the trip, to register or for more information see the Tri-Presbyteries Connection Newsletter at [presbnciowa.org](http://presbnciowa.org).