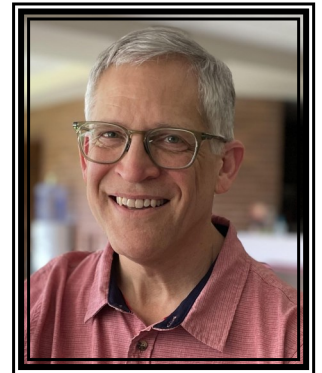


A Note from Pastor Kip



Throughout my ministry one of the most common concerns that people have expressed is that they don't really know the bible. Additionally, some people have a sense that if they don't know the bible, they can't study it. I like to remind them that that is like saying they can't go to the gym because they're out of shape.

The fact is that most people have not read the bible. It can be intimidating. People will often try to read through the bible like any other book – begin at the beginning and read straight through. This usually works okay with Genesis and Exodus, but most find they get bogged down in Leviticus and they give it up. If this sounds like you, don't give up hope!

First of all, find a translation that you are comfortable with. Some are more literal, like the King James or the English Standard Version. Some are more readable, like the New International Version or the New Living Translation. Some are more scholarly, like the New Revised Standard Version. Keep in mind that every translation is an interpretation so it can be helpful to have more than one translation available to you. A helpful resource is YouVersion Bible App (youversion.com). You can use it online or download the app. It has numerous translations available.

Once you've chosen a translation there are several ways you can increase your knowledge of scripture without reading the bible cover to cover. One way is to give yourself permission to skim. If you're reading things that tend to be repetitive, like the instructions for constructing the tabernacle in Exodus, the rules for sacrifices in Leviticus, or genealogies in many places, you don't have to read every word!

You might also find that you're more of an aural learner; you process better through hearing than reading. The YouVersion Bible app can also be helpful here because many of the translations also have an audio version. Many of the translations have several narrators to choose from.

Finally, it can sometimes be helpful to have some additional thoughts and background available. There are many study bibles or application bibles to be found. Some of these provide historical and cultural information so you can better understand the context of a given scripture while others provide interpretation or application for different circumstance such as a women's devotional bible.

Lastly, find someone to share with either by using the same reading plan (again, many plans are available on the YouVersion Bible App) or meeting periodically to share questions and insights. Don't be discouraged if you don't understand everything or if you have lots of questions. That's how the Holy Spirit works.

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

Church Calendar

This Week

Tuesday | June 2

7 am—8 pm
10:00 am

Voting in Fellowship Hall
Coffee and Conversation in the Friendship Room
No Small Group

Wednesday | June 3

10:00 am

Staff Meeting

Next Week

Sunday | June 7

10:30 am

Worship with Communion—Rev. Cindi Saul, guest preacher

Tuesday | June 9

5:15 pm
6:30 pm

Mission Ministry Team
Small Group gathering at the home of Pastor Kip and Lee

Thursday | June 11

1:00 pm
5:00 pm

Prayer Shawl Ministry Team at Homestead Assisted Living
Finance Ministry Team

Looking Ahead

Sunday | June 14

10:30 am

Outdoor Worship Service

Monday | June 15

10:00 am
4:00 pm

Worship and Music Ministry Team
Membership and Outreach Ministry Team

Tuesday | June 16

6:30 pm

Small Group gathering at the home of Pastor Kip and Lee

Wednesday | June 17

5:30 pm

Bell Choir Rehearsal

Thursday | June 18

5:30 pm

Deacons

Friday | June 19

11:00 am

Memorial Service for Deb Howell, lunch to follow

Sunday | June 21

10:30 am

Father's Day
Worship

Tuesday | June 23

6:30 pm

Small Group gathering at the home of Pastor Kip and Lee

Thursday | June 25

6:00 pm

Session

Sunday | June 28

10:30 am

Worship

Monday | June 29

6:30 pm

VBS Planning Meeting

Tuesday | June 30

6:30 pm

Small Group gathering at the home of Pastor Kip and Lee

Please Keep the Following People in Your Prayers

- ◆ Family and friends of Deb Howell who passed away May 18
- ◆ Bill, brother of Sarah Kress, cancer diagnosis
- ◆ Elaine Kiger, recovering from surgery
- ◆ Lori Diehl, sister of Teri Elsbury, cancer diagnosis
- ◆ Members in assisted living and care centers: Joan Eness, Shirley Harmon, Nancy Kuehn, Kay Sloan, Cal Dorenkamp
- ◆ Shepherd's Glen staff and residents, our June community prayer business
- ◆ 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



Summer Worship at FPC



There's something special about worshiping 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.

June Birthdays

- June 10** — Linda Little
June 13 — Don Hofstrand
June 16 — Ella Hertzell
June 19 — Paula Gahn
June 20 — Skyler Wood
June 23 — Bostyn Young
June 28 — Laura Meehan



Praying for Shepherd's Glen



Please remember Shepherd's Glen in your prayers during the month of June. Offer prayers of thanks for the staff who make it possible for elderly people to be able to live with dignity and to retain some of their independence in a clean, warm, and safe place. Offer prayers for the residents that they may feel at home, have a sense of peace, and graciously accept the help of the staff. Pray!

Report from Session Meeting 5/28/26

1. Approved motion to ask David Little to research church's historical financial records and report to Session.
2. Declined to approve recommendation from Finance Ministry Team to allow names of donors to memorials on church's website.
3. Approved motion to establish a policy regarding church's website.
4. Approved motion to allow Rev. Cinthia Saul to preach and serve Communion on June 7, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,
Betsy Gross
Clerk of Session



The Prayer Shawl Ministry Team has changed its meeting time to the 2nd Thursday of each month. They will meet at Homestead Assisted Living at Nancy Kuehn's apartment #5, 2501 West State Street. The next meeting will be June 11, at 1:00 pm.

The next Pulse newsletter will be **Monday, July 6**. Please send your articles in Word format attached to an email sent to the office at firstpresbymc@gmail.com by noon that day.



Preschool to just completed 5th grade IMPORTANT DATES

SUNDAY, JULY 19 - All Church Family and Neighborhood VBS KICKOFF
WITH Parking Lot Picnic 5-8 PM

MONDAY—THURSDAY VBS 5-8 P.M. WITH LIGHT MEAL

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2—CAMP EDGE KIDS LEAD
WORSHIP AT 10:30 AM

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Pick up a volunteer sign-up sheet in the Narthex, complete it and return it in the offering plate or to the office or contact Beth Ehlers by email at behlers0903@gmail.com or 641-430-6553.

A Volunteer Planning Meeting will be held on **Monday, June 29 at 6:30 pm** in the Friendship Room.

Why is Vacation Bible School Important?

Vacation Bible School is probably one of the easiest entry points into a church. Parents sign up their children to have fun and learn a bit about the faith without a lot of pressure. It is a great way for parents to see how a church values children. It is also a golden opportunity for us to reach out to people who may not have a church home.

We here at First Presbyterian Church do not have members with VBS age children. Yet, we believe that we are called to be a witness to our faith and this is a fun way to reach out to the community and share God's love.

So, it is important! Take some time each day to pray for the parents who will sign their children up for VBS. Pray for the people who will be volunteering. Pray that those volunteering will be able to lead with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.

CAMP TO CAMP MISSION PROJECT

Camp E.D.G.E. campers and our congregation are encouraged to participate in our mission project for VBS. We will be collecting items for Lakeshore Center at Okoboji, a camp and retreat center located in a secluded setting on 55 acres on West Lake Okoboji. Lakeshore has 600 feet of sand beach on Miller's Bay, a canopy of large oak trees, and a variety of buildings and spaces perfect for individuals or ideal for groups to gather. Lakeshore hosts many summer camp options, retreats or programs. Lakeshore is also a fabulous place for you to host a retreat, conference, wedding, family reunion, or other special event.

Bring some items each night or just one night. Let's share some love with Lakeshore Center where their mission is to provide a sacred place and invite all to experience the life-changing love of Christ in the beauty of God's creation.

Items to Collect

- Colored Markers
- Crayons
- Bottles of Glue
- Sketch Books
- Colored Pencils
- Acrylic paint
- Watercolor paints
- Adult Coloring Books
- Embroidery floss for friendship bracelets
- Canvases for painting (various sizes)
- Money for the S'mores Fund (people connect around s'mores at a campfire)

