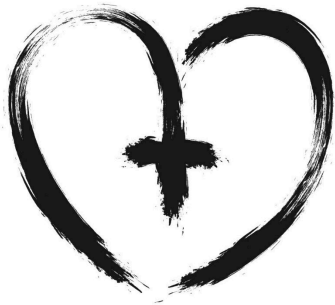


# Presbyterian

February 2024



This year the beginning of Lent, marked by Ash Wednesday, falls on February 14th - Valentine's Day. This last happened in 2018, and just like that year, people across my social media feeds are once again wondering how to manage celebrating the people they love alongside the beginning of Lent (and the fasting that many people undertake as a spiritual practice during that time). People have asked, mostly in jest, if they should purchase that heart-shaped box of chocolate for their sweetie or forgo the treats for a more somber celebration. A few people have even designed some very silly, very funny Ash Wednesday/Valentine's Day cards that I saw being shared on Facebook. They say things like:

"Hey Valentine - Remember your mortality."

"Valentines are red/Wednesday's ashes are gray/you can't spell valentine/without 'Lent' on this day."

"Ashes to Ashes/Dust to Dust/If you're not my valentine/my Lent will be crushed."

"Hey, Girl, Let me be there 4 U while U contemplate UR mortality."

"You know the martyrdom of St. Valentine was actually pretty gruesome, so this Ash Wednesday date is kind of appropriate."

That is certainly one creative way to bridge the gap between these two holidays that on the surface seem pretty different. Though I happen to find a few more connections between the days, but they don't fit so easily on a greeting card.

Valentine's Day is most often marketed as a day for a very specific kind of romantic love, a fairly narrow version that ignores many of the realities of human life and relationships. To have Ash Wednesday fall on the same day this year both tempers the excess of the day and widens the scope of love. Remember, God's love is for all. God's love is the root of our connectedness. And Jesus said love, the love of God and love of neighbor, is the center and foundation of our spiritual journey and faith. On Ash Wednesday, all of us at the service are marked with ash, and we are blessed with these words, "Remember, you are God's beloved dust, and to dust you shall return."

The ones we love are both beloved and fleeting. May we always remember to embrace both the love and the great responsibility of our humanness. We are created in love. We are called to live out our whole lives in love.

The season of Lent is a time of reconnection and renewal of our commitment to live in and with Christ. While this season is often associated with suffering (fasting from something we like), we might also associate it with the kinds of sacrifice and intentional focus on our faith and spirituality that lead to a fuller, deeper connection with Christ. This kind of sacrifice and intentionality is born out of love, not shame. For to some extent, Lent does need to be about pain. It does need to be about commitment, repentance, and a willingness to change – and it's pretty hard to love, or at least love well, without those things.

I hope this season helps us to rest more deeply in Christ's love. I also hope we can discern more ways to live out this love in our daily lives. We are dust. We will return to dust. In the middle, we will love.

Grace and Peace,

*Pastor Jessica*



# FEBRUARY



## February 4

Usher: Cindy Peterson  
Liturgist: Ken Pangburn

## February 11

Usher: Kurt and Diana Scott  
Liturgist: Donna Peckham

## February 14

Ushers: Ken and Kathy Pangburn

## February 18

Usher: Nancy and Alec Turner  
Liturgist: Sue Selby

## February 25

Usher: Sue Selby  
Liturgist: Nancy Turner

## March 3

Usher: Betsy Akin  
Liturgist: Megan Boswell

## March 10

Usher: Jackie Butcher  
Liturgist: Betsy Akin

## March 17

Usher: Zach and Michelle Morgan  
Liturgist: Randy Olive

## March 24

Usher: Angie Muller  
Liturgist: Ken Pangburn

## March 28

Ushers: Randy and Shirley Olive

## March 31

Usher: Megan Boswell  
Liturgist: Ashton Boswell

Nancy Turner	February 1
Alec Turner	February 4
Patti Edwards	February 5
Alex Morgan	February 10
Michelle Morgan	February 10
Judy Wolf	February 12
Delena Patterson	February 13
Shirley Olive	February 15
Kathy Pangburn	February 15
Doug Leonard	February 22

We ask for your help in keeping the birthday and prayer lists current.

If you have any changes or additions, please let us know.

You are encouraged to ask a child to help you with ushering duties, such as handing out bulletins and collecting the offering. They are happy and eager to help.

*Family of Jeanette Sitzman*  
*Family of Kate Glasgo*  
*All waiting on test results*  
*Joyce Pangburn*  
*Rich*  
*Elysa*  
*Jeff*  
*Dally*

*Community of Perry, IA*  
*All who are shut-in, can't leave home, or are in care centers*  
*Dick and Joyce Stroud*  
*Jeanne Kordick*  
*People of the Middle East*  
*Connie Helvie*  
*Nadine Olive*  
*People of the Sudan*  
*The Wiese Family*  
*Connie Standley and family*  
*Ashley Neils and family*  
*Kevin and Nicci Tucker*  
*Terry Robison*  
*All dealing with chronic pain*  
*All the caregivers*  
*All who are grieving*

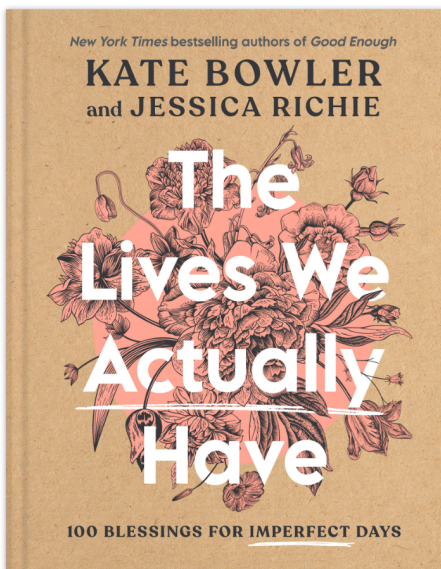


For the **March** newsletter, please submit all news and announcements by **Wednesday, Feb. 21st**. Thank you so much for your help in making sure we get information communicated to everyone.



The Spring Mission Trip of the Southwest Iowa Regional Partnership is scheduled for Sunday, March 10th-Friday, March 15th. The group is going to Oklahoma and will be working with the organization ROAD (Recovering Oklahomans After Disaster). We don't know yet what type of work we will be doing or the exact location. It's recommended that youth be at least 16 years old at the time of the trip. If you are interested in participating, talk with Pastor Jessica.

The annual contribution statements were sent out in the past few weeks. If you have not received one, please let the office know. If you have any questions about yours, please talk with our office manager, Joni.



Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14th. As in years past, we are partnering with Corning United Methodist Church to offer Ashes to Go and an evening worship service. The Ash Wednesday worship service will be on the 14th at 7:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian with Pastor Jessica preaching. Ashes to Go will be offered on the 14th as well. Pastors LeAnn and Jessica will be in front of Lone Arranger Noon-1:00 p.m. and at Backgrounds 1:00-2:00 p.m.

For our Lenten series, we'll be working with the book *The Lives We Actually Have: 100 Blessings for Imperfect Days* by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie. A devotional guide is provided and available to pick up in the foyer.

You may use the guide without purchasing the book. However, you may find the most richness and depth when you use the book and guide together. The church is not coordinating a church order of the book, **so if you would like a copy, please order it on your own.** It can be found at almost all major book retailers. Here is a link to the book/author page where you can find more info, including links to whichever retailer you'd like to order from: <https://katebowler.com/books/the-lives-we-actually-have/>

It is also available as an audiobook and an ebook.

Pastor Jessica will be out of the office Tuesday, January 30th through Thursday, February 8th for vacation and continuing education. If you need anything during that time, please contact Joni during regular office hours (T, W, Th., 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.) or the elder of the month, Angie Mullen. Megan Boswell will be filling the pulpit on Sunday, February 4th.



Not quite two years ago, in May 2022, the Capital Campaign Committee presented information detailing the goals of a 5-year capital campaign. At that time there were several large projects that needed attention that were more than the annual budget could withstand - an HVAC system to service the sanctuary, new signage for the exterior of the church, upgraded technology, and upkeep and maintenance on the stained-glass windows. These projects had a total estimated cost of \$100,000, which was our goal for the campaign.

In August 2022, we were able to announce that between one-time gifts and pledges we had met and exceeded our goal of \$100,000. With that, we began seeking bids and negotiating work on each of the projects.

The HVAC system was installed in October 2022 and we are seeing benefits from it in lower utility bills. The new signage also went up that fall. It took more time for the upgraded technology and upkeep on the stained-glass windows to be done. The new audio, video, and streaming system was installed November 2023 and we are continuing to learn the best ways to utilize this technology. Finally, the new protective coverings for the stained-glass windows, along with some minor repairs and cleaning, were installed and completed on January 19, 2024.

**Which means all four of our capital campaign projects are complete!**

**Due to your generous gifts, memorial gifts, and a grant from the Presbytery, all four projects have been completely paid for without incurring any debt!**

All excess funds, that were not needed to pay for these four projects, will remain in the Special Building Fund and be used for future building and property needs.

**THANK YOU!**



# First Presbyterian Church Capital Campaign

## Signage

A storm damaged our church sign beyond repair. A new sign will be created with aluminum lettering that will be attached to the building.

**COMPLETED!**

3K



## Technology

We plan to make our service more accessible by ensuring better sound and visuals for all while streamlining aging and complicated equipment.

**COMPLETED!**

47K



## HVAC

The heating and cooling equipment that services the sanctuary is needing to be replaced. This will replace that portion of the HVAC system.

30K

**COMPLETED!**



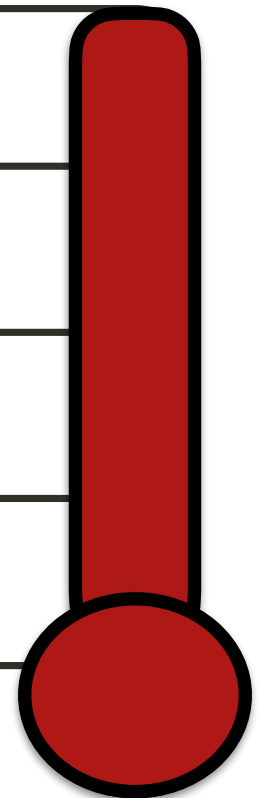
100K

80K

60K

40K

20K



## Windows

Our stained glass windows are in need of preventative maintenance through ventilated exterior covers. Project scope also includes repair to some windows that are beginning to bow.

20K

**COMPLETED!**







New Audio/Video/  
Streaming Technology



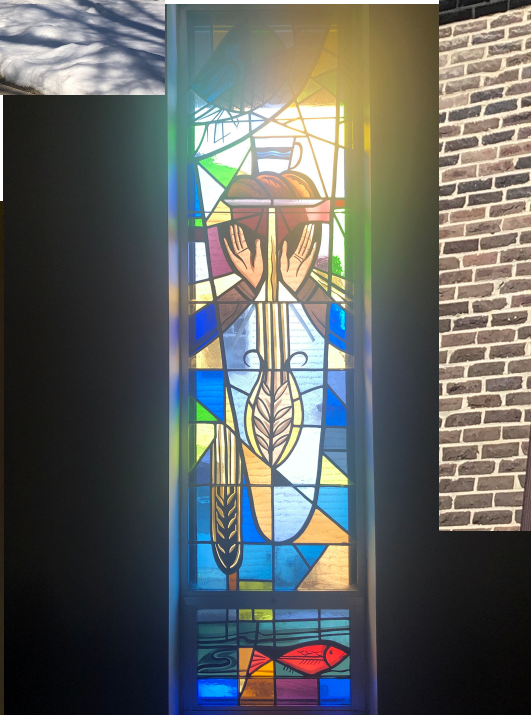
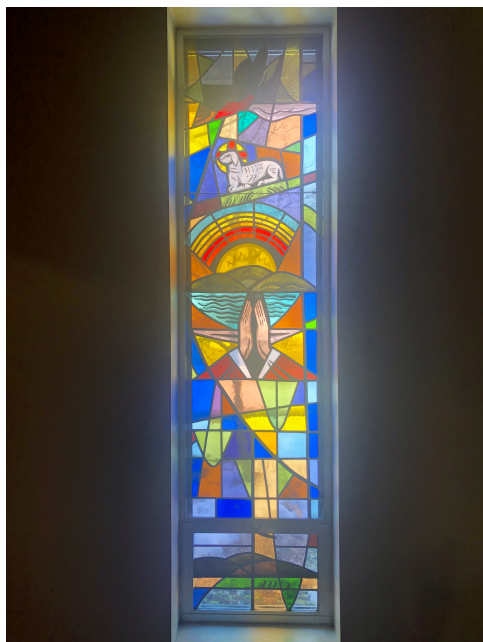
New Furnaces and Air Conditioner



New Signage



New Protective  
Coverings



Minor Repairs and Cleaning Done





The Summer Camp Schedule for Lakeshore Center at Okoboji has been announced and registration opens Friday, February 2nd. There are camps for all ages and they are also looking for Summer Staff and Volunteers.

If you'd like more info check out their website: [www.ilovelakeshore.org](http://www.ilovelakeshore.org), email: [office@ilovelakeshore.org](mailto:office@ilovelakeshore.org), or call/text: 712.320.3313.

### June

June 2-7: Work Groups (Grade 5-Adults)

June 10-13: Day Camp (K-Grade 4)

June 16-20: Hike, Bike & Paddle  
(Grades 3-8)

June 16-20: Make & Bake (Grades 3-8)

June 21-23: All Camp Reunion Weekend

June 23-26: Blast Camp (Grades 2-5)

June 27-30: Creative Camp (Grades 5-12)

### July

July 3-6: Family Camp

July 6: Fun Day Camp

July 7-9: Splash & Dash (Grades 1-4)

July 14-17: Middle School Conference

July 20-21: Super Duper Sleepover

July 21-26: Team Challenge Camp  
(Grades 5-12)

July 26-28: Sheep & Shepherd  
(K-Grade 4 w/ adult)

July 28-31: Last Hurrah Family Camp

Registration is already open for two different Spring events.

The Quilter's Retreat is scheduled for March 3-6. Come up and spend time quilting in a secluded setting of 55 acres on West Lake Okoboji.

The Women's Retreat is scheduled for April 12-14 and will feature Jennifer Dukes Lee. She is author of the book *Stuff I'd Only Tell God: A Guided Journal of Courageous Honesty, Obsessive Truth-Telling, and Beautifully Ruthless Self-Discovery.*



February 2024





First Presbyterian Church  
907 Grove Avenue  
Corning, Iowa 50841  
(Return Service Requested)

***Worship: 10:00 AM***

***Sunday School: 1st Wednesday of the Month***

***Meal at 5:00 p.m. Adult and Youth Classes at 5:30 p.m.***

Follow us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/1stprescorning](http://www.facebook.com/1stprescorning)

See all the news on our Website: [www.1stprescorning.org](http://www.1stprescorning.org)

**NOW FIND US ON YOUTUBE:** [www.youtube.com/@FirstPresbyterianCorningIA](http://www.youtube.com/@FirstPresbyterianCorningIA)

Kim Brantner  
Jackie Butcher  
Ken Pangburn

Session Members  
Michelle Morgan  
Angie Mullen

Alex Morgan  
Nicci Tucker  
Alec Turner

Rev. Jessica Paulsen

Home phone: 641-418-8143

Email:

[pastor@1stprescorning.org](mailto:pastor@1stprescorning.org)

#### Mission Statement

The First Presbyterian Church of Corning believes in the good news of the Gospel and will grow through and share the love, grace, and compassion of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Church Phone

641-322-4917

Email:

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