

Presbyterian

February 2021

COVID-19



VACCINE

On Thursday, January 21st, I rolled up my sleeve and received my first dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. A week before clergy had received word that the State of Iowa had offered guidance for pastors receiving the vaccine. If part of our normal duties included visiting people in the hospital or care centers, we would qualify as part of Phase 1A. So, I called the health department, got on the list of people who wished to receive the vaccine, and then they called me to book the appointment. It took less than 20 minutes and most of that time was waiting after I'd received the shot to make sure I didn't have any type of serious reaction. I did not have a serious reaction though for about 2 days

following my vaccination, I had a pretty sore arm and was a little extra tired. And even though, as a young person in good health I feel a bit strange having received the vaccine before so many others, I'm grateful for the chance to get it. This is another way that I can show my love and care for my neighbors and community, as Jesus has commanded us to do. This is another level of protection from this virus that has infected over 100 million people and killed over 2 million. And I hope that with my actions I am leading by example, demonstrating for any who have questions or fears about the vaccine that it is safe and necessary. Friends, please get the COVID-19 vaccine and help stop this pandemic.

How do you do that? Currently, Iowa is in Phase 1A of its vaccination rollout. This includes healthcare workers, persons with direct patient contact, and vulnerable populations such as those in long term care centers or assisted living. **Starting Monday, February 1st, Phase 1B will begin. Phase 1B includes all persons 65 & Older.** It also includes first responders, PK-12 educators, and other frontline workers. The health department is already placing people eligible in Phase 1B on the vaccination list. **So, many of you currently reading this newsletter are eligible and I encourage you to call the Taylor County Health Department to get on the list.** You can reach the health department at the following numbers: Corning (641-322-6283) or Bedford (712-523-3405).

Even as more and more people get vaccinated, we will still need to wear our masks, wash our hands, and practice physical distancing as it is going to take most of this year to get the bulk of the population vaccinated. Part of the challenge is that a number of people are refusing the vaccine due to the spread of misinformation. The Mayo Clinic addresses a number of these myths and misinformation in the following article: [COVID-19 vaccine myths debunked](#). Please if you have any questions about the vaccine or how to get it, feel free to contact me, your doctor, or the county health department.

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I'll end with the words of Benjamin Franklin who lost his 4-year-old son to smallpox. He wrote about the incident saying,

In 1736 I lost one of my sons, a fine boy of four years old, by the small-pox, taken in the common way. I long regretted bitterly, and still regret that I had not given it to him by inoculation. This I mention for the sake of parents who omit that operation, on the supposition that they should never forgive themselves if a child died under it; my example showing that the regret may be the same either way, and that, therefore, the safer should be chosen.

(Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin, Ed. H. A. Davidson, M. A., D. C. Heath and Company, Boston, MA. 1908. 163)

The safer way with COVID-19, and the more faithful way, is to get the vaccine. So call, get on the list, and let us show our love for ourselves and our neighbors by doing all that we can to care for and protect each other.

Pastor Jessica



February 7
Nancy Turner
February 14
Doug Leonard
February 21
Sue Selby
February 28
Ken and Kathy Pangburn
March 7
Doug Leonard
March 14
Betsy Akin
March 21
Ann Myers
March 28
Nancy Turner
April 4
Doug Leonard

Nancy Turner	February 1
Alec Turner	February 4
Patti Edwards	February 5
Bria Templeton	February 5
Becky Pritchard	February 7
Beccie Heaton	February 10
Alex Morgan	February 10
Michelle Morgan	February 10
Judy Wolf	February 12
Keelo Ahrens	February 14
Lisa Konecne	February 15
Shirley Olive	February 15
Kathy Pangburn	February 15
Doug Leonard	February 22
Mailee Templeton	February 25

*The family of Rose Pfander
The family of Georgie Goodvin
The family of Carolyn Herman
Fred Boswell*

*Arlene and Donnie Drennan
Eleanor McManis*

*Tom Miller from Clarinda
Pat Glazier*

Jim and Cindy Nelson

Steele McClaren

Beccie Heaton

Lisa Konecne

Phyllis Brokaw

Dan Swartz

Fred Bryson

Steve Sawyer

Klint Maeder

Dick and Betty Pettit

For all impacted by COVID-19

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

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

If you are unable to help on your assigned Sunday, please find someone to replace you.



Newsletter Deadline

If you would like an announcement or news printed in the newsletter we ask that you submit it, in writing, to the office before the deadline.

For the March newsletter, please submit all news and announcements by Wednesday, February 17th.

Thank you so much for your understanding and help in making sure we get information communicated to everyone.

MEALS ON WHEELS

Members, your help is needed! The second half of February is our time to deliver meals. We are asked to deliver Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. We start on the 15th. If you would like to volunteer, please call Cindy Peterson at 641-431-1143. As you know, the earlier you call the better chance you get your pick of days. Your help would be appreciated.
Cindy



At the January annual meeting, the congregation elected Megan Boswell and Cindy Peterson to the 2021 Nominating Committee. They also commissioned the Session to nominate and elect the 3 additional members of the nominating committee since there were no nominations from the floor. If you are interested in serving on the nominating committee for this year, please talk with either Pastor Jessica or any Session member.

We are also continuing to search for two members to join in the work of the session. The openings are for one 3-year term and one 2-year term. In 2021, the session will be meeting the second Wednesday of the month at 7pm in the fellowship hall. Any questions regarding this call may be directed toward Pastor Jessica.



Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17th. As in years past, we are partnering with Corning United Methodist Church to offer Ashes to Go and an evening worship service. More information about those events is included below.

For our Lenten series, we'll be looking at the theme of Again & Again. We are reminded that, again and again, suffering and brokenness find us. We doubt again, we lament again, we mess up again. Again and again, the story of Jesus on the cross repeats. With exacerbation we exclaim, "Again?! How long, O God?" And yet,

in the midst of the motion blur chaos of our lives, God offers a sacred refrain: "I choose you, I love you, I will lead you to repair." Again and again, God breaks the cycle and offers us a new way forward. As part of our series, we will begin our small group again. It will meet on Sundays at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom starting February 21. Study Devotionals will be available in the foyer in the next couple of weeks. If you need a copy, please let Pastor Jessica know.

We are also going to be offering devotional materials via email and Facebook, so be on the lookout for those. And finally, each family will receive a Lenten At-Home packet as you did with Advent. There are so many different things happening that we hope you'll find something to enrich your journey through Lent and join in as we make our way from Ash Wednesday to Holy Week to Easter.

Ash Wednesday Events

Ashes to Go

11am - Noon ~ Backgrounds Coffee Bar & Boutique

Noon - 1pm ~ In front of Lone Arranger

Worship

7pm at Corning United Methodist Church

Pastor Jessica preaching



Join the Church Book Club!

Pastor Jessica is starting a church book club! We'll aim to read a book a month and then meet once a month to discuss the book. Those interested in participating will set the meeting time as a group and decide together what we will be reading. If you love to read, and are interested in participating let Pastor Jessica know by February 14th.

Choir will begin having rehearsals again on Thursday, February 4 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. The schedule, music, and part recordings have been and are being emailed last week and this week. If you are participating in choir and have not received them, please let Pastor Jessica know. Also, this is a great time to join if you'd like to sing again! If you have questions, want more information, or would like to join the virtual choir, talk with Pastor Jessica.



The annual contribution statements were sent out in the past week or so. If you have not received one, please let the office know.

Also, due to the pandemic and the transition in our office manager position, it is possible that some statements may be incomplete. If you find that yours is not accurate please talk with our office manager

Hope so that we might get you a corrected statement. We apologize in advance for any mistakes, ask that you carefully look over your statement, and thank you for your understanding in this matter.



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

Sunday School, All Ages: 9:00 AM

Sunday Worship Time: 10:00 AM

Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/1stprescorning

See all the news on our Website: www.1stprescorning.org

Session Members

Betsy Akin
Megan Boswell

Doug Leonard
Ken Pangburn
Cindy Peterson

Sue Selby
Nancy Turner

Rev. Jessica Paulsen

Home phone: 641-418-8143

Email:

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:

office@1stprescorning.org