

Presbyterian

March 2021

ONE YEAR LATER

It feels almost surreal to realize we are rapidly approaching the one-year mark of COVID-19 turning our world upside down and unraveling so much of our lives. And yet, that's where we are. One year later. Over 500,000 individuals dead in the United States and over 2.5 million world-wide. It can be hard to grasp such huge numbers and so I share with you some math and

images that the Rev. Ken Rummer did with the number of deaths

worldwide and in the United States as of February 23, 2021. He writes:

“Worldwide Deaths – If I set out a dozen silk butterflies every day, one for each empty chair, my grief would catch up to today’s roll call in...571 years. If I space those butterflies six inches apart...to fit them all in, I would need to trade my front yard for a football field, and then find twelve football fields more.

Deaths in the United States – It would take 10 Maya Lin walls of names on black granite to list all who have died in the United States.”



What makes this even more devastating, beyond the sheer numbers, is that those numbers don't include the people who have been impacted in so many other ways. The number of people who have lost their jobs. The number of people who can't access food or water or other basic necessities around the world because of lockdowns. The number of people experiencing mental health crises or addiction crises or any other number of things due to the isolation and trauma of this past year. The toll of the COVID-19 pandemic is something we will all have to grapple with, especially since so much of the toll will potentially remain unknown for years to come, only being revealed as time passes.

And yet, the world still turns, and life continues. It is important that we name and grieve the losses of this past year – people, events, celebrations, gatherings, time physically present with friends and family and so on. And it's just as important that we look at what we've learned in the past year and begin to look to the coming year. We've learned how to adapt and adjust. We've learned that God sticks with us even in the challenging and difficult times. We've learned what it looks like to keep to the covenant of community even when we disagree, or life together gets hard. And for me, one of the pieces I've seen and learned over and over is that grace must abound.

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Grace Abounds. It has to. Because if we don't accept God's grace, if we are not willing to offer God's grace to others, then community falls apart. We must remember that each person is dealing with more than we might ever know and so when we feel hurt by them or ignored, grace must abound. We must remember that this past year has challenged each and every person, it has stressed our physical bodies, our emotional and mental well-being, and traumatized each of us (even if that's not how you might refer to it) and so grace must abound. No one has been their best self this past year because circumstances made it impossible. There is no shame or guilt or blame in that. We have each been trying to survive the best ways we knew how, so grace must abound.



And we know a day is coming when this will end. Yes, COVID-19 will probably always be around from now on, but there will come a day when it is no longer a pandemic, when it no longer kills 100,000 people in one month, when the risk it poses is much smaller than it has been this past year. So, as we reach this milestone of one year later, let's begin preparing for that day, looking back at we've learned and using that knowledge to move forward. And let's be gentle with ourselves and with each other. This has been a hard, difficult, and challenging year for everyone in many different ways. That is why God's grace abounds! Thanks be to God.

Pastor Jessica

Ushers & Greeters



March 7
Doug Leonard
March 14
Betsy Akin
March 21
Ann Myers
March 28
Nancy Turner
April 4
Doug Leonard

Ashton Boswell
Ivan Wolf
Connor Akin
Myrna Rummer
Phil Fehrle
Sam Richey

March 5
March 4
March 9
March 11
March 20
March 25

*Belinda and Dennis Anstey
Fred Boswell
Jim and Barb Follman
Arlene and Donnie Drennan
Karen Boswell
Eleanor McManis
Beccie Heaton
Lisa Konecne
Karen Taylor
Holly Steeve
Phyllis Brokaw
Dan Swartz
Dick and Betty Pettit*

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, March 17th.

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

Springtime can't come soon enough!!!

The Mission and Outreach Committee is organizing 3rd Service Saturday starting April 17th from 8:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. and running through October.

On Saturday, April 17th, we will start with our church clean up and another new and exciting project that will be revealed somewhere else in this newsletter. Both projects are intergenerational, so everyone, old, young, and in-between will be warmly welcomed. Other Service

Saturday examples of outside projects could include raking leaves, picking up sticks, weeding, and cleaning community parks. If you have a project that you would like to see done this spring, summer or fall, please call Betsy Akin at 712-590-0221, Nancy Turner at 712-621-8650 or Pastor Jessica at 641-322-4917.

More information will be coming forth in the April newsletter and on our website!!!



Time to Set Your Clocks Ahead!

Daylight Saving Time begins at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 14th!

So, before you head to bed that Saturday night, set your clocks ahead by 1 hour. Then you know for sure you won't be late for worship on the 14th.

This is also a good time check the batteries in all of your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.



COVID-19 VACCINE



UPDATE

The State of Iowa continues to offer vaccinations to any residents 65 years of age or older as well as first responders, Pre-K through 12 school staff, early childhood education and childcare workers, health care workers and residents of long-term care facilities.

In Adams and Taylor counties, you may now access the vaccine through the county health department and local pharmacies.

To get a vaccine through the health department: You must call to be placed on the vaccination list. You can reach the health department at the following numbers: Corning (641-322-6283) or Bedford (712-523-3405). They will set up an appointment for you to receive your vaccination.

To get a vaccine through a local pharmacy:

NuCara Pharmacy in Lenox: Call them at 641-333-2260.

Bedford Drug: Call them at 712-523-2385.

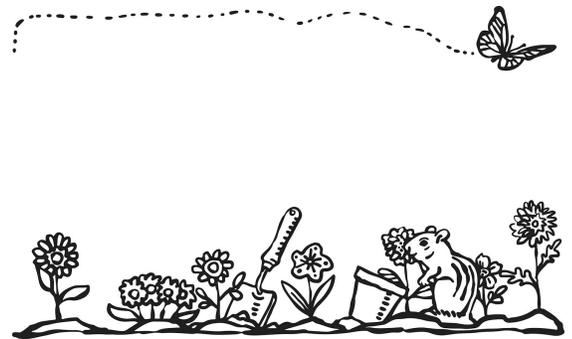
Hy-Vee Pharmacy in Corning: Do **not call** the pharmacy to request or set up a vaccination appointment. For Hy-Vee in Corning, you **must go online** to www.hy-vee.com/covid Click on "Find Appointments" then select "Hy-Vee Pharmacy" for the location and enter the Corning zip code. Choose the Corning Clinic with the 625 Davis Avenue address and then answer the questions that appear about your eligibility and dose information. If the pharmacy has appointments available, you will then be able schedule one.

If you want a vaccine and need any help getting an appointment scheduled, please call Pastor Jessica and she will help you access a vaccine.

Potato Spirituality

The Session and Mission and Outreach Committee is excited to announce that we will be planting a community potato garden. Yes, that's right, a little potato spirituality going on at the Presbyterian Church!!!! The small garden will be located west of our parking lot on the south side of the open lot. The planting of potatoes will begin on Saturday, April 17th and will be tended to throughout the summer. We will dig up the potatoes late summer and have a potato soup supper at our church. The remaining potatoes will be given to Matura or others in need in our community. With hard work and constant attentiveness, the roots will find the water and flourish into multiple, bountiful 5-gallon buckets of potatoes. If you would like to be a part of this potato garden project, please let our committee know or just come on Saturday, April 17th at 8 a.m. Those on the committee are Nancy Turner, Kathy Pangburn, Nikki Tucker, Cindy Peterson and Betsy Akin. May we enjoy the fruits of our labor through the transform of our garden from seed to new life.

More information will be coming forth in the April newsletter or our website!!!



Our small group has begun meeting again. Throughout the season of Lent we are using the study devotional guide that goes with our Lenten theme, Again & Again. Small group meets on Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom. If you want a copy of the devotional or need the Zoom information, let Pastor Jessica know.

Small-Group News



Everyone has hopefully at this point received their Lent At-Home packet. If you have not received one and would like one please let Pastor Jessica know so she can get one to you. **Also, if you need any additional copies of the materials in the packet let her know that as well.**

The prayer board is up in the foyer and waiting for you to add your prayers. Come again and again and add your prayers to it.

The Session gathered for a retreat the morning of February 20. Pastor Jessica opened the retreat with prayer and the group started with a faith music exercise, sharing music that reflected each member's faith journey. It was an uplifting way to start the day. You can listen to the collected songs here:

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/1jssmynn4fZaEvwkQyDU83?si=52b13d275cbb4065>



The rest of the morning was spent in different group exercises working on where we have been and where we are headed as a church. The consensus of the group is that we are stronger today than we were yesterday, we are headed in the same direction moving forward and look with anticipation to what God has in store for us tomorrow.

The morning's activities closed with communion and prayer. The Session looks forward to serving all of you this upcoming year. Please reach out to us with all of your cares, concerns and joys. We will be reaching out to you and keeping each one of you in our prayers as we continue on this journey of faith together.

VBS Season is Coming!

The first VBS planning meeting will be Tuesday, March 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Masks are required. If you are interested in helping or learning more about youth ministry, please plan to attend. For more information, please contact Megan Boswell at megansueboswell@gmail.com or 641.226.1908.



Strong Kids - Strong Future

HELPING ADULTS HELP KIDS

Saturday, May 1 - Fostering Hope is hosting a training event

Strong Kids Strong Future: Helping Adults Help Kids



Help us spread the word to the surrounding area families and professionals interested in learning more about trauma, its impact, and how to help our future generations. Topics will include human trafficking, drug and substance abuse, sleep, and many more. More details to follow regarding class offerings and schedule. Registration will open in April 2021. Please contact a Fostering Hope Board Member if you would like more information. Current board members are: Megan Boswell, Kelly Herring, Monica Hunter, Denise Kester, Michelle Morgan, Jessica Paulsen, LeAnn Robine, Abbey Schafer, and Becky Shields.



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