

# Presbyterian

May 2022

In my February newsletter article, I talked about how I was hoping to look for God at work in 2022 and then to give thanks and express gratitude for what I saw God doing. Having come through Lent and Easter, now seemed like a good time to pause for moment and share where I've seen God at work and offer thanks.

As you read through the rest of the newsletter, you'll see the many things planned for the congregation this summer. From Service Saturdays to the Mission Garden to Vacation Bible School to a capital campaign, we are actively seeking and following God's will for our ministry here in Corning. And I see God at work in all of those things.

For example: who thought in 2011, when you acquired the western piece of property, that 10 years later we'd turn it into garden space to help address food insecurity in our community? And that another year later, we'd expand our small potato garden to now include potatoes, sweet potatoes, and zucchini!?! Or that our food pantry dinner would continue to grow and lead us toward a larger focus on food insecurity as we share things like "Plant a Row" and Farmer's Market food demonstrations?

This is God at work! I celebrate and thank God for these things!



I also see God at work in each of you. In the children who remind me in worship that Easter is important because Jesus loves us no matter what and who know that when Jesus took the bread then "he broke it!" In the person who never wanted to pray to open a meeting, who now faithfully opens each meeting they lead in prayer. I see God in the way you care for each other—sending cards, making phone calls, providing meals, and continuing to be there for each other in person and in prayer.

This is God at work! I celebrate and thank God for these things!

Paul reminds us that "God is not far from each one of us. For 'in him we live and move and have our being'" (Acts 17:27b-28a). So, this is where I am seeing God near to us, living and moving through us. How about you? Where are you seeing God at work?

Grace and Peace,

*Pastor Jessica*



**May 1**

Usher: Jackie Butcher  
Liturgist: Randy Olive

**May 8**

Ushers: Zach and Michelle Morgan  
Liturgist: Quaid Eddy

**May 15**

Usher: Angie Mullen  
Liturgist: Donna Peckham

**May 22**

Usher: Megan Boswell  
Liturgist: Sue Selby

**May 29**

Usher: Randy and Shirley Olive  
Liturgist: Doug Leonard

**June 5**

Ushers: Pete and Kim Brantner  
Liturgist: Megan Boswell

**June 12**

Usher: Ann Myers  
Liturgist: Betsy Akin

**June 19**

Usher: Doug Leonard  
Liturgist: Ken Pangburn

**June 26**

Ushers: Ken and Kathy Pangburn  
Liturgist: Randy Olive

Calvin Morgan	May 2
Lu Anne Brown	May 3
Gwen Pottorff	May 3
Jackie Butcher	May 7
Gary Allen	May 16
Matt Mullen	May 20
Pete Brantner	May 21
Lucy Eddy	May 21
Avery Morgan	May 26

*Family of Sam Richey*  
*Family of Jinx Amdor*  
*Family of Mary Gauthier*  
*Joyce Pangburn*  
*James Haag*  
*Kay Olson*  
*Ava Olson*  
*Judy Beckett*  
*Ukraine*  
*Buzz and Gwen Herbert*  
*Paul Maynes*  
*Kimberly Wilson*  
*Ed, Angie, and Izaik*  
*All dealing with chronic pain*  
*All dealing with COVID-19*  
*All affected by severe weather*  
*All the caregivers*  
*Marvin Smith*  
*Dick Blazek*  
*Arlene Drennan*  
*Cheryl Swartz*

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

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



**Newsletter Deadline:** For the **June** newsletter, please submit all news and announcements by **Wednesday, May 18**. Thank you so much for your help in making sure we get information communicated to everyone.

# *Important News!*



There will be a presentation on May 1, 2022, after worship kicking off the upcoming capital campaign! All are welcome and encouraged to attend to get more details regarding both the projects and the campaign.

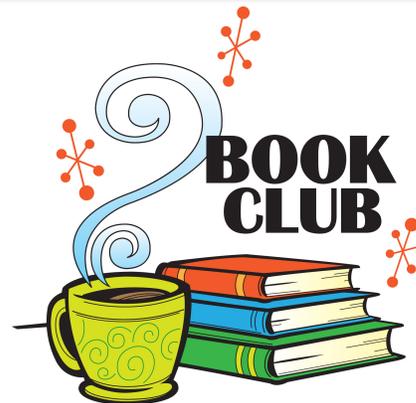
## *Why a capital campaign?*

Many of you remember that about 15 years ago, our church embarked on a capital campaign to meet the physical needs of the church that begged attention. In 2007, it was the roof, lighting in the sanctuary and the vestibule. The campaign was a great success and left our congregation with a nest egg that has allowed us to continue to provide larger maintenance items. That fund is now exhausted.

Currently we find ourselves again with several large projects that need attention so we might continue and move forward with the ministries to which God has called us. These projects are more than the annual budget can withstand – a HVAC system for the sanctuary, new signage for the exterior of the church, upgraded technology, and upkeep and maintenance on the stained-glass windows. The Session, along with the Stewardship and Finance Committee, have determined that a capital campaign would be the most appropriate vehicle to meet these projects. The campaign will consist of a drive to raise funds that can be spread over a 5-year period. As in 2007, we expect that the community of faith of the First Presbyterian Church will respond to the call with all hands in.

## Join the Church Book Club!

The church book club is going strong and you're invited to join us! We meet on the third Sunday of the month at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. For May, we are reading *Dakota: A Spiritual Geography* by Kathleen Norris. Reach out to Pastor Jessica if you'd like more information.



## It's that time of year again! Vacation Bible School June 27 to 30 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.



The theme is Monumental: Celebrating God's Greatness! Online registration will open Wednesday, May 5th. If you are able to help out for the week or even just a day, we can use you. The contact for our church is Angie Mullen or you can let the office know. Our next organization

meeting will be Monday, May 9th at 7:00 p.m. if you'd like to join us. This is a great opportunity for you to help spread God's word. Nothing can compare to the joy of seeing a child celebrating God. Also, please start saving your paper towel and toilet paper rolls for us too, we have some awesome crafts planned. There'll be a box in the foyer where you can drop them off.

Come on down to Central Park for the **First Friday BBQ** hosted by our church on May 6<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Our menu will be grilled hot dogs, potato chips, cookies, and water. If you would like to bring cookies, serving the lunch, or cleaning up, call Betsy Akin at 712-590-0221 or Nancy Turner 712-621-8650. Please come and be a part of this event! We would love to see you all enjoying the beautiful spring day and connecting with the many people that attend! Hope to see you Friday the 6<sup>th</sup>!



### **Re-Formation of the Congregation**



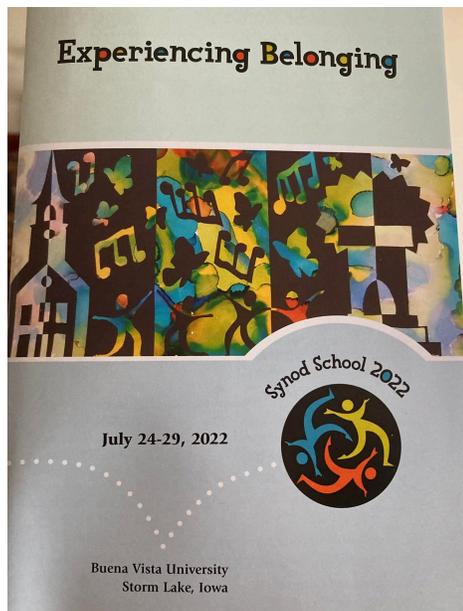
You are invited to join Presbyterians from across Iowa to a four-part seminar on revitalizing and reforming our congregations. The purpose of the seminar is to equip church leaders and pastors for ministry in this rapidly changing time, and help them strengthen the local church's worship, witness, and engagement in God's mission. Ministers and members are invited, although the program is directed at the ministry of the laity.

The next session is scheduled for Saturday, July 9th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Ames. The Rev. Dr. Karoline Lewis, world-renowned biblical scholar and Professor of Biblical Preaching at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, will be presenting on the gift and meaning of biblical authority for the life of the church.

Registration: You can register online at <https://dmpresbytery.org/2021/11/17/re-formation-of-the-congregation/> or contact the presbyteries office at (319) 233-1747. There is no registration fee. However, participants will be asked to contribute toward lunch cost.

### **Summer Fun & Friends Camp**

Summer Fun & Friends Camp is back for 2022 and will be better than ever! Join us July 10-16, 2022 for a week-long celebration of the world God made for us. The lake may be drained but our hearts are full and the excitement level is high! Camp is held in Indianola, IA at Camp Wesley Woods for students in their upper elementary through high school years. Watch for registration details and the camp itinerary to be released after Easter. Volunteer opportunities will also be detailed at that time. Stay tuned!



### **Synod School 2022 July 24 - 29, 2022 Experiencing Belonging**

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Hinson Hasty is the Adult Convocation Speaker, Rev. Dr. Alonzo Johnson will be leading the Youth Convocation, and worship will be led by Rev. Tim Hughes Williams and Rev. Sara Sutter. It's a great lineup of leaders and you're encouraged to register and attend. There are classes to fit everyone's interests! More information is available in the booklets in the church foyer or on the Synod website at: <https://lakesandprairies.org/engaging-leaders/synod-school/>

March 2022 General Fund Checking Account	
Beginning Balance 03/01/22	\$14,695.62
Income	\$8,755.31
Expenses	\$15,488.15
Ending Balance 03/31/22	\$7,962.78



After a successful potato garden project last year, the Mission and Outreach committee is expanding the garden this year and will plant regular potatoes, sweet potatoes and zucchini in our mission garden.

We are hoping to plant sweet potatoes on Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at 5:00 p.m. at the church garden. Sweet potatoes are planted 3 to 4 weeks after the last frost! Bring your garden tools and gloves or just bring a lawn

chair and watch God’s Garden begin to take root! Come and enjoy the fun and fellowship!

The Mission and Outreach committee is committed to reducing food insecurity in our community and offers a suggestion on how you can help in this mission of the church. When planning your own garden, consider planting an extra row to donate to the food pantry at MATURA.



“Plant a Row for the Hungry ” is an easy way to contribute as you find yourself with an abundance of garden produce. (The idea comes to us from the Hunger and Health Coalition in Boone, North Carolina.) MATURA is located at 1402 Hull Street and is open from 9-12 and 1-4:30 on Mondays and Wednesdays and 9-12 on Thursdays. You are welcome to take your donations out during those hours. Their phone number is 641-322-4096 and it might be wise to call before you head out. [The link](#) attached from Iowa State Extension has helpful hints on what vegetables could be most useful to our friends and neighbors that find themselves without fresh produce. There are also copies of the article available in the church foyer.



**Mission and Outreach to hold Demonstration at Farmer’s Market Monday, July 11 from 5-6.**

Mission and Outreach will be sharing a demonstration on the uses of zucchini at the Farmer’s Market this summer with the hopes of using some of our own crop. We will be providing samples and recipes in our ongoing efforts to reduce food insecurity in our community. If you would like to help with this project, contact Betsy Akin for more information.

**Spring has sprung** and it is time to do some spring cleaning at our church and manse. Mark your calendar for the first Service Saturday on April 30<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to noon. The Mission and Outreach and the Care of Property Committees are partnering to do outdoor and indoor projects. We would love this to be an intergenerational project, so everyone from the youth to our seniors will be warmly welcomed. If you are looking to help with landscaping, clean out cabinets in the kitchen, organize closets or a cheerleader to help us get through these tasks, there is a job for you!!! You might want to bring a rake, hedge trimmers, garden tools, gloves, or your favorite dusting cloth;) We will have water and donuts available to start the morning with a sugar spark of energy.



Please come out and contribute to the beautification of God’s house. We look forward to seeing everyone! Happy Easter!



**Service Saturday and Fostering Hope**

Our next Service Saturday will be Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, starting at 9:00 a.m. We’ll be working with Fostering Hope to help organize and restock the Foster Closet.



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

***Sunday Worship Time: 10:00 AM***

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)

Session Members

Betsy Akin  
Jackie Butcher  
Doug Leonard

Avery Morgan  
Angie Mullen  
Ken Pangburn

Cindy Peterson  
Kurt Scott  
Nancy 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:

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