

# Presbyterian

November 2020

IT IS  
WELL  
WITH  
my  
soul

Usually at this time of year, we've started to look forward—forward to Thanksgiving and Advent and Christmas. And it's not that we're not looking forward this year, but COVID-19 seems to have hung a pall over all that we usually look forward to. Questions about the safety of gathering with family or the safety of travel are now prominent in everyone's minds. The holidays will be different this year, there is no doubt about that.

A lot of things have been different or have changed this year. A lot of things are still changing. For us, as humans, that makes life challenging—our bodies and our very human nature like things to stay the same. We naturally struggle with change. And yet, at the same time, those very same bodies that want things to stay the same also grow and change. They develop and adapt. So, perhaps, at the end of the day, it's possible for us to do the same in life—to develop and grow and adapt. I hope so, because I think we're in a time where we are not going to be given a choice about adapting—we will have to make adjustments.

Still the good news—the great news actually—is that even as we are called to change and adapt and adjust, God is still with us. The prophet Isaiah writes that God says, “For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed” (54:10, NRSV). It doesn't matter what happens or how things change—God is still with us, loving us and guiding us. As a popular saying puts it: “I may not know what the future holds, but I know who holds the future.” I wish, as your pastor, that I could offer certainty about what next year, or the next 5 years, would look like, but that is not within my power. What is within my power is to offer the assurance that God is with us—that no matter what the next year or 5 years look like, we will still have God.

This is what I am holding on to as I'm planning for holidays that are going to look oh so different this year. I'm holding on to hope. I'm holding on to God. And I'm holding on to the fact that some inconvenience and minor sacrifice in my life about how I like to do things, means that hopefully the people I love to do those things with will remain safe and healthy and will live to see another year.

In holding on to our faith and trust and God we can proclaim as the great hymn does:

When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
when sorrows like sea billows roll,  
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
it is well, it is well with my soul.

May it be well with your soul.

*Pastor Jessica*



Randy Olive	November 4
Connie Helvie	November 6
Denise Swartz	November 6
Carolyn Curtis	November 8
Karen Carlson	November 9
Scott Akin	November 13
Rob Sink	November 18
Donna Peckham	November 26
Holly Steeve	November 28
Margot Wheeler	November 28

*The family of Cheri Griffith*  
*The family of Delores Johnson*  
*The family of Joyce Kinser*  
*The family of Joe Phillips*  
*Marjorie McMahan*  
*Ollie Morgan*  
*Tami Eckert and family*  
*Phyllis Brokaw*  
*Dan Swartz*  
*Fred Bryson*  
*Steve Sawyer*  
*Darrin Sheets*  
*Rosalie Lamb*  
*Dolores Parcher*  
*Klint Maeder*  
*Edna Carl*  
*Kimberly Wilson*  
*Dick and Betty Pettit*  
*Beth Waddle*  
*Chris Boswell*  
*Mary Hoffman*  
*For a safe election*  
*For a safe harvest*  
*For all impacted by COVID-19*

We ask for your help in keeping an accurate birthday list. If you have any changes or additions, please let us know.

We ask for your help in keeping the prayer list current. If you have any changes or additions, please let us know.



**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 December newsletter, please submit all news and announcements by Wednesday, November 18th.**

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

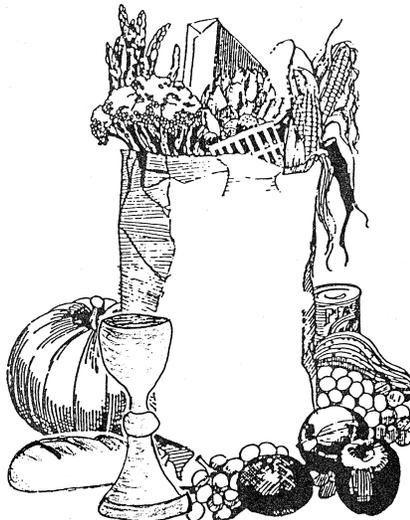


**MEET OUR NEW OFFICE MANAGER - HOPE JACKSON!**

Hope Jackson is an Illinois native who moved to Corning about 4 years ago. She has a variety of work experience in different positions that includes having served as Dispatcher for the Adams County Sheriff’s Office and working with clients through Support Services of South Central Iowa. Hope is engaged and has 3 children.

Hope began office hours on Tuesday, October 27. Regular office hours are now Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The email and phone number to reach Hope are remaining the same: [office@1stpescorning.org](mailto:office@1stpescorning.org) and 641.322.4917.

Our sermon series around the Unraveled theme is continuing through October and November. A small group is meeting via Zoom each week on Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m. —let Pastor Jessica know if you need the link. Study journals continue to be available in the foyer and our art project at the sanctuary is taking shape. The sanctuary is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and also on Wednesdays from 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. if you’d like to stop by for some time of reflection and to participate in the artwork.



**2020 Harvest Offering**

The Harvest Offering is a special offering of our presbytery and has been serving rural churches and communities since 1987. This past year Feed the Pack - East Campus, right here in Corning, received a grant of \$2,000 from the Presbytery Harvest Offering to help with start up and operating costs.

We will be receiving the Harvest Offering on Sunday, November 22, 2020. Envelopes are available in the foyer or you can give online and mark your gift for the Harvest Offering. Look in the bulletin in upcoming weeks for additional information about this special offering.

Pastor Jessica will be out of the office and on vacation from Monday, November 23 through Saturday, November 28.

If you need anything during that time, please reach out to Hope during regular office hours or to our elder on call, Megan Boswell.

Also, the office will be closed on Thursday, November 26 for Thanksgiving.



### **FOOD PANTRY DINNER**

COVID-19 may have delayed our annual food pantry dinner and forced us to make some changes, but the meal will go on! We are offering a drive-up meal on Thursday, November 19 from 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. The menu is from the scholarship dinner: pork loin, potato casserole, green beans, roll, and a pumpkin dessert.

We'll be serving from the church and ask everyone to drive into the parking lot by entering from 10th Street. Delivery will be available - call the church or go online to our website to schedule.

The meal is by free will donation and all of the proceeds go to the Matura Food Pantry.



**Set your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday, October 31.**



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](http://www.facebook.com/1stprescorning)

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

Session Members

Betsy Akin  
Megan Boswell

Phil Morris  
Chuck Lund

Diana Scott  
Sue Selby

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)

Rev. Jessica Paulsen

Home phone: 641-418-8143

Email:

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