



The Salt Shaker

June 2020

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEAR ELY
11100 Spanish Road, Ely, Iowa 52227
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FROM THE PASTOR

As we walk through the fog of COVID-19 Pandemic and its consequences specifically on church life, the Presbyterian Church (USA) has provided the provisional timeline below for resuming public worship. It shows that we are continuing forward and we have a long journey ahead. At First Presbyterian Church near Ely, we are blessed with an insightful, prayerful, and dedicated Session. And, we are rediscovering our church family—by old fashioned technology of telephone and letters as well as modern technology of video conferencing, chatting and posting.

Family near and far are reconnecting.

We are digging deep into our souls and experience to find that who we are is children of God, loved and cherished. At this time, our faith walk is less clear than we would ever choose, but when we cannot see in the fog, we have to rely on our hearing and other senses to continue. We are changing. We are adapting. You will see many of those changes in the newsletter this month. Summer 2020 will be different.

Let us be half-full people and trust God to see us through the obscurity, fear, death and disease.

Let us remind ourselves again that the church has never been the building, but the people.

Let us be determined to use godly wisdom and set aside selfish behavior. Your choices and faith today are valuable to your life, your family, and your church tomorrow.

Blessings to you in Christ,
Pastor Julie

PCUSA Returning to Public Worship Theological and Practical Considerations, (5-5-2020, p 8-9)

Preparation (Before Stage One)

- Maintain regular communication with members; be transparent about how decisions are being made and on the basis of what resources.
- Set realistic expectations for a gradual return to public worship.
- Session should communicate with their insurance company regarding any decision about building use and/or creating or resuming in-person mission and ministry during the pandemic.
- Continue alternate plans for worship, mission, and ministry that does not involve in-person gatherings.
- Encourage members to adopt practices of daily prayer at home.

Stage One

- Evaluate risks of inviting congregation to in-person gatherings.
- If risk is present, restrict church activities to ten persons or fewer.
- Continue online worship (if applicable) with leaders at church.
- Prepare for increased risk reduction measures in the church buildings such as sanitation/cleaning and hygiene measures.
- Procure or ask members to procure personal protection equipment (PPE), which may be needed for in-person ministries and missions, such as cloth masks, inserts for masks, face shields, and gloves.
- Encourage members to continue practices of daily prayer at home.
- Consider small group procedures for ruling elder ordinations, baptisms, funerals, and weddings.

Stage Two: Only if the risk of community transmission of virus is low or a cure or vaccine has been made available

- Church activities are restricted to fifty persons or fewer.
- Institute increased sanitation/cleaning and hygiene measures at church.
- Resume public worship with some members, under age 65, no underlying conditions or who do not have family members with underlying conditions at home.
- Continue online worship (if applicable) for those who remain at home.
- Consider other in-person leadership if leaders are over 65, have underlying conditions.
- Maintain physical distancing in worship (at least six feet, excluding households).
- Close common areas (fellowship halls, church offices, coffee spaces).
- Refrain from communion, handshakes and hugs, passing plates, printed bulletins.
- Require all persons engaging in worship, ministry, or mission in-person to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) such as masks, face shields, and/or gloves.
- Encourage members to continue practices of daily prayer at home.

Stage Three: Only if the underlying risks are significantly reduced or eliminated such as the development of a cure or an effective vaccine for the Coronavirus-19.

- Church activities are open to more than fifty persons.
- Maintain increased sanitation/cleaning and hygiene measures at church.
- Resume public worship with other members (insofar as they feel comfortable doing so).
- Continue online worship (if applicable) for homebound and hospitalized members.
- Resume communion, etc. with additional precautionary measures (see below).
- Physical distancing may be relaxed and masks may become optional in some places.
- Encourage members to continue practices of daily prayer at home.

FACEMASKS

How To Tips to make and wear correctly
<https://www.healthline.com/health/how-to-make-a-mask-out-of-fabric>

PRESBYTERY OF EAST IOWA

Daily Devotionals, information about Covid-19, and church resources
<https://peia.org/resources-for-covid-19/>

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Mackenzie Serbousek who gave birth to her son, Kaeson on May 20.

FROM THE SESSION

May 24, 2020

Dear Church Family,

During our Session meeting on May 21 (via Zoom), we had a thoughtful discussion about how to open our church for worship. The Session has decided that we will continue the online media outreach until further notice. At our next meeting on June 18, we will reevaluate next steps as seem appropriate.

We are sending this message to you with a short survey. We want to know your thoughts and to know how you are doing. Would you please complete the survey as soon as possible? It will help the Session to plan with consideration of your input. Let us step forward together with confidence and resolve.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeDn8IU-F2Ala8_wV61gIfuoYvkq86fXIs0dQPabMiXP68sHg/viewform?usp=sf_link

Your Session at work. Prayers are welcome and encouraged.

Joanne Chadima, Worship and Program Elder

PREVIOUS SESSION UPDATES

The following updates were sent by email and posted on church website and Facebook page

May 22, 2020

Last night (May 21) the Session met by video conference with new information from our denomination, insurance company, and CDC.

After careful consideration, the Session concluded that out of an abundance of caution we will continue to hold worship virtually via Facebook Live broadcasts until further notice.

This is not an easy decision or one that was taken lightly.

These are the steps we are currently taking:

1. A survey will be available online this weekend and sent out in the June newsletter seeking input concerning online participation and in person expectations.
2. A cleaning/sanitizing, building usage, and social distancing guide will be prepared.
3. A financial update will be sent out.

Blessings and peace to you,

The Session

May 2, 2020

You may have heard about Governor Reynold's April 26 announcement stating Iowa's mass gatherings of 10 people or more continue to be prohibited - however this order no longer applies to spiritual and religious gatherings. This announcement indicates First Presbyterian Church near Ely could resume traditional church service as long as we implement reasonable social distancing practices, increase hygiene practices, and other public health measures to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID19. This is both refreshing and daunting news.

Just because we are "allowed" to worship together, should we? Is it safe? Are we ready? What would worship service be like?

On the evening of May 1, the Session met virtually to consider these important and serious questions. After careful consideration, the Session concluded that out of an abundance of caution we will continue to hold worship virtually via Facebook Live broadcasts until further notice. The Session agrees that the church's location in Linn county and very near Johnson County, two hot zones in the state for COVID-19, we feel the risk is too great to our church population. This is not an easy decision or one that was taken lightly.

We miss you and want nothing more than to resume "normal" church services, but out of caution, safety and love for one another we will use technology to worship together as a church for now. The Session will continue to monitor circumstances and will make adjustments when the health of our local environment improves. These adjustment will most likely come in phases as we consider the guidance of the Presbytery and Iowa Department of Health. Please watch for more information to come.

Blessings & Peace to You,

The Session

2020 JUNE WORSHIP AND PROGRAM

Sundays:

- 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Facebook Live streaming worship
- 10:00 a.m. Zoom fellowship

Wednesdays:

- 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Facebook Live streaming Bible Study
- 10:00 a.m. Zoom coffee chat

Session – Thursday, June 18:

- 6:30 p.m. Session Zoom meeting

Ladies' Night Out – TBD – Tuesday, June 29

SESSION NOTES

APRIL 16 AND MAY 1, 2020

1. Session meet on both April 16 and May by video conference
2. Live streaming worship attendance is being tracked based on log in devices numbers
3. Treasurer Dan Chadima gave first quarter financial report on April 16 with budget pledged giving and unpledged giving both low (24.6% and 12.8%). Session discussed online donation service through the Presbyterian Foundation. The Board of Pensions will be waiving three months of pension dues with continued full coverage (May-July.) Presbyterian Mission giving will be held temporarily. Motion approved to make Olivet Neighborhood Mission full 2020 donation as soon as possible. All other March bills paid in full. A grant application for an Iowa Small Business Bureau grant was denied. Motion approved to apply for the CARES Act Payroll Protection Program.
4. Education will be held online for Sunday School and Youth Group.
5. Mission project of food collection for Linn Community Food Bank will be handled by pickup at homes following social distancing guidelines.
6. Church mower maintained and repaired. Parking lot, north drive, and manse driveway graveled. First extinguishers inspected. Elevator inspected. Dust control will be continued this summer.
7. Worship: February 23, Masopust Sunday was celebrated with Youth Group breakfast; faith and musical presentation by Carol Montag; and Three Kings' Cake baked by Diane Reist. Sarah Harris and the Scouts were honored during worship service on March 1. Rev. Dr Howard Chapman led our worship on March 15 as Pastor Julie was on vacation. Worship services on March 22 and following have been on Facebook live streaming and posted on webpage. Blake Kilberger and Victoria Day married in the sanctuary on March 21, 2020. Congratulations!
8. May 1 Special Called Session meeting: Discussion of "Returning to Church" materials

provided by the Presbytery Office and the Governor's Churches Opening Directive. Discussion of Mother's Day calling project; Pentecost Communion; and Drive-in worship/outdoor worship ideas. CARES Act PPP application approved through Solon Bank. Decision to continue closed building policy and online worship/programming until further notice.

GIVE+CHURCH



A NEW WAY to donate to church through

online giving managed by the Presbyterian Foundation through Give+Church. Donate through the app (GivePlusChurch,) or through the church's website, or via the following QR code:



STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Almost everyone has had a financial shock in recent days. So too at church. The Session is conscientiously working through financials at church with the determination to be good stewards and to stay on top of our church bills.

If your financial situation allows you to continue your giving to church, thank you!

If your financial situation has changed, adjustments need to be made. Thank you for remembering the ministries and mission of your church.-

The church family has continued for 162 years with sound financial practices and we will make it through this year too.

VIRTUAL EASTER LILLIES



Virtual Easter Lilies were dedicated on April 12, 2020 in memory and in honor of the following:

Bryan & Elaine Bailey in memory of our loving parents: Joseph & Dorothy Worrell and M. Z. & Jean Bailey

Christal, Troy, Anaka and Silva Bressler in honor of all the essential workers keeping us healthy and safe behind the scenes and in honor of all grandparents and grandchildren missing hugs from each other

Dan, Jodie, Calvin, Sophia, and Sarah Chadima remember with love this Easter Dale Dorsey, Jodie's Dad

George & Joanne Chadima in memory of Milton & Lillian Chadima and Joseph & Esther Cerveny

Jan & Sharon Furler and family in memory of Lumir and Lenore Biderman

Ted and Becky Grenis in loving memory of Emily Grenis (daughter of Ted and Becky Grenis) and Marvin and Esther Larimer (parents of Becky Grenis)

Sharon Novak in memory of Donald Luther Novak and in memory of Sierra Mitchell

Shirley & Kevin Bailey, Jim & Judy Serbousek and Bill & Penny Serbousek in memory of Wes & Lillian Serbousek

Bill & Penny Serbousek & family in memory of Curly & Lillian Ware

Steve, Julie and Daniel Schuett in memory of Harry and Kay Schuett

Karen Zacek in loving memory of her husband Tony Zacek, her parents Charles J and Adeline A Koss and her siblings Charles W Koss and Wayne J Koss

Carl & Barb Zahradnik in memory of Brandon Vogt and in memory of Ethan & Dave Mortenson

Rae Zahradnik remembers and misses with love Jerry Zahradnik

Rae Zahradnik remembers with love her father Frank Waldeck

CONNECTING Opportunities

Please consider the following opportunities to check in with one another through online fellowship through ZOOM meeting platform. Copy the link into your web browser and then add meeting ID and password information as asked. You will need to have Zoom software installed which is free.

Sunday Morning Fellowship following worship
Join Zoom Meeting online or by telephone
<https://zoom.us/j/681162913?pwd=UXNYZFdxXVXMytVTjBqeG9DUFUrQT09>
Meeting ID: 681 162 913 Password: 309550
Dial by phone: (312)626-6799. Meeting ID: 681 162 913

Wednesday morning Coffee Chat: 10:00 a.m. and following

Join Zoom Meeting online or by telephone:
<https://zoom.us/j/250060150?pwd=MHVKMU4rRWhoOVJlbHdZcEIGVHpJUT09>
Meeting ID: 250 060 150 Password: 386508
Dial by phone: (312)626-6799 Meeting ID: 250 060 150

CHILDREN'S EDUCATION



Kid and Adult Faith Challenge Club: Each participant will

receive a Bingo Card covered with activities for you to challenge yourself with each week. Complete challenges to earn a Bingo Square. Get 5 in a row to win the Bingo Challenge Prize for the week. Fun will be had by all!!!! Email or call Pastor Julie if you would like to be part of the June Faith Challenge Club.



READ TO FEED

A summer Reading Club raising money for Heifer International for students and adults with reading online opportunities weekly.

Contact Pastor Julie to sign up! Invite a neighbor or friend to participate too. LET'S READ!

JULY: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

In Virtual Reality

Wednesday evenings,
7/8, 7/15, 7/22, and
7/29 from 6:30 – 7:30
PM



Fun virtual activities including crafting, cooking, creating. Receive a kit from your VBS crew or go on a Home Scavenger hunt for your activity supplies. Email or call the church office to sign up by July 1. Even better—invite a friend, neighbor, or cousin to be part of it too!

More details for both June Challenge Club and July VBS will be sent out by email to church families. If you haven't been receiving church family emails concerning Sunday School recently, please contact the church to be included.



Congregation Members plant seeds on the church property

NEW POLLINATOR GROUND

Thanks to Jim & Judy, Bill, Kamren and Rosalee Serbousek, Andrew Walter, Pastor Julie and Daniel for helping to hand-seed the space between the church's north drive and the creek with a mix of pollinator seeds on Friday, May 22nd. Barb Horak also planted about 60 pollinator plants and some annual seeds to grow and seed out in the fall. Starting last fall, Jim got the weeds killed and the ground prepared, and Casey Holtz did the final harrowing and went over it later with a roller so the seeds make good contact with the soil. We hope in a few years we'll have a beautiful "prairie-like" meadow full of flowers for the bees, butterflies, and birds! As Jim said, "After two to three years of talking about it, it has gotten done! I think the group should be proud. Let's sit back and watch God at work!" - Barb Horak



Congregation Members plant seeds on the church property

THANK YOU

Thank you for making my birthday wonderful on Thursday! There were so many cards, good wishes, and the parade of vehicles was quite a site! It was a down pouring of love and I appreciate you for going out of your way. On top of it all, Rachel said that over 186 donations of food will be taken to the Linn Community Food Bank. Thank you especially to the Manders and Huedepohls for organizing the surprise. I consider myself very fortunate that you count me as a friend. And I thank God for you. Sincerely, Julie

Misti made a photo video and it is located at: <https://animoto.com/play/TrDOAMe00x0v5CNj3jc5UQ>

LETTER FROM JAN DUS CONCERNING GENEALOGY SERVICES

Good morning across the ocean, I hope that you and all of your family are fine. It is not easy to be bound at home and to give up on our regular activities. I hope that you are all in a good mood and you are finding other activities to keep yourself busy.

A number of my clients had to cancel their trips to the Czech Republic, which they had planned for this spring. I was considering what I can offer to them (and to all of my clients) in the current situation. There are two types of services, which I can offer to my clients even at current times:

- Further genealogical research
- Pictures of their ancestral villages

FURTHER GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

While some archives are closed, a good portion of genealogical research can be still done online. Most of Registers have been scanned during the past few years. A good portion of Land Ownership records are already available on-line as well. So even now, we are able to perform the vast majority of research requests. – At the other

hand, would your research request need to be performed in a closed archive, I would inform you about it ASAP. I would put your name on my list and start working on your request as soon as the particular archive will get opened again.

So would you be interested in continuation of a genealogical research - which we did for you in the past - do not hesitate to let me know. Depending on your wishes and the documents available, we can continue researching further back into the history, explore land ownership records, add missing information or a sideline of your family tree. Possibilities are numerous...

TAKING PICTURES OF ANCESTRAL VILLAGES

When taking pictures of ancestral villages, I firstly focus on your ancestral homes. I.e. I take pictures of what the houses look like now. If the owners give me their permission, I take pictures not only of the outside, but also of the inside of their homes. (Whatever the owners feel comfortable sharing.) When the owners keep historical pictures of their home (and they give me their permission), I photograph those as well. I also take pictures of a local church, cemetery, school, city hall, and any other interesting building in town. Then I take several pictures of the surroundings of the village. I believe that it gives my clients a good impression of the countryside.

My clients most typically use these pictures of their ancestral homes

- to have better idea of their ancestral homes and towns
- to illustrate their family histories
- as Christmas gifts for their loved ones

I wish you enough strength, hope, and humor to cope with the current situation. And would there be anything I can do for you these days, do not hesitate to let me know.

With kind regards, Jan

WORSHIP SURVEY

Have you had access to church since going to Facebook Live, March 22, 2020?

- I have had access
- I have tried to access and have been successful sometimes
- I have tried to access and have not been successful.
- I cannot access.
- Other:

Which type of church would be a desirable next step?

- Outdoor service
- Drive in service
- Hybrid service of doing both Facebook Live and in person service
- Other

What would be the best way to take communion for you during this time of distancing?

- Do a "self-serve" style with Facebook live service
- Do a drive through by the church at a set time
- Have pre-packaged communion delivered before Sunday
- Do at home communion
- Other

What part are you most looking forward to as church going back to normal?

- Worship in the same room
- Coffee hour
- Live music
- Children's time
- Sunday School
- Church bells in the morning
- Being heard while responding in service
- Other

FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY CONTINUES IN A NEW WAY

Many lowans find themselves without jobs, with children at home, and their pantries depleted. People who never expected to find themselves turning to community food banks are doing exactly that. The Linn Community Food Bank is offering 3 days of meal packages to anyone who stops by First Presbyterian Church in Cedar Rapids, 310 5th Street, SE, MondayFriday, 1:00-3:15 p.m. Share the news of this wonderful organization with anyone you think should know.

If you find that you have a little extra in your pantry, and you wish to give it on behalf of our church to the Linn Community Food Bank, 1) Tell me and I will arrange pick up. 2) Leave nonperishable food items at your front door on Sunday, June 7. I (or maybe someone from the Youth Group) will pick it up on Sunday, June 7 between 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Want to donate to Food Pantry Sunday? Call Misti Huedepohl at 319-594-2982 or mlhuedepohl@yahoo.com between now and 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, June 7 to arrange pick up. If you find that you or someone you know is in need, please look to the Linn Community Food Bank for food assistance. Everyone needs a little help sometimes. This is one way we can show our love and compassion for our community in one of the best ways we know - through food and nourishment.

Thank you and bless you,
Misti Huedepohl Elder, Mission



Pastor Julie leads Wednesday morning Bible Study via Zoom

First Presbyterian Church near Ely Calendar, June 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 9:30 Bible Study LS 10:00 Coffee Chat Zoom 6:00 Youth Group Zoom	4	5	6
7 9:30 Worship Livestream 10:00 Fellowship Zoom 6:00 Youth Group Zoom	8	9	10 9:30 Bible Study LS 10:00 Coffee Chat Zoom 6:00 Youth Group Zoom	11	12	13
14 Flag Day 9:30 Worship Livestream 10:00 Fellowship Zoom 6:00 Youth Group Zoom	15 Newsletter Deadline	16	17 9:30 Bible Study LS 10:00 Coffee Chat Zoom 6:00 Youth Group Zoom	18 6:30 Session Meeting	19	20 First Day of Summer
21 Father's Day 9:30 Worship Livestream 10:00 Fellowship Zoom 6:00 Youth Group Zoom	22	23	24 9:30 Bible Study LS 10:00 Coffee Chat Zoom 6:00 Youth Group Zoom	25	26	27
28 9:30 Worship Livestream 10:00 Fellowship Zoom 6:00 Youth Group Zoom	29 6:30 TBD Ladies' Night Out	30				



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Contact Anna Cooková for a registration form:
AnnaCookova@gmail.com or 715-651-7044

