

May 1, 2020 Daily Church Email

You may have heard about Gov 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 COVID-19. 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

Also, just a reminder about food pantry donations:

Food Pantry Sunday Continues in a New Way

So, we tried a new way of doing Food Pantry Sunday in April. We had 8 households from 5 different communities donate nonperishable food items for the Linn Community Food Bank. That was amazing! Angie and Faith Ehle and I traveled across God's land (using social distancing and CDC precautions) on a beautiful Sunday to pick up donations left on front porches and sidewalks. The gift of food is the gift of love, of hope and peace for another day.

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, Monday-Friday, 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, step 1) Tell me and I will arrange pick up. 2) Leave nonperishable food items at your front door on Sunday, May 3. I (or maybe someone from the Youth Group) will pick it up on Sunday, May 3 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, May 3 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

First Presbyterian Church near Ely

11100 Spanish Road
Ely, Iowa 52227
(319) 848-4624

office@elypres.org

