



First Christian Church (DOC)
 1224 Lucinda Street
 Perry, Iowa 50220



Clothes Closet Volunteers Needed!

We need volunteers like you to help make the Clothes Closet run smoothly!

The Clothes Closet is open on Saturdays from 8am-Noon

Contact the church office if you have questions or would like to let us know when/how you can help!

Help outside of Saturday morning is always welcome!



Save the Date

JOIN THE PERRY MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION EVERY TUESDAY DURING LENT FOR A BRIEF WORSHIP SERVICE AND LUNCHEON. SERVICES BEGIN AT 12:05PM. A FREE WILL OFFERING WILL BE RECEIVED FOR THE GOOD SAMARITAN FUND.

FEBRUARY 28TH

ST. MARTIN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MARCH 7TH

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

MARCH 14TH

MT. OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH

MARCH 21ST

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARCH 28TH

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Minister

Rev. Andrea Brownlee
 abrownlaj@gmail.com
 515-259-1982

Minister's Office Hours

Mon-Thurs 10am- 1pm Or By Appointment
 Day off- Friday



First Christian Church
 (Disciples of Christ)

Where you can be yourself.
 No matter where you are on life's journey,
 We invite you to join us as we strive to follow
 Jesus in real and different ways.

1224 Lucinda St. - Perry, Iowa
 (515) 465-2215

www.perryfcc.org 

Office Manager

Betty Thomas
 1stchristianperry@live.com
 515-465-2215

Business Office Hours

Monday- Thursday 1-3:30pm
 Office Closed on Friday

The Chimes

NEWSLETTER OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES FOR
 FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, PERRY, IOWA

We all have a favorite hymn or three. I would venture to say most of us don't think about the theological significance of the hymns we sing. Even as a pastor, I don't always think about all the words and what they implicitly or explicitly say when I pick hymns for Sunday morning worship. "Does the congregation know this one?" is often the first and last thought when picking most hymns. There is such a great depth of wisdom and soul in hymns that is often overlooked especially when the hymn becomes so familiar that we sing it without thinking about the words. One of my favorite hymns is "It Is Well With My Soul". The composer, Horatio Spafford* wrote the text to this beautiful hymn in 1873. He had planned a European trip for himself and his family (wife and 4 daughters) after the death of his son, the Chicago fire of 1871, and other life changing events. When the time came to leave he was delayed but sent his wife and daughters on ahead of him. Their ship was struck and sank at sea. He received word that only his wife had survived. As he made his way to be with his wife, it is thought that when his ship passed near where it is thought his daughters had drowned he wrote the words to this infamous hymn:

"When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
 When sorrows like sea billows roll;
 Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say,
 It is well, it is well, with my soul.

Refrain:

It is well, with my soul, It is well, it is well, with my soul."

Out of the depth of his pain without an explicit "theological" thought, I would imagine, he wrote words that touch the heart of countless people who are struggling and suffering as he did. He wrote these words out of his own understanding of scripture and who God was for him in that moment. When we can express our deepest understanding of who God is in our lives, we have become theologians in our own right. The hymns we sing are manifestations of God among us. When we sing or speak the words of those who have gone before us, we are echoing the words that are stronger than any doctrine or creed. The hymns we sing can help us explore deeper who we are as children of God, if we let the words take us to the heart of our deepest longing, to be connected to God, "whatever our lot".

Through the 40 days of Lent, which began February 22nd, I pray you find ways to reconnect with God. Start a new prayer practice, fast from TV or other media sources, change something in your routine in order to add joy to your day, maybe you can simply singing your favorite hymns. Whatever you decide to do through these 40 days Lent, I pray that when Easter Sunday arrives you can sing with joy; "It is well, with my soul, It is well, it is well, with my soul."

Blessings as we journey together,

Pastor Andrea

*Osbeck, Kenneth. 101 Hymn Stories. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1979. Pg126-127.

March and April Worship Opportunities



Lent 2023

"A Table in the Wilderness"

Our theme and focus this Lenten season will be God's care and provision for us.

We will spend time looking at the ways God has spread a table for us in the midst of our own wilderness times as we look deeper into biblical characters and how God spread a table for them in their wilderness.

February 26- First Sunday of Lent

"A Table in the Wilderness for Jesus"

God provided protection from angels Matthew 4:1-11 and Mark 1:9-13

March 5 Second Sunday of Lent

"A Table in the Wilderness for Israel"

God provided manna Exodus 16:1-18

March 12 Third Sunday of Lent

"A Table in the Wilderness for Hagar"

God provided water in the dessert Genesis 21:1-19

March 19 Fourth Sunday of Lent

"A Table in the Wilderness for Elijah"

God provided bread and water when he is hiding the cave 1 Kings 19

March 26 Fifth Sunday of Lent

"A Table in the Wilderness for David"

God provided food and wisdom and resourcefulness while David is running from Saul. 1 Samuel 25

April 2 Palm Sunday

"A Table in the Wilderness for a Hungry Crowd"

God provides bread and fish for the crowd gathered to hear Jesus Mathew 14

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday

Thursday April 6th at 6pm we will gather for a combined Maundy Thursday Good Friday service. In this service we will go from the Upper Room to the Cross together with Jesus, remembering along the way the ways the God provide for Jesus, his followers and even for us. We hope you will join us at

April 9 Easter Sunday

Easter worship will be celebrated at 10am! We hoe you will join us as we celebrate the Risen Christ!

April 16 Holy Humor Sunday

Be ready for an upside down and inside out service! Jesus jokes, mystery communion, dance? Who knows how the Holy Spirit will move us, join us to find out!

April 23 and April 30

Join us for regular morning worship at 10am



Check out the Regional Newsletter on the bulletin board in the Narthex for more details and Regional events!

March and April Meetings, Gatherings and Reminders

Elders Meetings

following Trustees
March 12th
April 2nd
May 7th



Trustees Meetings

March 12th
April 2nd
May 7th

Leadership Council

March 19th
April 16th
May 21st



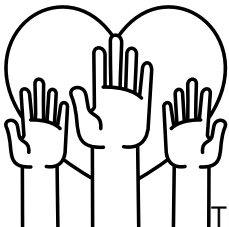
SATURDAY SMALL GROUP
Coffee and Conversation

Will be taking an extended break from meeting.

Mark
YOUR
Calendar

Sunday communion prep and clean up help needed. Contact office to sign up.

Volunteers Needed



Worship Leaders & Children's Prayer Time

Sign up to help lead worship!

There are dates available for reading scripture and/or sharing a short prayer with the children during worship. The sign up sheet is in the Narthex!

2nd

THURSDAY

Meets at 6pm at La Poste

March 9th
April 13th
May 11th

Help the Food Pantry!

The Food Pantry is always taking donations of nonperishable food items, as well as cash donations to purchase eggs, meat, and other perishable items. You can drop your donations off in the grocery cart in the Narthex on Sunday morning or when the church office is open Monday-Thursday 1-3:30pm

The Food Pantry is in need of the following items:

- 1 pound bags of rice
- Cans of Fruit
- Cereal
- Granola Bars
- Shampoo
- Toothpaste

Please make sure that all products are within the "Best Used By" date. The Pantry cannot distribute expired products.