

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH September 6, 2026

"Promise keeping is a powerful means of grace in a time when people hardly depend on each other to remember and live by their word."

~ Lewis B. Smedes

TRINITY BELLS

*OPENING MUSIC "You Are God Alone"

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 139 and Jeremiah 18)

Leader: Like clay on a wheel,

People: God forms us: shaping us, molding us, creating us.

Leader: And like moldable clay,

People: God continues to shape us. Let us worship God.

*#579 GLORIA PATRI

GATHERING HYMN #376 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO CONFESSION

Creator God, you know us better than anyone else. You formed us in your own image. And yet, we sometimes stray from the gift you've given us. We keep people at a distance, letting systemic and personal barriers get in the way of relationships. Forgive us, Lord. Let us hear your call to change and do better. Empower us to ask for forgiveness from those whom we have wronged. Help us to think of you and those around us.

(now that we have confessed as a congregation, let us confess our own sins in the silence of our hearts)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, the good news is this: God is not done with us. Our Creator is still forming and shaping us, forgiving us, and allowing us to grow. Hear the Good News of the Gospel:

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

OFFERING

Offering Music

"I Will Rise"
Amhof Family

*Doxology

*Prayer Of Dedication

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

SONG OF PREPARATION

"The Bond of Love"

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

SERMON

"We Are the Neighbor"
Rev. Paul Masters

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG

"O Come to the Altar"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

*SENDING MUSIC

Helpful Notes

- 1) We say "debts" and "debtors" in the Lord's Prayer
- 2) Asterisks (*) = Please stand as you are able
- 3) Offering – You can give electronically using the QR code found in the 'Stewardship News' section of this bulletin

Prayers for September 6th – 12th

Members of the Congregation:

Steve Pederson, Alan Scott, Marj Johnson & Nancy Wood

Friends of the Congregation:

Missy Nelson (Friend of the Moeller Family),
Neela Waddell (Mike & Judy's Granddaughter) &
Amy (Bev Sheffield's Daughter)

Prayer Families:

Phyllis Chance
Peg Christensen
Lillie Mae Clausen
Bill & Jennie Clay

Pray for: (a ministry in our Presbytery; a ministry in Fort Dodge)

First Presbyterian Church, Irvington &
Epworth United Methodist

Stewardship News

THANK YOU to all who faithfully share from their personal Treasure. We are committed to helping others learn and experience the JOY OF GIVING. On 8/30/26, 150 members experienced the JOY OF WORSHIP (101, 16 FB, 33 YT). Total contributions through 8/30/26 are \$311,657.90. The amount needed is \$372,944.52. God has generously given us spiritual and physical provision and blessings in abundance. As we follow God, generous giving is a natural outcome. Please prayerfully consider if it's time to STEP-UP your JOY OF GIVING!



Thank you to our volunteers today

Ushers: Gary Gronbach, Alan Scott & Russell Scott

Communion Servers: Gregg Hora, Liddy Hora, Bruce Walrod & Amy Walrod

Vocals: Roxanne Amhof

Musicians: Greg Merritt, Steve Kelleher, Jake Merritt, Jan Moeler & Gabriel Alves

Bus Driver: Don Miller

Elder: Kim Bodholdt

Offering Pick-Up: Bruce Walrod & Kim Bodholdt

September Ministry Team Meeting Times

Christian Education – Sept. 6 th @ 11:15 am	Session – Sept. 8 th at 5:30 pm
Stewardship – Sept. 15 th at 5:30 pm	Fellowship – Sept. 15 th at 5:30 pm
Mission – Sept. 15 th at 6:00 pm	Foundation – Sept. 15 th at 6:30 pm
Personnel – Sept. 17 th at 5:30 pm	Deacons – Sept. 21 st at 6:00 pm
Property & Finance – Sept. 21 st @ 4:00 pm	Worship & Music – Sept. 22 nd at 6:30 pm

Courtyard Flowers

If you have any fall artificial flowers that we can use to decorate the pots in the courtyard please drop them in the Commons Conference room by September 13. Bring them in a plastic bag and fill out the note (found in the Conference Room) telling us who they are from and if you want them returned.

BINGO

BINGO is back on September 16th at 3:30 pm in the commons!

Youth Programs

Youth group returns on September 16th! Forms are available on the table outside the office and due September 2nd. This year middle and high school will meet 5:15 - 7:00 pm in the Shalom Center. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Abee in the office. There is a sign-up in the Narthex for anyone that would like to provide a dinner for the Middle/High youth group.

Heritage Sunday

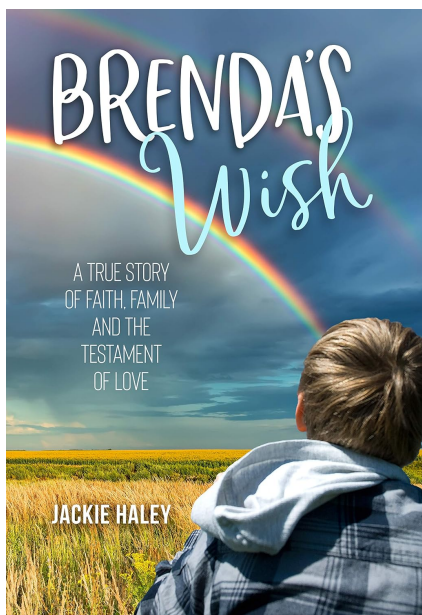
On Sunday, September 20st we will be celebrating Heritage Sunday. The Fellowship Committee will be hosting Heritage and New members with refreshments before the church service.



First Presbyterian Church
1111 5th Avenue North, Fort Dodge, Iowa
Lead Pastor, Rev. Paul Masters
Executive Pastor, Chris Helton
Director of Music, Gabriel Alves
A/V Tech. & Comm. Director, Mary Alves
A/V Specialist, Kristal Torres
515-576-2091
September 6, 2026

Website: www.fpcfd.org
YouTube: FPC Fort Dodge





WE HAVE THE BOOK!

Brenda's Wish is written by our visiting author!

Jackie (Syverson) Haley is a Fort Dodge graduate of the class of 1998!! How awesome is that!

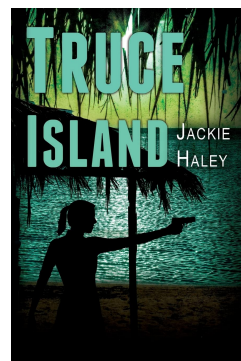
BRENDA'S WISH: A True Story of Faith, Family and the Testament of Love, is a unique story of Brenda Schmitz, a cancer-stricken wife and mother who, in the few precious months left, wrote a letter to a local radio station and asked a friend to deliver it when the time was right: when her husband David found a new wife to help raise their four boys.

Two years later after Brenda passes away, David hears the words of his late wife for the first

time and receives an incredible wish from the radio station. It's an incredible display of love, loss, faith and hope, and shows one remarkable woman's selfless acts to help her family grieve and move on after her passing. Keep tissue near as you journey through the dramatic stage 4 cancer diagnosis, a mother's determined fight for her family, a community united, a husband's paralyzing grief turned resilience, and inexplicable reaffirmations of love, guardianship and wonder from the afterlife. After the emotional Christmas wish interview was picked up by the evening local news, it went viral. Days later, David had 42,000 friend requests, along with 440 media contacts from *Good Morning America*, *The Today Show*, *Ellen DeGeneres*, *The View*, countless writers, and other major networks. The radio station received 13 full-size mailbags with letters addressed to David Schmitz.

The book is in our library for you to read! We'll have it on our desk if it is available..feel free to read and return as soon as you are done so others who want to read it before her visit can!

Otherwise come on Oct. 1 and you will be able to purchase a copy of your own!



WE HAVE THE BOOK!

Truce Island is written by our visiting author! Jackie (Syverson) Haley is a 1998 Fort Dodge graduate!

Jessica Blake knew about her husband's past as a diamond smuggler before she married him. As detailed in the prequel thriller, *Crystal Beach*, the romance between Jessica and Jonathan has been full of danger and intrigue. Now, as the two finally wed, Jessica faces her most dangerous adventure yet—a vengeful Russian general has set his sights on the newlyweds. General Alex Petrov never forgave Jonathan for helping the general's daughter, Kira, escape an arranged marriage. The news of Kira's death turned

Petrov's anguish into blind hatred. His wish: to teach Jonathan a lesson. The adventure begins when Petrov guards kill Jonathan's personal assistant and loyal retainer, Carl.

As Jonathan tries to process the death of his friend and partner, Jessica struggles with the information Carl divulged to her right before his death—that he was an informant with the FBI. To keep Jonathan alive, Jessica may have to continue Carl's mission and enter a deadly game of cat and mouse between the FBI, drug smugglers, and a mystery ally. In this romantic thriller about diamonds, danger, and desire, Jessica Blake proves once again that she is no mere "damsel in distress."

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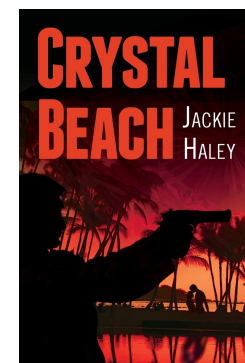
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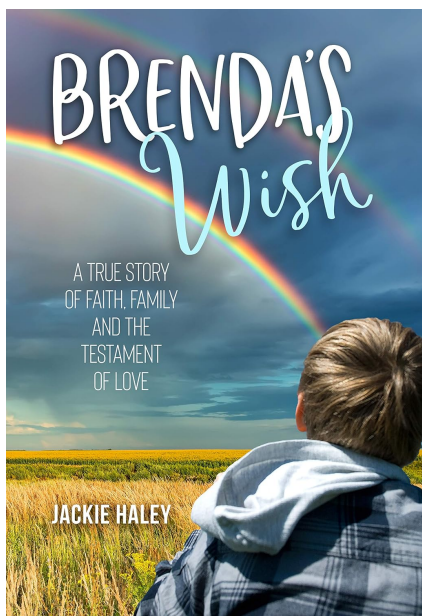
Jonathan Blake is a catch. He's attractive, he's charming, and his family has a very successful business. Unfortunately, that business just happens to be diamond smuggling. Jessica Johnson is ready for a fresh start. After moving from Chicago to L.A., she has a new job and a new apartment.

The only thing she doesn't need, or want, is a new boyfriend. But when Jonathan saves her from drowning, she finds herself swept off her feet. As their two worlds collide, the decision to stay together becomes a matter of life and death. Will Jessica sacrifice everything to be with the man she loves? Discover love's ultimate adventure at *Crystal Beach*!



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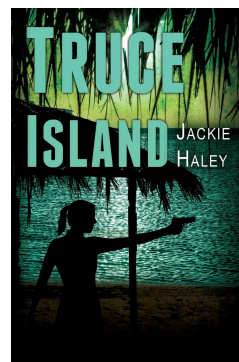
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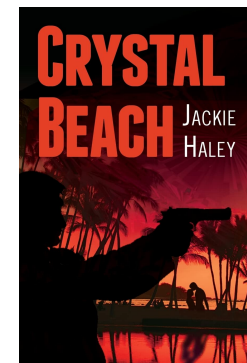
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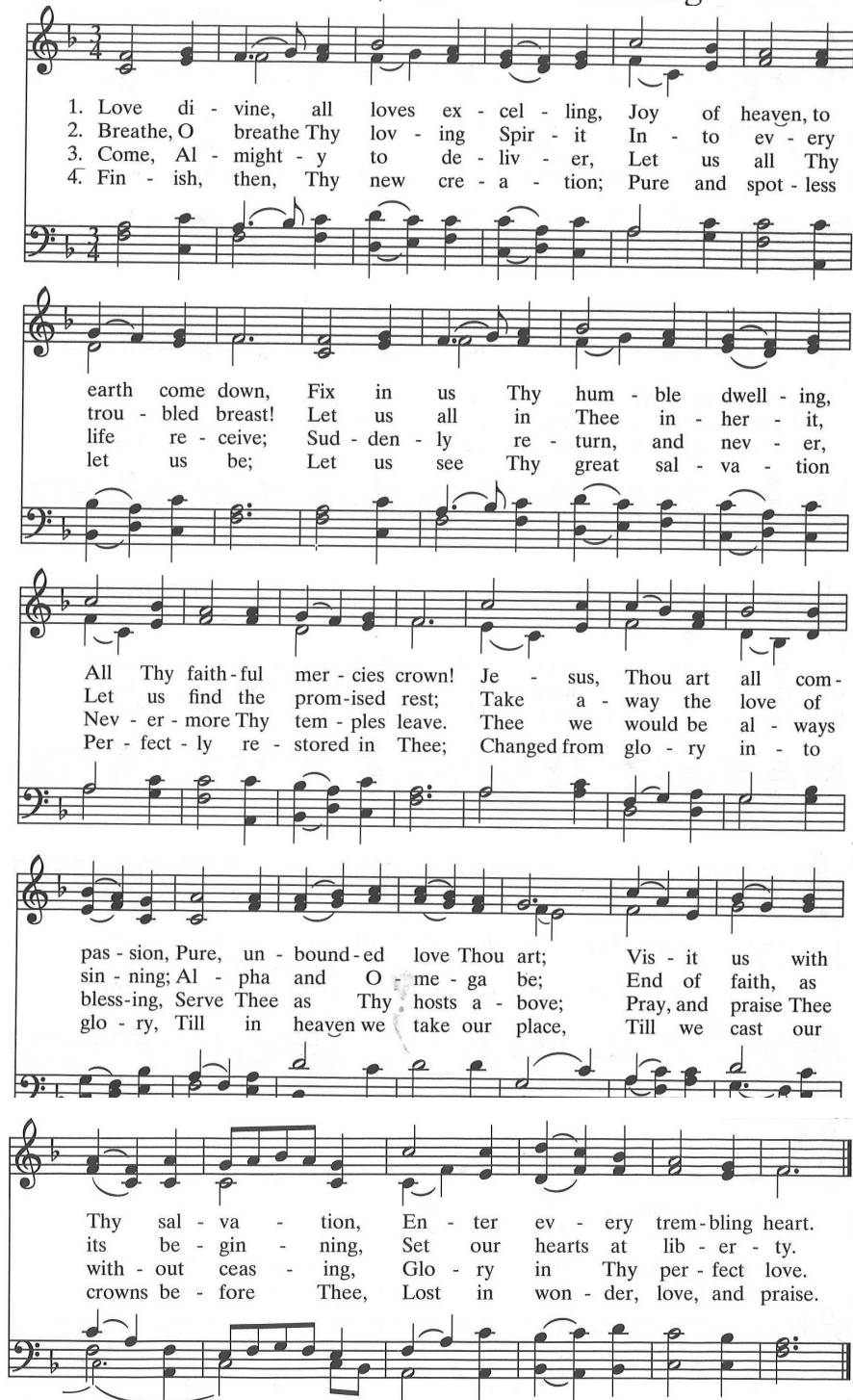
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Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to
 2. Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to ev - ery
 3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, Let us all Thy
 4. Fin - ish, then, Thy new cre - a - tion; Pure and spot - less

earth come down, Fix in us Thy hum - ble dwell - ing,
 trou - bled breast! Let us all in Thee in - her - it,
 life re - ceive; Sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er,
 let us be; Let us see Thy great sal - va - tion

All Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown! Je - sus, Thou art all com -
 Let us find the prom - ised rest; Take a - way the love of
 Nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways
 Per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee; Changed from glo - ry in - to

pas - sion, Pure, un - bound - ed love Thou art; Vis - it us with
 sin - ning; Al - pha and O me - ga be; End of faith, as
 bless - ing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts a - bove; Pray, and praise Thee
 glo - ry, Till in heaven we take our place, Till we cast our

Thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore Thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise.

The Bond of Love

Love thru Christ has bro't us together
 Melting our hearts as one
 By God's Spirit we are united
 One thru His blessed Son

We are one in the bond of love
 We are one in the bond of love
 We have joined our spirit
 With the Spirit of God
 We are one in the bond of love

Now dear Lord we join in worship
 Thank You for all You've done
 Thank You for this love You gave us
 Thank You for making us one

Let us sing now ev'ryone
 Let us feel His love begun
 Let us join our hands
 So the world will know
 We are one in the bond of love

O Come to the Altar

Are you hurting and broken within
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin
Jesus is calling
Have you come to the end of yourself
Do you thirst for a drink from the well
Jesus is calling

O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes
Come today there's no reason to wait
Jesus is calling
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy
From the ashes a new life is born
Jesus is calling

Oh what a Savior
Isn't he wonderful
Sing alleluia Christ is risen
Bow down before him
For he is Lord of all
Sing alleluia Christ is risen

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown
Tell the world of the treasure you've found

You Are God Alone

You are not a god created
By human hands
You are not a god dependent
On any mortal man
You are not a god in need of
Anything we can give
By Your plan
That's just the way it is

You are God alone from before time began
You were on Your throne You are God alone
And right now in the good times and bad
You are on Your throne You are God alone

You're unchangeable You're unshakable
You're unstoppable that's what You are
You're unchangeable You're unshakable
You're unstoppable that's what You are

You're the only God whose power
None can contend
You're the only God whose name and
Praise will never end
You're the only God who's worthy
Of ev'rything we can give
You are God
That's just the way it is

And right now in the good times and bad
You are on Your throne You are God alone