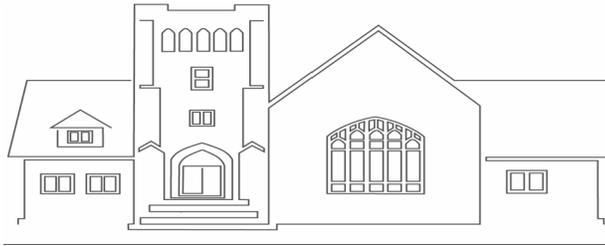


**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NEWTON, IOWA
641-792-2790**

THE MESSENGER



APRIL, 2013

Message from Pastor John

My Dear Family of Faith,

Easter is an overwhelmingly powerful season which is the foundation of our Christian faith. The Resurrection of Jesus becomes a chief reason for our uniting together in mission, in worship, and in witness to Him Who is the Resurrection and the Life.

What does this relationship mean to you and me? What makes the foundation of our faith so powerful that we retell it every year at this time? I would have everyone read I Corinthians 15. It is Paul's most definitive statement about the power of the Resurrection. We cannot hide from the impact that such has in each of us personally and as a church. Something propels the church to want to tell about this event. So, what would you tell someone about the Resurrection of Jesus?

I had a professor of New Testament in Seminary who knew the power of the Resurrection from his personal experience. He and his wife had a young boy, who died prematurely. It was a grief that no parent would wish on anyone. But, in the process of dealing directly with their grief, this family found the greater source of strength and faith that ministered to them. They experienced the Resurrection through memory, through stories of their young boy, and through the mutual tears, hugs, encouragement, and prayerful sobs that all could share without any shame. But, more so, this young family reached out in the name of Him Who is the Resurrection and the Life and found a strength and belief that the Resurrection is not some fairy tale or some psychological comfort, but a real experience that cannot be denied. They found that power could affirm life beyond life and joy in the midst of pain and grief. In fact, the professor wrote a book – a commentary on the gospel of Matthew and in the opening dedication page, dedicated the commentary to his young son, who taught him and his wife the true power of the Resurrection of Jesus.

What is out there in life that could teach us the Resurrection Power of Jesus? Read 1 Corinthians 15 and see how Paul defines and expresses the Resurrection for you. It is a power that unleashed the living from the dead – not zombie-like, but for eternity in which all who claim the victory of Jesus over sin and death, will know the power of the Resurrection first hand.

I pray that this day and every day be a reminder of the Resurrection of Jesus on which we rely every day in all situations of life. It will minister to each of us in those times when we are in grief or some despair. As the Prayer of St. Francis would conclude, "For it is in dying that we are born to eternal life!"

Yours in the name of the Risen Christ,
Pastor John J. Duling, Interim Pastor

Worship & Music Committee

Kim DeGraff, Chairperson

It was as a busy and wonderful Lenten and Easter worship season!

Please note some special Sunday items for April:

April 7 - Linda Curtis-Stolper will fill the pulpit, as Pastor John has this Sunday off, since he graciously switched his schedule to work the 5th Sunday of March (Easter).
El Salvador presentation/luncheon to be held following church.

April 14 - Confirmation Sunday (this will also be Communion Sunday for April)

April 28 - Katherine Pater, our new Presbyterian Mission co-worker to El Salvador, is visiting Iowa and has agreed to come fill the pulpit and share some insight.

Special note: For the safety of those in the Nursery, the East door going into the Kitchen will be locked when the Host Elder/Deacon goes upstairs for worship.

Budget and Finance Corner

Bill Shields, Chairperson

As of the end of February, pledges for the month were \$9,804, which is \$1,946 below budget for the month. Because pledges were significantly higher than budget in January, we are still ahead of our budget expectation on a year-to-date basis.

Other regular giving for the month was \$220, which was \$79 below budget.

Most expense categories were close to or below budget for February.

In total, expenses were \$78 under budget for the month. Year-to-date, we are \$583 under budget.

The Memorial Fund received moneys in memory of Darrell Achtemeier and Kathleen Skokan.

A donation was received to pay for the new church sign.

The Funeral Meals fund received donations from the Skokan and Tiedje families.



Prayers for:

- + Don Russell who had heart surgery. He is now at home recuperating.
- + The PNC committee as they continue their work in searching for our next Pastor.

I have been most fortunate in my life and only recently had any reason to experience the support of a church family in a time of crisis or sadness/loss. Just as my family came through for me, so did my church family - in a big, big way - and I am so fortunate, so grateful to have you all here.

Thanks.

Dave Boyd



*To Kim and Rick Miller and family in the recent death of Kim's father, Merlin J. Nielsen. "Smitty", as he was known to family and friends, died March 6. Funeral services were on Saturday, March 9 at the First Presbytery Church in Cedar Falls and burial was at Fairview Cemetery, also in Cedar Falls.

*To JoAnn Munger and family on the recent death of Marvin. Marvin died on Wednesday, March 20 following heart surgery. Services were held on Saturday, March 23 at Wallace Family Funeral Home with Merle Smith officiating. Burial was at Newton Union Cemetery.

*A Memorial service for Darrell Achtemeier was held at the church on March 23, with Pastor John officiating. Sympathy is extended to Marie and her family.



“Sundays at Four” Concert Series celebrates *Faces of Love*



First Presbyterian Church of Newton continues its Sundays at Four concert series on Sunday April 14 at 4:00 p.m. Sarah Van Waardhuizen, a Central College voice professor and soprano will be giving a recital featuring the many different “Faces of Love.” All 20th and 21st

century works will be highlighted. In collaboration with Marlys Grimm, piano and Charlee Eekhoff, violin, Van Waardhuizen will be performing Eric Whitacre’s “Hebrew Love Songs,” an inquisitive song cycle diving into the very essence of 21st century art song. The program will also feature works by Ricky Ian Gordon, Albert Hay Malotte, Scott Alan and William Finn.

Looking ahead - May 5 will be the date for the annual Sundays at Four concert consisting of the Central College Chamber Singers, directed by Mark Babcock; Newton High School Varsity Chorale, directed by Norm Grimm; and the Chancel Choir at First Presbyterian, directed by Larry Anderson

April Fellowship Events

By Randy Camp, Chair

We were very pleased to have another successful potato bar following church services on March 10. Seventy-six people enjoyed a baked potato with all the toppings and a dessert. Thanks for everyone who shared lunch and fellowship.

We also thank everyone who donated food for the traditional Easter breakfast. It is always a great time for our church members to begin the celebration of Easter together.

Our committee will not be having any other church activities until Summer. Be watching future communications for details on future activities.



Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) Update

We continue to work on the CIF (Church Information Form) that will be submitted to Louisville to be matched with information from prospective ministers. Thank you to all of you that took the time to supply us with information on where you see our church in ten years and what you are looking for in a new pastor.

A part of the CIF is providing our Mission statement. Our committee came up with the following, which was approved by Session at their March meeting: “The Mission of First Presbyterian Church of Newton, Iowa is to share the love of God and grow the body of Christ through joyful worship and fellowship; devoted prayer and study; and humble service in our community and world.”

PNC Committee:

Larry Anderson, Ann Cutts, Steve Hopkins, Linda Kirchhoff, Kelly Koenen, Gary Parsons and Joan Tyler

MEMBERSHIP



MOMENT

The Membership Committee is planning to host a meeting of the church committee heads in April. The purpose of this is to get everyone together and try to inform each other of our individual

committee functions and to try to coordinate our efforts so that we are not duplicating our efforts and spending unnecessary and valuable time at tasks which are being covered by others. We did this for the first time one to two years ago and we felt it was very useful and productive.

As reported previously our committee is working on specifically inviting Newton High School graduates who have been associated with our church in any way to worship with us on Sunday of the NHS reunion weekend in June. If you know of anyone who might be coming to the reunion that weekend and they were members, attended youth fellowship, etc. please encourage them to come. There will be more information forthcoming. Also encourage them to log on to our website at: www.newton1stpresbyterian.org.

Remember: God doesn't call the qualified, he qualifies the called.

Gary Parsons, chairperson

**Confirmands to Join Church
on April 14**

After several weeks of meeting with Pastor John on 2 Sundays a month and their Mentors in-between, eight of our youth will be joining church on April 14.

This year's confirmation class consists of Natalie Camp, Bridget Carson, Devin Carson, Emily Miller, Jordan Norvell, Megan Ritter, Garrett Sturtz and Josh Ventling. Their morning on the 14th will begin with breakfast with their parents, mentors and Session members. Following breakfast, the Session members will examine the confirmands and vote on their acceptance into membership.

During the worship service, these young people will be taken into membership. This is their initial step in having full privileges in the church.

Please join us on April 14 to welcome our new brothers and sisters in Christ.

Buildings and Grounds

Linda Campbell, Chair

The new sign is complete - well nearly. Some electrical work needs to be completed. The Session voted to have the final decision on the information on the sign to be that of the Pastor. If there is anyone interested in helping maintain the sign and put up the messages, please contact Jenny at the church office (792-2790). The members of Session also voted that the purpose of the sign is to put up announcements of special events of the church. It will not be used as a billboard for birthdays, anniversaries, etc.

A date still needs to be set for the Work Day where the members of the Work Week group will do clean up work outside and inside the church. Another project that will be done is painting and some general repairs in the restrooms on the lower level.

The Deacons wish to thank all of those who were willing to deliver lilies from the Lily Cross on Easter morning. It is a blessing to have the help of so many volunteers who spread the joy of Easter throughout the community.

We continue to make our visits, and in March we were in charge of organizing the Lily Cross.

Linda Kirchhoff, Moderator



Christian Nurture at Work

By Virginia Bennett, Chair

Another successful session of **WOW** has been completed. A big thank-you to all those who helped with this winter session, which ended March 20. The children and their parents met at First Lutheran on the 20th for the ending program.

The **High School Bible study** group also shared the meal time with the WOW students and then had their study time. Four to six youth regularly attended, and the group was facilitated by Pastor John, with George Wilkening filling in one week that Pastor John needed to be gone. With the ending of WOW, the group is taking off a couple of weeks and will start up again in mid-April, likely on Sunday mornings during the regular Sunday School hour.

Plans are in the works for **Youth Sunday**, with a tentative date of May 12, which is Mother's Day. We are also planning on having the traditional breakfast and recognition of our **graduating seniors**. This will be held on Sunday, May 26, the morning of Commencement.

Finally, we will be gearing up for **Vacation Bible School** this summer. Our hope is that we will once again have a combined VBS with United Presbyterian and First Lutheran churches. More details will follow on several of these activities in upcoming Church Happenings, bulletins and Messengers.

New Members and Baptisms

On March 3, we were happy to welcome to our church family Keith and Jillian Fink. They came to us by letter of transfer, Jillian from Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church in Williston, ND and Keith from St. James Episcopal Church in Oskaloosa, IA. Jillian is the daughter of Randy and Joan Lamb and was a member of our church previously.

To add to the blessing of the morning service, Keith and Jillian also had their daughter, Khloe, baptized. Jillian's brother and sister, Brandon and Tiffany Egan, are Khloe's God parents and participated in the baptism.

We welcome Keith, Jillian and Khloe to our church family.

A second baptism was held on Sunday, March 17 for Indy Billy Gene Carson. Indy is the son of Greg and Jennifer Carson and younger brother to Bridget and Devin. After a very moving baptism service, Rachel Rickers sang "Lullaby" by Billy Joel, which was a request of the Carson family.

Welcome, Indy to our church family.

Mission Committee

By Linda Erickson, Chairperson

Stories of El Salvador

Recently several of our members have experienced mission trips to El Salvador. Kimberly Schnell and Linda and Warren Erickson spent most of February and a little of March teaching English in the elementary school in Muñoces and Tom Mott recently returned from traveling with the medical mission to Berlin and surrounding cantones. They have pictures to show and stories to tell so please plan to join them on **Sunday, April 7**, following church. The El Salvador interest group is planning a simple soup luncheon, which will be followed by the presentations about El Salvador. We hope to see you there!

El Salvador Missionary to Speak

Our new mission co-worker to El Salvador is scheduled to grace our pulpit on **Sunday, April 28**. Rev. Katherine Pater was recently ordained following completion of Harvard Divinity School and will be on her first trip back to Iowa after her first three months as our mission co-worker in Berlin, El Salvador. Please don't miss this opportunity to meet Katherine and hear her message to us that day.

2013 Work Week Trip

The group held their first covenant meeting on March 24. Those signed up for this year's trip are: Bridget Carson, Sam Cutts, Cole Doerring, Jordan Norvell, Peyton Patterson (Jordan's friend from 1st Lutheran), Megan Ritter, Brad Ritter, Josh Ventling, Larry and Linda Anderson, Dana Hashman, John and Barb Taylor, Mickey Van Baale and George Wilkening.

The rest of the covenant meetings and fund raisers are:

April 21 - Regular Covenant Meeting

May ? (Work Day) - Work to be done inside and outside the church

May 19 - Regular Covenant Meeting

June 2 - Ice Cream Social set-up

June 4 - Ice Cream Social (our fundraiser)

June 23 - Regular Covenant Meeting

Larry Anderson - 521-1154
Dana Hashman - 521-8820

Linda Anderson - 521-1153
Mickey Van Baale - 521-0549



Sermons for April

April 7 - Linda Curtis-Stolper filling the pulpit
 Message: "No Doubt About It!" - John 20:19-31 ;
 Revelation 1:4-8

April 14 - Confirmation Sunday and
 Communion. Sermon "Confirmed!" Acts 9: 1-
 6; Psalm 30.

April 21 - "Can We? Will We? Acts 9:36-43;
 John 10:22-30.

April 28 - Katherine Pater, Mission Co-Worker
 from El Salvador, Pulpit Guest.



Emergency Closure of the Church

With winter weather upon us, we have reviewed and updated our policies at First Presbyterian. In the event of severe weather, any changes to scheduled activities at the church will be communicated to KCOB Radio. They have assured us such information will be sent out over all 3 of their stations (1280 AM, 95.9 FM and KRTI 106.7 FM which covers Grinnell, Marshalltown, parts of Des Moines, etc.) In addition, we have established an account with KCCI Television and WHO radio. When severe weather occurs, check these sources. If First Presbyterian is not mentioned on any of these, there is no change in our plans. However, if you have any doubts, please err on the side of caution and be safe!

The Session

(Hopefully this is the last time this notice will be in the Messenger.)

Highlights from Session

Dave Boyd, Clerk

- Approved the PNC's recommended Mission Statement for our church
- Received PNC report of progress on the Congregation Information Form (CIF)
- Heard Buildings & Grounds updates on our new sign, elevator repairs and roof leak issues
- Received Church Life report of plans for Easter and Confirmation Sunday Breakfasts
- Slated April 7 for a soup luncheon and presentations on recent El Salvador activities
- Reviewed changes to Corporate By-laws and referred to committee for additional work

First Presbyterian Church
 220 N 2nd Ave E
 641-792-2790

Email: new1pres@iowatelecom.net
 (this email goes to Jenny Verwers, Office Mgr.)

Website: www.newton1stpresbyterian.org

Church Office Hours: M, W, Thurs: 8:30 am to 4pm

Custodian Hours: M-Thurs: 8am to 11am

Pastor John's Hours:

Sunday: 9:00-12:00 p.m.

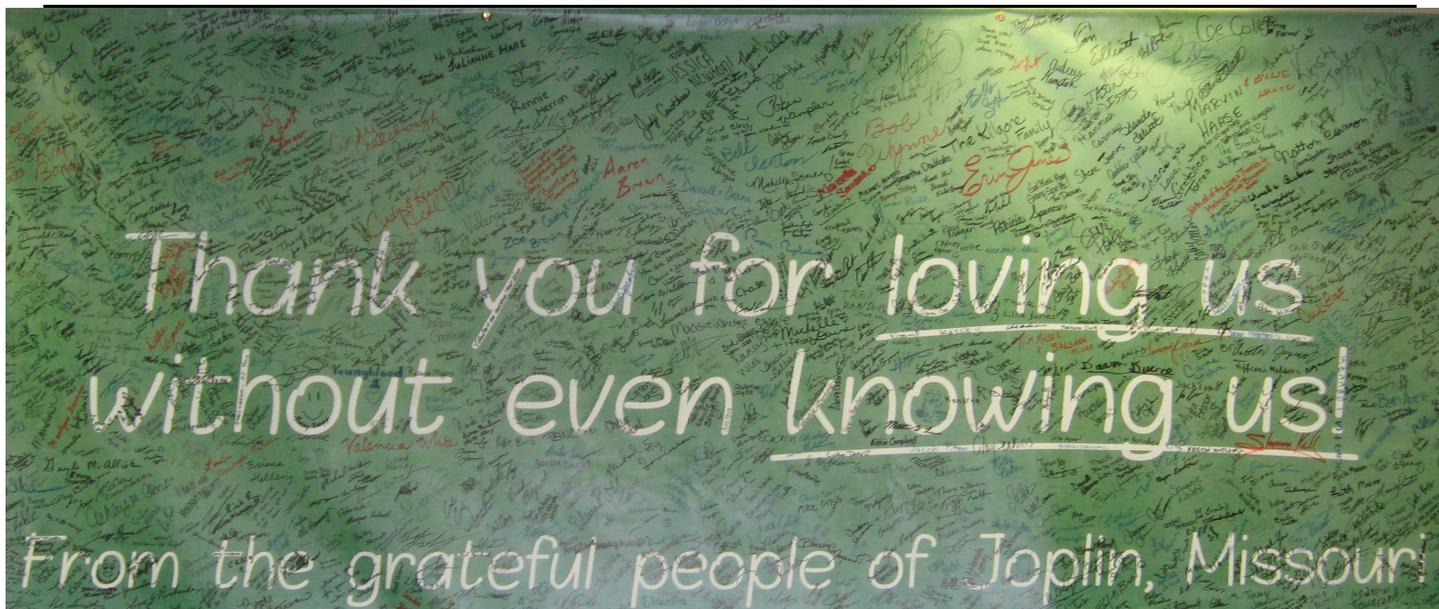
Monday: 9:00-12:00 p.m.

Thursday: 9:00-12:00 p.m.

Friday: 9:00-12:00 p.m.

Saturday: by appointment

(Hours may vary from week to week based on his need to be at the church for meetings, etc.)



The folks in Eastern Iowa are planning another Joplin trip for the week of April 7. Any interested persons should contact Dave Boyd.
 (Though hard to read, behind the white writing are many, many signatures of the people of Joplin.)

Dear friends at 1st Pres:

Greetings in the name of our risen Lord!

Every time I think of you I pray for you, and I think of you quite often! It fills my heart with such joy when Isaac goes home to Newton and to you. You care for him in such profound ways you may not even realize. And I know you have invested in countless kids and teenagers over the years. What a blessing.

Yes I have good news. I am the transitional pastor at Wallingford Presbyterian Church, a small neighborhood family church in the neighborhood where I went to high school. We even went to this church when I was very young for a couple of years while our fundamentalist church was having a fight. This call came suddenly after 17 months of waiting. God's timing is at a different pace, lets just say. I am so happy to be in the pulpit again and to get to care for people. (Transitional is a little different then an Interim--I can be considered for the permanent position or the presbytery, with a 2/3 vote, can over-ride the whole search process.)

I now have my own apartment in the church's neighborhood and most days I walk. I still have Toffe, our dog, so she gets me out too. I get to run along Lake Union, west to Ballard or east to the UW if you know the area. My address is: 3920 Stone Way N. C107, Seattle, WA 98103.

My prayer for you always is for healing and hope. I am excited for your PNC and pray for them too. God's timing is trustworthy and He has already gone ahead getting someone ready. Again, thank you for 10 amazing, hard, good years together.

Lots of love,
 Tiare

Scholarship Students from Muñoces!

The Mission Committee and the El Salvador interest group are pleased to announce that our church is sponsoring five students from Muñoces in their efforts to attend high school this school year. For a number of years, we have been designating some of the funds raised for El Salvador to go for scholarships and had accumulated \$1000 in the scholarship fund but have never been asked to support a student. Last year we discovered the problem. The school in Muñoces only goes through the sixth grade and then a student must walk to El Tablón to continue on to “middle school”. If a student completes school in El Tablón and wants to continue on to high school they must find a way to get to or live in Berlin...the closest high school. Because all Muñoces students complete middle school in El Tablón, Heartland Presbyterian Church... which is the partner church with El Tablón...has been funding all the scholarships. They didn't check to see if the student was walking over from Muñoces. A scholarship is \$100, which is paid in two installments...one before the first semester and one after they present their report cards to the Pastoral team at the beginning of the second semester. So now we have five Muñoces youngsters who are attending high school and have requested and received scholarships. We are happy to know that five students are continuing their education...the only hope of breaking out of the cycle of poverty in their community. The following is some information received from Katherine Pater, the mission co-worker, about education in El Salvador and about the scholarship program of the pastoral team. Each month we will introduce you to one of the five students from Muñoces.

Muñoces Scholarship Students First Presbyterian Newton

Greetings, First Presbyterian!

School began here in Berlín on the 21st of January. You can tell that school is underway when you walk through the streets of the city —there are students walking to and from school, many dressed in their school uniforms, on every street. On January 10th, there was a meeting at the Pastoral House for all the students who are receiving scholarships this year. Some receive these scholarships through their partner churches—from people like you. Some scholarships come from the ‘general education’ funds we have here at the Pastoral House. That fund is supported by donations from a variety of people. At this meeting we talk about the roles and responsibilities of all of us. The student's job is to study well and take full advantage of this financial gift and this opportunity to be in school. Now is the time to study and learn. Studying comes before watching television and playing soccer. The students are also expected to bring us a copy of their grades every few months and write a note to those who are helping them. The parent's job is to encourage and motivate their children to study, do their homework, and apply themselves. The Pastoral House's job – other than the obvious financial support – is to encourage, provide moral support, open our doors when the students need assistance with research or typing (we have a Spanish set of encyclopedias as well as two typewriters), and share their stories with those who are supporting their education with the hope for their continued support. You are helping them to realize their dreams, better their future, and learn the skills they need to help their community thrive... And they are grateful for your faith in them.

Meet Melvin Edgardo Mejia

Melvin is the son of Jose Gilberto Mejia and Rosa del Carmen Quintanilla who live and farm in Muñoces. He has 5 brothers and sisters and was 11 years old and in the 4th grade when we first met him and his family in 2007. He attends the Saturday intensive study school in Alegria so that he can work in the fields to help support the family during the week. His picture and solicitation follow.

“Brother of the Presbyterian Church, receive a friendly greeting from your brother Melvin Edgardo Meijia Quintanilla. I hope that you are well. The reason for Presenting this letter to you is whether you could help me because I want to earn a baccalaureate because I am going to distance study on Saturdays. These are my words, thank you,”

Sincerely,
Melvin Edgardo Mejia.”



APRIL 2013 BIRTHDAYS & EVENTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Worship Times 9:00 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	1 Forrest Rusk 4:45 pm Personnel 5:00 pm C N	2	3	4 6:30 am Early Men's group 9:00 am Men's group 10:00 am Newton Village Worship 10:45 am Park Centre Worship 7:00 PNC	5	6 9:00 am Spanish IV
7 Helen Kreager Donna Worthington	8 Terri Nordheimer	9 Cole Doerring Joan Aldridge	10 Carol Russell Linda Anderson	11 Linda Means Collin Ferguson Alex Bebout	12	13 9:00 am Spanish IV
8:30 am Deacons 9:00 am Confirmation	5:30 pm B & G 5:45 pm Church Life		9:30 am WBS 5:15 pm Span 1 6:00 pm B & F 6:20 pm Span IV 7:00 pm Choir	3:30 pm Missions		
14 Mike Lanser Julie Fitzgerald	15 Cathy Rickers Kyle Doering	16 Gladys Sparks Kim Miller	17	18	19	20 Tara Zehr
8:30 am Confirmation Breakfast 10:30 am Confirmands join church during service 4:00 pm Sundays at 4 Concert	5:30 pm W & M	6:00 pm Session Meal 7:00 pm Session	9:30 am WBS 5:15 pm Span 1 6:20 pm Span IV 7:00 pm Choir	6:30 am Early Men's group 9:00 am Men's group 7:00 pm PNC		9:00 am Spanish IV
21	22 Barb Roese	23 Carroll Broderson	24	25 Rachael Peska	26 Skye Koenen	27
4:00 - Civil Conservations 6:00 pm Work Week Covenant Meeting			9:30 am WBS 5:15 pm Span 1 6:20 pm Span IV 7:00 pm Choir			9:00 am Spanish IV
28	29 Henry Birkenholz Sharon Black Matt Ventling	30 Wilma Manning				



April



Volunteers

April	7	14	21	28	
Worship Leader <i>Office</i>	Barb Taylor	Val McKee	Dave Stolper	Gary Haynes	
Host Elder/Deacon <i>Dave Boyd</i>	Kim DeGraff	Virginia Bennett	Mickey Van Baale	Steve Hopkins	
Greeters <i>Julie Brodersen</i>	Chris & Peggy Lickess	Randy & Carol Camp	Kevin & Toni Peska	Terry Rickers Bev Rossow	
Ushers <i>Office</i>	Suzanne Funk Mary Jane Tripp	The Ritter Family	Dick Mielke Gary & Kay Parsons	The Ventling Family Roger Harmelink	
Audio <i>Les Gause</i>	Dan Ritter	Peder Hopkins	Peder Hopkins	Peder Hopkins	
Candlelighter <i>Office</i>	Natalie Camp	Garrett Sturtz	Allie Norvell	Megan Ritter	
Little Church <i>Virginia Bennett</i>	Kelly Koenen	No Little Church - Confirmation Sunday	Jenn Norvell	Stephanie Critchfield	
Counters <i>Bill Shields</i>	Kelly Koenen Marshall Critchfield	Joyce Moen Dave Boyd	Dan Ritter Bill Shields	Jonnie Carpenter Gary Haynes	
Bread Ministry Baker <i>Barb Taylor</i>	Linda Campbell	Jane Repp	Joan Rusk	Pat Mitchell	
Bread Ministry Taker <i>Barb Taylor</i>	Linda Campbell	Carol Russell	Joan Rusk	Barb Gallagher	
Communion Set up <i>Dave Boyd</i>		Bill Shields Linda Erickson			

First Presbyterian Church
PO Box 7
220 N 2nd Ave E
Newton, Iowa 50208

641-792-2790

Return Service Requested

Lectionary —

April, 2013

April 7—2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 5:27-32; *Ps. 118:14-29 or Ps. 150*
Rev. 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

April 14—3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:1-6 (7-20); *Ps. 30*
Rev. 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

April 21—4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:36-43; *Ps. 23*
Rev. 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

April 28—5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 11:1-18; *Ps. 148*
Rev. 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

May, 2013

May 5—6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:9-15; *Ps. 67*; Rev. 21:10, 21:22-22:5
John 14:23-29 *or* John 5:1-9

May 12—7th Sunday of Easter (Mother's Day)

Acts 16:16-34; *Ps. 97*; Rev. 22:12-14,
116-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26

May 19—Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21 *or* Gen 11:1-9
Ps. 104:24-34, 35b; Rom. 8:14-17 *or*
Acts 2:1-21; John 14:8-17 (25-27)

May 26—Trinity Sunday

Prov. 8:1-4, 22-31; *Ps. 8*
Rom. 5:1-5; John 16:12-15