## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWTON, IOWA

641-792-2790

"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."

# THE **MESSENGER**



**April 2019** 

## Meghan's Musings

Proceeding to Jerusalem

By the time you receive your April Messenger, we'll be about halfway through our Lenten journey to Jerusalem. Perhaps you have taken on one or more Lenten disciplines and are sticking to them. Perhaps you chose a Lenten discipline and have struggled to keep it up. Or perhaps you didn't take on a Lenten discipline at all. Whatever the case, I encourage you to engage fully with Holy Week which begins on Palm Sunday, continues through Maundy Thursday and Good Friday and culminates in Easter.

Many of us find it difficult or at the very least unpleasing to engage in Holy Week. Of course, we all love Easter, or at least like it. After all, it's the holiest of holy days in the Christian calendar. Without the Resurrection, there would be no Christianity, never mind any of the other Christian holidays. And most of us like Palm Sunday—it's fun to wave the palms around and sing all those great "Hosanna" hymns we only get to sing once a year. But as for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday...? Not so fun.

And I get it. I do. But just as, without Easter we don't have Christianity, without Maundy Thursday and especially without Good Friday, we don't have Easter (or Communion, for that matter). In her collection of poems titled *Kneeling in Jerusalem*, Ann Weems includes this poem:

#### THE FEAR AND FEEDING OF THE SHEEP

We have nothing against Jerusalem; in fact, it's the place to be on a sunny Easter morning. It's Golgotha that we fear and yet, we've been to church enough to know that the way to Jerusalem leads through Good Friday.

Keeping covenant

means keeping covenant under a cross as well as by an empty garden tomb.

What we'd like to do, of course,

is wave palms and shout Hosanna

and then rest up for the Hallelujah Chorus.

We dismiss the others as religious fanatics, who wallow in the woe of Holy Week!

O Lamb of God, Lamb of God, Lamb of God, feed us!

So this year, even if Maundy Thursday and Good Friday aren't normally "your thing," I invite you to engage in one or both of these services. Challenge yourself to find out why "religious fanatics" like me (and several others in our church family and beyond) find these services so important.

May the remainder of your Lenten season, as well as your Holy Week, be blessed.



**Millie Dickinson Brenneman**, former member, now of Kalona, died on Friday, March 8, 2019 at the age of 83 years of complications from congestive heart failure.

In 1957, Millie was united in marriage to Robert (Bob) Dickinson in Packwood. She and Bob lived in Newton, IA where she taught grade school and worked in sales including for KCOB radio station and Forbes Office Equipment until her retirement. Bob passed away in 1991.

In June of 1997 Millie and Wallace (Wally) Brenneman married in

Newton. They lived in Joetown until moving to Kalona. Millie was a member of the First Presbyterian church in Newton and attended the First Mennonite Church in Iowa City. While in Newton, she was a member of the Rotary Club. She was also a member of the University Club Writers Group and a long-time member of P.E.O.

Millie is survived by her husband Wally of Kalona; daughter Ann Dickinson (Craig) Nida of Ankeny, IA; step sons: Erick (Pam) Brenneman of Joetown; Tom Brenneman of Harrisonburg, VA; 9 step grandsons; sisters: Juanita Bray of Prior Lake, MN; Janine (Doug) Calsbeek of Orange City, IA; Sheryl (Ron) Griese of Longmont, CO; Linda (Rich) Sloma of Des Moines, IA; and Susan Salterberg of Iowa City, IA; and brother Bill (Leslie) Salterberg of Stevensville, MT; niece Rita Bray Bennett, Greensboro, NC; great niece Erin Bennett, Washington DC and numerous other nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, brother Roger Salterberg and her first husband Bob.

**David Schnell**, father of Kert (Kimberly) died on Monday, March 11, 2019 at Accura Healthcare of Newton East in Newton. A memorial service was held on Saturday, March 16 at the St. Andrews Lutheran Church in rural Sully. A private family burial will be held at a later date at the St. Andrews Cemetery in rural Sully

David was a lifelong farmer in rural Sully. He was a lifelong member of the St. Andrews Lutheran Church and he was also a member of the Jasper County Farm Bureau. David loved his family, worked hard, enjoyed life and appreciated every part of any given day. He enjoyed collecting and restoring old tractors. David was raised to be handy, so he was never afraid of any job, but he knew his limitations. He was a fixer and a tinkerer. David taught his children to, "raise up your children in the way they should go."

Those left to honor David's memory are his wife of 55 years, Andrea; son, Kert J. (Kimberly) Schnell of Newton; daughters, Kendra J. (Mark) Hay of Lynnville and Marsha L. (Josh) Cooper of Pella; his five grandchildren, Marshall (Kim) Hay, Madison (Trisha) Hay, Noah, Elyse and Lily Cooper; his great-granddaughter:, Paisley; and his brothers, Richard (Linda) Schnell of Sully and Ronald Schnell of Pella. He was preceded in death by his parents.

**Dorothy Van Elsen,** mother of previous member Linda (Rod) Brouwer and a lady our Deacons visited, died on March 11, 2019. A funeral service was held on March 30 at the Howard Street Christian Church in Colfax.

She spent the first 80 years of her life in Colfax and had deep roots in the community. She and her husband, Lucien, spent 15 winters in Harlingen, Texas. Dorothy had lived for the past 21 years at Park Centre in Newton.

#### Continued from page 2

Dorothy was a homemaker and loving mother to her eight children. She was involved with Colfax Senior Citizens and Christian Church activities. She enjoyed reading, gardening, canning, crocheting, and traveling. Dorothy had a sharp wit and sense of humor and was making her own decisions to the very end of her life.

Dorothy is survived by her eight children, Lucien (Karen) Van Elsen, Jean (Max) Wallace, Helen (John Grannis) Reitan, Henry (Linda) Van Elsen, Robert (Connie) Van Elsen, James (Beth) Van Elsen, Lynda (Denny) Brouwer, and Larry Van Elsen; her sister, Rosa Lee Sutton; 14 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; many step-grandchildren; and by people who have "adopted" her as Mom and Grandma. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Lucien; brother, Norman Earl Ellsworth sister, Florence Bernice and sister, Clara Ann Ellsworth Breckenridge.

**Anna "Mae" Mae Norvell,** the mother of Chris (Jen) Norvell, died March 20, 2019, at MercyOne Des Moines Medical Center in Des Moines. She was 87. A funeral service was held on March 23, with burial at Restland cemetery in Baxter.

Anna Mae Swank Norvell, the daughter of Pete and Ella Van Niewenhuis Swank was born on December 25, 1931 in Lynnville, Iowa. Mae and her family moved to Newton, Iowa and she was a graduate of Newton High School.

On February 19, 1949, Mae was united in marriage with Willard Gene Norvell at the Little Brown Church in Nashua, Iowa. She was a homemaker. Mae was a member of the Newton Christian Reformed Church in Newton and the Mary and Martha Society. She loved being surrounded by her family. She also enjoyed antiques and being out in her yard, enjoying the birds, squirrels and flowers.

Mae was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Willard; daughter, Billie Jean Warner; brothers, Pete Swank and Jim Swank; and sisters, Margaret Wearmouth and Louise McKinney. Those left to cherish Mae's memory are her sons, David B. (Marcia) Norvell of Largo, Florida and Chris (Jennifer "Jen") Norvell of Newton; five grandchildren, Jordan Norvell, Allie Norvell, Myzsaa Norvell, Michael Wells and Jennifer Wells; two great-grandchildren, Misa Wells and Jacob Showalter; her brother, Fred Swank of Newton; her sister, Barbara Hartgers of Newton; and many nieces and nephews.



- \*Lawrence Kenyi, as he continues his trip in Uganda, and makes his way back to Newton.
- \*Those who have lost a family member recently.
- \*Our entire congregation as we continue our journey through Lent into Eastertime.
- \*Those members of our congregation who have loved ones going through serious medical testing and/or treatments.
- \*For peace in the South Sudan.
- \*The many people who have lost so much due to the flooding in the Midwest.
- \*The people in Mozambique, who have suffered through Cyclone Idia. The death toll was at 750 as of March 25th.
- \*Those young people and parents still struggling with school shootings and survivor guilt. This has resulted in two young people and a father committing suicide in the past couple of weeks.

### **Worship and Music**

Jeanette Shannon, Chair

The cross for the Easter lilies was discussed. (Discovered at Session that it is finished). The Deacons will be in charge of arranging the lilies and delivering them following the Easter Service.

Barbara has made order sheets for lilies available outside the sanctuary thus using less paper and ink than putting them in the bulletins each week. If needed, extra money for lilies will be taken out of the memorial fund.

Palms for Palm Sunday have been ordered by Barbara. Linda K and Jeanette, or Abrianna McKee if available, will hand out the palms.

The Maundy Thursday service was discussed. Linda G. will ask for volunteers to usher. Meghan will contact readers and people to strip the sanctuary at the end. Communion will be served by intinction with Meghan and Linda K serving.

Sandy gave an organ update. There have been more issues. If the solid state goes out Peterson Electric will be contacted to assess.

As new business was discussed, it was decided that the Worship and Music Committee committee would not meet again until May. Larry Anderson did a great job finding summer music last summer. The committee will ask him to agree to this responsibility again



MEMBERSHIP The Pacesetters Winter Performance was enjoyed by many First Presbyterian members. Allie Norvell performed many dance numbers including a solo dance plus Chris, father of Allie participated in the Dad's dance and a dance with Allie. A great time was had by all.

PLAN TO ATTEND: Two Sundays @ 4 programs are scheduled for April!

MOMENT Sunday, April 7, 4 p.m. in fellowship hall – Tom & Steve Weeks will present the life of Marvin Weeks – a very interesting program spanning his years growing up on the farm, through coming to Iowa and being involved in WWII. After the program pizza will be delivered for those who want it. Drinks will be provided.

Sunday, April 28, 4 p.m. in fellowship hall – Dave Stolper and Linda Curtis-Stolper will share about their adventurous trip to the beautiful Amalfi Coast, Italy. After the program pizza will be delivered for those who want it. Drinks will be provided.

The Sunday attendance list was reviewed for trends.

Plans are to meet again in the near future to work on the process to update the Church Directory.

Membership Committee tasks continue with many volunteers involved (THANK YOU) - Bread Ministry, Greeters and Transportation when needed. Special note is that Rachel Skaggs and Taylor McGonegle were moved from alternate greeters to the regular greeting rotation.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn McCallister, Session Rep. & Chair

#### **One Great Hour of Sharing**

**Linda Curtis-Stolper, Mission Committee** 

One Great Hour of Sharing is one of four annual special offerings collected by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Received during the season of Lent, each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing helps to improve the lives of individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, the three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing – Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People – work together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

During Lent, you will be seeing and hearing about some of the ways in which funds raised through One Great Hour of Sharing share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. Listen to the stories shared during worship. Read the bulletin inserts. Open your heart in prayer for persons in need, and please give generously. The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be collected on Palm Sunday, April 14. Thank you.

## **Delivery of Messenger**

**Gary Parsons, Membership Comm.** 

Several years ago we started hand delivering most of the Messengers to save mailing costs. We try to arrange so members deliver in their neighborhood, or if they are traveling in a given vicinity. We very much appreciate when you take 1 or 2 of your neighbors' copies when they aren't at church. Because there have been several questions about the proper delivery procedure, we will attempt to answer those questions below:

- Personal contact with the person is wonderful but not necessary. It is up to the deliverer.
- Do not put copy in mailbox. It is against the law (unless it is a "drop box".)
- If there is an unlocked storm door, place the copy between the doors.
- If the storm door is locked or there is not a storm door, place the copy in a plastic bag (such as newspapers are delivered in) and place it near the front door where it is not readily visible from the street. The plastic bags will be available when the Messengers are handed out at church.

If you have comments or questions, please contact Marilyn McCallister, Gary Parsons or Mickey Van Baale.





Forms have been put in the bulletin each week during Lent for collection of the "One Great Hour of Sharing" offering. This will be collected on Palm Sunday, April 14. If you aren't able to bring your contribution on or before the 14th, you may leave it at the church office during the following week.



Services on Maundy Thursday, April 18, will be held at 7:00 p.m. The ````` choir will provide special music and The Last Supper will be celebrated with communion being served by intinction. The service ends with the stripping of the sanctuary and with the congregation leaving in silence.



Way of the Cross Walk to be held on Good Friday, April 19. It will start at 12 noon at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church and will progress to other downtown churches. Stops will be at 7 churches, where devotions will be read. The group will also be led in singing one verse of "Were You There?". Individuals will carry the cross from church to church. The walk will end at about 1 pm.



The Church Life committee will be hosting the annual Easter breakfast at 9:00 am. They will need donations of a variety of items. See their report on page 7 to get the details of what is needed. They appreciate your contributions.



Our service on Easter Sunday, April 21 will begin at 10:30. The Lily Cross will be put up to display Easter lilies that were ordered from the church office. Following services on Easter Sunday, the Deacons will be in charge of delivering the lilies to shut-ins. They are always thankful for additional help.

We have changed our insurance coverage to Church Life, which is the firm that covers most of the churches in our Presbytery. This will amount to a \$500-\$600 savings per year with the same coverage.

A new auto lock system has been ordered and arrived. This will be installed at the main door. If it works as expected, two more will be ordered - one installed at the kitchen door and one at the elevator. This new system will offer more security to our building.

George Wilkening, Chair



### **Order your Easter Lily**

As is our church's tradition, the Deacons will be putting together the lily cross for display on Easter Sunday. You may order a lily or additional ones to honor or remember loved ones.

The last day to order is Sunday, April 14. The lilies will be delivered for Hy-Vee on Thursday, April 18 and the Lily Cross assembled following the Cross Walk on the 19th.

The cost this year \$11.00. Forms can be found in the Narthex or in Fellowship Hall. Be sure to indicate on the form if you will be taking yours home or leaving it to be shared.

#### 2019 Lenten Breakfasts and Devotions

A wonderful tradition that continues in our church is the Lenten breakfasts and devotions. These start on Ash Wednesday and continue every Wednesday morning through Lent. We start breakfast at 6:45 am with devotions following. We strive to finish by 7:45 to 7:50 for those needing to get to work.

We had an average of 15 people at the March breakfasts. Below is the schedule for April.. A big "thank you" goes out to Jeanette Shannon for making the contacts to find those who will prepare the meal and those who offer the devotions each week.

We hope to see many of you there.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Breakfast</u>	<u>Devotions</u>
4/3	John & Barb Taylor	John Taylor
4/10	Dave Stolper and Linda Curtis-Stolper	Linda Curtis-Stolper
4/17	Larry & Shari DeCook	Mickey Van Baale



Lenten Breakfasts & Devotions

#### **Church Life**

Kay Parsons, Chair

On Sunday, March 10th, we had another successful potato bar. Thank you to all who attended! Our next event will be the Easter breakfast starting at 9:00 a.m. Sunday, April 21st. We will be asking for a little help with egg casseroles or breakfast breads. If you would like to donate either of these items please call or leave a message at 641-792-6753. Thank you. Kay Parsons and Church Life committee- Diane Moles, Nancy Mott, Bonnie Rasmussen, Dan Ritter, Tara Zehr

April 21, 2019	Easter Breakfast		
July 14, 2019	Worship at Woodland, potluck to follow with Worship and Music Committee		
August 25, 2019	Downtown churches Ecumenical Rally Day service		
September 22, 2019	Progressive Dinner		
October 20, 2019	Movie Night		
November 24, 2019	Thanksgiving Feast and Communion, with Worship and Music Committee		
December 15, 2019	Christmas caroling followed by chili supper		

The following business was taken care of during our March meeting:

- Minutes of the February meeting were approved.
- Received updates on some of the members we visit.
- Heard the report from Rev. Meghan Davis.
- ◆ Learned the financial report dated February 28 showed a balance of \$492.19. This balance does not reflect the deacons' contribution of \$200 to the Newton Salvation Army.
- Was informed that 30 cards were sent to church family members, and 19 in February.
- During a discussion of Easter and Easter lilies, it was noted that a new frame for the lily cross is under construction. It will be smaller than the old one, holding 30 lilies. As in past years, the lily cross will be set up following the cross walk on Good Friday. It was noted that deacons will have more time to plan the setup and find out who can help since there will be another meeting before Easter.

**Diane Moles, Moderator** 



#### **Mission Committee**

Larry Anderson, Chair

At the Mission Committee's March meeting, the following activities were addressed:

- "Just Eating?" Lenten study began March 6 with 12 in attendance.
- One Great Hour of Sharing this annual offering will be taken on Palm Sunday, April 14, and will be highlighted for the congregation during worship for 3 Sundays before. (See the additional article on page 5).
- Cross Walk will be held Good Friday, April 19 at noon, with First Presbyterian as the last stop this year.
- Sheltering discussion Larry A. is attempting to get information about services available for emergency shelter in times of severe weather.
- Progress Industries "2<sup>nd</sup> grade tours" this is an ongoing PI program to sensitize
  children to disabilities. As PI no longer has a building large enough to accommodate this
  event, they will be using the Congregational UCC church, which has reached out to our
  congregation to assist with volunteers. The events will occur on Apr. 2 and 9 and May 6.
- Key Club free lunches this NHS student group, under the leadership of Steve Weeks, initiated an effort to provide free lunches during spring break to students who receive free or reduced meals at school. While there is a summer program for such meals, there is none for spring break. Volunteers from our church assisted with this effort at our Fellowship Hall on March 18-22. It is hoped that this will be an activity we can share with the Key Club next year.
- Ice cream social the traditional date has been the first Tuesday of June. However, Newton schools will still be in session, and Linda A. will not be available that date.
   Committee decided to move the social to the following Tuesday, June 11. Larry A. will check with Edward Jones to make sure their annual dinner is not that day, as it conflicted once previously with negative results.
- Ramp building We have four families on a waiting list for our ramp building program. We are hoping to start on these when the weather allows. We will need lots of help. If you have any interest in helping, please contact Linda Anderson (641-521-1153).
- Mariners in Mission Taylors were in South Carolina during March on a Mariners mission.
- Neighbors Helping Neighbors First Presbyterian will be providing most of the volunteers for Neighbors Helping Neighbors Laundry Nights on Monday, April 8 and Monday, April 22. Volunteers may sign up for a two-hour shift (4pm-6pm or 6pm-8pm) on the sheet on the Mission bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Any questions - contact Linda Curtis-Stolper (641-840-2417)
- Days for Girls International Veronica Mangrich took 50 kits to El Salvador with the medical mission during March.
- Fundraising for Lawrence Kenyi approximately \$2800 was raised, including the Power fund match of \$750, to assist Lawrence with his expenses.
- The April SHARE order was due by March 29. This will be the last SHARE order as the program has been discontinued due to lack of interest.



# MAPRIL 2019 BIRTHDAYS & EVENTS

Wed Fri Sat

			1		1	l i
	1 Forrest Rusk Bob Vander Veer  4:30p Personnel  6p Book Club at Peanut Pub	11a Gentle Yoga 1p-2p PI 2nd Grade Tours @ UCC	3 6:45 Lenten Breakfast 9:30a WBSS 5:30p-6:45p "Just Eating" 7p Choir	6:30a Early Men's Group 9a Men's Group 3p Chair Yoga	5	11a Women's Coloring
7 4p - Sundays at 4 - The Life of Marvin Weeks	8 3:30p Mission 4p6p 1st shift of Laundry Nite 5:15p Budget & Finance 6p-8- 2nd shift of Laundry Nite	9 Cole Doerring Joan Aldridge 11a Gentle Yoga 1p-2p PI 2nd Grade Tours @ UCC	10 Carol Russell Linda Anderson 6:45 Lenten Breakfast 9:30a WBS 2:30p Membership 5:30p-6:45p "Just Eating	11 Linda Means 3p Chair Yoga	12	13 Meghan Davis
14 Palm Sunday 9a Deacons	15 Cat Rickers Kyle Doerring	16 Gladys Sparks Kim Miller  11a Gentle Yoga  6:30p Session	17 6:45 Lenten Breakfast 9:30a WBS 5:30p-6:45p "Just Eating" 7p Choir	18 6:30a Early Men's Group 9a Men's Group 3p Chair Yoga 7p Maundy Thursday Service	19 Noon - 1p Cross Walk	20 Tara Zehr 11a Women's Coloring
21 Easter 9a - Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt	22 Barb Roese 4p6p 1st shift of Laundry Nite 6p-8- 2nd shift of Laundry Nite 6p Pub Theology at Peanut Pub	23 Carroll Brodersen 11a Gentle Yoga	9:30a WBS 7p Choir	25 Rachel Skaggs 9a-2p Days for Girls 3p Chair Yoga 6p-9p Evening Days for Girls	26	27
28 4p - Sundays at 4 - Dave Stolper and Linda Curtis- Stolper's trip to Italy	29 Sharon Black Matt Ventling	30 Wilma Manning				

**Regular Worship Schedule** 

9:00 a Adult Sunday School 10:00 a Fellowship

10:30 a Worship 11:30 a Fellowship



April	7	14	21	28
Worship Leader Mickey Van Baale	Kathy Ventling	Linda Curtis- Stolper	Val McKee	Shari DeCook
Host Elder/Deacon Church Life	Karen Quinn	Larry Anderson	Kevin Peska	Diane Moles
Greeters  Julie Brodersen	Terry Rickers Bev Rossow	Chris & Peggy Lickiss	Janet Shields Kim or Kert Schnell	Cole Doerring Carroll Brodersen
Ushers Mickey Van Baale	Gary & Kay Parsons	Bonnie Rasmussen Shirley Stevens	Larry & Shari DeCook	Dick & Shirley Mielke
Audio Shirley Stevens	Dan Ritter	Dan Ritter	Kyle Doerring	Shirley Stevens
Counters  Budget & Finance	Jonnie Carpenter Tom Weeks	Jen Norvell Janet Shields	Terry Rickers Peggy/Chris Lickiss	Don Black Bev Rossow
Bread Ministry Baker  Barb Taylor	Val McKee	Dixie Zegers	Sharon Black	Diane Moles
Bread Ministry Taker  Barb Taylor	Toni Peska	Dana Hashman	Nancy Mott	
Communion Set up  Worship & Music`	George Wilkening Karen Quinn		April 18 (Maundy Thursday) Marilyn McCallister Jeanette Shannon	

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

641-792-2790

Return Service Requested

## Lectionary —

#### **April**, 2019

**April 7 - 5th Sunday in Lent** Isa. 43:16-21; *Ps. 126*; Phil. 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

April 14 - Palm/Passion Sunday

Palms: Luke 19:28-40; Ps. 118:1-2, 19-29 Passion: Isa. 50:4-9a; Ps. 31:9-16 Phil. 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23, 56 or Luke 23-1-49

April 21—Resurrection of the Lord/Easter

Acts 10:34-43 or Isa. 65:17-25 Ps. 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Cor. 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

April 28 - 2nd Sunday of Easter

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

#### May 2019

May 5 - 3rd Sunday of Easter Acts 9:1-6 (7-20); *Ps. 30;* Rev.5:11-14; John 21:1-19

May 12 - 4th Sunday of Easter - Mother's Day Acts 9:36-43; *Ps. 23*; Rev. 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

May 19 - 5th Sunday of Easter Acts 11:1-18; *Ps. 148*; Rev. 21:1-6 John 13:31-35

**May 26 - 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