

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



AUGUST, 2014

“Meghan’s Musings”

Sacred Stuff

George Carlin used to do a great bit about the difference between “stuff” and “junk” (except, of course, he used a different word instead of “junk”). Other people’s stuff is “junk” and our own junk is “stuff.” As in, “Get your junk out of this closet so I have a place to put my stuff.”

Moving forces us to think about our stuff. And in the moving process some of our “stuff” becomes junk we’re forced to get rid of. Personally, I have way too much stuff and always have. I’m only partly joking when I say that I’m a borderline hoarder. Despite my attachment to stuff that makes it difficult for me to let go, at the end of the day, I do know and believe that it is just stuff. But some stuff is more than just stuff. Some stuff has deeper significance. Some stuff is sacred.

Unfortunately, it was my sacred stuff from my church office that got the roughest treatment from the movers who did my packing for the move. My stoles were wadded up and used as packing material. Angel figurines and other fragile items were shoved into book boxes with no protection. And worst of all, a communion set was also packed in a book box. Miraculously, the plate was unharmed but the chalice—which was not only amongst books but had books set on top of it—not surprisingly broke at the stem. My heart sank when I discovered the chalice. It was a gift from a seminary friend who had it specially made for me when we were in seminary (i.e. poor) and it is essentially irreplaceable. Many have noted that it could be glued back together. Perhaps. But even so, it would never be useable for communion for fear that it would break again and make a huge mess.

Of course the chalice, one of the few things I own that is irreplaceable, is the one thing to be destroyed. Over the course of the week that found my chalice broken, the world was shattered by devastating violence: a civilian plane shot down in Ukraine, fighting between Israel and Hamas injuring and killing civilians of all ages, the humanitarian crisis with refugee children fleeing drug violence in Central America is just a start to an endless list of the suffering and crises plaguing the world. Many within our own church family have been rocked by personal crises, illness and deaths of loved ones, families in turmoil, friends and family members secretly fighting demons we may never even know.

And I realized that the chalice—is just stuff. I’m not going to try to glue it together. I’m going to keep it, as is, broken in two. A symbol of our brokenness. Our broken relationships with God. Our broken relationships with one another. Our inner brokenness. And yet in that brokenness is Grace. The cup will most likely never again be filled with communion wine but it is already, now and always filled and overflowing with air. The same air that gives us life. Just as our brokenness is filled to overflowing with Grace, God’s love, God’s promise, the hope of the Resurrection, the promise of God’s Reign bursting through into our world.

P.S. Speaking of sacred stuff, many have asked about the fire truck on one of my stoles. It is common at ordinations to have people present the ordinand with sacred stuff, symbols of ministry such as the robe, stole, communion elements, etc. At my ordination, I had my then three year-old nephew present me with a fire truck both to remind me of the importance of the children in our midst and to remind me that “some days are for playing” (which is a piece of art you will see in my office whenever my art gets up on my walls). The stole was made by a member of my first church and she added the fire truck to the other symbols of the church.

~Rev. Meghan Davis

In Our



Prayers

- † Meredith Bennett-Swanson, granddaughter of Virginia Bennett, who suffered a blood clot in her leg that went from her waist to her ankle. She is now home, after spending time in the hospital and having stents put in.
- † Virginia Bennett, who has moved her father, Leland Cook to Assisted Living at Park Centre.
- † Kristen Stanton, who is recovering from rotator cuff surgery.
- † Sara, Steve, Anders and Peder Hopkins and Sara's extended family in the recent death of her youngest brother and health issues with her Mother.
- † Teachers, students and parents as a new school year begins in the next few weeks.
- † Our college students, as they continue on their academic pathway.
- † John Miller, Chandler Sturtz and Jennifer Ventling, who embark on a new phase in their lives by attending college.
- † Others within our congregation who are struggling with their own personal or professional turmoil.

Please check to make sure that you shut off the lights and lock the doors if you are the last one to leave the church. There have been times lately when Bob has arrived at the church in the morning to find several lights still on. We don't need to pay for more electricity than necessary.

Thank you!



Thank You To The Members Of First Presbyterian Church

- ☺ For your hours of service for the Ice Cream Social
- ☺ For your pie and cake baking
- ☺ For your support of our mission programs
- ☺ For your other food donations
- ☺ For coming to eat and for donating
- ☺ For your cooking expertise
- ☺ For your love for each other
- ☺ For supporting our youth in their service to the church

Your Ice Cream Social raised enough money to help support several mission projects this summer. All we need now is the time to get the projects done.

John and Barb Taylor, Chairs



Thank you to our First Presbyterian family for the overwhelming support after the death of Marlys' mother. It is such a comfort knowing that many of you have walked this path and can empathize. We'll take very good care of the plant you gave us and treasure the memory of your love and support.

Norm and Marlys Grimm



Buildings and Grounds

Roger Harmelink, Chair

- + The kitchen was recently repainted.
- + Meghan Davis' name has been added to the outdoor sign by Oskam's.
- + Brad Radcliffe has been hired to do the mowing and trimming this summer.
- + The sump pump below the elevator floor has been worked on.
- + Deanna and Harold Danley fixed some flashing above the brick on the tower. It had come loose during the strong winds of the storms we had this Spring.

Budget and Finance Corner

Terry Rickers, Chair

Pledges for the month of June were \$11,371. This was \$533 below budget. Other Regular Giving for the month is \$710, which is just \$29 below budget. Total expenses are \$48 under budget. Year-to-date pledges are \$1,513 higher than budgeted and year-to-date expenses are \$608 under budget.

Memorial money received by the church and designated for the Foundation was transferred to the Foundation in the amount of \$2,125. Our One Great Hour offering was remitted to Presbytery. Work Week received income from the ice cream social and paid expenses related to the ice cream social and upcoming trip.



Church Life Activities

Randy Camp, Chair

Worship at Woodland will happen on Sunday, August 10th, at 10:00 a.m., where we hold our Sunday worship service outside, followed by a picnic. The shelter house at Woodland Park is reserved and there are several picnic tables with benches, as well as electrical outlets for those wanting to bring slow cookers. The Worship & Music Committee is managing the service and communion, and the Church Life Committee is in charge of the picnic and games. Grilled hamburgers, hotdogs, some portabella mushrooms, condiments, and drinks will be provided. Bring your lawn chairs, a dish to share, table service, and yard games (if you want). We had a rousing round of Kornhole (aka bean-bag toss) after last year's picnic. Frisbie golf and a ball diamond are also available.

Mark September 21st on your calendar for the Weenie Roast and Hayride at the Ritters. We had such a wonderful time last year that we're doing it again! Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the start of fall with a weenie roast by the pond and a hayrack ride at the Ritter Farm (5595 N. 59th Ave W., 792-2914) on Sunday, September 21st. For those who wish to carpool from the church, plan to leave from the church at 4:45 p.m., carpooling out to the Ritters (maps provided), and return by 8:00 p.m. The Church Life Committee will bring the hot dogs, buns, chips, s'mores, and drinking water. Bring your lawn chairs and roasting forks, and spend some time at Camp Llednew.

And, while you have your calendar out, the Progressive Dinner is set for Sunday, October 12th, at 4:00 p.m. - more on that in September's Messenger.

Your Church Life Committee: Randy Camp, Dan Ritter, Kay Parsons, Nancy Mott, Janie Moles, and Diane Moles

Mission Committee

By Linda Erickson, Chair

Work Week 2014

Another successful Work Week is behind us and as normally is the case, those of us who went on the trip came home with more than what we gave. The town of Winnebago is not very large, about the size of Sully. Our first night was spent in the normal fashion of becoming acquainted with our housing arrangements, setting up air mattresses, eating and going to a grocery store, in South Sioux City, NE about 17 miles away.

Sunday morning found us attending the adult Sunday school class that was taught by Rev. Lowell TenClay, our host for the week. The class was made up of Mrs. TenClay (Connie) and 3 other Native American women. We had been asked to help with the service on Sunday. Josh Ventling, Garrett Sturtz, Rev. Meghan and Rev. John all participated by leading responsive readings, and all of us sang one of our Work Week songs during the taking up of the offering. Approximately 20 people attended the church service that morning, which included the 12 of us.

Following lunch, Rev. TenClay gave us a tour of Winnebago, including going to their site for the Pow Wow which would be taking place July 24-27. We also saw the many government built homes that were in need of repairs to house the homeless living on the reservation. The Native American hospital located in Winnebago, is more of a holding place. Once a patient is stable enough to be moved, they are taken to Sioux City.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday were our work days. Under the guidance of Tony Hillpiper, Dana's son-in-law from Brooklyn, the young men in the group tore off shingles and paper on a 2-car garage. Then the rotten boards were replaced and new paper and shingles were installed. This took them the first three work days.

The females did a lot of weeding in gardens and flower gardens, as well as mowing lawns, weed eating, scraping paint, cleaning gutters, and picking up trash and brush. These tasks took place at the home of a missionary, who was half Native American and the owner of the garage with the new roof, an elderly couple that are members of the church, the actual church, and a park just up the hill from the TenClay's home. This park was the former site of the Presbyterian church in Winnebago.

On Friday, part of the group painted most of the inside of a home for a Native American family. The rest of the group went to a home where repairs were done to a deck and it was made ready for the addition of a ramp.

We want to thank all of you for your support, either with prayers or monetarily. As is normally the case, we came home with more, than what we felt we gave to the Native Americans in Winnebago, Nebraska.

The Work Week participants.

Summer Break for Session and Deacons

As is the standard each year, the Session and Deacons did not hold their monthly meeting in July. That does not mean, however, that the work of the church stopped. As you can see in the edition of the Messenger, there has plenty going on. Several committees also took the month of July off from the monthly meetings. All groups will be meeting again in August, as the programs of the church prepare to resume.

Worship and Music

Linda Kirchoff, Chair

The Worship and Music Committee wishes to thank all those who preached during our worship services in July. These included Sara Hopkins, George Wilkening and Work Week Participants- Jordon Norvell, Josh Ventling, Garrett Sturtz, Dana Hashman, Linda Anderson, Josh Ziemann Mickey Van Baale and Meghan Davis.

We gratefully acknowledge those who shared their talents during anthem time- Linda Erickson, Tintinnabulation Bell Choir, Skye Koenen, and the Pride of Iowa Chorus. Thanks to Barb Zacheis and Glenda Duffus for playing the organ and piano. **There are still openings for special music on August 24 and 31. If you are interested in either of these dates, please contact Kim De Graff at 521-8571.**

The danger of mentioning people by name is that one is most likely to forget someone. Please take a moment to think how we are blessed by all the individuals and groups who make our Sunday Services happen- ministers, the choir, choir director, organists, pianists, soloists, ushers, bread bakers and takers, greeters, host Elders and Deacons, audio personnel, nursery attendant, Christian Nurture, Worship and Music, and Mission Committee members, communion preparers and servers, our office manager and custodian, candle lighters, bulletin folders - and, of course, members of our church family.

The Worship and Music Committee did not meet during July but will be reconvening in August.

There will be communion during our Worship Service at Woodland Park on August 10. It will be "served by intinction." We hope you will be able to attend.



WORSHIP & MUSIC
COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP



MOMENT

On June 22 the committee sponsored a Sundays at 4 event in which Gary and Kay Parsons presented a program on their trip to St. Petersburg and Moscow, Russia. We had a very good turnout with 33 attending. Drinks were provided and pizza was ordered for those that wanted it.

We were also involved in organizing an entry in the 4th of July parade for the third year. The weather was beautiful which resulted in very large attendance at the parade-which was wonderful. Our entry honored the veterans of the Cold War/Korean War era and we were privileged to be able to honor Carroll Broderson, Warren Erickson, Dale Gardner, Warren Jontz, Richard Mielke, Dave Shannon, Carl Zacheis, and Bill Zegers. A total of 24 were involved in our entry which was the largest number yet. Thanks to all, especially Doug and Ann Cutts who let us use their pickup (and bubble machine), Cathy Rickers who was once again very involved in decorating the pickup and Rev. Davis who ordered the give aways. We're looking forward to next years' parade. It is a lot of fun.

The information gathering part of the church directory update is essentially finished. If you have not been contacted please let me know after August 5 at 792-6753. Dave Stolper will be taking pictures after church in the Fellowship Hall on August 17, 24, and 31. If anyone needs pictures taken before that (e.g. kids going away to college) please contact Dave Stolper (792-4920) between August 4 and the 17th. Dave is prepared and willing to be very flexible as to time and place to get these pictures completed. Thank you, Dave!

Gary Parsons, chair

See pictures from the 4th of July parade on page 7.

Christian Nurture

Virginia Bennett, Chair

The committee did not meet in July. On the agenda for our August meeting, we will be reviewing fall plans for Kids Action Hour and WOW. We will also be assessing the recent Bible School experience.

Community Meals

By Barb Taylor

The last summer community meal will be August 13. It will be an all church salad meal. Each church will bring several salads. McCann center. Those interested in participating, I will have a signup sheet on the mission board. Thanks to all who participated this summer. It was a short summer and went fast.

Registration Open for IMOM

By Dave Boyd

The 2014 Iowa Mission of Mercy is being held September 26 & 27, 2014 at the Five Sullivan Brothers Convention Center in Waterloo, IA! We're very excited to be returning to Waterloo where our first Iowa Mission of Mercy was held in 2008. Dr. Marty Averill is again chairing the local steering committee.

There's a place for everyone to volunteer at Iowa MOM!

Of course, dentists, dental assistants, dental hygienists and dental lab technicians are required for Iowa MOM to happen but many other volunteers are needed! Medical professionals staff the Medical Triage area. Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians are needed for post medications.

General volunteers are needed for key areas including registration, patient escorts, interpreters, child care, hospitality and exit interview

Registration is easy! Just go to [the Iowa MOM Registration website!](#)

Meet a Muñozes Scholarship Recipient

Meet Gerber Antonio



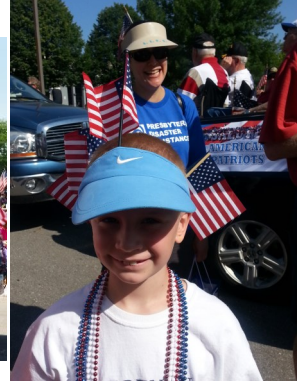
The last of our four scholarship high school students this year is Gerber Antonio Mejia Gonzalez. As this Messenger is printed he is beginning the second semester of his second year of high school. The following letter is written by his grandmother who is raising Gerber. She is a single parent of her own 7 children and is also raising this grandson. Several of her children live in the community and have become leaders. In spite of extreme poverty Maria has managed to feed her family and stress the importance of education. The following is her letter on behalf of Gerber:

Community Pastoral House, Los Munoz Community

Receive a friendly greeting from Maria Ignacia Munoz. Wishing you success and more success in your daily labors. But above all may the grace of God reign in every one of you and in your homes.

The reason for the present letter is to ask you for your great help for my grandson, Gerber Antonio Mejia Gonzalez who, at present, thanks to you, is finishing his first year of baccalaureate. And the next year, God willing, would be doing his second year in the National Institute of Berlin. Completely thankful to you...Saying goodbye to you. Maria Ignacia Munoz

4th of July Parade 2014



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 4:00 pm

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

Rev. Meghan Davis' schedule

Monday-Thursday 9am-5pm, (in office from 9-noon)
evenings as needed

Friday: Day off

Saturday: As needed

Sunday: 9am-noon, afternoons and
evenings as needed

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2014 BIRT&HDAYS &

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9:00 am Adult Sunday School 9:30 am Fellowship 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship					1 Rachel Rickers	2
3	4 Linda Campbell 4:45 pm Personnel 7:00 pm Christian Nurture	5 6:00 pm Worship & Music	6 5:30 pm Community Meals 6:30 pm Spanish Plus	7 6:30 am Early Men's Group 9:00 am Men's Group 4:30 pm Missions	8 Lois Harrington	9 Nancy Shields
10 Pat Mitchell Dixie Zegers	11	12 Branson VerSteegt	13 5:30 pm Community Meals 6:00 pm Budget & Finance 6:30 pm Spanish Plus	14 George Wilkening	15	16 Cheryl Case
17 Dale Gardner	18 Michele Leonard	19 Helyn Wohlwend 7:00 p.m. Session	20 Mercedes Wathen 6:30 pm Spanish Plus	21 Fran Hoffman 6:30 am Early Men's Group 9:00 am Men's Group	22	23 Gary Haynes Larry Rossow Karen Wathen
24	25	26	27 6:30 pm Spanish Plus	28 Bill Zegers	29 Danielle Hamilton	30 Blake Wathen Kimberly Schnell



August



Volunteers

August	3	10	17	24	31	Sept 7
Worship Leader <i>Office</i>	Jane Repp	Sara Hopkins	Mickey Van Baale	George Wilkening	Larry Anderson	Dick Mielke
Host Elder/Deacon <i>Diane Moles</i>	Randy Camp	Dana Hashman	Dixie Zegers	Linda Erickson	Shari DeCook	Linda Kirchhoff
Greeters <i>Julie Brodersen</i>	Janet Shields Valerie Barney	Gary & Kay Parsons	Dick & Shirley Mielke	Randy & Carol Camp	Terry Rickers Bev Rossow	
Ushers <i>Office</i>	Larry & Shari DeCook	Les & Kay Gause	Ventling Family	Bill & Nancy Shields	Doug & Samantha Cutts	Miller Family
Audio <i>Les Gause</i>	Dan Ritter	Brad Ritter	Brad Ritter	Brad Ritter	Roger Harmelink	Roger Harmelink
Candlelighter <i>Office</i>	Natalie Camp	Worship in the park	Jordan Norvell	Cody Barney	Skye Koenen	Emily Miller
Counters <i>Terry Rickers</i>	Kelly Koenen Marshall Critchfield	Terry Rickers Dave Boyd	Dan Ritter Bill Shields	Roger Harmelink Dave Stolper	Jonnie Carpenter Gary Haynes	Kelly Koenen Marshall Critchfield
Bread Ministry Baker <i>Barb Taylor</i>	Barb Taylor	Linda Campbell	Jane Repp	Val McKee	Pat Mitchell	Dixie Zegers
Bread Ministry Taker <i>Barb Taylor</i>	Barb Taylor	Linda Campbell	Carol Russell	Joan Rusk	Barb Gallagher	Dana Hashman
Communion Set up <i>Linda Kirchhoff</i>	Virginia Bennett Steve Hopkins					Randy Camp Jonnie Carpenter

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

641-792-2790

Return Service Requested

Lectionary —

August, 2014

August 3 - 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Gen. 32:22-31; *Ps. 17:1-7, 15*
Rom. 9:1-5; Matt. 14:13-21

August 10 - 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Gen. 37:1-4, 12-28; *Ps. 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b*
Rom. 10:5-15; Matt. 14:22-33

August 17 - 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Gen. 45:1-15; *Ps. 133*; Rom. 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matt. 15:(10-20) 21-28

August 24 - 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Exod. 1:8-2:10; *Ps. 124*; Rom. 12:1-8
Matt. 16:13-20

August 31 - 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Exod. 3:1-15; *Ps. 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c*
Rom. 12:9-21; Matt. 16:21-18

September, 2014

September 7 - 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Exod. 12:1-14; *Ps. 149*; Rom. 13:8-14
Matt. 18:15-20

Sunday 14 - 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Exod. 14:19-31; *Ps. 114* or
Exod. 15:1b-11, 20-21; Rom. 14:1-12
Matt. 18:21-35

September 21 - 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Exod. 15:2-15; *Ps. 105:1-6, 37-45*
Phil. 1:21-30; Matt. 20:1-16

September 28 - 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Exod. 17:1-7; *Ps. 78:1-4, 12-16*
Phil. 2:1-13; Matt. 21:23-32