

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



JANUARY 2017

Meghan's Musings

The Work of Christmas Begins

Here we are again. The start of yet another new year. If you're like me, you're probably amazed that it's already the year 2017. Remember when 2000 seemed to be in the impossibly distant future? And now 2000 is far behind us...

With each New Year's Day many of us breathe a sigh of relief. The chaos and busyness of the holiday season is now over and perhaps now we can get back to healthy habits, productivity at home and/or work, or maybe just enjoy a little more down time than in the last month or so.

I always have and always will advocate setting time aside for Sabbath and quality time with friends and family, and yet I would like to also suggest that now is no time to rest on the laurels of Christmas Past. Rather, now is the time to get to the real work of the Reign of Christ or, as theologian Howard Thurman wrote: the work of Christmas.

The Work of Christmas

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.*

~Howard Thurman

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Let's get to work!

Be Praying For...

- ✚ Our church officers as they attend the annual retreat and begin the work of the church for another year.
- ✚ Congregation members who may be serving on a committee for the first time, as they share their time and talents.
- ✚ People who may be suffering from the flu, colds, respiratory infections and other seasonal illnesses.
- ✚ Those who don't have enough food, or a warm place to stay during our winter season.
- ✚ Our military personnel who are away from family, while being willing to defend our freedom.
- ✚ All peoples of the world as they face whatever hardships they may have that we are not aware of.
- ✚ Peace on Earth!

Congratulations go to...

- ♥ Taylor Peska, who became Michael McGonegle's fiancé in August. Taylor teaches 2nd grade at Aurora Heights and Michael is an Accountant at Cline Tool. A June 17, 2017 wedding at First Presbyterian Church is being planned.
- ♥ Kathy Ventling, who recently got engaged to Curtis Briggs. Kathy teaches English and Language Arts at West Academy and Curtis is a teacher of foreign language at Newton High School.
- ♥ Mallory Sturtz, daughter of Stan and Carma, who recently got engaged to Jackson Jordan. Mallory is a Language Arts teacher for the 7th graders at Berg Middle School. Jack works as a product specialist at Vermeer in Pella.



January 8 - Congregational Meeting following worship to elect our new Church officers. (This had to be postponed from December 18 due to bad weather.)

January 14 - Retreat for new officers.

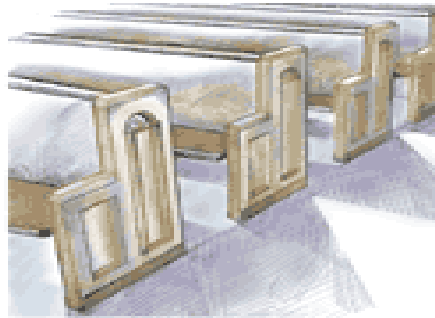
January 15 - Ordination and Installation of new officers.

January 29 - Annual Meeting and Potluck



Meghan's new address:
516 E 2nd St S
Newton

Phone numbers remain the same:
Home: [641-791-1954](tel:641-791-1954)
Cell: [510-681-9082](tel:510-681-9082)



View from the Pews

In our second *View From the Pew*, we've gone from the oldest member of First Presbyterian to the two youngest - Emmett and Garrett Zehr.

Emmett Edward Zehr was born June 25, 2014. He loves anything related to sports - watching or playing. If you ask Emmett what his *favorite* sport is, he will tell you basketball, baseball, football, soccer, tennis, golf.... How is someone so young interested in so many sports? Having a dad that coaches basketball and tennis may have something to do with it.



During the day you can find Emmett at the YMCA Daycare playing with his friends, doing arts and crafts, or enjoying some time outside. In the summer he especially likes playing golf with his dad and Papa and swimming with his mom. His favorite TV shows are Mickey Mouse Clubhouse and Paw Patrol.

On September 27, 2016, Emmett became a big brother to Garrett Dale Zehr. Emmett has warmed up to the idea of having a little brother, and now is very helpful with Garrett. The two brothers enjoy talking (babbling) to one another, playing, and taking naps together. Garrett, or "G" as Emmett likes to call him, is a happy and healthy 3 month old. He also attends the YMCA Daycare and enjoys big brother's daily visits to his room.

Both boys have been attending First Presbyterian since they were born. Emmett was baptized in First Pres on November 9th, 2014 and Garrett's baptism is scheduled for January 22nd. I may be biased, due to my aunt duties, but I think these two are pretty sweet, handsome, and special First Presbyterian members!

Thank you for reading this *View From the Pew*. Please look for next month's member in the next Messenger, and if you have any suggestions for who *View From the Pew* should focus on next, please contact Taylor Peska at peskat@newton.k12.ia.us.

Worship and Music

Sandy Simbro

- *A review of past services was discussed. All services went well. The communion during the Thanksgiving dinner will have a few minor changes next year that Rev. Meghan and the committee thought would help communion flow a bit better.
- *Church decorating has been done by Linda Kirchhoff's coffee group and the Women's Bible Study group. It is especially beautifully done creating a festive worshipful environment! THANK YOU ladies.
- *Ann Cutts has found candle lighters for Advent. Barb Gallaher is taking care of all the Poinsettias which are looking good at this point! Thank you both.
- *The Advent booklet is complete and has been distributed with a few extra in the foyer.
- *Barbara is taking care of ordering the new broadcasting license.
- *Special services:
 - +Christmas Pageant was postponed due to bad weather from December 18 to Christmas Day.
 - +The Longest Night (Blue Christmas) Service was held December 22 at 7:00 pm. be Dec. 22 At 7:00 P.M.
 - +Christmas Eve service were held at 7:00 pm.
- *January 1st Service will be covered by Linda Curtis-Stolper preaching.
- *Communion will be January 8.
- *The Annual Meeting is January 29, Linda Kirchhoff will submit the report
- *It was determined there was no need to have a January meeting.
- *We still need additional members now that Ann Cutts, Norm Grimm and Sandy Simbro will be leaving. We will follow up on possible members that would be willing to serve.



MEMBERSHIP



MOMENT

“PEW’ (Pray, Eat, Work)

On Monday, December 5, 10 church members gathered for a light supper of soup and dessert, followed by a brief devotion and our work project for the evening, centralizing office

supplies from scattered locations around the church and moving those supplies to the first floor for better accessibility, better organization, and inventory control. Some items in poor condition were discarded. There is still work to be done on Junior Choir music (in the Power Room) and in the supply room. Those will be tackled in a subsequent event, along with cleaning of light fixtures and interior sides of windows. That event may take place in February; details will be provided closer to the date selected.

GRINNELL BASKETBALL GAME OUTING

Gary Parsons is organizing an outing of church members to attend a basketball game at Grinnell College on Saturday, January 21. The men's game (vs. Ripon College) begins at 3 pm, and it's possible that the group may also choose to attend the women's basketball game at 1 pm, preceding the men's game. As is the tradition, the outing will end with pizza at Pagliai's Pizza in Grinnell. Look for more details in the Sunday church bulletin, and in church announcements.

SUNDAYS @ 4

Connie Robertson will present a piano recital on January 22 for her “Sundays @4” piano recital. We encourage church members to attend Connie's recital at 4 pm, and to stay afterward for a cookies and coffee reception.

Church Life Activities

Tara Zehr, Chair

Due to inclement weather, we were not able to have our final activity of the year, the caroling and chili supper. We appreciate those who were planning on furnishing food for the chili supper. Our committee will be getting together after the first of the year to plan the activities for 2017. If you have any ideas of new or additional things you would like to see, please let me know.

Bread Ministry...Help Needed

Barb Taylor, Chair

The Bread Ministry falls under the umbrella of the Mission Committee and is a very effective ministry that is done behind the scenes. Members are in teams: the baker, who furnishes the bread and the taker, who delivers the bread.

Bread bakers bring to the parlor of the church either a loaf of homemade bread, some sort of quick bread or muffins. These are left in the kitchenette prior to worship.

The takers see if there are any guests at church that the bread can be given to. If not, they choose the recipient, be it someone with a special birthday, a guest minister or perhaps someone doing a solo or special number for the choir. The bread is placed in a gift bag, found in the kitchenette, along with the latest copy of the Messenger and a pamphlet about being Presbyterian. There is also a notebook where the recipient's name and pertinent information is recorded. All deliveries are done at church - none are delivered to a person's home.

At the present time we have had a team resign from this ministry and are looking for a new one as well as some substitutes. If you feel this is something you would like to do for our church, we would love to have you join our ministry.

Please send me an email at barbjohn@pcpartner.net or call at 792-6990.

Christian Nurture

Karen Quinn, Chair

We were not able to have our All Church Christmas pageant on Sunday, December 18, since church was cancelled due to the bad weather. So we rescheduled this for Christmas day. While several were not able to attend, we were able to have people from the congregation portray Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds, wisemen and animals. We even had an actual dog! Garrett Zehr portrayed our baby Jesus.

If you were unable to attend, please go onto the church website to view this year's pageant. Thank you to those who participated in once again bringing to life the wonderful story of the birth of Jesus.



Mission Committee

Marilyn McCallister, Chair

Reports:

Fall Rural Harvest offering – According to the financial report, \$75 was given for the Rural Harvest offering this year.

Muñoces/Companeros/El Salvador – Marilyn reported that the steering group had met and made plans for delivering the “farewell” letter to Muñoces. A copy of the letter has been available to the congregation for signatures. Subsequently, Warren and Linda Erickson and Kimberly Schnell met with Jose and Karim Carballo in Pella to discuss a translation of the letter and possible translators and drivers while in El Salvador. The Carballos will translate the letter and assist with lining up the assistance needed in El Salvador.

Pal Craftaid sale – Pal Craftaid items have been for sale in Fellowship Hall during Advent. The remaining items will be for sale on the shelving next to the coffee in fellowship hall. These are the items that help people in Palestine.

Mission Coalition – The bells were rung for the Salvation Army on December 3 and participants noted the pleasure of ringing inside at True Value. All the Progress Industries gifts have been spoken for. Mission Coalition will not meet again until late January.

Giving opportunities – The Presbyterian Gift Catalog and the Christmas JOY offering were both promoted during Advent. We will report later on the amount received for the JOY offering.

Salvation Army – Barbara will check with the Salvation Army on what the needs currently are and this will be communicated to the congregation. We obtained 25 angels to buy gifts for. The gifts were taken back to the Salvation Army on December 16.

Days for Girls – Days for Girls International workshops continue. The sustainable feminine hygiene kit allows a girl to continue in school when she normally would have to spend a week each month confined to her home. At the last workshop, one complete kit was assembled. Our next workshop will be Thursday, January 26 from 9 am – 3 pm in fellowship hall with a delicious crock pot lunch provided. (Thank you, Linda Curtis-Stolper.) Our goal is to assemble more kits to be taken to Africa in February by our trainer, Kay Hertz of Des Moines. Donations of colorful underwear (girl’s sizes 10-16 and women’s sizes 5 & 6) are needed. All are welcome to participate in this great mission project.

2017 Mission Statement – Marilyn would like to review the committee description in January and, perhaps, plan a retreat to address changes.

Bulletin Boards in Fellowship Hall – Linda Erickson stated that she would be removing the El Salvador material on the southeast bulletin board before the end of the year. It has yet to be determined if this will still be used for Mission related items or if it will be used for other purposes. Our committee also has the bulletin board at the bottom of the stairs leading into Fellowship Hall.

2017 Work Week - The steering committee has not met to determine a location for the 2017 trip. It is hoped that if enough youth are interested a trip to a further away location may be possible.

Bread Ministry - See the article on page 5 about this ministry and our need for additional bakers and takers.



Emergency Closure of the Church

With the arrival of winter weather, 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 will contact KCCI, WOI and WHO television stations so the changes will scroll on their weather related messages.. When severe an all church email will be sent. If First Presbyterian is not mentioned on any of these, then 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



At our December meeting we:

- ◆ Received reports on visits. Nancy Mott indicated that Jeanne Bridenstine has moved to a different room. Janet Shields reported that Eloise Krajnovich recently was moved to the nursing unit at Newton Village. Several indicated they have seen Linda Means, not necessarily on scheduled visits.
- ◆ Were informed by Meghan that she has been visiting Matt Illingworth. She added that she thought deacons, especially those known to Matt, should have informal visits with him, and it was agreed that this will be done.
- ◆ Learned from Shirley Stevens that she had sent out 19 cards during November.
- ◆ Were told that only a couple of addresses for college students had been received for sending care packages, which hasn't been done yet.
- ◆ Received a suggestion from Meghan that with heating season having arrived, we should consider making a donation to the IMPACT Community Action Partnership. Deacons voted to donate \$150 to IMPACT for energy bill assistance.
- ◆ Didn't make any other donations because a formal treasurer's report was not available.

Budget and Finance Corner

Bev Rossow, Chair

Pledges for the month of November were \$9,997. This was \$523 below budget for the month. Other Regular Giving, which represents donations from people who tithe, but do not pledge, was \$790 for the month, which is \$54 above budget. In total for the month, expenses were \$562 below budget.

Year-to-date through November, pledges are \$3,217 over budget and expenses are \$1,385 below budget.



Activity included:

- *The Memorial Fund received \$50.
- *We received a \$3,850 distribution from the Foundation, representing earnings on the Foundation principal.
- *Related to the front step project, \$1,200 was paid for architect fees and \$2,740 for concrete removal and sewer line replacement.
- *The Funeral Luncheon Fund received a donation of \$250.
- *The Mission-Disaster Relief-Local fund disbursed \$100 for the Lebanon/Syria disaster relief and \$200 for General PDA disaster relief.
- *The Sundays at 4 fund received \$100 in donations.



2017 **BIRTHDAYS & EVENTS**

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 Lyndee Hashman 	2 	3 Jay Koenen 11a Gentle Yoga	4 Mary Jo Nisken James Leonard 9:30a Women's Bible Study 7p Choir	5 6:30a Early Men's Group 9a Men's Group 5p Budget & Finance	6 	7
8 Patty Skokan 9a Deacons 11:30 a- Congregational Mtg to elect officers	9 Marlys Grimm 	10 Emily Miller Linda Erickson Jane Repp 11a Gentle Yoga 3:30p Mission	11 Tom Weeks 9:30a Women's Bible Study 5p Membership 7p Choir	12 Tom Atwood Barb Ferguson 3p Chair Yoga 7p Christian Nurture	13 	14 Leadership Retreat
15 Megan Ritter Installation and ordination of new officers	16 Macy Leonard 5:30p Building & Grounds	17 11a Gentle Yoga	18 Bill Shields 9:30a Women's Bible Study 7p Choir	19 6:30a Early Men's Group 9a Men's Group 3p Chair Yoga	20 	21 Gary Kirchhoff Shae Koenen Grinnell Basketball Outing
22 Sunday's @ 4	23 	24 11a Gentle Yoga 6:30p Session	25 9:30a Women's Bible Study 7p Choir	26 	27 Articles due for the Messenger	28 Shari DeCook
29 Allie Norvell 11:30 a - Annual Mtg & Potluck	30 	31 Scott DeGraff 11a Gentle Yoga		9 00 a Adult Sunday School 10:00 a Fellowship 10:30 a Worship 11:30 a Fellowship		

**SCHEDULE
OF**



VOLUNTEERS

January	1	8	15	22	29
Worship Leader <i>Office</i>	Dave Stolper	Kathy Ventling	Terry Rickers	Gary Parsons	Sara Hopkins
Host Elder/Deacon <i>Church Life</i>	Val McKee	Bev Rossow	Sandy Shaver	Mickey Van Baale	Annual Meeting 2018 Class of Elders and Deacons
Greeters <i>Julie Brodersen</i>	Janet Shields Kimberly or Kert Schnell	Gary & Kay Parsons	Randy & Carol Camp	Terry Rickers Bev Rossow	Kevin & Toni Peska
Ushers <i>Office</i>	Mickey Van Baale Dana Hashman	Kevin & Toni Peska	Don & Sharon Black	John & Barb Taylor	Tom & Nancy Mott
Audio <i>Doug Cutts</i>		Doug Cutts	Doug Cutts	Dan Ritter	Dan Ritter
Counters <i>Budget & Finance</i>	Bret Doerring Tara Zehr	Jonnie Carpenter Sandy Cheney	Jen Norvell Janet Shields	Terry Rickers Peggy or Chris Lickiss	Mickey Van Baale Bev Rossow
Bread Ministry Baker <i>Barb Taylor</i>	Mickey Van Baale	Barb Taylor		Linda Campbell	Jane Repp
Bread Ministry Taker <i>Barb Taylor</i>	Mickey Van Baale	Barb Taylor		Linda Campbell	Carol Russell
Communion Set up <i>Worship & Music</i>		Bev Rossow Karen Quinn			

First Presbyterian Church
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Newton, Iowa 50208

641-792-2790

Return Service Requested

Lectionary —

January, 2017

January 1 - 1st Sunday after Christmas

Isa. 63:7-9; *Ps. 148*; Heb. 2:10-18;
Matt. 2:13-23

January 8 - Baptism of the Lord

Isa. 42:1-9; *Ps. 29*; Acts 10:34-43;
Matt. 3:15-17

January 15 - 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Isa. 49:1-7; *Ps. 40-1-11*; 1 Cor. 1:1-9;
John 1:29-42

January 22 - 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Isa. 9:1-4; *Ps. 27:1, 4-9*; 1 Cor. 1:10-18;
Matt. 4:12-23

January 29 - 4th Sunday after Epiphany

Micah 6:1-8; *Ps. 15*; 1 Cor. 1:18-31;
Matt. 5:1-12

February, 2017

February 5 - 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isa. 58: 1-9a (9b-12); *Ps. 112:1-9 (10)*;
1 Cor. 2:1-12 (13-16); Matt. 5:13-20

February 12 - 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Deut. 30:15-20; *Ps. 119:1-8*; 1 Cor. 3:1-9;
Matt. 5:21-37

February 19 - 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lev. 19:1-2, 9-18; *Ps. 119:33-40*;
1 Cor. 3:10-11, 16-23; Matt. 5:38-48

February 26 - Transfiguration of the Lord

Ex. 24:12-18; *Ps. 2 or Ps. 99*;
2 Peter 1:16-21; Matt. 17:1-9