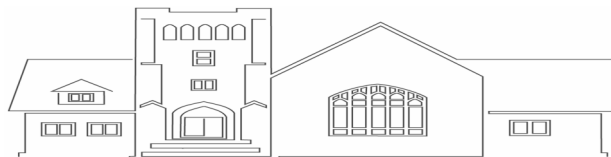


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
NEWTON, IOWA  
641-792-2790

*“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, 2019

## Meghan's Musings

A New Calendar

One of my spiritual practices is using a devotional called *Disciplines*. The devotional is based on the lectionary (the four scripture lessons assigned for each Sunday); a different author is assigned for each week of the year. The entry for December 30, 2018, is so appropriate for the new year that I want to share it in its entirety with you. It's written by Pamela C. Hawkins, a writer and artist who lives in Nashville. This writing is based on Colossians 3:12-17. I invite you to read the scripture before continuing...

*A new calendar year stretches before us, stirring up fresh resolve in many of us to change our circumstances or ourselves during the next twelve months. Some will write official New Year's resolutions, making lists of goals to accomplish. Others will not be so formal, writing secret New Year's longings on our hearts.*

*Our reading from Colossians also reveals the hope of living a better life. But it is God's hope for our lives that is recoded in this passage, not a list of resolutions that we have created. In these verses, we find some of God's deepest hopes for us: hopes for changes needed in the world from this moment onward and hopes made all the more possible by following Jesus.*

*How might this new year be different from years past if we resolve to grow in compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience? If this day becomes a day of forgiveness, a day that we set our intention either to offer or to accept forgiveness—not in general terms, but with someone in mind—what new life possibilities will open up for us and for others? And even better, what if we set a new-year intention to make forgiveness a spiritual life practice, a daily pattern of prayer and response in which God has already given us an example in Jesus?*

*And finally, what if our night prayer from this time onward—a prayer to guide our resolutions and hopes, whatever they may be—could rise out of God's word:*

*Through this night, O God, and in every waking moment clothe me with your love. Bind me in perfect harmony to everything you love, and open my heart more and more each day to carry the peace of Christ. Amen.*

My prayer for you and me and every one of us for 2019 is that we might be attuned to the “secret New Year's longings of our hearts” and that the longings of our hearts might be attuned to God's hopes for us. Amen.

IN OUR  
*Thoughts and Prayers*

- ✚ To Linda Curtis-Stolper as she is recovering from recent surgery.
- ✚ To Sharon Black as she is recovering from her recent surgery.
- ✚ To Kim DeGraff, as she is recovering from her recent knee replacement surgery. Kim had her surgery in Arizona and will be doing her recovering at their home there, avoiding our ice & snow.
- ✚ To Carol Soderblom Proctor Hammer, who has been moved to skilled care at Park Centre.
- ✚ To David Hammer, Carol's husband, who is in the hospital with pneumonia.
- ✚ To Terry Rickers brother, Lynn, who is having some major medical problems and is now home recuperating after being in the hospital in the Omaha area.
- ✚ Our church officers as they begin their work for our church - some having previously been Elders or Deacons, while others are new.
- ✚ For those suffering from addiction, for their family and friends who suffer with them and for those who seek to help.



At the worship service on Sunday, December 23, Harriett Harmelink announced that she and Roger were celebrating their 61st anniversary that day.

Les Gause also informed the congregation that he and Kay would be celebrating their 60th anniversary on December 26th.

Congratulations to both couples. In this day and age, this is a tremendous accomplishment. But there are likely others in our church family who we should mention when they hit a milestone day of celebration. We keep track of birthdays, but not anniversaries, so can't recognize them when we don't know.

If you so desire, please let Mickey Van Baale at [grandmavb1@gmail.com](mailto:grandmavb1@gmail.com) know your anniversary date and the number of years. We'll start a new tradition and put in recognition for your special day.

Thank you!

## Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting to receive the reports of the committees on activities from 2018 will be Sunday, January 27, following worship. We will also receive the report from the Treasurer on our church's financial health from 2018 and be presented with the 2019 budget. This will not be voted on, as it is approved by Session. One thing that the congregation will vote on is Rev. Meghan Davis' compensation package for 2019.

**A change for this year.** Rather than having a congregational potluck for the meal, Mission Comm. and friends will provide a chicken noodle dinner (not soup). Some of the Elders and Deacons will be making vegetables and desserts to complete the meal. Our church family will not need to bring anything for the meal, just come, enjoy and give a free-will offering.

This is an important meeting and all church members are highly encouraged to attend.



## Worship and Music

Linda Kirchhoff, Chair

During our November meeting, we had the following business:

- ✦ Discussion about the length of the worship service when it goes long and suggestions on where it could be shortened.
- ✦ Went over the details of upcoming services during Advent and Christmas.
- ✦ Received a report from Sandy Simbro that the organ only partially came on recently, so there is still some kind of problem. Quimby Organ Company is scheduled to be here soon. Meanwhile, Meghan suggested the piano be used if necessary.
- ✦ Agreed that fewer cups should be filled for communion services to avoid having to discard so much grape juice.



The activity of coloring in the "Women of the Bible" coloring book will continue in January. Dates had not been established as of the publication of this Messenger. Be watching the Church Happenings and bulletins for further information. This is open to anyone. If you didn't participate before, please do join us.



## All Church Christmas Pageant

Karen Quinn, Chair of Christian Nurture Committee

Sunday, December 23 was the date of this annual event. Thank you to Jane Repp and Linda Kirchhoff, who were the narrators and Sandy Simbro for playing for the congregation's singing of appropriate hymns during the pageant. A special treat was having Rev. Davis' dog, Zuzu, dressed as a sheep. Don't think many churches can say they have that happen.

The collage of pictures below tells the story the best. Thank you to those who helped bring down the costumes and organize them on Wednesday night. Val McKee for assisting me in putting the costumes on the participants; everyone who played a part and finally those who helped carry the costumes back upstairs for next year.



**MEMBERSHIP**



**MOMENT**

The committee did not meet in December since most of the ongoing projects could be conducted by email, telephone, text, or contact at church. We are still working on bringing the committee up to “full strength” as to number of members. If we call you, please say yes!

We are also working on the Membership Committee sponsored events for the next few months. At this time it appears we will be attending a Grinnell College men’s basketball game in January with dinner at Pagliai’s Pizza after; a Drake University men’s basketball game (to see Garrett Sturtz play) in February with dinner some place after; and the Pacesetter’s winter program on March 9 (to see Allie Norvell). The January and February dates have not been firmed up but should be in the next few days. We will let you know when we know. Please consider joining us for some or all the events.

John and Barb Taylor were honored at the November 13 Presbytery meeting in Des Moines with son Scott accepting the plaque and gift since mom and dad were attending a Presbyterian Church Camp and Conference Association meeting in Lake Tahoe. On December 2, Scott was able to attend church and present the plaque and gift to John and Barb. John and Barb, thank you so much for your hard work and dedication to First Pres. and to national Presbyterian entities. You are very deserving of the award. See the detailed article and picture on pages 8 and 9.

**Budget and Finance Corner**

**Jen Norvell, Chair**

Now that the 2019 Stewardship Campaign is over, we have turned our attention to preparing the budget for next year. Thank you to Cheryl Ritter, Treasurer, for all her hard work and extra hours in putting our budget together.

The proposed budget will be sent to the Session for approval. It reflected a shortfall of \$30,000, which means that the Session will need go over each line item to see where cuts can be made. It is the Session, not the congregation, that approves the budget. The only part that is voted on at the Annual Meeting is Rev. Davis’ compensation package.

We are also working on collecting the remaining 2018 pledges that have not been completed.



## Church Life

**Tara Zehr, Chair**

**December 16: Caroling and Chili Supper.** A group of 20 carolers started at Park Center to serenade our members in residence. The group then traveled across the street to Newton Village. After a few more stops, and lots of singing and fun, the 20 singers broke into smaller groups in order to reach all the remaining houses on the route. At 6:00 the groups met back at the church and we met by three additional members for a well-deserved and delicious meal of soup, corn bread and desserts.

This wrapped up our activities for 2018. Thank you to everyone who participated in whatever way that was possible for you. Be watching for our schedule of events for 2019 that will be coming out very soon. The January event is the Annual Meeting, on January 27, following our worship service.

At our December meeting we conducted the following business:

- \*Approved the minutes from our November meeting.
- \*Heard of the monthly visits and took action on some changes.
- \*Heard the report from Rev. Davis on the visits she has made.
- \*Approved paying the postage costs on the holiday care packages sent to the congregation's college students.
- \*Learned that our account fund has a total of \$945.83 as of December 5.
- \*Approved donating \$400 to the Newton Salvation Army.
- \*Received the Christmas gifts to hand out to those on our visitation, card and call list.
- \*Were reminded of the dates for the ordination/installation of church officers, the officer training session and the annual meeting.

Diane Moles, Moderator



Thank you so much for the care package before finals. The Starbucks gift card really came in handy for my early morning finals and the snacks for the late night studies. I appreciate all the positive thoughts from my church family.

Thanks again! Jordan Norvell



## Mission Committee

Marilyn McCallister, Chair

The purpose of the Mission Committee is to recommend, approve, manage, and terminate mission projects. The committee communicates about opportunities for mission involvement and promotes congregational participation.

**Cents Ability for Hunger** - During the time of May through November, \$515.39 was collected. \$200 was given to our local Salvation Army, \$100 to the Presbytery of Des Moines hunger program and \$100 to the National Presbytery hunger program. Thanks for opening your hearts and being aware of those in our community and around the world who do not have enough to eat.

**Christmas giving** - Because you gave, nine of Progress Industries' persons served, who have no families, will be opening a gift on Christmas morning.

Because you gave, thirty children will open gifts you purchased for the Salvation Army Angel tree.

Because you gave, four hours of bell ringing were covered for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign.

**Days for Girls** - Our group now has an official name which is Newton IA Days for Girls (NIADfG). We make sustainable hygiene kits, which allow girls to continue in school when normally they would have to spend one week per month confined to home. In 2018, NIADfG made 193 hygiene kits and sent 160 of those to girls in Haiti.

We will be experimenting in also offering an evening time for those who would like to help, but cannot make the daytime event. The time for the evening one will be 6-9 pm and held on the same day as the daytime group meets.

The first workshop for 2019 will be Thursday, January 29 at 9am to 2pm AND 6-9 pm, both held in Fellowship hall. All are welcome to attend.

**Annual Meeting** - See page 3 for information on a change being made for the lunch for the meeting. Mission committee and friends will be having a fund-raising chicken noodle meal. All food will be provided and the congregation members are invited to come and enjoy for a free will offering.

**Ramp Building Ministry** - Linda A. shared that Kid Assist is purchasing both a 7-foot and a 10-foot ramp that can be reused if there is no longer a need. Kid Assist is funding the purchase but there will be some minimal installation needed.



## Taylors Awarded “Faithful Through the Ages” Recognition

By Gary Parsons, Membership Committee

Des Moines Presbytery for quite a few years has sponsored an award in which individual churches are able to honor their members for involvement and accomplishments related to church and community activities, emphasizing those activities past the age of 55.

The award is called “Faithful Through the Ages”. In the past, we have honored Wendell and Loretta Wendt and Joan Tyler. This year we honored John and Barb Taylor.

The award was presented at the Nov. 13 Presbytery meeting. John and Barb were attending the PCCCA conference (Presbyterian Church Camp and Conference Association) so their son Scott was good enough to attend and accept in their place.

Following is a copy of the application to Presbytery that outlines their many activities over the years. John and Barb Taylor joined Mariners at Newton First in 1960 and have been involved in Mariners or a Mariners-related organization ever since. They, along with their family, started attending National Mariners conferences in the late 1960’s. After serving in various offices, they became National Skippers in 2000. Unfortunately, due to aging and difficulty getting new members, the group disbanded in 2003. A number of long time dedicated members, including John and Barb, did not want to let go so they formed Mariners in Mission.

Part of the mission of National Mariners were family camps. John and Barb attended many and directed several. This program put them in touch with the camping program in the Presbyterian denomination. That folded in the late 90’s when kids became so involved in athletic events that families had difficulty setting aside a week for camping. So mission work was started with camps, conference centers and colleges. The first one was at Sheldon Jackson College in Alaska. That was such a great experience that it was continued. So when National Mariners folded, Mariners in Mission was in position to carry on the camp and conference mission. They approached the PCCCA to see if MIM could partner with them and they were welcomed. Since then, MIM works at 3 camps a year for a week at each one. John and Barb have become the “go to” couple to make arrangements for the work weeks. They go to the PCCCA conference every year to make contacts.

Mariners in Mission has saved the camping program thousands of dollars in labor. Members come from many areas of skill and experience so most maintenance needs can be met by MIM. They gather 10-18 people at each camp to help with tasks that maintenance doesn’t have time to do.

Other church activities: John helped start a men’s club that had folded many years earlier. It continues to meet today. Barb got involved in women’s ministry when a contact was needed on the Presbytery planning team. They both taught Sunday school for many years, have been youth group advisers and have been on 4 domestic work week trips as well as 4 work/mission trips to El Salvador. They have helped in the kitchen for luncheons, dinners for many years and continue to do so. They walk in our church’s entry in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. John has served as a trustee and deacon and Barb is in her second term as a deacon.

*Continued on Page 9*



*Continued from Page 8*

Barb directed the ice cream social for 3 years and continues to support it with baked goods, ice cream, and both usually help in the kitchen during the event. Barb learned of the Days for Girls program through her Girl Scouting, brought it to the Mission Committee where it has become a monthly mission work activity at 1P with members of a number of churches helping. She has served as manager of the Bread Ministry at 1st Presbyterian since about 2002, and has been on the Reception Committee for years. Both have been on the Mission Committee for about 4 years and John has been on Membership for about 5 years. They helped with the community meal program when 1st Presbyterian was involved in that. They both have served as worship leaders and have helped at our P.E.W. events (church work night). Barb directed and taught VBS for several years and attends Bible study group when possible. She has headed the One Great Hour of Sharing promotion at our church for about 4 years. They have worked with the ramp ministry and bring food to go to the Salvation Army each month as well as getting gifts for several kids at Christmas through the Salvation Army outreach.

Thanks so much to John and Barb for their years of involvement and dedication at so many levels.



# January 2019 **BIRTHDAYS & EVENTS**

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

		<b>1 Lyndee Hashman</b> Office Closed 	<b>2</b> 6p Membership 7p Choir	<b>3</b> 6:30a Early Men's Group 9a Men's Group	<b>4 Mary Jo Nisken</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8 Patty Skokan</b> 11a Gentle Yoga 1p Worship & Music 3:30p Mission	<b>9 Marlys Grimm</b> 9:30a Women's Bible Study 6p Membership 7p Choir	<b>10 Emily Miller Linda Erickson Jane Repp</b> 3p Chair Yoga	<b>11 Tom Weeks</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 9a Deacons/ Officer Installation/ Ordination	<b>14</b>	<b>15 Megan Ritter</b> 11a Gentle Yoga 6:30p Session	<b>16 Macy Leonard</b> 9:30a Women's Bible Study 6p Budget & Finance 7p Choir	<b>17</b> 6:30a Early Men's Group 9a Men's Group 3p Chair Yoga	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 9a-2p Officer Retreat/ Training
<b>20</b>	<b>21 Gary Kirchhoff</b>	<b>22</b> 11a Gentle Yoga	<b>23</b> 9:30a Women's Bible Study 7p Choir	<b>24</b> 3p Chair Yoga	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 11:30a Annual Meeting	<b>28 Shari DeCook</b>	<b>29 Allie Norvell</b> 11a Gentle Yoga	<b>30</b> 9:30a Women's Bible Study 7p Choir	<b>31 Scott DeGraff</b> 3p Chair Yoga		

**Regular Worship Schedule**

**9:00 a Adult Sunday School      10:30 a Worship**  
**10:00 a Fellowship                11:30 a Fellowship**

**SCHEDULE  
OF**



**VOLUNTEERS**

<b>January</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>27</b>
Worship Leader <i>Mickey Van Baale</i>	Karen Quinn	Tom Mott	Linda Kirchhoff	Bev Rossow
Host Elder/Deacon <i>Church Life</i>	Kay Parsons	George Wilkening	Mickey Van Baale	Annual Meeting Class of 2020 (Elders & Deacons)
Greeters <i>Julie Brodersen</i>	Chris & Peggy Lickiss	Cole Doerring Carroll Brodersen	Janet Shields Kurt or Kimberly Schnell	Randy & Carol Camp
Ushers <i>Mickey Van Baale</i>	Mary Jane Tripp Suzy Funk	John & Barb Taylor	Kevin Peska	Don & Sharon Black
Audio <i>Shirley Stevens</i>	Kyle Doerring	Dan Ritter	Brad Ritter	Shirley Stevens
Counters <i>Budget &amp; Finance</i>	Tara Zehr Bret Doerring	Jonnie Carpenter Tom Weeks	Jen Norvell Janet Shields	Terry Rickers Peggy/Chris Lickiss
Bread Ministry Baker <i>Barb Taylor</i>	Mickey Van Baale	Barb Taylor	Jane Repp	Val McKee
Bread Ministry Taker <i>Barb Taylor</i>	Mickey Van Baale	Barb Taylor	Carol Russell	Toni Peska
Communion Set up <i>Worship &amp; Music</i>	Larry Anderson Karen Quinn			

First Presbyterian Church  
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Newton, Iowa 50208

641-792-2790

Return Service Requested

## Lectionary —

### January, 2019

#### **January 6 - Epiphany of the Lord**

Isa. 60:1-6; *Ps.* 72:1-7, 10-14; Eph. 3:1-12;  
Matt. 2:1-12

#### **January 13 - Baptism of the Lord**

Isa. 43:1-7; *Ps.* 29; Acts 8:14-17;  
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

#### **January 20 - 2nd Sunday after Epiphany**

Isa. 62:1-5; *Ps.* 36:5-10; 1 Cor. 12:1-11;  
John 2:1-11

#### **January 27 - 3rd Sunday after Epiphany**

Neh. 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; *Ps.* 19;  
1 Cor. 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

### February, 2019

#### **February 3 - 4th Sunday after Epiphany**

Jer. 1:4-10; *Ps.* 71:1-6;  
1 Cor. 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

#### **February 10 - 5th Sunday after Epiphany**

Isa. 6:1-8 (9-13); *Ps.* 138;  
1 Cor. 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

#### **February 17 - 6th Sunday after Epiphany**

Jer. 17:5-10; *Ps.* 1; 1 Cor. 15:12-20;  
Luke 6:17-26

#### **February 24 - 7th Sunday after Epiphany**

Gen. 45:3-11, 15; *Ps.* 37:1-11, 39-40;  
1 Cor. 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27-38