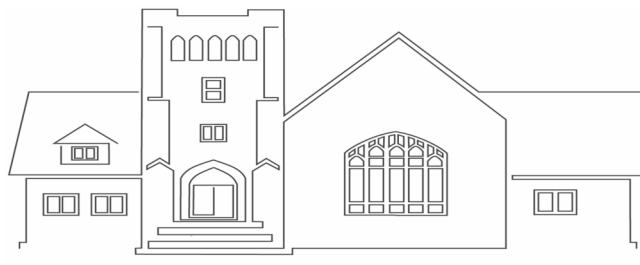


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NEWTON, IOWA
641-792-2790

THE MESSENGER



JULY, 2011

“ROOT TO RISE”

Rev. Tiare L. Mathison

The yoga teacher began, ‘Root to rise. Root yourself to the earth, planting your feet firmly on your mat. Every move you make will give you strength beyond your own. As you rise, do not lift your feet push them into the mat/earth. Then you will rise!!!’

It is the same in the Christian faith as in yoga. Pushing roots deep into the soil of the tradition gives individuals and congregations the strength to rise up in mission and ministry. Yoga can be instructive here. It is the practice and discipline of yoga week in and week out which builds body strength and awareness. Our faith roots need to continue to grow throughout the length of our lives.

At the heart of our faith is a God who wants to be in daily conversation with us. This God wants to help carry our load and lift us up when we have been knocked down by life. This God came to us in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and left us with the power of the Holy Spirit. If we root ourselves in this God, we will rise.

Simple practices of prayer, Bible reading, worship and service are the food for our faith roots to grow deep. There are tons of devotionals available as books or online. The church always stocks These Days, a daily booklet of reading Scripture and prayer. PCUSA.org is the church’s national website with lots of resources, too.

This summer root yourself in faith. Pray for the rising of yourself, your family and our beloved church. Pray for new leadership to rise up. We need new people to lead the prayer tree, organize Work Week, and speak the word ‘yes’ to the Nominating Committee for elders or deacons. We need volunteers to say yes to serve our children and youth on Wednesday nights during the school year and to take a Sunday to lead Little Church.

Deep roots will steady us as we rise. Allow the Holy Spirit to make you strong.

Help Needed for Mission Committee

We are looking for someone to represent First Presbyterian on the Mission Coalition group. They meet 7 months of the year on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:15 at the McCann Center at Sacred Heart church. This is the group that arranges for meals on the weekend for the shut-ins, arranges that all PI clients and nursing home residents receive gifts at Christmas, helps Salvation Army with the Kettle campaign, etc. I have been serving on this committee and find it necessary to give up this responsibility.

We also need to find a representative on the Companeros Committee, another committee I have served on. This is the Presbytery group that oversees and supports the El Salvador mission. Every church with a partnership such as ours needs to have a representative on this committee. I have done this for several years and it is now someone else's turn. This group meets the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Des Moines.

Finally, I am giving up leadership on the El Salvador committee here at First Presbyterian church. The group has been meeting the second Sunday of the month after church. We often go out to lunch at a local Mexican restaurant.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, contact me at 792-5220 or 521-1153.

Linda Anderson for the Mission Committee

West Virginia, Here we come!

At 7am on Friday, July 22, 19 of us will be leaving from the church parking lot on our journey to West Virginia for the 2011 Work Week trip. Those going on this years trip are: Larry and Linda Anderson, Alex Bebout, Dylan Camp, Ben Ellis, Julie Fisher, Steve, Anders and Peder Hopkins, James Leonard, Isaac Mathison-Bowie, Dick Mielke, Rachel Rickers, John and Barb Taylor, Mickey Van Baale, Blake Wathen, Helyn Wohlwend and Josh Zieman.

We will stop in Indianapolis Friday night, staying at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church. Saturday we will continue our travels. Sunday will find us attending the local church and then doing some white water rafting. We will then get to work on Monday through Thursday. We will find out our exact duties when we get there.

Our journey home will begin bright and early on Friday, July 29, stopping at McKinley Presbyterian Church in Champaign, IL. that evening. We'll arrive back in Newton by mid-afternoon on Saturday. Our Work Week group will be participating in the worship service on Sunday, July 31. Come and hear of the adventures we experienced, the tasks we accomplished, the friendships we have renewed and made stronger, and about our journey with God.

We would be remiss if we didn't thank each and every one of you for helping make this trip possible. Our main fundraiser, the ice cream social, brought in about \$2000. Our other fundraisers - Sunday morning muffin sales, two work days, garage sale and candy bar sales were also very successful because of your generosity.

Your prayers for safe travels and a productive and successful work week will be appreciated. Where God leads us, we will follow. What he asks us to do, we will do. All "with a can do attitude"!

Work Week Steering Committee:

Julie Fisher, Dana Hashman, Larry and Linda Anderson and Mickey Van Baale

NOTE: We would welcome cookies or other goodies to munch on during our travels. Please let Julie know if you would be able to donate. Thanks!

Joys and ...

Sandy Smit, organist, and Larry Anderson, choir director have each had the opportunity to attend a seminar/conference as part of our continuing education program. Both expressed thanks to the congregation for giving them this opportunity.

Sandy went to the *Des Pipes, Des Pedals* seminar which was held in Des Moines June 20-23. This seminar also included side trips to Pella and Grinnell. American Guild of Organist is the organization that holds this seminar each year.

Larry attended the *Sacred Music Summer Workshop* June 10 and 11 in Richardson, TX. This is put on by the Church Music Institute, which is dedicated to the practice, advancement, and stewardship of the best liturgical and sacred music for worship for Christian congregations.



...Concerns

Prayers go out to:

*Dave Aldridge, who was diagnosed with severe cancer. He is at home.

*Paula Moore, who continues to recuperate from knee surgery.

*Joyce Nicholson who is recovering from hip surgery.

Congratulations to Tara Peska and Erick Zehr for their marriage on June 18 at First Presbyterian Church. Rev. Tiare Mathison officiated at the ceremony. Tara is the oldest daughter of Kevin and Toni Peska and Erick is the son of Rick and Pam Zehr.



MEMBERSHIP



MOMENT

The Membership Committee would like to call your attention to the guest book and stand which are located to the right at the top of the stairs inside the front door of the church. We have moved it for two reasons. First we would like to call your attention to the stand. It is the result of the cooperation and efforts of several members of First Presbyterian Church. The wood is walnut and came from the farm of Warren and Macy Jontz north of Newton. The stand was made by Larry DeCook, copied from a catalog supplied by Marie Achtemeier. Please stop and see it. It is truly beautiful!! The second reason we moved it was to more easily get signatures of visitors to our church. In this new place it is more easily noticed by our visitors and remembered by our members when they bring visitors to church. So please remember to have any visitors sign the guest book. It is working. We are seeing more visitors signing the book since the move as compared to before.



Annette West, daughters Angela and Martha and their families, in the death of Jim on June 25 at Mercy Hospital in Des Moines.

Services for Jim were held Thursday, June 28, 2011 at First Presbyterian Church with Rev. Tiare officiating.

Brenda Rens, former office manager, and her family in the recent death of her mother in Chicago. Cards can be sent to: 5963 Harbour South Dr., Winneconne, WI 54986.

Deacons Report

The Deacons continue to visit shut ins and those in need.

In May \$195 was given to the Salvation Army Food Pantry through designated loose offerings on Graduation Sunday. In June, the Deacons asked that the loose offering on Communion Sunday be given to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in response to disasters in the Mid-West. The total donated was \$443.90.

Thank you for your generosity in helping others.

Linda Kirchhoff, Moderator

Kid's Against Hunger - Jasper County

Saturday, July 9 at Holy Trinity Church is the date for the next packaging event for Jasper County. The cost is \$30/person or \$360/team of 12. The deadline for registering is July 3. You can register as an individual or as a team by emailing Fr_john@iowatelecom.net. Please state your time preference: 9-10; 10-11; 11-12; 12-1; 1-2, when registering.

Checks are payable to Holy Trinity and need to be to the church by July 9. If you are unable to help with the packaging, donations are welcome for the cost of the supplies. Please write in the memo section of your check if you are packaging or if you are sending in a donation.

A few individuals from First Presbytery have helped in the past. Let's see if we can form a team of 12. This would be a great opportunity for people of all ages - adults and youth.

We are looking forward to seeing you at this event to stomp out hunger.

Summer Worship Opportunities

Why come to church, when there's so much to do and so little time the rest of the week? The writer of the letter to the Hebrews says, "let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another."

Why go to the trouble of offering music in worship? St. Augustine says, "He who sings prays twice." And I'm sure if he had access to all the musical instruments and technology we have today, he would have included those too.

*Please offer your gifts of music during the summer months **Dates still open are: July 3, July 17, July 24 or any Sunday in August.** There is room throughout the year for varieties of music, but during the summer we especially look forward to different ways to worship God through music.*

Contact Larry Anderson (641-792-5220) or Kim Schnell (641-792-4930), or the church office. Thanks!



Special
Music this
Summer

Budget and Finance Corner

Paula Moore, Chairperson

For the month of May, pledges were below budget by \$3,392. Other regular giving was high for the month. Investigations are being done to be sure all giving has been put in the correct categories.

Expense categories are close to their budgeted amounts. In total, expenses were \$979 below budget.

The year-to-date figures show pledge income is under budget by \$7,109 and overall expenses are under budget by \$1,816.

Committees and the general congregation are diligently watching expenses and we sincerely appreciate the good stewardship of all. We thank everyone for their attentiveness.

Mark Your Calendar

On August 20, our church, along with the congregation of UP church will be hosting Presbytery. The morning will start at 8:30 a.m. at our church with registration. Refreshments are served during this time.

The morning session will be held at our church. The group will then have lunch at United Presbyterian church. It has not been determined yet which church will have the afternoon session.

We will need volunteers from our church to serve as greeters, help with registration, help with the morning refreshments and perhaps fix food for the lunch.

Please check your calendar and let Mickey Van Baale know if you would be able to help. You can get this information to her by phone:641-521-0549 or email: vanbaaleent@iowatelecom.net.

Highlights from Session

By Dave Boyd, Clerk of Session

June 21, 2011 Meeting:

- Approved utilizing Memorial Fund monies to upgrade our computer system, install a ceiling fan in the parlor and give the staff a mid-year monetary gift.
- Set August 14 for our church picnic. Reservations have been made at Woodland park. Activities to include FOOD, Softball, etc.
- In light of the changes to the Book of Order, adopted the current standards for quorums at Session and Congregation meetings.
- Set July 21 as the date for a Session Retreat to discuss and establish direction for our church programs in the months and year ahead.



2011

Christian Nurture joyfully reports that our partnership with First Lutheran Church and United Presbyterian Church presenting Pandamania for Vacation Bible School was a great success. Each day from June 20-24 we taught 35-49 children about God's love for them. The children participated in singing, games, crafts, Bible study, and snacks and had a wonderful time learning that God is wild about all of us!

Children attending from our church were Cody Barney, Whitney and Jane Hadley Critchfield, Kester, Elizabeth and Alexandria Grimm, Skye Koenen, and Owen and Olivia Norrish.

We collected school supplies, food and toys to be taken to Pine Ridge Indian reservation. The offering was \$250 for the week. This money will be used to purchase one sheep, a flock of chickens, a flock of ducks, a hive of honey bees and a trio of rabbits.

A big thank you to everyone from First Presbyterian who donated food, decorations, time, and talent. A special thank you to our youth helpers: Natalie Camp, Kyle Lockhart, Emily Miller, and Megan Ritter. Thank you also to adult helpers Valerie Barney, Linda Curtis-Stolper, Jane Repp, Rachel Rickers, George Wilkening, Mel Wohlwend, and Deb and Josh Zieman.

Respectfully submitted,

Helyn Wohlwend

From Older Adult Ministries Newsletter

Blessed In Aging

~Esther Mary Walker

Blessed are they who understand
My faltering step and shaking hand.

Blessed, who know my ears today
Must strain to hear the things they say.

Blessed are those who seem to know
My eyes are dim and my mind is slow.

Blessed are those who look away
When I spilled tea that weary day.
Blessed are they who, with cheery smile
Stopped to chat for a little while.

Blessed are they who know the way
To bring back memories of yesterday.

Blessed are those who never say
"You've told that story twice today".

Blessed are they who make it known
That I am loved, respected and not alone.
And blessed are they who will ease the days
Of my journey home, in loving ways.

Church Picnic and Softball

After the success of last year's church picnic and softball game, it has been decided to hold this again. The date has been set - August 14. We know the place - Westwood Park. Other details need to be worked out. There is talk that we might even hold our church service in the park.

Please mark this date on your calendar and watch the bulletins, Church Happenings and the August Messenger for more details.

Ann Cutts, Worship and Music
Dan Ritter, Church Life (or Party Committee)



A group is investigating the idea of going to Joplin MO in early October to help with the rebuilding work going on there. If you are interested or even just curious, please contact Dave Boyd or Val McKee for more information and background on working with PDA in this kind of situation.

Thanks!
Dave Boyd

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 Hours: M, W, Thurs: 8am to 4pm
Custodian Hours: M-Thurs: 8am to 11am

Tiare Mathison, Pastor - 641-792-2790
tmath@iowatelecom.net

Effective February 19, 2010

The church and church office are closed on Fridays.
Tiare can be reached in case of emergencies at
641-840-0109.



Happy Birthday to....

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2 Dave Gallaher | 18 Jean Bloomquist |
| 3 Diane Moles | 21 Dana Hashman |
| 4 Frank Liebl | 23 Joyce Moen |
| 5 Natalie Camp | 25 Max Worthington |
| 7 Cal Van Rees | Patrick Cupples |
| 8 Jill Brown | Chris Norvell |
| Ron Funk | 27 Samantha Cutts |
| Kert Schnell | Jim Baker |
| Kim Illingsworth | 28 Janet Mount |
| 9 Carl Zacheis | Sherry Reynolds |
| 11 Randy Simpson | Taylor Peska |
| 14 Esther Faidley | 29 LaVonne Erickson |
| Jeff Ergenbright | Carol Camp |
| 17 Ken Johnson | Devin Swank (<i>Carson</i>) |
| | 30 Teresa Van Rees |

JULY EVENTS

- | | | | |
|--------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1 6:30 a.m. | Men's Group | 15 6:30 p.m. | Men's Group |
| 2 9:00 a.m. | Spanish | 16 9:00 a.m. | Spanish |
| 4 | Happy 4 th | 20 6:00 p.m. | Spanish |
| 5 5:00 p.m. | Personnel | 21 9:00 a.m. | Men's Fellowship |
| 6 6:00 p.m. | Spanish | 22 5:30 p.m. | Session |
| 7 9:00 a.m. | Men's Fellowship | 23 9:00 a.m. | Spanish |
| 1:30 p.m. | Park Centre Worship | 23-30 7:00 a.m. | Work Week |
| 9 9:00 a.m. | Spanish | 27 6:00 p.m. | Spanish |
| 11 1:30 p.m. | Newton Village Worship | 30 9:00 a.m. | Spanish |
| 13 6:00 p.m. | Spanish | | |

Sunday Worship Hours

9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

11:15 a.m. Fellowship



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

641-792-2790

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Lectionary —

July, 2011

July 3 (14th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Gen. 24: 34-38, 42-49, 58-67

Ps. 45:10-17 or S. of Sol. 2:8-13

Rom. 7:15-25a; Matt. 11:16-19, 25-30

July 10 (15th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Gen. 25:19-34; *Ps. 119:105-112*; Rom. 8:1-11

Matt. 13:1-9, 18-23

July 17 (16th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Gen. 28:10-19a; *Ps. 139:1-12, 23-24*

Rom. 8:12-25; Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43

July 24 (17th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Gen. 29:15-28; *Ps. 105:1-11, 45b or Ps. 128*

Rom. 8:26-39; Matt. 13:31-33, 44-52

July 31 (18th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

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

Matt. 14: 13-21

August, 2011

August 7 (19th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Gen. 37:1-4, 12-28; *Ps. 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b*

Rom. 10:5-15; Matt. 14:22-33

August 14 (20th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Gen. 45:1-15; *Ps. 133*; Rom. 11:1-2a, 29-32

Matt. 15:(10-20) 21-28

August 21 (21st Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Exod. 1:8-2:10; *Ps. 124*; Rom. 12:1-8

Matt. 16:13-20

August 28 (22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Exod. 3:1-15; *Ps. 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c*

Rom. 12:9-21; Matt. 16:21-28