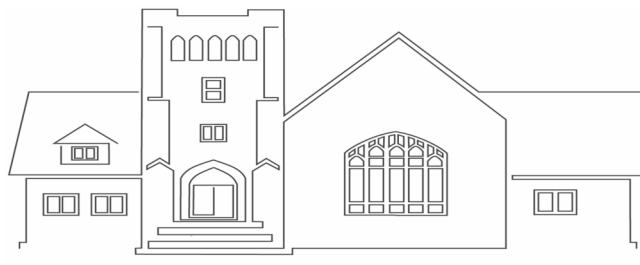


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NEWTON, IOWA
641-792-2790

THE MESSENGER



MARCH, 2011

FREE!!!

LEANING INTO GRACE IN THIS SEASON OF LENT

Rev. Tiare L. Mathison

The radical claim of salvation through Jesus Christ comes to you free of charge; you owe nothing!!! If you decide to participate in this amazing offer, you will be asked to change your life, but you incur no debt, no obligation, other than this: receive the free gift, live into it, enjoy it, celebrate it, speak about it when you arise and when you rest be thankful for it. It is a gift called grace, given by the Holy One we can name GRACE.

As we enter this season of Lent you are invited to practice your faith by receiving grace and offering grace, a reciprocal measure, based in this amazing notion: **‘Therefore we have peace with God (because) we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand through our Lord Jesus Christ...’ Romans 5.** This simple word ‘Grace’ contains everything you need. Faith, forgiveness, hope and generosity are yours for the taking FREE of charge, because GRACE is present right here, right now. God is not removed like a watchmaker who got everything going and then left rather God is the giver of life, literally. The second story of creation says God gave humanity everything, including breath! Not one to abandon creation, God continues to be present through the Holy Spirit to each of us, to all of us, every single day of our lives.

The challenge in this Lenten season is to let down our guard trusting GRACE’S presence to empower us toward receiving and forgiving. It is a gesture of the will to bend toward GRACE and it takes practice. Here are some suggestions for bending your knee:

- 1) Take time to be silent – and listen (same letters, just rearranged!) every day for GRACE to speak to you about your own life and the life of the world
- 2) Read the gospel of John out loud
- 3) Attend Lenten Breakfasts (Begins March 9th, 6:45am-7:30am)
- 4) Join the Lutherans in their Lenten Supper and Study at Holy Trinity, Dinner at 5:30 and Study at 7:00
- 5) Walk the Labyrinth during Holy Week
- 6) Offer yourself in service to the community somehow

“Silence is God’s primary language. Everything else is a poor translation.”

Thomas Keating.

Often Lent is a season of giving something up so you are invited to give up your busyness, turn off your TV, radio, computer and cell phone, allowing the silence to touch your soul. Instead of trying to figure things out, let it go to GRACE in prayer, waiting for the Spirit to guide you toward Her marvelous light. It’s FREE!!!

Mark Your Calendar ...

By Dan Ritter, Church Life Committee

*Sunday, March 13 will be our annual Potato Bar. This will be held in Fellowship Hall following worship. The committee will furnish potatoes with several toppings along with drinks and desserts. A free-will offering will be taken. Our church is known for it's hospitality. This is a great event to invite a friend, potential member, or member who hasn't attended in a while. There is always plenty to share.



LENTEN BREAKFAST

Our traditional Lenten breakfasts will begin on Wednesday morning, March 9, which is Ash Wednesday. Breakfast begins at 6:45 am and devotions run from approximately 7:30 to 7:45. This allows those who work to attend and arrive at work on time. Below is the schedule for those cooking and those doing devotions. Thank you to Mary Jane Tripp for making the contacts and getting these organized.

<u>DATES</u>	<u>DEVOTIONS</u>	<u>COOKS</u>
3/9	Tiare Mathison	Linda & Warren Erickson
3/16	Larry Anderson	Linda & Larry Anderson
3/23	Linda Kirchoff	Paula Moore
3/30	Dave Aldridge	Barb & John Taylor
4/6	George Wilkening	Mary Jane Tripp & Sandy Cheney
4/13	Mickey VanBaale	Kay & Gary Parsons
4/20	Don Black	Larry & Shari DeCook



Fund Raising Dinner for Muñoces Delegation

Thanks to all who donated to the El Salvador mission in conjunction with the dinner on Feb. 12. It was a great success. The total raised is in excess of \$2000. This will help our friends in Muñoces greatly, as we will use the money to buy tools and fertilizer and provide tuition scholarships for high school education.

Approximately 40 people attended the dinner. A thank you to the hosts for the individual tables, Larry and Linda Anderson, Tom and Nancy Mott, Linda Erickson, Barb Taylor and Lee and Veronica Mangrich. During the meal, slide shows were shown of pictures taken on previous trips.

A program was presented featuring a solo by Rachel Rickers, guest comedian, Tom Mott and Larry and Linda Anderson giving information on the Munoces objectives. Veronica Mangrich also spoke about the medical delegation which will be going to Berlin, El Salvador in April. Tom Mott will be a part of that group.

As the Messenger goes to press, Linda Anderson, her daughter Jenny, and Warren Erickson are visiting our friends in the village of Muñoces. They have brought gifts from our congregation of hand tools for each family as well as money for fertilizer and scholarships. If you haven't had an opportunity to give a special offering for our ministry in Muñoces just leave a check at the church with Muñoces on the memo line. We are still collecting funds for our ongoing mission there.

Also, Kimberly Schnell is leaving at the end of February to spend much of March in Berlin, El Salvador, on her personal mission to help the children of a school there as well as patients in a physical therapy clinic. The medical mission, begun by First Presbyterian and continued by Sacred Heart, will be spending a week in Berlin providing medical, dental, and vision screenings in several of the villages around Berlin. Tom Mott will be serving as an optometrist on that mission. Our prayers go with them all as they serve the poor in El Salvador.

The El Salvador Committee and the 2011 delegation

Update on Lynn Home

By Joan Tyler, Foundation Committee

As was reported earlier, Jim and Linda Lynn have given their home to our church Foundation.

They have moved to the northwest. Watch for news about an open house and plans for selling the house.

The intent of the Foundation is to sell the home and the proceeds will be put into the Foundation fund. Monies from this fund go toward capital improvements at the church.

Little Church begins March 6

By Kathy Ventling, Chair of Christian Nurture

What is "Little Church" you might ask? Our committee has been trying to find an alternative to the Sunday school classes. We agreed to start small and incorporate additional ideas as we assess ages and interests of youth participating in the program.

The program will start after Children's Time in "Big Church" and will be housed within the old Kindergarten room off the nursery. It will be open to youth of ALL ages in the church and involve a small Bible lesson, a craft or motor activity, and possibly a music component.

I will be coordinating the program—working on curriculum, volunteer rotation schedule, and programming. Craft materials will be used from existing supplies within the church to keep costs low.

Our plan is to continue the program through summer. This may help with continuity and reduce the issue of recruitment and sporadic attendance. Our committee will do periodic check-ins with families/participants to see if the program is adequately serving the needs of our youth.

Condolences to the Family of...



Charlotte Elliott

Charlotte passed away at Monarch Wing at Skiff Hospital on February 21. Services were held at First Presbyterian Church on Thursday afternoon, February 24, with Tiare presiding.

Charlotte is survived by her 2 sons, Norman (Debbie) Elliott of Newton and Philip Elliott of Newton; 2 daughters, Cheryl Williamsen of Newton and Karen (Justin) Richmond of Shellknow, Missouri; her 14 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and her many nieces and nephews.

Her husband, Quinton, preceeded her in death in 2003.

Highlights from Session

By Dave Boyd, Clerk of Session

- Confirmands will be examined by the Elders on April 3
- IPC will host Des Moines Presbytery on August 20.
- Little Church starts March 6.
- Membership Committee will look into conducting a survey aimed at gathering demographic information about our congregation in support of PC(USA)'s annual surveys.
- Disaster preparedness will be reviewed following a pattern developed by PDA. Contacts will also be made with local Disaster Readiness personnel to see what, if any, fit and/or overlap we might encounter working with other plans already in place in Newton.

Approved Annual Statistical Report as required by The Book of Order

West Virginia, Here We Come Work Week, 2011

As we mentioned in last month's Messenger, this year's delegation will be travelling to West Virginia and working with West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy and Workcamps (WVMAW). Julie Fisher has recently received notification the group will be at the Kopperston location, which is 2 hours south of Charleston.

The initial informational meeting was held following worship on February 27. Those interested were informed on the costs involved, as well as the expectations of being a member of the Work Week team. Those include attending all Covenant meetings and participating in all fund raisers.

Covenant meetings will be held from 6-7:30 in Fellowship Hall on the following dates:

- March 20
- April 10
- May 15
- July 10

Work Week Steering Committee:
Julie Fisher, Dana Hashman, Larry and Linda Anderson and Mickey Van Baale



Ice Cream Social on June 14

One of the main fund raisers for Work Week is the Ice Cream social. Please mark your calendar now to save the date. Watch for future updates and requests for pies, cakes, and help.



Garage Sale Fund Raiser

The expense to go on this year's Work Week is greater than last year. Additional fundraisers are being planned to help defer these costs. We are planning a garage sale in the church parking lot. A date has yet to be set.

As you go through your treasures and decide you want to get rid of them, call Dana Hashman at 792-8820 or Julie Fisher at 792-0585 and arrangements will be made to pick up your items. We will be storing them in the Youth House until the time of the garage sale. Watch for further updates.



WORK WEEK GARAGE SALE

Two Work Days April 30 and May 14

Do you need your windows washed to enjoy seeing the Spring sun? Perhaps you need some help with having your yard raked or flower beds cleaned out. Maybe you would like to have your garage cleaned out. How about some painting to any out buildings. You ask and we will be glad to help, if at all possible.

Another annual fund raiser for Work Week is our work day. This year, however, we are hoping to have enough requests to offer two days.

Dana Hashman will be taking requests for the April 30 work day from April 1 to April 17. This will allow enough time to organize the projects and get participants assigned.

Watch for further information on both of the work days. We'd love to help you out with your projects.

What If: Emergency Closure of the Church

With all of the flu concerns and knowing winter is coming to Iowa (oh yes it is!!) plans are being updated to communicate any changes in our schedules at the church. We will continue to notify KCOB Radio as early as possible of any changes. 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 have established an account with WHO radio whereby we can update any information via the internet. Changes to our schedules will appear simultaneously on WHO, KXNO, KKDM-FM, KPTL-FM AND KDRB-FM websites and will be available for on-air dissemination on WHO so if in doubt, check one of these sources. If we're not there, then the schedule has not been changed.

Please address any questions or concerns to Dave Boyd or Tiare.

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

Sara Hopkins, CLP - 641-792-2790
shopkins1@iowatelecom.net
(In the office on Wednesdays only)

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.

Budget and Finance Corner

Paula Moore, Chairperson

January pledges received were above the budgeted amount, primarily due to prepaid 2011 pledges. We thank those who have prepaid 2011 pledges and those that continue honoring their 2011 pledges with timely payments. Expenses were below budget for January due to fewer maintenance costs and, thank goodness, less snow removal this year. Overall the church is in good financial shape, but we must continue our vigilance to keep costs down while maintaining our current programs.

In 2010 23 members paid their own per capita that goes to the Presbytery, which totaled \$690 that could be used for church expenses. To date, two people have paid their 2011 per capita of \$32 per member, which has been increased by \$2 in 2011. We thank those who felt God's calling to assist with these payments.

I recently heard a message on the radio talking about the church as the "Mother" of a congregation. The Mother is the soul of the congregation and must continue to be nourished, loved and supported. If the Mother is not supported she will disappear and the children will scatter. We need to continue our "Mother" support to keep this wonderful church and its programs strong.

MEMBERSHIP



MOMENT

The Membership Committee has new energy and renewed focus. Like the other Session committees, we have reviewed the Callers Campaign reports and are using the information to plan what we will focus on this year. The reports have provided a much-needed road map for the future of the Church.

Cathy Rickers and Gary Parsons, Co-Chairs



March Birthdays

- 2 Katelyn Camp
- 3 Harold Tiedje
- 5 Cheryl Harrington
- 6 Jennifer Ventling
- 8 Barb Gallaher
- 9 Kevin Peska
- 11 Linda Curtis-Stolper

- 13 Mary Ann Ringgenberg
Michele Ergenbright
- 14 Samantha LaRue
- 18 Linda Berkey
Pat Wallace
Virginia Bennett
- 19 Rod Brooks
Vickie Carson
Jim West
- 21 Julie Fisher
- 22 Elsie Nelson
- 23 Dan Skokan
- 26 Don Black
Elizabeth Mount
- 29 Ruth Appleby
Loretta Wendt
Les Gause
- 30 Ben Smit
Scott Roskilly
- 31 Landon Ferguson

EVENTS


- 1 4:45 p.m. Personnel Committee
- 2 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study
5:00 p.m. WDW
6:00 p.m. Confirmation Meal
Spanish Class
6:30 p.m. Confirmation
7:00 p.m. Choir
- 3 9:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship
1:30 p.m. Park Centre Worship
- 4 6:30 a.m. Men's Group
9:00 a.m. Spanish
- 6 8:30 a.m. Deacons
- 7 1:30 p.m. Newton Village Worship
4:00 p.m. Building & Grounds
5:30 p.m. Christian Nurture
6:00 p.m. Budget and Finance
6:30 p.m. Bell Choir
- 8 5:00 p.m. Mission
- 9 6:45 a.m. Lenten Breakfast - Ash Wednesday
9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study
6:00 p.m. Spanish Class
Confirmation meal
6:30 p.m. Confirmation
7:00 p.m. Choir
- 10 5:00 p.m. Foundation
- 12 9:00 a.m. Spanish Class
- 13 Day Light Savings Begins
8:30 a.m. Church Life
9:00 a.m. Middle & High School Breakfast
11:30 a.m. Potato Bar
2:00 p.m. Confirmation class goes to "Godspell"

- 14 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir
- 15 5:45 p.m. Session Meal
7:00 p.m. Session
- 16 6:45 a.m. Lenten Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study
6:00 p.m. Confirmation Meal
Spanish Class
Confirmation
7:00 p.m. Choir
- 17 9:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship
- 18 6:30 a.m. Men's Group
- 19 9:00 a.m. Spanish Class
- 20 4:00 p.m. Sundays @ Four
6:00 p.m. 1st Covenant Meeting for Work Week
- 21 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir
Worship & Music
- 23 6:45 a.m. Lenten Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study
6:00 p.m. Spanish Class
7:00 p.m. Choir
- 26 9:00 a.m. Spanish Class
- 28 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir
- 30 6:45 p.m. Lenten Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study
6:00 p.m. Confirmation Meal
Spanish
6:30 p.m. Confirmation
7:00 p.m. Choir

Sunday Worship Hours

- 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
- 10:00 a.m. Fellowship
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- 11:30 a.m. Fellowship





First Presbyterian Church
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Newton, Iowa 50208

641-792-2790

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Lectionary —

March, 2011

March 6

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

March 13 (1st Sunday in Lent)

Gen. 2:15-17; 3:1-7; *Ps. 32*; Rom. 5:12-19
Matt. 4:1-11

March 20 (2nd Sunday in Lent)

Gen. 12:1-4a; *Ps. 121*; Rom. 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17

March 27 (3rd Sunday in Lent)

Exod. 17:1-7; *Ps. 95*; Rom. 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

April, 2011

April 3 (4th Sunday in Lent)

1 Sam. 15: 1-13; *Ps. 23*; Eph. 3:8-14; John 9:1-41

April 10 (5th Sunday in Lent)

Ezek. 37:1-14; *Ps. 130*; Rom. 8:6-11
John 11:1-45

April 17 (Palm Sunday)

Palms: Matt. 21:1-11; *Ps. 118:1-2, 19-29*
Passion: Isa. 50:4-9a; *Ps. 31:9-16*; Phil. 2:5-11
Matt. 26:14-27:66 *or* Matt. 27:11-54

April 24 (Easter)

Acts 10:34-43 *or* Jer. 31:1-6; *Ps. 118:1-2, 14-24*; Col. 3:1-4 *or* Acts 10:34-43
John 20:1-18 *or* Matt. 28:1-10; Isa. 25:6-9
Ps. 114; 1 Cor. 5:6b-8; Luke 24:13-49