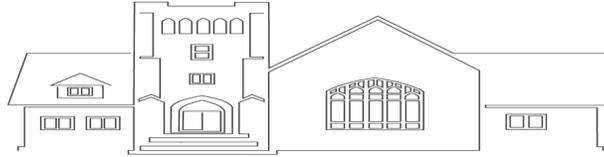


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NEWTON, IOWA
641-792-2790

"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



MARCH 2017

Meghan's Musings

Show Up for Lent

This month I've decided to share my space with a special guest contributor. Our dear and recently departed Wendell Wendt wrote this for his article in the *Newton Daily News* February 15, 2005, and I thought it would be more than appropriate to re-print it in this time and place.

We Are One Church has been a blessing

One of the great blessings in my life has been the church, specifically Newton's First Presbyterian Church, where I've been a member since 1947.

The church does at least three things for me. Through its Sunday service, it keeps me connected to God. Sometimes during the week, my relationship with God is neglected. But at the Sunday service through prayer, praising God with song, scripture reading and the pastor's sermon, God and I reconnect.

The second thing the church does for me is provide an avenue through which I can serve others. This has included teaching Sunday school, serving on church boards, using my newspaper experience on church publications and financially supporting the church's mission projects.

The third thing my church has provided is fellowship. During more than 50 years in Newton, the majority of my family's friends have been people with strong church connections. They have brought me social pleasure, mental



Wendell
WENDT

Feature
Columnist

challenge and emotional support when needed.

As you read this, we are in the second week of Lent, a period which Christians turn their thoughts toward the sacrifice of Jesus for our benefit and through his resurrection, his victory over sin.

Lent is a time for each of us to renew our relationship with God and his mystery and to return to his church to discover even more blessings.

I invite you to carefully re-read Wendell's concluding sentence. It says it all. The season of Lent offers us an opportunity to really focus on our faith, on our relationship with God and even on our relationship with the church family in a special way that no other time in the church year does. So this year, I'm inviting you to enter willingly in to the valley of

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

Lent. And rather than “giving up” something for Lent, I invite you to “show up” for Lent. Show up for worship. Perhaps challenge yourself to come for worship every Sunday in Lent. Perhaps challenge yourself to get up early and show up for the Lenten breakfast. Every Lenten breakfast. Every week. Perhaps show up for the special services at the beginning and end of Lent: Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, the Cross Walk on Good Friday. Perhaps challenge yourself to show up for church life activities or “extra-curricular” activities (like our kids’ games, concerts, plays). Show up for worship and fellowship opportunities that you might not have otherwise. Show up and see how you might be changed. Show up and see how our church family might be changed. Show up for Lent.

2017 Lenten Breakfasts and Devotions

A wonderful tradition that continues in our church is the Lenten breakfasts and devotions. These start on Ash Wednesday and continue every Wednesday morning through Lent. We start breakfast at 6:45 am with devotions following. We strive to finish by 7:45 to 7:50 for those needing to get to work.

Below is the schedule for this year. A big “thank you” goes out to Mary Jane Tripp for making the contacts to find those who will prepare the meal and those who offer the devotions each week.

We hope to see many of you there.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Breakfast</u>	<u>Devotions</u>
March 1	John & Barb Taylor	Rev. Megan Davis
March 8	Dave Stolper & Linda Curtis-Stolper	Linda Curtis-Stolper
March 15	Larry & Linda Anderson	Larry Anderson
March 22	Gary & Kay Parsons	Dave Stolper
March 29	Carl & Jane Repp	Mickey Van Baale
April 5	Larry & Shari DeCook	George Wilkening
April 12	Tom & Nancy Mott	Terry Rickers

Building and Grounds

George Wilkening, Chair

At our February meeting, we prioritized expenditures for 2017 to include roof repair, sanctuary ceiling repair and exterior tuck-pointing of the building. If additional funds become available, we will address decaying trim and painting of trim on the exterior of the building.

The front railings are built and awaiting powder coating.

In other matters, we addressed issues of the Friendship House ramp with Kid Assist supplying materials for repair and Mission Committee supplying labor. We looked at basement storage issues and the proposal to use the house in a cooperative effort with other downtown churches. We finished with discussions of landscape repair in the front yard.





IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

✠ To Clayton and the rest of the Case/Schieffer family in the death of Cheryl. Cheryl passed away on Monday, February 13th following a long illness. A memorial service was held on Saturday, February 18, at the Wallace Family Funeral Home and Crematory. Cheryl was born on August 16, 1946 to Robert and Jermayn (Grover) Schieffer in Rice Lake, Wisconsin. She graduated from Rice Lake High School and went on to attend Wisconsin State University in River Falls. It was there that she fell in love with Clayton Case and the two were united in marriage on March 8, 1967. Their family was complete when they welcomed their daughter, Noel Jean.

In 1972 the family moved to Newton. During her 45 years there Cheryl made countless friends and was active in many groups and organizations including TTT, PEO, Theta Chi, bridge and luncheon clubs as well participating in golf and bowling leagues. Cheryl was also a member of First Presbyterian Church of Newton.

Her daughter, Noel, brought her the greatest joy in life and the two shared a remarkably close relationship. It was only natural then that her grandchildren would become an extension of that joy. Cheryl was very close with all nine of her siblings and their children. She treasured the trips back to her hometown for weddings, graduations and family reunions. She looked forward to every October when she and her sisters, daughter and nieces would gather for the Schieffer girls' weekend together. Last year was made even more special as her granddaughter, Delaney, was able to attend for the first time. Cheryl is survived by husband Clayton, daughter and son-in-law Noel and Mike Lefebure and grandchildren Delaney and Campbell Hoffman and Brandon, Evan and Justin Lefebure. She is further survived by her siblings Carolyn (Hank) Ackerson, Kathy (Steve) Harrington, Rebecca (Michael) Macone, Bob Jr. (Barb) Schieffer, Kurt (Tracy) Schieffer, Ren (Debbie) Schieffer, Todd (Sally) Schieffer and Peggy (Rob) Shofner, sister-in-law Sondra Larson and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her mother and father-in-law Clayton Sr. and Mae Case, son-in-law Eric Hoffman, and sister and brother-in-law Bonnie and Larry Foss.

Cheryl was an absolute treasure to many and will be deeply missed.

✠ To Tom and Susan Weeks and family in the death of Susan's mother, Rose Ann Cranston. Rose Ann passed away on Wednesday, February 22, 2017, at Skiff Medical Center in Newton. Funeral services were held on Saturday, February 25, 2017, at 12:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Newton with Rev. Meghan Davis officiating. Burial took place at Highland Cemetery in Mystic, Iowa.

The daughter of George W. and Anna (Aitken) Armstrong, Rose Ann was born on May 12, 1931, in Centerville, Iowa. She graduated from Mystic High School. On July 27, 1952, she was united in marriage to Robert Gene Cranston. Rose Ann worked in sales at Leonard's Women's Wear in Newton, Younkers and Walmart in Newton, retiring at the age of 80. Rose Ann enjoyed playing bridge and belonged to several bridge clubs. She also enjoyed traveling, bird watching and being with her family.

Those left to honor her memory include her children, Rob (Mary) Cranston of Normal, Illinois and Susan (Tom) Weeks of Newton; grandchildren, Tom (Elmira) Weeks of Los Angeles, California, Steve (Jen) Weeks of Newton, Mark Cranston of Louisville, Kentucky, Rick (Ina) Cranston of Mariehamn, Finland and Alla Smothers of Waukeg; great granddaughters, Anna, Caroline and Ebba; two siblings, Robert Armstrong of Loves Park, Illinois and Mary Ellen Houser of Moulton, Iowa. Preceding her in death were her parents, husband, and five brothers and sisters, George, Arthur, Kenneth, Vivian and Shirley.



View from the Pews

"Be looking for our First Presbyterian seniors to be featured in the upcoming View From The Pews!"



From Mike Duffus:

From Catherine and Marti, Wendell and Loretta Wendt's daughters:

*Thank You
so much for
thinking of me
following my
surgery. The
flowers were
appreciated.*

Your Friend

Mike

*Dear First Presbyterian Church members,
Thank you for your awesome
emotional and practical support
to the Wendt family. Mom and
Dad would be pleased that
many of their household items
are going to help those who are
less fortunate.*

Catherine & Marti

Thanks to everyone who said yes to doing the Lenten breakfast/devotions for me.

Mary Jane Tripp

MEMBERSHIP



MOMENT

The Membership Committee has recently spearheaded efforts to increase church members' presence at high school athletic and fine arts events. It is our aim to let our high school age students know how proud we are of their achievements, and to encourage them in their growth in these areas. Groups have attended Newton High School basketball games, and, under the leadership of the Church Growth Committee, will participate in a dinner and theatre evening to see the Newton High School production of Beauty and the Beast. Membership Committee is one of three Session committees comprising the Church Growth Committee, and is represented by Val McKee and Gary Parsons.

With a small group, Rev. Davis will be commencing a program on evangelism study, using the text "Unbinding the Gospel". Depending on the small group's reaction to the program, it is possible that it might later be expanded to include all of the congregation.

A group of energetic church members met on Thursday, February 9 to participate in a "PEW" (Pray, Eat, Work) dinner, devotions, and work project. Work accomplished included moving the handbell choir tables table cushions, music and other equipment to a room on the second floor of the church building. Since the instruments themselves could be adversely affected by changes in humidity, it was decided to keep the bells in their cases on the first floor, which is more evenly heated, cooled, and humidity-controlled. The group also reorganized the Power Room furnishings so that the room would once again be functional, and moved some of the youth and junior choir music that had been stored in that room to the same room housing the handbell supplies and other music. We will be looking into the possibility of donating the youth and junior choir robes, which have not been utilized for about two decades, to a church which may be able to use them. Look for future PEW events to take place in the spring!



Please join us to celebrate Doug's retirement
 30 years of service
 Saturday, March 4th, 1:00pm-5:00pm
 Van Wyk Winery
 802 4th Street, Sully, Iowa
 No Gifts Requested

Something New

Tara Zehr

A trial run for a youth group program here at First Presbyterian Church is in the works! Our first session will be Wednesday, March 15th at 7:00 pm. Ultimately we hope to have a continuing youth group meeting the first Wednesday every month, with adjustments made as needed based on turnout. As of right now our intended audience is 8th grade through high school aged students, but knowing we also have younger members at church right now, we hope to eventually grow this to include more age groups. If you have any interest, questions or suggestions, please contact Meghan or Tara Zehr (tarazehr@gmail.com).

Worship and Music

Linda Kirchhoff, Chair

At our committee meeting we:

- ◆ Reviewed worship services since December. It was generally felt that the all-church pageant is working well.
- ◆ Planned to confirm whether the broadcasting license was renewed. Linda will check this. Larry asked about the CCL license. It appears both may be expired currently.
- ◆ Discussed services and activities for Lent and Easter. Mary Jane Tripp lined up people to do Lenten breakfasts and devotions. Meghan planned a morning Ash Wednesday service and 6:30 pm service. Meghan reports that plans are under way for the Easter breakfast and for an alternative to the egg hunt. Meghan will see that the palms get ordered for Palm Sunday.
- ◆ Agreed that it is working well for the worship leader to light the Christ candle at the beginning of worship. Meghan has found replacements on the few occasions when a worship leader has preferred not to take on the task.
- ◆ Received a report from Meghan that one person has brought up her concern about the length of the worship service. There followed a brief discussion. It was decided to return to the practice of omitting the middle hymn on communion Sundays. We also discussed whether to omit the Joys and Concerns segment on those Sundays. It was generally felt that this has become an integral and valuable part of worship and so should be kept.
- ◆ Discussed the selection of hymns. The committee felt there should be a balance of hymns relevant to the lectionary/worship theme with the desire to encourage more robust congregational singing by using familiar hymns and using the choir to help introduce new hymns.
- ◆ Confirmed that Larry would team with Sandy to work on music for the summer.

Church Life

Tara Zehr, Chair

Movie Night Recap

A great turn out for our first event of 2017. 23 adults, 2 children and 1 ZuZu shared a meal of walking tacos and a variety of desserts, bars and cookies. The party then moved over to the far side of Fellowship Hall to watch "Sully" and snack on popcorn. Desserts, pop and popcorn were provided by the Church Life committee members, meat and movie set up were provided by the Ritter family. Thank you to everyone who came and enjoyed dinner and the movie with us!

Date & Time	Event
March 12, 2017, 11:30 am	Potato Bar – this is the main fundraiser for the committee
April 16, 2017, 9:15 am	Easter Breakfast
May 21, 2017, 9:00 am	Graduation Breakfast jointly with Christian Nurture committee. Emily Miller, Jordan Norvell, Megan Ritter, Josh Ventling
July 16, 2017, 10:00 am	Worship at Woodland, jointly with Worship and Music committee
August 27, 2017, 10:00 am	Rally Day Ecumenical Worship Service
September 17, 2017, 4:00 pm from church	Hayride and Weenie Roast at the Ritter Camp
October 15, 2017, 4:00 pm	Progressive Dinner
November 19, 2017, 11:30 am	Thanksgiving Feast and Communion, jointly with Worship and Music Committee
December 17, 2017, 4:00 pm	Christmas Caroling followed by supper

Next event: Potato Bar on March 12th

The annual Potato Bar will be held on Sunday, March 12, 2017, immediately after worship in the Fellowship Hall. Come and have a big, piping hot, baked potato and load it up with your favorite toppings: chili, broccoli, tomatoes, cheese, butter, green onions, sour cream, and onions. Dessert bars and beverages will also be served and a free-will offering will be taken. The funds raised are used by the Church Life Committee for other events during the year.

Christian Nurture

Karen Quinn, Chair

Mission Committee

Marilyn McCallister, Chair

March 5 -- One Great Hour of Sharing promotion including Blue Sunday for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance celebration will be on Sunday, March 5. Wear blue (better yet, a PDA t-shirt, if you have one) to church on March 5 to remind us of the importance of PDA and the special offering for One Great Hour of Sharing. (Below is a picture of those who wore blue on Blue Sunday last year.)

March event – Twelve workers for Mariners In Mission will be painting, building a shed, and sewing curtains at Camp NaCoMe, Pleasantville, Tennessee. The camp provides the supplies for the work, and MIMs provide the labor.

March 12 - The steering committee for Work Week will meet in Brooklyn to decide on the location for this year's mission trip.

March 23 – Days For Girls International workshop was held in fellowship hall on February 23. Fifteen people worked on the multiple pieces needed for a sustainable feminine hygiene kit with 15 completed kits assembled by the end of the day. The next workshop is scheduled for Thursday, March 23, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in First Presbyterian Church fellowship hall. All are welcome to participate in this great mission project. (See pictures below taken during the February event)

April 14 – Mission Coalition is sponsoring the annual Way of the Cross Walk taking place in the downtown churches on Good Friday, April 14.

April – A Spring Style Show and Luncheon fund raiser is being discussed. Date and committees have not been formalized yet.

Spring – The El Salvador Interest Group is finalizing travel plans for the delivery of the goodbye letter to be given to each family in Muñoces.

June 6 – The annual Ice Cream Social fund raiser, well-known by the Newton community, has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 6 and committees are beginning to make plans.

Summer – Our Ramp Building Ministry is about to take off starting with our own Friendship House ramp. Project details will be announced at a later date.

Summer – The Friendship House is in need of repair and updating to become an effective tool for use by us and our community. Watch for more information on this later.

Summer – The South Sudan Research Group is discussing how best to begin working with the Sudanese population in Newton and Des Moines.

Summer – The Ministerial Alliance will be starting a Share Project where volunteer work will be reported in exchange for food. First Methodist Church will be the hosts and will be starting the program when their training is completed.



Last years Blue Sunday participants.
Photo courtesy of Barb Taylor.



Elsie Nelson working on materials at the Day for Girls event. Photo by Dave Stolper



Barb Taylor and Linda Curtis-Stolper sewing on the projects during the February Day for Girls event. Photo by Dave Stolper.

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 Channel 13 television stations so the changes will scroll on their weather related messages. When severe weather occurs, check these sources. Updated information will also be posted on our Facebook page and if possible, 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 February meeting:

- During the monthly reports, deacons shared remembrances of Bill Shields and Wendell Wendt.
- Nancy shared information on Dorothy Van Elsen, specifically on her 99th birthday celebration.
- The deacons' fund showed a balance of \$210.41 as of Jan. 31. There was discussion of reminding the congregation, by means of the church bulletin, that the loose offering on the first Sunday of the month goes to the deacons.
- Shirley sent 18 cards in December and 33 during January.
- Sara said she was concerned over the lack of people to contact in cases where deacons are worried over the well-being of those they visit. Meghan said it might be a good idea to get emergency information on those visited who are not in an assisted-living situation. Diane added that if someone has an assist button, deacons should push it, which will trigger an appropriate response. Sara said she would work on an emergency plan with help from Meghan.
- Meghan and Diane will work out a time for Diane's installation.

Mickey Van Baale, Moderator

Budget and Finance Corner

Bev Rossow, Chair

Pledges for the month of January were \$17,371. This was \$259 below budget for the month. Of this amount \$5,534 had been prepaid in 2016, but transferred into 2017 as pledge income.

Other Regular Giving, which represents donations from people who tithe, but do not pledge, was \$2075 for the month.

We collected \$80 in per capita donations.

Expenses were \$665 over budget due to higher copier usage in December and bank fees and postage were higher than budgeted. Also snow removal and natural gas expenses were higher than budgeted. Also attributing to the higher than budgeted expenses were new flyers that were purchased.

Year-to-date through November, pledges are \$7,437 over budget. Investment income was \$9,311 over budget and expenses are \$1,385 below budget.

Program activity

- * **Memorial fund received contributions**
- * **The Mission Committee funds were redesigned**
- * **Sundays at 4 received \$27 in donations and paid an honorarium of \$35 for the January performance.**

MARCH 2017 BIRTHDAYS & EVENTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:45a Lenten Breakfast 9:30a Women's Bible Study 6:30p Ash Wednesday Service 7p Choir	2 Katelyn Camp 6:30a Early Men's Group 9a Men's Group 3p Chair Yoga 7p Christian Nurture	3	4 1-5p Doug Cutt's Retirement Open House 5p Dinner and play at High School
5 Blue Sunday	6 Jennifer Ventling	7 11a Gentle Yoga 6:30p Worship & Music	8 Barb Gallaher 6:45a Lenten Breakfast 9:30a Women's Bible Study 5p Membership 6p Budget & Finance 7p Choir	9 Kevin Peska 3p Chair Yoga	10	11 Linda Curtis-Stolper
12 9a Deacons 11:30a Potato Bar Daylight Savings Time Starts	13 Mary Ann Ringgenberg 5:30p Building & Grounds	14 11a Gentle Yoga 3:30p Mission	15 6:45a Lenten Breakfast 9:30a Women's Bible Study 7p Choir Youth Group	16 30a Early Men's Group 9a Men's Group 3p Chair Yoga	17	18
19 Vickie Carson	20	21 Julie Fisher 11a Gentle Yoga 6:30p Session	22 Elsie Nelson 6:45a Lenten Breakfast 9:30a Women's Bible Study 7p Choir	23 Dan Skokan 9a-2p Day for Girls workshop in Fellowship Hall 3p Chair Yoga	24 Articles due for the Messenger	25
26 Don Black Les Gause	27	28 11a Gentle Yoga	29 6:45a Lenten Breakfast 9:30a Women's Bible Study 7p Choir	30 3p Chair Yoga	31	9 00 a Adult Sunday School 10:00 a Fellowship 10:30 a Worship 11:30 a Fellowship

**SCHEDULE
OF**



VOLUNTEERS

March	5	12	19	26	April 2
Worship Leader <i>Mickey Van Baale</i>	George Wilkening	Linda Curtis-Stolper	Joan Tyler	Deanna Manley	Linda Kirchhoff
Host Elder/Deacon <i>Church Life</i>	Bret Doerring	Kay Parsons	Diane Moles	Janet Shields	Karen Quinn
Greeters <i>Julie Brodersen</i>	Gary & Kay Parsons	Randy & Carol Camp	Terry Rickers Bev Rossow	Kevin & Toni Peska	Cole Doerring
Ushers <i>Mickey Van Baale</i>	Mary Jane Tripp Suzy Funk	Kevin and Toni Peska	Don and Sharon Black	John and Barb Taylor	Tom and Nancy Mott
Audio <i>Doug Cutts</i>	Doug Cutts	Doug Cutts	Doug Cutts	Dan Ritter	Dan Ritter
Counters <i>Budget & Finance</i>	Jen Norvell Janet Shields	Terry Rickers Chris or Peggy Lickiss	Dan Ritter Don Black	Mickey Van Baale Bev Rossow	Dave Stolper Roger Harmelink
Bread Ministry Baker <i>Barb Taylor</i>	Mickey Van Baale	Sandy Simbro	Linda Campbell	Barb Taylor	Jane Repp
Bread Ministry Taker <i>Barb Taylor</i>	Mickey Van Baale	Mary Jane Tripp	Linda Campbell	Barb Taylor	Carol Russell
Communion Set up <i>Worship & Music</i>	Karen Quinn Bev Rossow				Linda Kirchhoff Marilyn McCallister

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

641-792-2790

Return Service Requested

Lectionary —

March, 2017

March 5 - 1st Sunday of Lent

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

March 12 - 2nd Sunday of Lent

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

March 19 - 3rd Sunday of Lent

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

March 26 - 4th Sunday of Lent

1 Sam. 16:1-13; *Ps.* 23;
Eph. 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

April, 2017

April 2 - 5th Sunday in Lent

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

April 9 - Passion/Palm Sunday

Palm: 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 16 - 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

April 23 - 2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32; *Ps.* 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9;
John 20:19-31

April 30 - 3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41; *Ps.* 116:1-4, 12-19;
1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35