

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



MAY 2017

Meghan's Musings

Listening to the Holy Spirit

It's been one of those days. At the end of one of those weeks. Heck, it's been one of those months (or more). I suppose the first indication that it was going to be "one of those days" was as I was getting ready this morning. My puppy ZuZu decided it was time to play when I thought it was time for me to be getting ready for church. ZuZu has this way of letting me know she wants to play with me. She pushes her toy into my hand, or if I happen to be standing up, she kind of rams into me with the toy that she wants me to throw or play tug with. Normally, this is not a particular problem but today when ZuZu decided to ram into me with a toy, I happened to be applying mascara. You can guess what happened. Not a good start to the day.

But somehow I managed to make it through the day to 6:45 pm. ZuZu has not been quite herself today. She's hardly eaten or gone potty all day. I keep giving her chances but she doesn't "go." I decided to take her out one more time before leaving for the combined choir concert at the church. Still no go. So, I put her back in the house, grab my purse, lock the door and go to the car only to realize that my keys were still in the house. The keys that I need to drive my car. The keys that I need to get into the locked house. Sigh... Good thing I now live so close to the church. So I started hoofing it to the church. Of course, today's the day I decided to wear never-before-worn dress shoes that are not exactly made for walking. At 6:59 I got a text from Doug Cutts, "Are you here at the church?" I was expected to give the welcome at the beginning of the concert... I got there just in time to go straight to the mic, give the welcome and sit down.

And then... the concert. Oh. my. goodness. The concert was wonderful. As always. What a blessing it is to have this beautiful tradition of the Newton High School and Central College choirs joining with ours each year. For the hour or so of the concert I forgot about all the minor irritations of the day, the week, the month. I forgot about the more significant and serious issues in my life, in the lives of those I care about, in the lives of those in our church family. For the hour or so of the concert I was swept away by the beauty of the human voice, the beauty of this world, the beauty of God's Grace. I was swept away by the beauty of the movement of the Holy Spirit in each musician, in each song, in each choir but I was especially moved by the pieces the three choirs sang together and especially, especially moved by the benediction sung in a ring around the sanctuary: The Lord Bless You.

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Sometimes the Holy Spirit moves in ways we expect, such as the beauty of talented choirs singing (mostly) liturgical music. But sometimes the Holy Spirit is more like an insistent puppy ramming into you, messing up your plan, maybe even a little irritating in that insistence. It's easy to listen to the Spirit when she comes as expected in beautiful music. The challenge is to listen to her when she seems to be interrupting what you thought you should be doing...


 IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers


- Pete Koppin who fell and has been in Newton Health Center for rehabilitation.
- Kelly Koenen, Jay, Skye and Shae as Kelly recovers at home from two surgeries. During Spring break she had a hysterectomy and then a couple weeks later had a double mastectomy. All lymph nodes tested came back clear.
- Clarice Sigurdson and her son Mark. Mark had a very bad fall and has been in the hospital.
- Joan Aldridge, who is home following surgery. Her daughter is with her during her recuperation.
- Mike and Glenda Duffus, as he goes through chemo treatments to prevent the recurrence of the cancer.
- Curt Brass, who continues to recuperate from the head injury he suffered.

Meals on Wheels

By Linda Curtis-Stolper, Rep to Mission Coalition

As part of our participation in the Mission Coalition's cooperative ministry to those in need in our community, First Presbyterian Church volunteers deliver Meals on Wheels on weekends one month each year. Again this year, that month is June. Check your calendar and be ready to sign up to help when Linda Curtis-Stolper asks for volunteers.

Meals are prepared at Skiff Medical Center and are picked up there for delivery. Names and addresses of persons to receive the meals are provided ahead of time by the Meals on Wheels coordinator. The number of persons receiving these meals has been declining recently, which means the entire process takes very little time. However, the importance of this ministry cannot be overstated.

Thanks for being willing to help.



Worship and Music

Linda Kirchhoff, Chair

Topics of discussion at our last meeting were:

- ✦ Lenten services went well. Meghan conducted two Ash Wednesday services, including the Imposition of Ashes during women's Bible study.
- ✦ Members expressed enjoying the "First Person" type of sermon as an interesting and meaningful presentation.
- ✦ It was discussed that putting special music during the offertory was acceptable whenever it occurred and could also be implemented during summer services.
- ✦ The Palm Sunday service will end with a focus towards Maundy Thursday, a type of Palm/Passion combination.
- ✦ Maundy Thursday service was planned. Discussion was held on the need of volunteers for serving communion by intinction and readers. Also 9 volunteers will be needed for stripping the sanctuary.
- ✦ **Upcoming services:**
 - *April 30 Linda C-S will preach when Meghan is gone.
 - *May 7 is Youth Sunday
 - *May 21 is Graduation Sunday
 - *June 11 is possibly a community worship service at Maytag Park during Newton Fest weekend.
 - *July 16 is our Worship in the Park service.
 - *July 23 we combine with the congregational church here and on August 13, we attend there.
 - *August 27 is the block party.
- ✦ There was discussion about the future "Blues Christmas" service and we decided that sending out invitations may be a good idea. It was appreciated by those who attended and special invites would be a great way to reach out to those who may benefit.
- ✦ Larry and Sandy are working on music for the summer. See an additional article below.

Music for Summer Worship

Nearly every Sunday I hear from someone how much they appreciate the church choir -- which is certainly gratifying, since I'm the director! The choir is definitely a wonderful group of people who love to sing in worship of God. But the choir is not the beginning and end of music in the church, or at least it shouldn't be! Especially when the choir is off during summer, we need others with musical gifts to step up and offer those gifts in worship. In fact, it can be a time to stretch ourselves and find different styles and forms of music to enhance our worship.

I will be contacting people in the coming weeks to ask them to provide music sometime during the summer. But don't wait to be contacted! Call or email me. Even if you only have a vague idea of what you'd like to do, we can offer help to shape that, to provide an accompanist, etc.

Larry Anderson ([641-521-1337](tel:641-521-1337), wilsand95@yahoo.com)



Introducing Our New Parish Associate: CRE Linda Curtis-Stolper

Of course, that's a bit of a joke, to be introducing longtime member Linda Curtis-Stolper to you. But...

In the Presbyterian Church (USA) once someone is ordained as a minister, they can no longer be a member of a church, instead they are a member of the Presbytery. What then is their relationship with a local congregation? There is a title "Parish Associate" for those who are ordained as Minister of Word and Sacrament but not serving in a parish. Typically, a Parish Associate is either a retired pastor or someone serving in specialized ministry (such as a chaplain). The position of Parish Associate helps to clarify the role of the ordained but not formally serving pastor in the congregation where they attend. However, there is no such equivalent for Commissioned Ruling Elders, such as Linda Curtis-Stolper. So...

Over the course of the last year or so, Session, Linda Curtis-Stolper and I (Meghan) have been working on such an arrangement, both for Linda's sake (to help her in this unique position of being a CRE who also served as interim pastor in her home congregation) and for our sake—on more than one occasion we found ourselves in a tricky situation when Linda was filling the pulpit on a first Sunday but technically, as she was no longer "commissioned" to the FPCN, was not permitted to officiate over the Lord's Table.

At the February 2017 meeting of the Presbytery of Des Moines, Linda was commissioned to serve as CRE Parish Associate for our congregation and a couple weeks later we had a formal recognition in worship.

Here is what Linda's position entails:

- assisting with providing pastoral care as requested by the Teaching Elder (Meghan Davis), including visits to homes, hospitals, nursing facilities, and other settings
- serving as primary pulpit supply worship leader/preacher in the absence of the Teaching Elder
- officiating at the Lord's Table to serve Holy Communion if the Teaching Elder is unavailable for a worship service when Communion would normally be scheduled
- when circumstances require or upon consideration of a family request, assisting in organizing and conducting funerals and other worship services at the discretion of and invitation by the Teaching Elder in accordance with the Book of Order (W-1.4005 and W-4.10003)
- other duties as assigned by the Teaching Elder

Responsibilities to be fulfilled by First Presbyterian Church will include:

- making names and contact information available for congregational members and friends to be contacted or visited
- providing advance notice of dates when pastoral duties or pulpit supply services will be needed due to absence of the Teaching Elder
- making services of the Administrative Associate and other church staff available for preparation of worship service materials
- paying the Parish Associate for each worship service conducted and mileage for travel to pastoral visits outside of Newton city limits

I hope that the church family will be as excited about the opportunity to serve with Linda in this capacity as I am. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask me.

Blessings,
Meghan

Our church graduates, Emily Miller, Jordan Norvell, Megan Ritter and Josh Ventling would like to invite their Church family to their individual open houses. The details of each is listed below.

Josh Ventling
 Graduation Open House
 Saturday, May 6, 2017
 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
 Our home at
 715 W. 9th Street South,
 Newton, Iowa

Jordan Norvell
 Graduation Open House
 Sunday, May 14, 2017
 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
 Our home at
 1011 W. 15th St. S.
 Newton, Iowa



Megan Ritter
 Graduation Open House
 Sunday, May 14, 2017
 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
 Our home at
 5595 N. 59th Ave. W.
 Newton, Iowa

Emily Miller
 Graduation Brunch
 Saturday, May 20, 2017
 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
 Newton Arboretum and
 Botanical Gardens
 3000 North 4th Avenue
 East
 Newton, Iowa

Following worship on April 23, a farewell reception was held in Fellowship Hall, honoring Doug, Ann and Sam Cutts. The Cutts' family will soon be moving to St. Marys, GA.

The family have been very active in our church. Doug has served as the head of those doing the audio each week, has been our photographer from the balcony and one of our cooks at Worship in the Park. Ann sings in the choir and served on the Session. She has also been on various committees. Sam was our nursery attendant before going to college. She also went on a couple Work Week trips.

We will miss you and wish you the best of luck in the next phase of your lives.



Christian Nurture

Karen Quinn, Chair

At our last meeting we discussed plans for a possible Easter egg hunt depending on the number of youth in attendance. Youth Sunday will be May 7. Josh Ventling is going to deliver the sermon that day, with the other 3 seniors doing the opening and reading scriptures. Other youth will serve as greeters, take up the offering, provide the Thanksgiving prayer and offer musical pieces. Allie Norvell will also be confirmed during the service.

Graduation Sunday will be May 21. George Wilkening will serve as the MC and Mickey Van Baale is going to do the video this year. Kelly Koenen will be in charge of decorating Fellowship Hall and getting gifts for the seniors.

Church Life

Tara Zehr, Chair

Date & Time	Event
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

The Church Life committee served 67 at our Easter breakfast before church on Sunday, April 16. We offered an amazing selection of egg casseroles, muffins, coffee cakes, breads, monkey bread, an assortment of rolls and fresh fruit. Thank you to the Christian Nurture committee for the Easter egg/treats hunt for the kids. A huge thank you to everyone who brought breakfast items or donated money to the Church Life Committee. Our next event will be another breakfast to celebrate our graduates the morning of May 21.



First Pres Choir

NHS Choir



Central College Choir

Three choir concert
April 23

Three Become One!





View from the Pews

This month we will get to know the rest of our seniors at First Presbyterian.



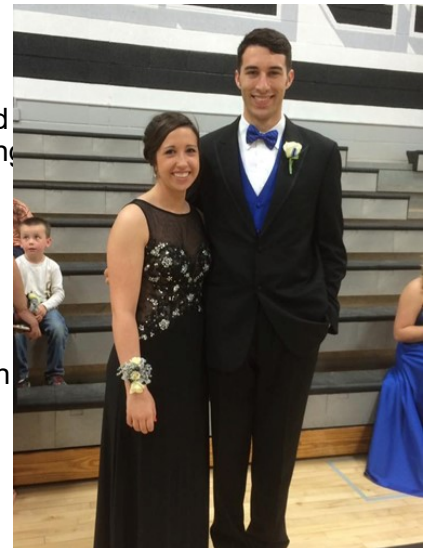
Jordan Norvell was born on June 22, 1998 in Des Moines, IA. Jordan's parents are Chris and Jen Norvell and he has a younger sister, Allie. Jordan was baptized in March of 1999 and confirmed April of 2014. Jordan's favorite church memories are the Work Week Trips he has been apart of.

Jordan enjoys fishing, playing soccer and football, and hanging out with friends and is also a member of National Honor Society. His favorite high school memory is his senior year of football. His favorite subject in school is Math. He plans to attend UNI to major in construction management and finance.

Jordan believes the key to success is to always have a winner's mentality and always give maximum effort. His role model is Dave Ramsey. Jordan's favorite family memory came when his dad made him try peas, which he spit back into the serving bowl, leading to a giant family food fight.

Megan Ritter was born on January 15, 1999 at Skiff Hospital in Newton, IA. Megan's family consists of her parents, Dan and Cheryl, and her older brother, Brad. The Ritters joined First Presbyterian in 2003. Megan was baptized at Metz Community Church prior to joining, and then was confirmed at First Presbyterian in April of 2013. Her favorite church memory is attending the mission trip to Benton Harbor, Michigan.

Megan enjoys playing sports. Her favorite high school memory is making it to State Softball her junior year, where they ended up getting 5th place. Megan also participates in many clubs and groups. She is on the volleyball, basketball, track and softball teams. Megan is also a member of Big Brothers Big Sisters, National Honor Society, Student Council, participates in School Plays, and is in the Baxter Area Youth Group. She is also on the Baxter Fire Department as well as the American Red Cross. Next Fall, she will be attending Wartburg College and majoring in Biology, while also playing softball. After Wartburg, Megan hopes to attend graduate school and enter into Emergency Medicine.



Megan says her role models are both of her parents, her grandparents, and her youth group leaders. Her favorite family memory is spending the week boating and relaxing on Table Rock Lake every year.

Congratulations to both of you on graduating! Your First Presbyterian family will continue to support you.

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.

The Share Project kicked off the first food distribution at First United Methodist Church on Saturday, April 22 with 4 people making 5 orders from First Presbyterian Church. Linda Anderson is handling the product orders for us and the next orders need to be to her by May 3rd for the Saturday, May 20 food distribution. Contact Linda Anderson if you have questions.

Over 100 people participated in the annual Way of the Cross Walk sponsored by Mission Coalition despite inclement weather. Our next opportunity for community service is the Meals on Wheels delivery on Saturdays and Sundays in June. Be looking for the sign up chart on the Mission bulletin board in fellowship hall. (See additional article on page 2 about Meals on Wheels).

Barb Taylor reported that the Presbyterian Women meeting held on Saturday, April 8, was one of the best she has attended and encourages all Presbyterian Women to become involved.

The next workshop for Days for Girls International will be Thursday, May 25, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the First Presbyterian Church fellowship hall. Work will continue on the multiple pieces needed for sustainable feminine hygiene kits. All are welcome to participate in this great mission project.

Warren Erickson has delivered the "farewell" letters from our congregation to the people of Muñoces, El Salvador. As of the deadline for this article Warren is still in El Salvador. Look for a report on his visit to Muñoces in the next Messenger. (Warren returned home late Wednesday evening, April 26),

The March event for Mariners in Mission was attended by Barb and John Taylor along with 7 others at Camp Nakomi in Tennessee. They painted, made signs, and created curtains. The next Mariners in Mission event will be at Ferncliff in Arkansas May 8-13 working on Church World Service kits. Mission Committee voted to expend \$150 for hygiene kits for this project. Mickey Van Baale volunteered to shop for the needed materials. The Taylors will deliver the materials when they go in May.

Mark the date! Jane Repp has agreed to be the general chairperson with Linda Anderson as assistant for the annual Ice Cream Social fund raiser, June 6, 4:30 – 7 pm. They are in the process of obtaining various sub-committee chairpersons.

Linda Anderson reported that the Pella organization ACTS (A Call To Service) may partner with us on our Ramp Building Ministry. Several requests for ramps have been received and are being studied. Replacing/repairing the ramp at the Friendship House is in the planning stage and a date for the event has not yet been set





During our March meeting we:

- ◇ Received reports on our monthly visits.
- ◇ Received our Treasurer's report. We tabled requests for donations until our May meeting.
- ◇ Received our card report. Shirley said she send 21 cards during March.
- ◇ Discussed the Lily Cross project, as the Deacons are in charge of it.
 - *60 lilies have been ordered from Hy-Vee and will be delivered on Maundy Thursday and stored in the parlor.
 - *A list and greeting card has been prepared for the lilies to be delivered.
 - *A list has been prepared for the lilies members will be taking home.
 - *Members indicated if they would be able to help set up the lily cross after the Cross Walk on Friday.
 - *Deacons indicated if they could help deliver lilies on Sunday. Volunteers from the congregation and instructions on how distribution would work will be announced at the beginning of church.

The next meeting will be May 7 in the library. It was changed to the first Sunday since the second Sunday is Mother's Day.

I would like to thank the following people who helped put the Lily Cross together - Bob VanderVeer, Gary Parsons, Dave Stolper, Linda Curtis-Stolper, Dana Hashman, Nancy Mott, Janet Shields, Linda Kirchhoff, and Barb Gallaher. Also a big thank you to everyone who helped deliver lilies following worship on Easter Sunday.

Mickey Van Baale, Moderator

Budget and Finance Corner

Bev Rossow, Chair

Pledges for the month of January were \$10,433. This was \$211 below budget for the month.

Other Regular Giving, which represents donations from people who tithe, but do not pledge, was \$345 for the month.

During the month the following income was collected:

- Christian Nurture income of \$576 collected at the dinner/school play event and will be used for youth group activities.
- Church Life income included \$287, collected at the Potato Bar.
- Investment income was \$4,609 for the first quarter of 2017, which we had budgeted.
- Other income of \$124 was collected for Lenten breakfast donations.
- Worship and Music received \$180 in March for Easter lilies and a \$25 donation for music.
- Per Capita donations of \$633, bringing our total to \$3,716, which is \$590 below budget.

In total for the month, expenses were \$601 under budget.

Year-to-date through March:



- Pledges are \$55,744 over budget
- Other Regular Giving is \$1,192 over budget.
- Expenses are \$191 over budget.

Program Expenses for February:

- Memorial fund received \$1,275 in contributions.
- The Funeral luncheon fund received a net of \$136.
- Designated Mission Account received \$60 for One Great Hour offering.
- International Mission Account received \$350 for "Days for Girls" and \$8 for Pal Craft.



MAY 2017 BIRTHDAYS & EVENTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9 00 a Adult Sunday School 10:00 a Fellowship 10:30 a Worship 11:30 a Fellowship	1	2 Warren Erickson	3 Gary Parsons Ahren Rickers 7p Choir	4 6:30a Early Men's Group 9a Men's Group 3p Chair Yoga 7p Christian Nurture	5 11a Bill Shield's Memorial	6 Andi Hollenbeck
7 9a Deacons Youth Sunday Confirmation of Allie Norvell	8 4:45p Personnel 5:30p Building & Grounds	9 Laura Miller 11a Gentle Yoga 3:30p Mission	10 9:30a Women's Bible Study 5:15p Membership 6p Budget & Finance 6p Youth Group 7p Choir	11 3p Chair Yoga	12	13
14 Nancy Mott Dave Funk 	15	16 Anders Hopkins 11a Gentle Yoga 6:30p Session	17 9:30a Women's Bible Study brunch and final mtg. at Linda Anderson's 7p Choir	18 Mary Jane Tripp 6:30a Early Men's Group 9a Men's Group 3p Chair Yoga	19 Articles due for the Messenger	20 Kim DeGraff
21 Ruby Davis 9a Breakfast to honor graduates 	22	23	24 6p Youth Group 7p Choir	25 9a-2p Day for Girls 3p Chair Yoga	26	27 Chandler Sturtz
28	29	30 Sandy Simbro Rick Miller Porter Hamilton	31			

**SCHEDULE
OF**



VOLUNTEERS

May	7	14	21	28	June 4
Worship Leader <i>Mickey Van Baale</i>	Mickey Van Baale	Kathy Ventling	Terry Rickers	Sara Hopkins	Karen Quinn
Host Elder/Deacon <i>Church Life</i>	Kevin Peska	Marilyn McCallister	Sandy Shaver	Diane Moles	Tom Mott
Greeters <i>Julie Brodersen</i>	Randy & Carol Camp	Terry Rickers Bev Rossow	Dick & Shirley Mielke	Kevin & Toni Peska	Janet Shields Kert or Kimberly Schnell
Ushers <i>Mickey Van Baale</i>	Mary Jane Tripp Suzy Funk	Larry and Shari DeCook	Barb Gallaher Bonnie Rasmussen	Dick and Shirley Mielke	Dana Hashman Mickey Van Baale
Audio <i>Mickey Van Baale</i>	Brad Ritter	Shirley Stevens	Erick Zehr	Kyle Doerring	Dan Ritter
Counters <i>Budget & Finance</i>	Mickey Van Baale Bev Rossow	Dave Stolper Roger Harmelink	Dan Ritter Don Black	Bret Doerring Tara Zehr	Jonnie Carpenter Sandy Cheney
Bread Ministry Baker <i>Barb Taylor</i>	Shari DeCook	Sandy Simbro	Barb Taylor	Linda Campbell	Jane Repp
Bread Ministry Taker <i>Barb Taylor</i>	Mickey Van Baale	Mary Jane Tripp	Barb Taylor	Linda Campbell	Carol Russell
Communion Set up <i>Worship & Music</i>	George Wilkening Kay Parsons		Larry Anderson Bret Doerring (Graduation)		Jen Norvell Val McKee

First Presbyterian Church
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641-792-2790

Return Service Requested

Lectionary —

May, 2017

May 7- 4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47; *Ps.* 23; 1 Peter 2:19-35;
John 10:1-10

May 14 - 5th Sunday of Easter - Mother's Day

Acts 7:55-60; *Ps.* 31:1-5, 15-16;
1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

May 21 - 6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 17:22-31; *Ps.* 66:8-20;
1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

May 28 - 7th Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:6-14; *Ps.* 68:1-10, 32-35;
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

June, 2017

June 4 - Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21 or Num. 11:24-30;
Ps. 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Cor. 12:3b-13 or
Acts 2:1-21; John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39

June 11 - Trinity Sunday

Gen. 1:1-2:4a; *Ps.* 8; 2 Cor. 13: 11-13;
Matt. 28:16-20

June 18 - 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Gen. 18:1-15 (21:1-7); *Ps.* 116:1-2, 12-19;
Rom.5:1-8; Matt. 9:35-10:8 (9-23)

June 26 - 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Gen. 21:8-21; *Ps.* 86: 1-10, 16-17;
Rom. 6:1b-11; Matt.10:24-39