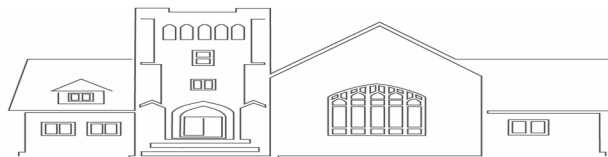


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
NEWTON, IOWA  
641-792-2790

*“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 2019

## Meghan's Musings

### The Love of God is like a St. Bernard Puppy

I recently had the pleasure of seeing one of those heart-warming videos that helps restore faith and hope that there is still good in the world. Here's the text that went along with the video:

*A lonely widow found joy in life again... when an unexpected visitor started to stop by. Ever since Sally's husband died almost 30 years ago she's been finding life very lonely... especially since her kids are spread out all over the country. But when her neighbors adopted a very special puppy... everything changed. The pup seemed to sense that his new neighbor might need him. The adorable St. Bernard pup named Brody, soon found his way into Sally's yard and the pair bonded immediately. Brody started visiting Sally everyday... where he was always welcomed with open arms. Whenever Brody would disappear his family knew just where to look. It was like Brody knew Sally was missing someone and offered his support. Brody grew fast... the pair's friendship only grew stronger. Brody grew huge. Since the beginning, Sally spoiled Brody with loads of snacks. And that did not stop when Brody got older. It was a win-win situation, Sally spoiled Brody, and Brody kept Sally active. But most of all, they enjoyed each other's company. They were basically inseparable. Every time Sally was going somewhere, Brody wanted to come... and sometimes he even succeeded! Brody's big sister Lulu (a much smaller dog) was also invited to join the crew. And with these friendly neighbors by Sally's side, she wasn't alone anymore. Sometimes the small things in life can make all the difference. And a friendship with a huge pooch can make all the difference!*

It's a lovely story and I'll post it on our Facebook page so you can have the opportunity to see Sally and Brody interact and this sweet pup grow from "little" puppy to "a beast" (as Sally jokingly calls him).

But it seems to me to be more than just a sweet story about a cute puppy befriending a lonely widow. And even more than an example of a wonderful family sharing their friendly puppy with someone in need of companionship.

This story reminded me of the parables of Jesus. Jesus was always using everyday examples to make points about God and about the Kingdom of God. And here we have a perfect parable about God's love. God's love is like a big, floppy, friendly St. Bernard puppy who seeks out a lonely widow and visits her every day, until they are inseparable and the widow isn't lonely anymore.

If you are in a position to share God's love with someone in need—as Brody and his family shared love with Sally, I encourage you to do so. And if you are in need of the assurance of God's love, I pray that you might remember that the Love of God is like a St. Bernard puppy. Amen.



**D. Arlene (Baker) Funk, 91, of Newton, mother of David Funk, died on Palm Sunday, April 14, 2019, at the Comfort House in Pella. A funeral service was held on Thursday, April 18, 2019, at the First United Methodist Church in Newton.**

**Mrs. Baker was born on a farm southeast of Ira on August 13, 1927. She attended country schools in Jasper County and was a 1945 graduate of Mingo High School. Arlene taught in a rural school in Mound Prairie Township for two years (1945-1947). She married Richard Crozier in November of 1946 and they farmed near Mingo. After his death in 1948, Arlene moved to Newton and was employed for six years at the Iowa State Employment Service.**

**On June 10, 1952, Arlene was united in marriage with Jerry Eugene Funk in the chapel at the First United Methodist Church in Newton. To this union were born three children, Vicki, David, and Nancy.**

**Those left to honor Arlene’s memory are her children, Vicki (Keith) Rudd of Johnston, David (Suzanne) Funk of Newton, and Nancy (Steve) Tommeraasen of Spencer; her grandchildren, Heather (Nate) Erickson of Firestone, Colorado, Tiffany (Andy) Schmeisser of Waukee, Ryan Funk (Rosie Lancaster) of Altoona, Brandon (Nana) Funk of Houston, Texas, and Chelsea (Brandon) Dunkerson of Newton; step-grandchildren, Lena (Aaron Alcott) Tommeraasen of Ames and Sara Moore of Eugene, Oregon; her 6 great-grandchildren, and her 2 step-great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her sister, Marilyn Kuch of Boston, Massachusetts and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Jerry, and her parents.**

Please  
Pray  
for...



**Kevin Peska’s father, Bud, who spent some time in the hospital and is now at home in Sterling, IL under hospice care.**

**Those who have been dealing with medical issues and are now adjusting to new residences .**

**Our newly baptized, Rylie Ann McGonegle, Samantha Marie Jackson and Morgan Marie Jackson.**

**Our new members, Brandon and Samantha Jackson.**

**Lawrence Kenyi and his new wife, Rose.**

**Administrators, teachers and students, as another school year wraps up. While we have no graduating students in our church family, we pray for those starting a new chapter in their lives.**

**The families of the people who have been killed around the world, persecuted because of their religion.**

**Those who have lost their loved ones and/or property through the acts of Mother Nature throughout the United States.**

**Victims, students, faculty and families of school shootings that continue to happen in our country.**

## In Search Of: Treasurer for our Church Family

After many years of excellent and faithful service to God as treasurer of First Presbyterian Church, Cheryl Ritter is ready for a well-deserved "retirement" from the position. Please join us in extending our deepest gratitude and thanks to Cheryl!

Of course, this means we are in need of a new treasurer. Might you feel called to this position? Or perhaps you can think of a member of this church who might have the gifts of the spirit for this important role? If you have questions or ideas, please talk to Meghan, or one of our Budget and Finance elders Jen Norvell and Toni Peska.



In the past month, we have celebrated the sacrament of baptism with three and had a couple join the church.

On March 31, 2019, Rylie Ann McGonegle, daughter of Michael and Taylor was baptized. Both sets of Rylie's grandparents and several aunts and uncles were in attendance, along with cousins Emmett and Garrett.

Samantha and Morgan Jackson were baptized on April 28, 2019. Samantha also joined our church and husband/daddy, Brandon, joined by reaffirmation of faith. Grandparents, aunts, an uncle and great-grandma were on hand to join in the celebration.



## Lawrence Kenyi and new wife, Rose



Lawrence Kenyi has been in Uganda since March to meet and marry Rose Sadia. Lawrence sent several pictures to Rev. Davis of the wedding, along with the note below. The picture shows Lawrence and Rose on their wedding day. Lawrence will be coming back to Newton soon and hopes that Rose will be able to come in the near future.

*“Hello my dear church members in Newton Iowa. I, Lawrence Kenyi and my lovely wife Rose Sadia are sending our lovely greetings to you all in the name of our LORD JESUS CHRIST. I, Rose Sadia thank you so much for your support to my husband as he told me. We thanked you for your prayers for our wedding which was done very successfully and nice. I hope my husband will bring my warmly greetings to you all. We hope everyone is doing well. We are fine here.”*

**Congratulations, Lawrence and Rose, from your First Presbyterian family.**

### MEMBERSHIP



### MOMENT

The Life of Marvin Weeks, Sunday’s @ 4 program was very interesting and enjoyed by over 15 people along with delicious pizza afterwards.

Sunday, April 28, at 4 p.m. in fellowship hall, Dave Stolper and Linda Curtis-Stolper shared their adventurous trip to the beautiful Amalfi Coast, Italy. There were 22 in attendance for the presentation, and several stayed after the program and enjoyed pizza and fellowship.

We are organizing a trip to watch Allie Norvell and the Newton High School Girls soccer team play on May 14. The game will be a 7:00 pm at H. A. Lynn Stadium. If the weather is uncooperative, we will try to go on May 16. We will try to sit together as much as possible.

Be sure to take note of the Membership Bulletin Board located at the base of the stairs into fellowship hall. The Board is updated with pictures and articles of church events and member activities. TAKE A LOOK!

Plans on updating the Church Directory continue.

Membership Committee tasks continue with many volunteers involved (THANK YOU) – Bread Ministry, Greeters, Transportation and PEW (Pray, Eat, Work) when needed.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn McCallister, Session Rep. & Chair



## Per Capita

Jen Norvell, Budget & Finance

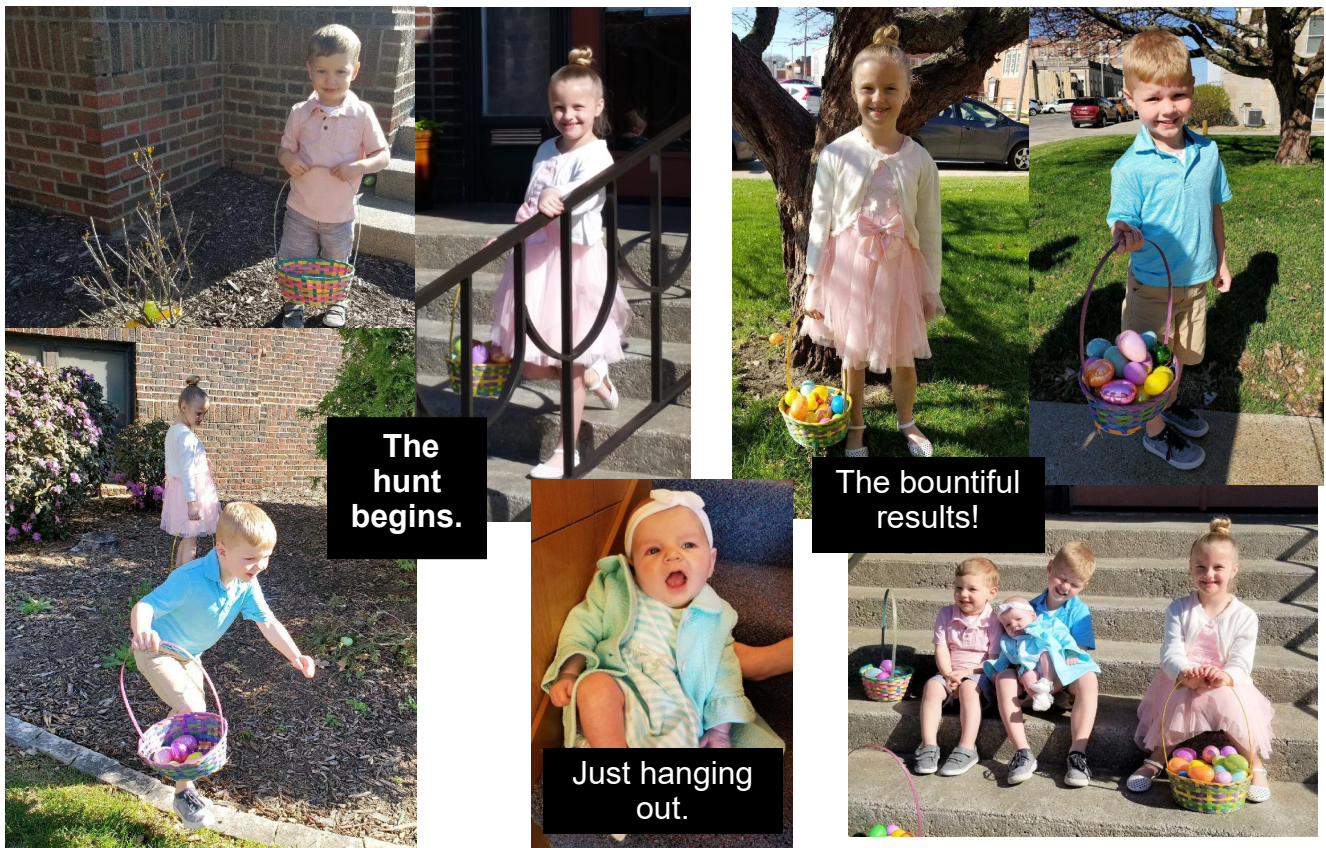
If you have paid your requested per capita, thank you so much. If you haven't had a chance yet — it's not too late! Again, the suggested amount is \$45.00. If you can't pay the full amount, pay what you can. If you can pay more, we appreciate your generosity.

## Easter Egg Hunt

Karen Quinn, Church Life Chair

Our annual Easter Egg hunt occurred on the church lawn following the breakfast on April 21. Children participating were Emmett and Garrett Zehr, and Aubriana McKee. Rylie McGonegle was also there, but a little young to actually hunt the eggs, so she was given a stuffed rabbit.

Committee member Steve Gehling and wife Linda helped fill the eggs on Saturday morning. We did about 70 plastic eggs, filling each one with various candies. Our other committee member, Eric Zehr, helped hide them around the church lawn before the 3 children were given baskets and started searching for the goodies.. The pictures below capture various shots of the children and their hunting.



## Budget and Finance

Jen Norvell, Chair

### Operating Revenue and Expenses for the 1st quarter 2019 ... January through March

- ◇ Pledges for the quarter were \$52,759. This was \$726 above budget for the quarter.
- ◇ Other Regular Giving, which represents donations from people who give, but do not pledge, was \$3,080 for the quarter, which was \$1,873 above budget.
- ◇ We recorded a \$8,447 unrealized investment gain for the quarter, which more than offset the 4th quarter 2018 unrealized investment loss of \$4,532.
- ◇ Overall, our income was \$9,711 above budget due to the strong investment performance and Other Regular Giving.

### Other Income for the quarter:

- ◇ We received \$52,289 in donations to cover per capita. This was \$711 below budget.
- ◇ The Memorial/Improvement Fund received \$700 from memorials honoring Carol Hammer, Ed McCuen and Pat Koppin.
- ◇ The Yoga fund received donations of \$505.
- ◇ The Deacon Fund received donations of \$85.46.
- ◇ The Designated Mission fund received a contribution toward the One Great Hour offering (\$15) and Cents-Ability donations (\$115.01).
- ◇ The International Mission account received \$769 in donations for Days for Girls.
- ◇ The Sundays at 4 fund collected \$167.19 at the Grinnell Singers concert in March.

### Expenses for the quarter:

- ◇ Expenses paid from the Memorial/Improvement Fund were a new furnace (\$3,486) and travel assistance for Lawrence Kenyi (\$750)
- ◇ A donation of \$200 was made to the Salvation Army from the Deacon Fund.
- ◇ The Designated Mission fund remitted the 2018 Rural Harvest offering (\$530) and the Christmas Joy offering (\$450) and also donated \$750 for travel assistance to Lawrence Kenyi.
- ◇ The International Mission account paid expenses of \$468.58 for Days for Girls.

◇ In total for the quarter, expenses were \$1,479 above budget.



**Taylor McGonegle (l) and Samantha Jackson (r) agree that Rylie Ann and Morgan may get their phones taken away if they keep texting each other after bedtime. Obviously they did contact each other the night before Palm Sunday, as they showed up in matching outfits.**

**It will be interesting to see if they continue with this fashion trend. Girls will be girls!**



## Please Donate Summer Clothing and Shoes/New Underwear and Socks

Linda Curtis-Stolper, Neighbors Helping Neighbors

You can help make a difference in the lives of others in our community! Just sort through your summer clothing and donate those gently used items you honestly don't wear anymore. The goal is to gather clothing for everyday use for all ages. The group is also seeking donations of new socks and underwear- any size, in the original packaging, or money to buy them. Please, NO dress clothing or dressy shoes. Donated items should be clean and brought in a plastic bag or cardboard box, and dropped off at First Lutheran Church office, 309 E 3rd Street N., during office hours (8:30 am-12:30 pm, Monday through Friday) or First Presbyterian Church, 220 N 2nd Ave E., (Monday through Thursday from 8:00 am to 11:00 am). Donations are being collected Monday, May 13-Monday, June 3.

If you have questions or need to arrange for a drop off contact Judy Monroe at 641-792-4950, David Goos at 641-521-8367, or Linda Curtis-Stolper at 641-840-2417.

The clothing giveaway is scheduled for Saturday, June 8, at the First Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, from 10 am to 1 pm.



Thank you to George Wilkening for designing and heading up the construction of our new cross frame to hold the lilies for Easter Sunday.

The previous framework, which was originally built by Andy McGuire, had become hard to put together, thus the need for a new one. Also, the original one was larger and took more lilies to fill. If all of the plants were not purchased by congregation

members, the cost of the additional ones came from the church funds so the cross would be filled.



## Church Life

Kay Parsons, Chair

The Church Life Committee would like to thank everyone who shared Easter breakfast with us. A special thank you to those who donated an egg casserole or bread item. We served breakfast to 55. After a very busy April we look forward to the June Ice Cream Social.

Diane Moles, Nancy Mott, Bonnie Rasmussen, Dan Ritter, Tara Zehr and Kay Parsons Church Life Committee.

July 14, 2019	Worship at Woodland, potluck to follow with Worship and Music Committee
August 25, 2019	Downtown churches Ecumenical Rally Day service
September 22, 2019	Progressive Dinner
October 20, 2019	Movie Night
November 24, 2019	Thanksgiving Feast and Communion, with Worship and Music Committee
December 15, 2019	Christmas caroling followed by chili supper

The following business was taken care of during our April meeting:

- ✦ Minutes of the February meeting were approved.
- ✦ Received updates on some of the members we visit.
- ✦ Heard the report from Rev. Meghan Davis.
- ✦ Learned the financial report dated the end of March showed a balance of \$320.44.
- ✦ Several deacons volunteered to help set up the lily cross. Deacons then went over the procedures for setting up the cross and delivering lilies following Easter worship.
- ✦ It was decided to keep May 12<sup>th</sup> as the date of the next meeting, even though that date is Mother's Day.

Diane Moles, Moderator





## Mission Committee

Larry Anderson, Chair

Mission accounts were reviewed with discussion about discrepancies in the Cents-ability account. The discrepancies were resolved and, because the account had more than \$200, the committee will disperse \$100 to the Salvation Army food pantry, \$50 to the Presbytery Hunger program, and \$50 to PCUSA Hunger programs as previously determined.

One Great Hour of Sharing – was collected on April 14. The total amount raised was \$1200.

Cross Walk – This was held on Good Friday, starting at St. Stephen's Episcopal church and ending at First Presbyterian. The attendance was down this year, but it was still a moving event as the group made stops at the seven downtown churches. At each stop, readings and prayers were said and a verse of "Were You There?" sung before moving on, following a volunteer carrying the cross.

Sheltering discussion – The discussion continued of when or how First Presbyterian could be of help in times of needed shelter. Larry Anderson had contacted the Red Cross and it is believed that our church would not be eligible to be considered for a Red Cross shelter partly due to a lack of shower facilities. Larry will continue to talk to the Red Cross representative to determine when and how they respond in Jasper County to short term needs for shelter such as during the polar vortex this winter.

Progress Industries 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Tours – Two sessions were done in April and the last one will be on May 6. We are volunteering with members of UCC church as 2nd graders go through various stations to experience what it is like to do various tasks with disabilities.

Spring Break meals follow-up – The Key Club has expressed an interest in continuing the project next year and the mission committee expressed a willingness to offer support again next year.

Ice Cream Social – The ice cream social is scheduled for June 11 this year. Linda Anderson will begin contacting last year's chairpersons to see if they are to participate this year.

Meals on Wheels in June – As a ministry of the Mission Coalition, members of First Presbyterian deliver Meals on Wheels to homes in Newton on Saturdays and Sundays in June. The meals are prepared at MercyOne Newton and information about where to deliver them is provided ahead of time. If you are available to spend less than an hour on a June Saturday or Sunday serving members of our community in this way, please sign up on the schedule posted in Fellowship Hall or contact Linda Curtis-Stolper (641-840-2417).

Cooking classes – The proposal was made to offer instruction to those receiving food boxes from the Salvation Army on how to use and preserve the produce that may be abundant this summer but that some recipients may not know how to prepare. The Andersons will contact the Salvation Army to see if they would like to partner with us on this project.

Ramp Building – Linda Anderson reported that 3 ramps are scheduled to be built this year. George Wilkening is dealing with blueprints and building permits and a date to begin construction will be set soon. A decision as to whether additional funds are needed will be held next month.

Presbyterian Women – The spring gathering will be May 18 in Johnston. The Synod gathering is June 20 – 23 at the Gateway Center in Ames.

Mariners in Mission – The Taylors participated in a recent work week at Camp Fellowship in South Carolina where many projects were completed by the 23 participants. There will be work weeks in Michigan in June and Missouri in September.

Jasper County Take Away Hunger – The next Newton event will be June 29 at St. Luke's Church.

Days for Girls – The next event is May 23, with both morning and evening work sessions.

# MAY 2019 BIRTHDAYS & EVENTS

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thur Fri Sat

			1 7p Choir	2 <i>Warren Erickson</i> 6:30a Early Men's Group 9a Men's Group	3 <i>Gary Parsons</i>	4 11a Women's Coloring
5	6 1p-2p PI 2nd Grade Tours @ UCC 6p Book Club at Peanut Pub	7	8 2:30p Membership 7p Choir	9 3p Chair Yoga	10	11
12 9a Deacons 	13 3:30p Mission 5:15p Budget & Finance	14 <i>Nancy Mott</i> <i>David Funk</i> 11a Gentle Yoga 4p Worship & Music	15 9:30a WBS 7p Choir	16 6:30a Early Men's Group 9a Men's Group 3p Chair Yoga	17	18 <i>Mary Jane Tripp</i> 11a Women's Coloring
19	20 <i>Kim DeGraff</i>	21 <i>Ruby Davis</i> 8:30a-3:30p Presbytery Mtg In Corning 6:30p Session	22 9:30a WBS 7p Choir	23 9a-2p Days for Girls 3p Chair Yoga 6p-9p Evening Days for Girls	24	25
26	27 Office Closed 	28 11a Gentle Yoga	29 9:30a WBS 7p Choir	30 <i>Sandy Simbro</i> <i>Rick Miller</i> <i>Porter Hamiltom</i> 3p Chair Yoga	31	

## Regular Worship Schedule

9:00 a Adult Sunday School  
10:00 a Fellowship

10:30 a Worship  
11:30 a Fellowship

**SCHEDULE  
OF**



**VOLUNTEERS**

<b>May</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Worship Leader</b> <i>Mickey Van Baale</i>	Diane Moles	Dick Mielke	Deanna Manley	Karen Quinn
<b>Host Elder/Deacon</b> <i>Church Life</i>	Linda Kirchhoff	Marilyn McCallister	Nancy Mott	Jeanette Shannon
<b>Greeters</b> <i>Julie Brodersen</i>	Randy & Carol Camp	Gary & Kay Parsons	Kevin & Toni Peska	Terry Rickers & Bev Rossow
<b>Ushers</b> <i>Mickey Van Baale</i>	Terry & Cat Rickers	Tom & Nancy Mott	Randy & Carol Camp	Mary Jane Tripp Suzy Funk
<b>Audio</b> <i>Shirley Stevens</i>	Shirley Stevens	Kyle Doerring		Dan Ritter
<b>Counters</b> <i>Budget &amp; Finance</i>	Dave Stolper Kathy Ventling	Tara Zehr Bret Doerring	Jonnie Carpenter Tom Weeks	Jen Norvell Janet Shields
<b>Bread Ministry Baker</b> <i>Barb Taylor</i>	Shari DeCook	Sandy Simbro	Barb Taylor	Linda Campbell
<b>Bread Ministry Taker</b> <i>Barb Taylor</i>	Mickey Van Baale	Mary Jane Tripp	Barb Taylor	Linda Campbell
<b>Communion Set up</b> <i>Worship &amp; Music</i>	Kay Parsons Toni Peska			



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

641-792-2790

Return Service Requested

# Lectionary —

## May 2019

### May 5 - 3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:1-6 (7-20); *Ps.* 30; Rev.5:11-14;  
John 21:1-19

### May 12 - 4th Sunday of Easter - Mother's Day

Acts 9:36-43; *Ps.* 23; Rev. 7:9-17;  
John 10:22-30

### May 19 - 5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 11:1-18; *Ps.* 148; Rev. 21:1-6  
John 13:31-35

### May 26 - 6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:9-15; *Ps.* 67;  
Rev.21:10, 21:22-22:5;  
John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

## June, 2019

### June 2 - 7th Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:16-34; *Ps.* 97;  
Rev. 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21;  
John 17: 20-26

### June 9 - Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21 or Gen. 11:1-9;  
*Ps.* 104:24-34, 35b; Rom. 8:14-17;  
John 14:8-17 (25-27)

### June 16 - Trinity Sunday - Father's Day

Prov. 8:1-4, 22-31; *Ps.* 8  
Rom. 5:1-5; John 16:12-15

### June 23 - 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 19:1-4 (5-7) 8-15a; *Ps.* 42 and 43;  
Gal. 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39

### June 30 - 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14; *Ps.* 77:1-2. 11-20;  
Gal. 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-62