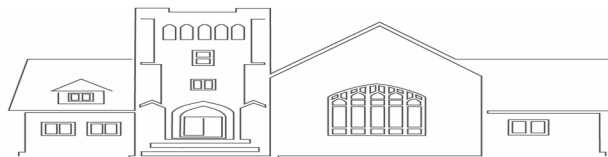


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NEWTON, IOWA
641-792-2790

"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



November 2018

Meghan's Musings

Gratitude Practice (Not Gratitude Perfect)

It's that time of year. The time of year when those of us on Facebook are likely to see daily posts of things for which our friends are grateful. Some of us might even participate ourselves. It's that time of year when your pastor inevitably writes a newsletter article about gratitude and struggles to find a new angle. Something that will really click. Something that will be spiritually transformative for at least one person. Maybe even a handful of people.

In September, I had the opportunity to hear author Diana Butler Bass speak on the topic of gratitude. Not coincidentally, she has a new book out on the subject (*Gratitude: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks*). Butler Bass confesses that she has long considered herself a "gratitude klutz" or maybe even worse. Despite her desire to be grateful, despite many short-lived efforts at gratitude practices, she just couldn't manage to keep the momentum going.

In past years, I've encouraged keeping a gratitude journal. This is a practice I endeavor to keep (sometimes more successfully than others) and I admit, occasionally I struggle to name something on a particular day. I try to name something new that I haven't written about before. I try to name something meaningful rather than trivial. Though it's my journal and I don't intend for anyone to be reading it, I try to name something that's not braggy or even humble braggy (one of my pet peeves are the "gratitudes" or "blessings" that people name publicly that really strike a tone of bragging about how great they are). With all these self-imposed rules for my gratitude journal, no wonder it's a struggle! I'm reminded of the common saying in yoga circles: it's called "yoga practice" not "yoga perfect."

So this November, I have a new idea for our gratitude practice (not gratitude perfect). In worship on November 4, I'll be handing out a gratitude prompt/project to help each of us turn our focus to gratitude throughout the month of November. If you can't be in worship that day but wish to participate, let me know and I'll be sure to get one to you.

*Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
To God the creator triumphantly raise.
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
Who still guides us on to the end of our days.
His banners are o'er us, His light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night.
Till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished
As forward we travel from light into light.*

~Katherine K. Davis



IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

- ✚ Mary Roskilly, who is almost done with her treatments and is doing well.
- ✚ Deanna Manley, who is at home slowly recovering.
- ✚ Mark Sigurdson, who has finished taking his treatments.
- ✚ Those facing the upcoming holidays without a loved one, whether it be the first, fifth, tenth or whatever number.
- ✚ Those living around the world who are trying to rebuild their lives after disasters, such as hurricanes, fires, war, hunger and homelessness.



Sally E. Hindman, 65, of Newton died peacefully on Friday, October 19, 2018, at Skiff Medical Center surrounded by loved ones. A funeral service was held on Tuesday, October 23, at the First Presbyterian Church.

Sally was born on November 28, 1952 at Skiff Medical Center to Jack and Becky (Kimmel) Hindman. She encountered a devastating and lasting childhood illness that included experimental surgery at the Mayo Clinic. With the love and devotion of her parents, Sally was able to experience education, employment, marriage and most of all motherhood.

Sally lived all of her life in Newton. In her final years she lived at Newton Village and McCann Center, her youth and enthusiasm made her an informal social director. She had enjoyed the love and friendship of her cousin Liz Wegner and the special love, care, and concern of her cousin Toni (Kevin) Peska.

Sally is survived by her son, Gary Pearson; sister, Susan (Bruce) Chesshire; nieces, Kristina, Karen, and Paige Chesshire; and many other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents.



With a grateful heart I want to thank my church family for your thoughts and prayers for Mark while he underwent his chemo and radiation treatments. A special thanks to those who volunteered their time to take him to his treatments. It was greatly appreciated. I feel truly blessed to have such a wonderful caring church family. In Christ's Love, Clarice

Special Awards at Presbytery Meeting

Linda Curtis-Stolper

The “Faithful Through the Years” award is presented by the Presbytery of Des Moines “to recognize adults 55 years or older who exemplify positive images of aging personally, in the life of the church and also community. Further... (the award) offers an opportunity for the Presbytery to recognize older persons who, by their example, serve as role models to all the generations for growing older with a sense of God’s grace.”

Past recipients of the award from First Presbyterian have been Wendell and Loretta Wendt and Joan Tyler. John and Barb Taylor will be recognized as recipients of the “Faithful Through the Years” award as part of the business conducted at the Presbytery meeting on Tuesday, November 13. This recognition of their dedication to the work of our church, the denomination, and the larger community is well-deserved and is a reason for all of us to join in the celebration!

The Presbytery meeting will take place at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 4114 Allison Avenue in Des Moines. The time when the award will be presented is not yet known; it will be announced when the agenda for the meeting is distributed. Aside from the actual presentation during the meeting, there will be further recognition during the luncheon break. Persons who wish to remain for lunch may bring their own food or may reserve a meal (\$10 charge collected at the door) at

www.surveymonkey.com/r/StatedMeetingNovember2018

Check your calendar and plan to join in this special event if you can!

First Presbyterian Church as a whole will also be honored at the Presbytery meeting as recipient of the latest “Just Neighbors” Award. We are receiving the award at this time in recognition of becoming a Hunger Action Congregation and our emphasis on continuing to learn and act to address hunger issues in our community and world. Offering letters expressing our concern to legislators as part of the Bread for the World campaign; collecting Cents-Ability “noisy offerings” to support programs serving the hungry; supporting Jasper County Kids Against Hunger, the Salvation Army Food Pantry, and the Backpack Buddies program; donating to the CROP Walk and One Great Hour of Sharing – we take part in rich ministries in support of efforts to end hunger.

You Might Be The Person

Each of us have been given special gifts by God. Perhaps you are a person who feels called to help out at the church, but you don’t because you don’t like attending meetings or getting up in front of the congregation on Sunday morning. These are not qualifications we are looking for. What we need is someone to head up having meals taken to members following a birth, surgery or some sort of illness.

Generally this would entail contacting the person/family to see if they are willing to accept a meal or meals. If so, then word would get out to members and coordination done on providing these meals. You might compile a list of those within the church willing to prepare a meal if the need arises, and then contacting them or perhaps using an on-line application, like meal train and send the link out to the congregation. This makes coordination easy.

First Presbyterian Church is noted for its friendliness and outreach. This is a ministry that was being done in the past, but isn’t currently being followed through on. Please alert Barbara at the church office if you would be willing to head up this important outreach from our church.

Worship and Music

Linda Kirchhoff, Chair

The following items were discussed at our October meeting:

- † No concerns were expressed about any of the last month's worship services.
- † Meghan states she has received several hymn suggestions following her request to the congregation, and she plans to use those as appropriate. Most of them are hymns already used fairly regularly.
- † Sandy reports the organ has had no further problems since the one time it mysteriously stopped playing. The piano was tuned by Crowson Piano Service of Ankeny on October 16.
- † Linda Kirchhoff had a list provided by Val McKee of the contributions promised so far for the Advent booklet. There are enough articles for the entire booklet, thanks to Meghan's mother volunteering to write one.
- † Reformation Sunday was October 28 and was also the culmination of the month-long focus on hunger. The worshippers were invited to write letters to congressional representatives advocating for funding for critical programs to alleviate hunger and poverty. A door was placed up front so people could come forward and nail letters to the door.
- † All Saints Sunday is November 4. We will observe the tradition of reading names of deceased members/loved ones.
- † The Thanksgiving feast will be following worship on November 18. We will follow our tradition of having communion following the meal.

Handbells for Christmas Eve

Val McKee

We are trying to get a group together to play a couple of familiar carols at the Christmas Eve service. I'm thinking we'll need just two or three rehearsals, day and time to be determined by participants. If you are interested in playing, please contact Val McKee, 641-831-0388 or valmckee50208@aol.com



Be watching the bulletins, Church Happenings and next month's Messenger for information regarding the All Church Christmas Pageant, the Blue Christmas service, the Christmas Eve service and ordering poinsettias. As in the past, we will have an insert in the bulletin that you can use to order your poinsettia and to let us know who they are given for, either in memory or to honor. These are wonderful traditions carried out year after year.

MEMBERSHIP



MOMENT

The Membership Committee did not participate in Trunk or Treat this year. While it was fun and did build Fellowship values among the participants we were not sure it was getting our church presence known very well and that was one reason we had done it for about 6 years. We decided to not do it and move the money spent for candy toward purchasing more miniature Frisbees (with church info imprinted) to be distributed at the 4th of July parade next year. They are very popular and advertise our church well and last for years.

The new church brochures are done and have been distributed via the Stewardship letter. The printing was not without some problems but we now have exactly what we wanted and we are very proud of them. Look for them in the church pew racks (with visitor and prayer cards). The Membership Committee would like to thank Cathy Rickers for her help and technical advice in completing the brochure. It was invaluable!

It is probable that our next big challenge will be to update the church directory.

Tom Weeks and his son Steve presented a program about father and grandfather, Marvin Weeks. The program was a Sundays at 4 presentation on September 30 at 4:00 p.m. Tom relates the following about the program:

“My dad’s life was one a book can be written about. He was born in a sod house on the western prairies of South Dakota. He came to Iowa before he was two in an actual Conestoga covered wagon. He survived poverty during the Great Depression and would be highly decorated for his services in Europe during his service in World War II.”

Pizza was ordered and shared by those staying for conversation after the program.

Nominating Committee

Jen Norvell, Chair

Our committee has been working hard to find nominees for the 5 Elder and 3 Deacon positions that need to be filled. We are getting close to having a full slate of candidates. We will also be electing a member-at-large person to serve on the committee. Once we have all the slots filled, we will be requesting a congregational meeting, giving advance notice of the date, to elect our new officers.

To those who have already given us an affirmative answer when we asked, we thank you. We ask that we receive the same positive answer from those we might yet ask.

The First Presbyterian Church of Dickinson, Texas wishes to extend our thanks and gratitude for your generous and sincere donation toward rebuilding and community projects since Hurricane Harvey. We sincerely appreciate your kindness and extend prayers and blessings to you.

The Session of the Church

Handwritten note below the above printed message: “Thank you for thinking of us and for giving us And giving us Marilee!”

(This is the church that Barb and John Taylor’s daughter, Marilee and family attend. The Mission committee sent money to them for Hurricane recovery.)



Church Life

Tara Zehr, Chair

2018 Progressive Dinner Recap

We had 24 people this year, plus Dave Stolper and Linda Curtis-Stolper who joined us for dessert. Everyone met at the church at 4:00 pm for appetizers, which was hosted by Nancy Mott & Meghan Davis. Also bringing appetizers were Barbara Vasquez and Dana Hashman. While at the church, everyone was given their route for the rest of the evening. Those hosting the salad/soup course were Peskas, McKees, and Diane Moles. Main courses were served by Andersons, Repps, and Parsons. Mielkes and Dana Hashman also assisted with the main course. Dessert was hosted by Ericksons, with Grimms, Blacks and Mickey Van Baale bringing desserts. The Church Life committee would like to thank Diane Moles for all her work behind the scenes figuring out the route each person was to take. While the numbers were down this year, mainly due to many people being out of town or having family events to attend, it was a fun event. Plan to attend next year.

November 18, 2018, 11:30 a.m.	Thanksgiving Feast and Communion, jointly with Worship and Music Committee
December 16, 2018, 4:00 p.m.	Christmas caroling followed by chili supper

The 2017 Thanksgiving Feast, November 18th, noontime meal after worship

We'll be having the Thanksgiving Feast potluck this year in Fellowship Hall after worship on Sunday, November 18th. The committee members will roast the turkeys, set the tables, and provide the drinks. Bring your favorite holiday dish to share. Following the meal, Thanksgiving communion will be held. Please plan to attend and bring your favorite people with whom to share this time.

At our October meeting we took care of the following business:

- * Approved the minutes of the September meeting.
- * Received reports of visits made during September.
- * Were reminded to make visits to Gladys Sparks and Jeanne Bridenstine in addition to our regular visits.
- * Were told that the account balance for the deacon fund stood at \$1,039.15
- * Learned that Diane Moles is the deacon representative on the Nominating Committee.

Diane Moles, Moderator



Budget and Finance Corner

Jen Norvell, Chair

Operating Revenue and Expenses for the 3rd quarter 2018 ... July thru Sept.

- ◇ Pledges for the quarter were \$29,897. This was \$32 above budget for the quarter.
- ◇ Other Regular Giving, which represents donations from people who tithe, but do not pledge, was \$2,245 for the quarter, which was \$1,036 below budget.

Other Income for the month:

- ◇ A \$1,000 donation was received to go toward organ/piano repairs.
- ◇ Received \$175 donation for per capita.
- ◇ The Memorial Fund received \$920 in donations honoring Dick Means and Jack Nicholson.
- ◇ Received a prepaid pledge in the amount of \$6,820.
- ◇ The Funeral Luncheon Fund received \$700 in donations from both the Means and Nicholson families.
- ◇ The Yoga fund received donations of \$964.25.
- ◇ The Designated Mission fund received \$138.87 in Cents-Ability donations.
- ◇ The International Mission account received \$130 for the Crop Walk and \$24 for Days for Girls.
- ◇ The Undesignated Mission fund received \$2,506.35 in contributions for the Ice Cream Social.

Expenses for the month:

- ◇ Building/Grounds expense is above budget \$2,058 for the quarter due to higher than expected utilities and lawn mowing expense. Also, the organ tuning expense was incurred during the 3rd quarter.
- ◇ Personnel expenses were above budget \$647, due to paying for music substitutes and quarterly payroll taxes.
- ◇ The Funeral Luncheon Fund paid expenses related to the Means and Nicholson funerals.
- ◇ The Yoga fund paid \$207.98 to reimburse Meghan for yoga expenses she had previously paid.
- ◇ The Designated Mission fund made contributions to the Salvation Army of \$100 and Presbytery of Des Moines for \$100 and paid a \$276 music scholarship.
- ◇ The International Mission account made a \$360 contribution for a food packaging event, gave \$200 to Presbytery USA in support of South Sudan and paid \$240.52 for Days for Girls expenses.
- ◇ The Undesignated Mission fund paid \$80.19 for expenses from the Ice Cream Social and made a \$200 donation for Hurricane Relief and a \$200 donation to Dakota Presbytery for the star quilt display.

In total for the quarter, expenses were \$2,205 over budget.

Year-to-date through September:

- ◇ Year-to-date pledges are \$29,125 over budget
- ◇ Other Regular Giving is \$3,094 over budget.
- ◇ Expenses are \$5,360 over budget



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.

Harvest Offering

Members will be given the opportunity to give to this special offering of the Des Moines Presbytery on **November 11**. Our church has a particular history with this offering. Elder Murray Nelson attended a conference on world hunger in 1978 and decided to take some action. He persuaded Des Moines Presbytery to sponsor a Harvest Sunday Offering in the fall and use the money raised to give an agricultural education to a student from a third world country. After getting their training, the students had to agree to return to their native land and teach the people how to raise more and better crops. Murray headed the offering for five years and the original idea was practiced for a decade or more. Des Moines Presbytery still has this offering under a new name, Harvest Offering and the scope covers more than growing crops in third world countries. In 2018, one half of the Harvest Offering will serve rural lowans and one half of the offering is designated for programs and projects directed toward women in agriculture across the world.

S.H.A.R.E.

(Self Help and Resource Exchange)

SHARE Iowa, Inc., brings people together to build and strengthen community through volunteer service by providing access to good, nutritious food at affordable prices. We are committed to supporting local neighborhood host sites where all may participate, serve, and lead with dignity. SHARE is a food buying group that specializes in bringing you good food at very low prices. Through SHARE's unique food network, thousands of people save money by stretching their grocery dollars. Order before November 2nd, for pick-up on the 17th. Make checks payable to First Christian Church. To order call Julie @ 641-792-5850, SHARE @ 800-344-1107 or visit <http://www.shareiowa.org>

Days for Girls

Our final workshop for 2018 will be Thursday, November 29 from 9 am – 2 pm in fellowship hall. Great fellowship while preparing sustainable hygiene kits which allow girls to continue in school all month long. A delicious light lunch is provided. All are welcome!


Mission Coalition

Linda Curtis-Stolper reports that the date First Presbyterian Church members will be ringing bells for the Salvation Army will be December 1. The location has not been determined yet, but it will be an indoor site. Watch the Church Happenings and bulletins for further information. The McCann Flea Market and Mission Coalition Pie Sale are Saturday, November 3. First Presbyterian is being asked to donate at least ten pies - fruit, pumpkin, pecan, not meringue or anything that needs refrigeration. There's a sign-up-sheet on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.



2018 **BIRTHDAYS & EVENTS**

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1 Advent Booklet Articles Due 6:30a Early Men's Group 9a Men's Group 3p Chair Yoga	2 Jane Birkenholz Dan Ritter	3 Bret Doerring McCann Center Flea Market and Pie Sale 11a Women's Coloring
4 End of Daylight Savings Time Stewardship Pledges Due All Saints Day	5 4:45p Personnel	6 Larry DeCook Barbara Zacheis	7 Macy Jontz 9:30a Women's Bible Study 6p Membership 7p Choir	8	9	10
11 Kathy Ventling 9a Deacons Harvest Offering Taken	12	13 Barb Taylor Carol Goodwin 8:30a - 3:30p Presbytery Mtg 3:30p Mission	14 9:30a Women's Bible Study 6p Budget & Finance 7p Choir	15 Tim Leonard 6:30a Early Men's Group 9a Men's Group 3p Chair Yoga	16	17 11a Women's Coloring
18 11:30a Thanksgiving Feast	19	20 11a Gentle Yoga 6:30p Session	21 9:30a Women's Bible Study 7p Choir	22  THANKSGIVING Day	23 Mickey Van Baale	24 Jeanne Bridenstine
25	26	27 11a Gentle Yoga	28 9:30a Women's Bible Study 7p Choir	29 JoAnn Munger 9a - 2p Days for Girls 3p Chair Yoga	30	

Regular Worship Schedule	
9:00 a Adult Sunday School	10:30 a Worship
10:00 a Fellowship	11:30 a Fellowship

**SCHEDULE
OF**



VOLUNTEERS

November	4	11	18	25
Worship Leader <i>Mickey Van Baale</i>	Terry Rickers	Mickey Van Baale	Dave Stolper	Kathy Ventling
Host Elder/Deacon <i>Church Life</i>	Marilyn McCallister	George Wilkening	Tara Zehr	
Greeters <i>Julie Brodersen</i>	Terry Rickers Bev Rossow	Chris & Peggy Lickiss	Cole Doerring Carroll Brodersen	Janet Shields Kim or Kert Schnell
Ushers <i>Mickey Van Baale</i>	Randy & Carol Camp	Dick & Shirley Mielke	Kathy Ventling	John & Barb Taylor
Audio <i>Shirley Stevens</i>	Shirley Stevens	Dan Ritter	Shirley Stevens	Kyle Doerring
Counters <i>Budget & Finance</i>	Dan Ritter Don Black	Dave Stolper Kathy Ventling	Tara Zehr Bret Doerring	Jonnie Carpenter Tom Weeks
Bread Ministry Baker <i>Barb Taylor</i>	Diane Moles	Shari DeCook	Sandy Simbro	Linda Campbell
Bread Ministry Taker <i>Barb Taylor</i>		Mickey Van Baale	Mary Jane Tripp	Linda Campbell
Communion Set up <i>Worship & Music</i>	George Wilkening Karen Quinn		Linda Kirchhoff Tara Zehr (Thanksgiving)	

*Let Us Be Thankful -
Counting our Blessings
Every Day!*



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

641-792-2790

Return Service Requested

Lectionary —

November, 2018

November 4 - 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ruth 1:1-18; *Ps. 146*; Heb. 9:11-14,
Mark 12:28-34

November 11 - 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17; *Ps. 127*;
Heb. 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44

November 18– 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Sam. 1:4-20; *1 Sam. 2:1-10*;
Heb. 10:11-14 (15-18) 19-25;
Mark 14:1--8

November 25 - Christ the King/Reign of Christ

2 Sam. 23:1-7; *Ps. 132:1-12 (13-18)*;
Rev. 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37

December, 2018

December 2 - 1st Sunday of Advent

Jer. 33:14-16; *Ps. 25:1-10*;
1 Thess. 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

December 9 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

Mal. 3:1-4; *Luke 1:68-79*;
Phil. 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

December 16 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

Zeph. 3:14-20; *Isa. 12:2-6*;
Phil. 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

December 23 - 4th Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5a; *Luke 1:46b-55* or
Ps. 80:1-7; Heb. 10:5-10;
Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

December 30 - 1st Sunday after Christmas Day

1 Sam. 2:18-20, 26; *Ps. 148*;
Col. 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52