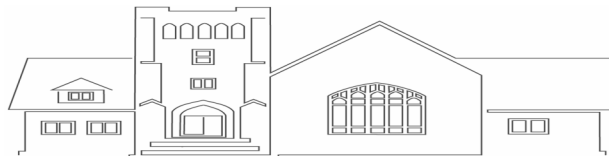


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NEWTON, IOWA
641-792-2790

"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 2015

Meghan's Musings

Attention all **middle** and **high school YOUTH** and **PARENTS:**

Youth Downtown

a combined effort of multiple downtown churches, meets

every Sunday from 6-8PM in Friendship House.

All middle and high school youth are *invited and encouraged* to attend.

BE HERE!

EVERYONE ELSE: we are in need of lay leaders to help with Youth Downtown for not more than six weeks at a time. We *say* children and youth are important so here's our chance to show it. We *vow* at their baptism to provide for their Christian nurture so here's our chance to do it! Talk to Meghan for more information.

Be Praying For...

- ✠ Brad Ritter who is recovering from surgery on his leg due to an injury occurring during a recent football game.
- ✠ Virginia Bennett as she cares for her father, Leland Cook, who recently had a fall.
- ✠ Charlie Bruce, Jen Norvell's father, who continues to recuperate after having quadruple bypass heart surgery.
- ✠ Our Presbytery, as we are going through a transition period.
- ✠ Our brothers and sisters around the world who are coping with deaths at a homecoming parade, loss of life and property due to Hurricane Patricia, and those who live in fear every day of bombings, murders, or terrorist actions.

Persons needed to write articles for the Advent Book!!!

It is that magical time of year to begin planning for the Advent season. The worship and music committee has selected the theme "Angels Among Us". This time honored tradition is greatly appreciated and we look forward to receiving the book. This project can only be successful when FPC members are willing to write articles. The theme should produce some very interesting thoughts from our members. Please write an article and get it to Jane Repp by October 30, 2015. Jane's e-mail address is sprintcarkids@gmail.com.

Angels Among Us



2015 Advent Book

Our sympathy goes out to Frank and Dana Hashman and their family over the recent death of Frank's brother, Dennis. Dennis lived in Elgin, MO and had been ill for a while. The body has been cremated and a private family burial will be held in Lineville, Iowa at a later date.



During This Time of Loss

Stewardship Campaign

Jonnie Carpenter, Chair

Recently you would have received information on this year's stewardship campaign, along with your pledge card. We ask that you return your card to the office by **November 8**. The chairperson of each committee of the church has been asked to review their financial activity this past year and determine if any changes need to be made.

Once we know the total on pledges, and take into account Other Regular Giving, we will know our income amount for 2016. We will compare this to the expenses the various committees present. This will let us know if we will have the income to cover the expenses or if the committees will have to sharpen their pencils and come back with adjusted requests.

Please prayerfully consider your tithe for 2016. To keep up with expenses that increase, we all need to see if we can increase the amount we give.

Another factor where congregation members can help is by paying their per capita. This is the per person amount our church is required to pay to Presbytery. Last year, this amount per person was around \$40.00. If you are unable to pay the full amount, a portion would help.

Remember that pledge cards need to be turned in by **November 8**. We cannot set our 2016 budget until we hear from all of you.





At our October meeting we:

- *Received a thank-you note from the Salvation Army for our donation.
- *Received a report from Shirley Stevens that she had sent out many cards for birthdays, thinking of you, and get well wishes.
- *Heard reports of visits and discussed possible additions to the list.

Dana Hashman, Moderator

Building and Grounds

Norm Grimm, Chair

The committee discussed further details on the new sidewalk and front steps. Jack Topp, the architect, recommended the rise and run for the new steps will be 6 by 16 inches. Also that exposed aggregate be added to both the sidewalk and steps and bronze anodized aluminum for the hand rail.

The committee will request bidding documents and specifications by Jack Topp before Thanksgiving. Exposed aggregate will be added to both the sidewalk and steps.

These modifications are all recommended by the architect. Three construction bids will be solicited by the end of 2015.

It is estimated that the project will take four to six weeks to complete.

The committee received a request from Les Gause to be relieved as sound system supervisor. Doug Cutts has agreed to take over those duties



Worship and Music

Linda Kirchhoff, Chair

The Worship and Music Committee did not meet in October since all business had been handled. We would like to share our appreciation with those who organized and made possible the service commemorating the 20th anniversary of our mission with El Salvador. It was touching to see so many who had participated in this venture attend the celebration. Great job! We wish to thank Jane Repp and all those who are writing entries for the Advent booklet. On November 1st, Rev. David Madsen will again be filling the pulpit and leading us in celebrating communion. We will also remember those who have died in the past year on this All Saints Day. The Worship and Music Committee will meet in November to help plan the communion portion of the Thanksgiving feast and to prepare for Advent.



Budget and Finance Corner

Jonnie Carpenter, Chair

Pledges for the month of September were \$11,409. This was \$409 below the amount we had budgeted. Other Regular Giving, which represents donations from people who tithe, but do not pledge, was \$460 for the month, which was \$276 below budget. In total for the month, expenses were \$1,848 over budget. Year-to-date pledges are \$3,872 over budget and year-to-date expenses are \$4,424 above budget.

The Capital Development - Maintenance fund paid an expense of \$682 for architect fees related to the front steps.

The Memorial Fund received an additional \$30 donation to support the showing of Selma.



Church Life Activities

Diane Moles, Chair

Progressive Dinner Recap

On Sunday afternoon, October 25th, 36 people gathered to eat a meal in four stages, both together and apart. Everyone started at the Ericksons with appetizers. Then, we split into groups and ate the salad or soup course at the Harmelinks, McKees, Moles, and Taylors, followed by the main course at Cutts, Mielkes, Motts, Repps, and Davis. We ended up at the Parsons for dessert. The weather was beautiful, food was delicious, and conversation was sparkling! Everyone was well-fed, and from all accounts, had a very fun evening.

The Thanksgiving Feast, November 22nd, noontime meal after worship

The temperatures are dropping – so it’s time to think about Thanksgiving!

We’ll be having the Thanksgiving Feast potluck this year in Fellowship Hall after worship on Sunday, November 22nd. 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.

Your Church Life Committee:

Nancy Mott, Kay Parsons, Janie Moles, Dan Ritter, Randy Camp, and Diane Moles

Here’s the list of events, with dates and times. Watch the Sunday bulletins, Church Happenings, and monthly Messenger closer to the event for more details. Most are events we’ve done in the past that were so much fun we just have to do them again!

Date & Time	Event
November 22, 2015, 11:30 am	Thanksgiving Feast and Communion**
December 20, 2015, 4:00 pm	Christmas caroling and chili supper

** Joint venture with Worship & Music Committee

We’ll also be investigating interest in viewing Jolly Holiday Lights in December.

Rural Partnership Offering

It is time to consider giving to the Rural Partnership offering. This special offering of the Presbytery of Des Moines has roots in our congregation. In the late 70’s, active elder Murray Nelson proposed and helped create a special offering that focused on the rural aspect of our state. For more than three decades this offering has supported creative ministries with rural focus throughout the Des Moines Presbytery and around the world. Because of our special relationship with El Salvador, in recent years a portion of the offering has helped with our ministry there. Grants also have gone to hunger programs in central Iowa like the Backpack Project which sends needy kids home with a backpack of food to help feed them over the weekend. Please consider giving to this special offering. Envelopes can be found in your bulletin or just write a check to First Presbyterian with “Rural Partnership Offering” on the memo line. Please make your contribution by **November 1**.



Thank you!
Mission Committee

Christian Nurture

Virginia Bennett, Chair

Primer has been applied to the Power Room on the second floor. A second work day has been discussed, but a definite date needs to be set. Painting the walls and installing new carpeting still needs to be done. Watch the weekly Church Happenings and bulletins for the date.

This is our 5th year participating in the Operation Shoe Box ministry. It starts with the congregation collecting items to be packaged into the shoeboxes (for kids aged 5-14): school supplies, hygiene items for kids, small toys, and socks. Each box costs \$7 to ship, so donations are appreciated, too. Then, on **November 8**, during Action Hour, the kids will decorate the boxes, write a personal note, package and pray over the boxes. This is a national project and the boxes are sent to kids in need all over the world. Our kids always enjoy this project. They like to think about how the child will feel opening their gift box and it reminds them to be thankful for what they have already. Perfect thoughts to be having at the beginning of the holiday season!

Discussions have begun on an all church Christmas pageant. The date and exactly what it will consist of have yet to be finalized. Again, watch the Church Happenings and bulletins for the final details.



MEMBERSHIP



MOMENT

Our committee felt that readership of the Messenger had dropped since being distributed mainly online. The online distribution was instituted mainly to cut the cost of mailing. We recommended that we try a

system in which they are distributed mainly by hand at church or those at church deliver to their neighbors, or a family member or friend that wasn't in church that day. If people still want theirs sent online that is still available. The session agreed to try this method of distribution for awhile. The new Messenger deadline is earlier to enable distribution by the last Sunday of the current month, or the first Sunday of the following month, depending on how the dates fall.

Cathy Rickers is working on a church marketing project. Kay Parsons came up with the following slogan which was approved by the session and will be a part of the project: First Presbyterian Church: Reaching out to the world, to our community and to you.

We are planning on having a fellowship/work project in January in which we meet at the church, share a light meal and devotions, and then do a work project at the church-probably cleaning the upper floors.

At this time we are planning to have an entry in the Christmas lighting parade again this year. The parade occurs on the evening after Thanksgiving. We hope to again feature our wonderful choir.

Gary Parsons, chair pro tem

Nominating Committee

Virginia Bennett, Chair

Our committee will soon begin our work in finding 3 Elders, 3 Deacons, and 1 member for next year's Nominating Committee, each serving a 3 year term. Please be prayerfully considering how you may serve our church. Could it be by filling one of these spots? If you feel you would be interested, please let myself, Steve Hopkins, or Bret Doerring know.

On the other hand, if the committee comes knocking on your door to see if you would be interested, we ask that you give it serious thought, and talk to God in prayer. Others normally can see talents within us that we don't see ourselves.

Mission Committee

Linda Erickson, Chair

Local Mission:

McCann Center flea market/Mission Coalition Pie Sale was held on Saturday, October 24. Marilyn McCallister, our liaison, lined up people to make the 7 pies our church donated. Proceeds will go to RRACAP and the Salvation Army for low-income utility relief and fuel assistance.

The prison Christmas party will not happen this year. The prison is short-handed and cannot deal with an extra event.

National Mission:

The work week committee is beginning to discuss possibilities for next year. Discussion will include the possibility of a work week group generated by the new Youth Downtown group that is meeting each week at Friendship House.

John and Barb Taylor will be traveling to Kemmerer Village in Assumption, Illinois in November for a Mariners in Mission project.

International Mission:

The El Salvador twentieth anniversary celebration was held on Sunday, October 4. Rev. Bill Calhoun offered the message during worship and former delegates, former mission co-worker Rev. Bob Cook and Presbytery officials were among the invited guests. Below are a few pictures of the day.



Yoga Classes

After taking a summer hiatus, yoga classes have begun once again. The classes that are available are:

Monday 6:15 pm: Flow
Tuesday 11:00 am: Gentle
Thursday 3:00 pm: Chair
Saturday 10:00 am: Flow

Open to the public. Please join us!



Highlights from Session

Mickey Van Baale, Clerk of Session

- ◆ Women’s Bible Study has resumed on Wednesday mornings.
- ◆ Updated the Stewardship Campaign.
- ◆ Informed that the next Presbytery meeting is November 10, which will be the last meeting for General Presbyter and Stated Clerk, Phil Barrett.
- ◆ The Foundation Committee will need a new President, as Jane Repp is stepping down.
- ◆ The Nominating Committee will begin their work soon.
- ◆ Heard an update on the proposed new front steps and sidewalk.
- ◆ Celebrated a very successful celebration of 20 years involvement in the El Salvador ministry



2015 Advent Art Project – “Be Not Afraid”

In preparation for Advent, we are going to start a new all-church, inter-generational art project similar to the one we completed two years ago for Lent.

This time, we will have a canvas divided into 9 squares (or rectangles, depending on the canvas). Each square will represent an area of worry or anxiety in our lives, such as work, finances, health, family, hunger, world peace, our community, global warming or other nature-related worry, etc. You will be encouraged to participate by using magazine clippings from our supply, or some you bring from home, and applying it to those areas that are of particular interest to you. This is intended to be a prayerful and thoughtful experience that helps relieve some of the worry you may have about these issues as we worship through Advent and look forward to the birth of our Lord.

While the squares are being completed, the youth of the church will be creating small, white paper sculptures of wings (angels/ Faith), butterflies (Hope), doves or birds (Love) and cranes (Peace). These simple, white sculptures will be centered over a completed collage square to add a 3-dimensional aspect to the piece and represent that our worries are temporary and may be faced with Faith and Hope – “Be Not Afraid”!

As with the previous project, an easel will be set up in the Fellowship Hall with the prepared canvas, magazines and clippings, acrylic medium and brushes. This project requires no artistic talent, skill, hand strength, or the ability to draw a straight line. Anyone may participate!

If you have questions about the project, please contact Cathy Rickers. We hope to have the canvas completed before the end of Advent, so please pitch in and participate.

NOVEMBER 2015 BIRTHDAYS & EVENTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1  6:00 pm Youth Downtown	2 Dan Ritter Steve McKee Jane Birkenholtz 6:15 pm Yoga Flow 7:00 pm Christian Nurture	3 Bret Doerring 11:00 am Gentle Yoga 6:00 pm Worship & Music	4 9:30 am WBS 5:30 pm Membership 6:00 pm Spanish 7:00 pm Choir	5 6:30 am Early Men's group 9:00 am Men's group 3:00 pm Chair Yoga 4:30 pm Missions	6 Larry DeCook Barbara Zacheis	7 Jack Nicholson Macy Jontz 10:00 am Yoga Flow
8 9:00 am Deacons 10:30 am Kids Action Hour 4:00 pm Marriage study 6:00 pm Youth Downtown	9 6:15 pm Yoga Flow	10 Dave Boyd 11:00 am Gentle Yoga	11 Kathy Ventling 9:30 am WBS 6:00 pm B & F Spanish 7:00 pm Choir	12 3:00 pm Chair Yoga	13 Barb Taylor Carol Goodwin	14 10:00 am Yoga Flow
15 Tim Leonard 4:00 pm Marriage study 6:00 pm Youth Downtown	16 6:15 pm Yoga Flow	17 Steve Hopkins 11:00 am Gentle Yoga 6:30 p.m. Session	18 9:30 am WBS 6:00 pm Spanish 7:00 pm Choir	19 Bridget Carson 6:30 am Early Men's group 9:00 am Men's group 3:00 pm Chair Yoga	20	21 10:00 am Yoga Flow
22 10:30 am Kids Action Hour 11:30 am Thanksgiving Dinner 6:00 pm Youth Downtown	23 Mickey Van Baale 6:15 pm Yoga Flow	24 Tom Farver Jeanne Bridenstine Greg Carson 11:00 am NO Yoga	25 6:00 pm Spanish 7:00 pm Choir	26 	27 Mallory Sturtz	28 Spencer Curry
29 JoAnn Munger 6:00 pm Youth Downtown	30 6:15 pm Yoga Flow				9:00 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	



November



Volunteers

November	1	8	15	22	29	December 6
Worship Leader Office	George Wilkening	Mickey Van Baale	Val McKee	Sara Hopkins	Kathy Ventling	Gary Parsons
Host Elder/Deacon Diane Moles	Virginia Bennett	Val McKee	Jeanette Shannon	Diane Moles	Dana Hashman	Bev Rossow
Greeters Julie Brodersen	Randy & Carol Camp	Terry Rickers Bev Rossow	Kevin & Toni Peska	Chris & Peggy Lickiss	Doug Cutts Cole Doerring	Janet Shields Valerie Barney
Ushers Office	Pat & Pete Koppin	Bill & Nancy Shields	Gary & Kay Parsons	Ritter Family	Terry & Cat Rickers	Kevin & Toni Peska
Audio Les Gause	Dan Ritter	Dan Ritter	Jay Koenen	Jay Koenen	Jay Koenen	Roger Harmelink
Candlelighter Office	Emily Miller	Cody Barney	Garrett Sturtz	Allie Norvell	Advent	Advent
Counters Jonnie Carpenter	Dan Ritter Bill Shields	Jonnie Carpenter Kim De Graff	Roger Harmelink Dave Stolper	Kelly Koenen Jen Norvell	Terry Rickers Dave Boyd	Tara Zehr
Bread Ministry Baker Barb Taylor	Shari De Cook	George Wilkening	Barb Taylor	Linda Campbell	Jane Repp	Val McKee
Bread Ministry Taker Barb Taylor	Mickey Van Baale	Mary Jane Tripp	Barb Taylor	Linda Campbell	Carol Russell	Joan Rusk
Kids Action Hour Jen Norvell		Linda Curtis-Stolper		Mickey Van Baale Dana Hashman		
Communion Set up Linda Kirchoff	Linda Erickson Val McKee			Diane Moles Karen Quinn		

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

641-792-2790

Return Service Requested

Lectionary —

November, 2015

November 1 - All Saints' Day

Isa. 25:6-9; *Ps. 24*; Rev. 21:1-6a
John 11:32-44

November 8 - 24th Sunday after Pentecost

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

November 15 - 25th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Sam. 1:4-20; *1 Sam. 2:1-10*; Heb. 10:11-14
(15-18) 19-25; Mark 13:1-8

November 22 - 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

November 29 - 1st Sunday of Advent

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

December, 2015

December 6 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

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

December 13 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

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

December 20 - 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 27 - 1st Sunday after Christmas

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