

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



OCTOBER 2017

Meghan's Musings

“Let the children come to me.”

As many of you have undoubtedly noticed, the ranks of our young worshippers have dwindled over the years. Additionally, this year our dear nursery attendant, Megan Ritter, graduated from high school and moved on to college leaving us with the conundrum regarding whether or not to hire a replacement and if so, whom?

In consultation with the parents most directly involved, the Personnel Committee and Session decided that, for the time being at least, we will try not having a nursery attendant and see how things go.

While it is unfortunate and disheartening not to have more children in our church family, there is a great opportunity here, a silver lining. The benefit of having children in worship is they learn from a young age that the sanctuary and worship experience are *for them*. (As a friend of mine laments, if we keep kids out of worship, from the time they are little saying, “it’s not for you” how can we be surprised that, when they get older, they think worship is not for them?)

Admittedly, having children in worship does bring some challenges. Parents can feel awkward and have difficulty worshipping when their kids are making noise (i.e. being kids). And sometimes other worshippers, too, find it difficult to focus on worship with the children in our midst.

However, I think the joys and benefits of having children in worship with us outweigh the drawbacks so I ask that we all make a concerted effort to be extra welcoming and encouraging to children and their parents in worship.

A couple years ago I came across a photo of a pew card from a Roman Catholic church that I’ve tweaked a bit to fit our context. Let me know your thoughts!

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- ✚ Prayers for safe travels and a wonderful, warm winter to our church family who will begin heading south to their winter homes.
- ✚ Prayers for Ann DeGrado who has had some medical issues and subsequently had surgery.
- ✚ Prayers for Janna Skinner who had emergency spinal surgery on Tuesday, September 26. Janna now lives in Lawrence, Kansas.
- ✚ Prayers for Macy Jontz who was hit by a car at Willowbrook and broke her hip. She had surgery in Des Moines, and has now returned to Park Center for recuperation and rehabilitation.
- ✚ Prayers for Warren Jontz who has been moved at Park Center as he can't live in their apartment alone.
- ✚ Prayers to the Harmelinks, Millers and Hopkins, as they begin a new chapter in their lives as they move to different homes.
- ✚ Prayers to the people whose lives and possessions have been destroyed or severely changed due to the many natural disasters that have been experienced around the world - fires, hurricanes, earthquakes.

Congregational Meeting

There will be a very brief congregational meeting on Sunday, October 15 immediately following worship for the purpose of electing a new member of the Nominating Committee to fill the three year term vacated by Steve Hopkins. Kevin Peska has been nominated and is willing to serve; however, as our bylaws state, "Full opportunity shall always be given to the congregation to nominate from the floor of the congregational meeting any active member of the congregation." Those being nominated from the floor should have expressed a willingness to serve prior to the meeting.

Reformation Sunday - October 29

Presbyterians celebrate the tradition that grounds their faith on Reformation Sunday. It is always the last Sunday in October. This year Presbyterians celebrate the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's 95 Theses. In 1517, Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany. The theses, which criticized the sale of indulgences by church officials, are considered the opening salvo in the Protestant Reformation - a movement that emphasized individual relationships with God and salvation through faith alone.

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TO THE PARENTS OF OUR YOUNG CHILDREN, MAY WE SUGGEST...

- Relax! God put the wiggle in children, don't feel like you have to suppress it in God's house. All are welcome!
- Help yourself to the children's books and activity bags (an usher can show you where they are).
- Sit toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to see and hear what's going on. They tire of seeing the backs of others' heads.
- Quietly explain the parts of the worship service, sing the hymns, and join the prayers and responses. Children learn liturgical behavior by copying you.
- If you feel the need to leave worship with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."
- Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are home in this house of worship.

TO ALL OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND WORSHIPERS

- The presence of children is a gift to the Church and they are a reminder of God's love, the movement of the Holy Spirit and the opportunity for growth.
- Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.



Christian Nurture

Karen Quinn, Chair

ATTENTION ALL SENIORS!

First Presbyterian Church Christian Nurture Committee is sponsoring a discussion for seniors between the ages of 65 and 110. It will be Wednesday October 25 at 1 pm in Fellowship Hall. The subject will be "What I'm glad I did and What I wish I had done in life." We'll talk about things we have checked off our bucket lists and things we just didn't get to do. It will be a fun time and hopefully some of our oldest people can advise some of us youngsters under age 70 about what we can still do and what to just let go of and what to be happy and satisfied about. We'll have apple cider and cookies in the style of Halloween or All Hallows Eve. If we enjoy the company and the discussion we can continue it.

The discussion will be led by Karen Quinn, who is a psychologist who has worked in that field for 42 years and is very glad to be retired from working with really difficult people and to be able to work with normal people to just enhance their happiness and satisfaction with life.

If you are mature enough, please join us Wednesday, October 25 at 1 pm for some fun and challenge.

Stewardship Campaign

Bev Rossow, Chair

Recently you should 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 **October 29**. 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 2018. 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.

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.

Please prayerfully consider your tithes for 2018. Remember that pledge cards need to be turned in by **October 29**. We cannot set our 2018 budget until we hear from all of you.



A message to First Presbyterian Church
From Steve and Sara Hopkins

We moved to Newton to live our dream of dairy farming 23 years ago. We were so lucky to be able to live our dream of owning and running a sustainable dairy and livestock farm, and to share that life with many of you and a host of others in the Newton area.

You helped us raise our two boys, Anders and Peder, who were baptized and confirmed here, and were part of the First Presbyterian graduates from Newton High School and Luther College. You helped us grieve and bury our two stillborn babies, April Rose and Paul Louis. You rejoiced with us during good times and comforted us through difficulties. You helped us each develop our own ministries and realize callings, including teaching Sunday School, singing in the church choir, serving on many church committees, and being part of the church community here in Newton, outside of Newton during work weeks, and on trips to El Salvador.

We are forever grateful and will always view Newton and First Presbyterian as home. Now it is time for us to follow a new call and adventure, as we move to a new home closer to our workplaces in Des Moines. It is with mixed feelings of excitement and sadness that we say thank you for welcoming us into your church community, and please keep our family in your thoughts and prayers as we move to a new place. And, as always, please stop by to visit!

Love,

Steve and Sara Hopkins

New address: 3104 36th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50310 (cell phone number will stay the same)

MEMBERSHIP



MOMENT

Membership Committee did not meet in September. Please watch for information about Trunk or Treat for Halloween and another Pray, Eat, Work (PEW) event this fall



Budget and Finance Corner

Bev Rossow, Chair

Pledges for the month of July were \$7,653. This was \$2,991 below budget for the month.

Other Regular Giving, which represents donations from people who tithe, but do not pledge, was \$200 for the month.

Other income for the month:

- ◇ **Membership Income of \$28 was received from t-shirt sales.**

Expenses for the month:

- ◇ **The Funeral Luncheon Fund paid expenses for two funeral luncheons.**
- ◇ **The International Mission fund paid \$192.19 in expenses for Days for Girls supplies.**
- ◇ **The Undesignated Mission made a contribution of \$100 to Friends in Hope and paid postage expenses of \$24.99.**

In total for the month, expenses were \$218 under budget.

Year-to-date through August:

- **Pledges are \$1,331 over budget.**
- **Other Regular Giving is \$1,683 over budget.**
- **Expenses are \$562 over budget.**



At our September meeting we:

- Received and approved the minutes from our previous meeting.
- Were updated on the June, July and August visits.
- Heard updates from Meghan on visits she has made.
- Learned that we have \$669.20 in our Deacon's fund as of August 31. We have not been getting requests for donations so Mickey will check with the Administrative Assistant to make sure we receive any that come in the church mail.
- Received the report of 97 cards being sent from May through August.

Discussion was held on the move of Steve and Sara Hopkins to Des Moines. The Deacons are sad to be losing both of them from our board. Tasks they had been assigned from October through December will be covered by another member.

Mickey Van Baale, Moderator



We want to stay in touch with our young people who are either at college or have moved for their job. Parents: please send us their address. We will send them the Messenger and perhaps some other items to let them know their church family is thinking of them and keeping them in our prayers. Information should be given to Barbara at the church office.

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.

September 30 and October 14 – Our first Ramp Building Project has two work days scheduled for a finished ramp to be located in rural Colfax. The ramp will consist of two deck sections and two ramp sections. On Saturday, September 30, the four sections were built in the church parking lot. The ramp sections will be transported to the home site, when on October 14 starting at 9 am, the ramp will be assembled at the Colfax ramp site. A new door will also need to be installed as part of the project. Coffee time and lunch will be provided. To sign up, contact Linda Anderson at 641-521-1153.

October 1 – Mission Coalition is sponsoring the annual CROP Walk scheduled for 2 pm at the Jasper County Courthouse in Newton. Registration begins at 1:45 pm. Walker forms to collect & record donations are in the church narthex. Donations can also be given on-line and through church giving. If you have questions, contact Linda Curtis-Stolper at 641-792-4920.

October 9 – is the due date for SHARE food orders to be in the First Christian Church office for an October 21st distribution at the United Methodist Church. Food package information can be found on the Mission bulletin board in fellowship hall or on-line at www.shareiowa.org. If you have questions, contact Linda Anderson at 641-521-1153.

October 14 – A Take Away Hunger (TAH) event to package meals is scheduled at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Newton. Each team needs 12 people. Scholarships are available for church members under 18 years of age wanting to participate. If you want to be on a team or have questions, contact John Taylor at 641-792-6990.

October 14 – Presbyterian Women's Fall Connection meeting will be held in Creston from 9-2. The special speaker will be from Guatemala. Workshop time will be spend making blankets for a shelter. For more information, you may contact Barb Taylor at 641-831-1047.

October 21 – Mission Coalition will have their annual fundraiser, The Pie Sale, at the McCann Center Flea Market. First Presbyterian is responsible for eight (8) donated pies and helpers to sell the pies on that day between 8:30 am and 10 am. Contact Linda Curtis-Stolper (641-792-4920) to volunteer to provide a pie or work the pie booth.'

October 26 – is the next Days for Girls (DfG) Workshop, 9-2 in fellowship hall. Work will continue on the multiple pieces needed to create the sustainable feminine hygiene kits. We are "in" for Celeste Mergens challenge (see page 8). Lunch will be provided. All are welcome. If you have questions, you may contact Marilyn McCallister at 641-521-1485.

Mariners in Mission (MIM) – Enough school supplies were purchased to create seven Church World Service kits. Bags will be made by the MIM group and delivered in November.

Fall Fashion Show & Luncheon proceeds benefited Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) and our Ramp Building Ministry to the tune of approximately \$425 each.



Church Life

Tara Zehr, Chair

Hayride Recap!

The Ritter Hayride and Bonfire proved to be another successful Church Life outing on Sunday, September 17th. Perfect weather and great company made it a great way to kick off the coming week. A full wagon of church members enjoyed the tractor ride through the fields full of cattle and then enjoyed a dinner of hot dogs, mushrooms and s'mores grilled over the fire. Thank you to everyone who brought food to share with the group. A huge thank you to the Ritter family for again hosting our group at their wonderful farm! We look forward to seeing everyone at our Progressive Dinner event on October 15th.

Date & Time	Event
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

It's Time for our Progressive Dinner!

It's time to sign up for the 2017 Progressive Dinner! Please try and sign up for the Progressive Dinner by October 1st. The dinner will start at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 15th.

Here's who we need:

- People/Person to assist with the appetizer course
- People to host a salad course or a main course in their home
- People to assist with a main course
- People/Person to assist with the dessert course

Everyone is welcome – singles and couples. We'll assist with transportation for those non-drivers among us. See us after worship in Fellowship Hall (on September 24 or October 1) or contact Tara Zehr at (641) 521-3600 or tarazehr@gmail.com.

Your Church Life Committee:

Randy Camp, Diane Moles, Nancy Mott, Kay Parsons, Bonnie Rasmussen, Dan Ritter and Tara

Nominating Committee

Bev Rossow, Chair

Our committee will soon begin our work in finding 5 Elders, 4 serving 3-year terms and 1 serving a year term. For Deacons, we will also need 5, 4 serving 3-year terms and 1 serving a 1-year term. Finally we will need 1 member for next year's Nominating Committee, 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 me 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.

Days for Girls International – Challenge!

Marilyn McCallister

Celeste Mergens is the founder and CEO of Days for Girls International. Below is her September, 2017 challenge to us to reach one million girls with sustainable feminine hygiene kits by January 1, 2018. Please read on!

I am a big believer in dreams. But I must admit, I never imagined I would be traveling around the world talking about menstruation at the age of 55. I dreamed instead of playing with my grandchildren, or maybe writing a book, or even having time to read a book!

But that was before I stumbled upon this need in 2008. As someone who grew up without many resources, I was working to ensure that others had the food and shelter they so deserved. But I hadn't thought about menstrual hygiene, or what truly happens when girls go without.

You see, when we first distributed pads to girls at the orphanage in Nairobi, we knew that pads would help the girls go to class. But it wasn't until the girls shared what had been happening - that the director of the orphanage and some of the teachers kept pads in their office that they would give to girls only if they would sleep with them in return. That is when Days for Girls was born.

I thought that if we could reach one girl, if we could keep that story from happening to one girl, that would be enough. And today, that hope has grown into something much bigger - we have reached over 800,000 women and girls in over 110 countries.

When I hear the dreams of girls around the world - that they want to stay in school, that they want to become a teacher, or a doctor, or the president someday - I listen, because those dreams once seemed very far away to me too.

And that is why I am asking you to join with me to reach 1 million women and girls through our **#countHERin campaign**. Between now and January 1st, we're aiming to raise enough funds or make enough DfG Kits needed to reach 200,000 more girls bringing our total to 1 million!

I dream of no girl going without. I dream of every girl and woman knowing that she matters, that she counts. And that is why today, I am reaching out to ask for your partnership in helping us cross the finish line to 1 million. Let's do this! 1 million is in sight.

Thanks, Celeste, for this great challenge!

To donate to this campaign, you can donate on-line (**#countHERin campaign**) or through your church giving. If you have questions, you may contact Marilyn McCallister at 641-521-1485.



2017 Advent Booklet

Dave Stolper and Linda Curtis-Stolper

The 2017 Advent Booklet theme has been chosen. "We Are One" pays tribute to Wendell Wendt, his years of service to our church and community, and the newspaper column he wrote. It also offers all of us an opportunity to share scripture, stories, artwork, and other reflections related to the season of preparation for the birth of the One who came to make us one in God's love.

Please contribute to this group effort, our Advent gift to ourselves. Articles of any length, original or not, are needed. In order to have the booklets printed and distributed before Advent begins on Dec. 3, articles need to be submitted to Dave Stolper and Linda Curtis-Stolper, this year's "editors", no later than October 21. If possible, email your articles to davelin@iowatelecom.net. If you do not have access to email, we will be happy to receive your written article.

Worship and Music

Linda Kirchhoff, Chair

At our meeting, we discussed the Worship services during the summer.

- ◆ The committee expressed appreciation to Larry Anderson for organizing special music during the summer and to the musicians who contributed.
- ◆ Worship in the Park went well, with the weather cooperating this year.
- ◆ There was discussion of the downtown churches' joint worship held August 27. Attendance was only fair, perhaps attributable to the weather. Participation in the choir was also less than in past years, and there were some indications the information was not publicized very well in some of the churches. Nevertheless, it was the committee's feeling that we should encourage continuation of this event.

Looking ahead, we had the following reports:

- ◆ Larry Anderson gave a status update concerning the choir. Due to a number of factors, it is becoming increasingly difficult to consistently have enough voices to have a full choir on the same basis we've always had (all but one Sunday each month, Sept.-May). We may have to supplement choir with smaller groups, solos, and other music when there are not enough singers. Recognizing the importance of the choir to the church, we will do everything possible to continue, but the bottom line is that we need more singers.
- ◆ Linda Kirchhoff initiated discussion of the Advent Booklet. It will need to be completed before Thanksgiving to be ready for Advent, which begins Dec. 3. Discussion ensued concerning a theme, and it was agreed to use "We Are One" in honor of Wendell Wendt. Dave Stolper and Linda Curtis-Stolper have agreed to again head this up. See the additional article on page 5.
- ◆ Meghan stated the date for the Blue Christmas service this year will be Dec. 21.





2017 **BIRTHDAYS & EVENTS**

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>1 World Communion Sunday 2p CROP Walk</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 Kay Parsons 11a Gentle Yoga 6:30p Worship & Music</p>	<p>4 Brad Ritter 9:30a WBS 7p Choir</p>	<p>5 6:30a Early Men's Group 9a Men's Group 3p Chair Yoga</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 Peder Hopkins</p>
<p>8 Bev Rossow 9a Deacons</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 11a Gentle Yoga 3:30p Mission</p>	<p>11 9:30a WBS** 5:15p Membership 6p Budget & Finance 7p Choir</p>	<p>12 3p Chair Yoga</p>	<p>13 Roger Harmelink</p>	<p>14 Pat Koppin 9a Presbytery Women's Fall Connection Mtg 9a Take Away Hunger Event 9a Ramp Building Work Day</p>
<p>15 11:30a Congregational Meeting 4p Progressive Dinner</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 Jean Linthicum 11a Gentle Yoga 6:30 Session</p>	<p>18 9:30a WBS 3p Chair Yoga 7p Choir</p>	<p>19 6:30a Early Men's Group 9a Men's Group</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 Lou Axtell</p>
<p>22 Josh Ventling</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 11a Gentle Yoga</p>	<p>25 9:30a WBS 1p Christian Nurture Senior Discussion 7p Choir</p>	<p>26 3p Chair Yoga 9a-2p Days for Girls</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 Jim Skokan Reformation Sunday</p>	<p>30 Jonnie Carpenter</p>	<p>31 11a Gentle Yoga Trunk or Treat (time TBA)</p>			<p>9 00a Adult Sunday School 10:00a Fellowship 10:30a Worship 11:30a Fellowship</p>	

****We will have 2 special guests, Peacemakers from Guatemala. All are welcome.**

Watch for details.

**SCHEDULE
OF**



VOLUNTEERS

October	1	8	15	22	29	Nov. 5
Worship Leader <i>Mickey Van Baale</i>	Val McKee	Gary Parsons	Dick Mielke	Linda Curtis-Stolper	Karen Quinn	Tom Mott
Host Elder/Deacon <i>Church Life</i>	Nancy Mott	Karen Quinn	Elsie Nelson	Kevin Peska	Shirley Stevens	Marilyn McCallister
Greeters <i>Julie Brodersen</i>	Randy & Carol Camp	Gary & Kay Parsons	Kevin & Toni Peska	Terry Rickers Bev Rossow	Cole Doerring Carroll Brodersen	
Ushers <i>Mickey Van Baale</i>	Kathy Ventling Roger Harmelink	Terry and Cathy Rickers	Barb Gallaher Bonnie Rasmussen	Mary Jane Tripp Suzy Funk	Larry and Shari DeCook	Les and Kay Gause
Audio <i>Mickey Van Baale</i>	Erick Zehr	Shirley Stevens	Les Gause	Kyle Doerring	Dan Ritter	Dan Ritter
Counters <i>Budget & Finance</i>	Terry Rickers Bev Rossow	Dan Ritter Don Black	Dave Stolper Roger Harmelink	Bret Doerring Tara Zehr	Jonnie Carpenter Sandy Cheney	Jen Norvell Janet Shields
Bread Ministry Baker <i>Barb Taylor</i>	Jane Repp	Val McKee	Dixie Zegers	Sharon Black	Diane Moles	Shari DeCook
Bread Ministry Taker <i>Barb Taylor</i>	Carol Russell	Toni Peska	Dana Hashman	Nancy Mott	Barb Gallaher	Mickey Van Baale
Communion Set up <i>Worship & Music</i>	George Wilkening Larry Anderson					Larry Anderson Bret Doerring

First Presbyterian Church
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Return Service Requested

Lectioary —

October, 2017

October 1 - 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Ex. 17:1-7; *Ps. 78:1-4, 12-16*;
Phil. 2:1-13; Matt. 21:23-32

October 8 - 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Ex. 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; *Ps. 19*;
Phil. 3:4b-14; Matt. 21:33-46

October 15 - 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Ex. 32:1-14; *Ps. 106:1-6, 19-23*;
Phil 4:1-9, Matt. 22:1-14

October 22 - 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Ex. 33:12-23; *Ps. 99*; 1 Thess. 1:1-10;
Matt. 22:15-22

October 29 - Reformation Sunday

Deut. 34:1-12; *Ps. 90:1-6, 13-17*;
1 Thess. 2:1-8; Matt. 22:34-46

November, 2017

November 5 - 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Josh. 3:7-17; *Ps. 107:1-7, 33-37*,
1 Thess. 2:9-13; Matt. 23:1-12

November 12 - 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Josh. 24:1-3a, 14-25; *Ps. 78:1-7*;
1 Thess. 4:13-18; Matt. 25:1-13

November 19 - 24th Sunday after Pentecost

Judges 4:1-7; *Ps. 123*; 1 Thess. 5:1-11;
Matt. 25:14-30

November 26 - Christ the King Sunday

Ezek. 34:11-16, 20-24; *Ps. 100*;
Eph. 1:15-23; Matt. 25:31-46