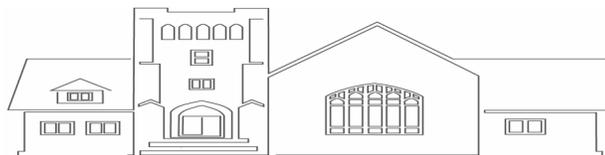


**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NEWTON, IOWA
641-792-2790**

“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 2018

Meghan's Musings Welcome Our Peacemaker!

This year, the Presbytery of Des Moines once again welcomes a peacemaker as part of the International Peacemaker Program of the Presbyterian Church (USA). This year, we are excited to be hosting Rev. Michael Muot Put from South Sudan.

There will be two opportunities to meet Rev. Put and to hear him speak:

1. There will be a dinner on Saturday October 14 at Windsor Presbyterian Church in Des Moines from 6 -8 pm. Free will donations will be taken as a fundraiser for the First Arabic Presbyterian Church. There will be a sign up sheet on the mission board in fellowship hall (we need an estimated number of people in order to know how much food to make. Also, carpools are encouraged due to the minimal parking in the area (plus it saves gas and is more fun if we carpool!).
2. Rev. Put will be preaching here at our church the following morning (Sunday October 14) and a light lunch will be served after worship with additional opportunities to meet and speak with the peacemaker.

Of course, our congregation has a special interest in South Sudan as the homeland of Lawrence Kenyi, one of our newest members. Similarly, our presbytery has a special interest in South Sudan because of our newest congregation. First Arabic Presbyterian Church is primarily comprised of South Sudanese. Because of the pain and suffering of civil war in South Sudan inflicted on our brother and sisters in Christ, it is important for us to learn about the situation there as we seek to help peace and humanitarian efforts in the region.

The information below has been provided by the International Peacemaker Program:



Michael Muot Put Ruai serves as the Youth National Secretary for the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan (PCOSS). He has extensive training in mediation, peace building, reconciliation, trauma and healing and leads trainings and workshops within the PCOSS. He will be speaking about peace and reconciliation in conflict resolution and the role of the church in working for peace. His previous church service includes serving as the pastor in charge at Chotbora Parish in Eastern Upper Presbytery. Rev. Muot Put holds a Bachelor of Theology from Nile Theological College and a diploma from Giffer Institute of Theology. He speaks Arabic, English and Nuer.

Continued from page 1

Fast Facts About South Sudan:

- Population of 12,230,730 in 2016
- South Sudan is the world’s youngest country, becoming independent from Sudan in 2011.
- Fighting broke out in December 2013 between the Dinkas and the Nuers, the two largest majority populations in the country. Since then, over 50,000 people have been killed, more than 1.9 million people have been internally displaced, and 1.8 million people have fled the country.

Presbyterian Church (USA) in South Sudan

- Works in partnership with the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan (PCOSS) and the South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church (SSPEC) to develop peace-building programs, to strengthen and develop church primary and secondary school, and provide teachers for adult theological education.
- Provides emergency relief for families affected by the recent violence. The assistance is improving health conditions, increasing the availability of clean drinking water, providing food and non-food necessities, and helping to secure livelihoods. PC(USA) is also supporting peace-building initiatives in the country, helping to strengthen and support families and communities as they return to homes and seek peace.



- ✠ Mary Roskilly--beginning chemo/radiation treatments
- ✠ Deanna Manley--is hospitalized with perforated bowel. She has had extensive surgery
- ✠ Mark Sigurdson--ongoing chemo/radiation treatments
- ✠ Gary and Kay's daughter-in-law, Michelle Parsons--recent cancer diagnosis
- ✠ Gladys Sparks's grandson's wife, Marie Murrow, complications from Crohn's Disease
- ✠ Les and Kay Gause and family on the recent death of Les' brother, Bryce Gause of Lynnville.

Reformation Sunday - October 28

Presbyterians celebrate the tradition that grounds their faith on Reformation Sunday. It is always the last Sunday in October. Last year Presbyterians celebrated 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.

Worship and Music

Linda Kirchhoff, Chair

At our recent meeting, we discussed the following items:

- * The Rally Day ecumenical service on August 26 was a success by all accounts. The new location was favorable and there was good attendance.
- * Sandy Simbro updated the committee concerning the organ. It was tuned in July. However, the echo organ is still out of tune with the main organ, due to uncontrolled temperature in the echo organ chamber. Quimby has recommended a new motor and mechanism to control the louvers; this will be installed at the next tuning and will be an additional cost compared to the old motor. Concerning the instance in which the organ shut down abruptly, Sandy reported that Quimby thought it might be a relay switch going bad. During the last tuning, Quimby unplugged that relay and plugged it back in. It isn't known whether that will be a recurring problem.
- * Larry Anderson reported Val McKee has agreed to organize a bell choir for the Christmas Eve service.
- * The theme for this year's Advent booklet is "There's a Song in the Air." Contributors will be asked to write articles based on a favorite Advent or Christmas hymn/carol. Val McKee will be the editor. (See more information below).

2018 Advent Booklet

Val McKee

The 2018 Advent Booklet theme has been chosen - "There's a Song in the Air". Who doesn't have a favorite Christmas song or two that has a special meaning for yourself?

We are asking that for this year's submission, you select one of those favorite songs, carols, hymns, or part of a Christmas cantata as the basis for your article. Include the song lyrics, or at least part of them, and then relate the history of the song or why it's meaningful to you. If you attended the Ecumenical service in August, this is similar to what the various clergy did as their messages for the service.

Since we don't want to have a booklet filled with numerous submissions on (for example), "Silent Night", please let me know as soon as possible that you intend to write something, and which song is your preference to write about. It will be sort of 'first come, first serve', so if the melody you pick has already been chosen when you submit yours, you may be asked to select another.

Please contribute to this group effort, our Advent gift to ourselves. In order to have the booklets printed and distributed by November 25, articles need to be submitted to me, Val McKee, editor for this year's Advent Booklet, by **November 1**. If possible, email your articles to valmckee50208@aol.com. If you do not have access to email, I will be happy to receive your written article. You could give it to me at church, or, if it's easier for you to drop it off at the church during the week, please ask Barbara to hold it for me, and I'll pick it up from the office. Or there's always U.S. Mail, at 3254 Hwy F36 W.

Thank you in advance for participating in our church family's preparation for celebrating the birth of Christ!

MEMBERSHIP



MOMENT

The new church brochure is completed. It will go to the printer in the next few days and hopefully we can place them in the church by the middle of October. It is different from the last brochure in several ways. Our church has changed since the last one was produced. For example, many of the programs we had at that time are either no longer active or have changed in some way. People now are probably not as prone to reading more lengthy writings so we have tried to be more concise and to the point in our verbiage. We have also tried to concentrate on people in our pictures with most pictures capturing a church

activity involving people. We felt this was a very important thing to emphasize in our church. The new brochure is smaller than the previous one. In the past we discussed at length how to solve the problem of where to put the old one. It did not fit very well in the visitor/prayer card rack and if placed there the sides would bend and it would eventually bend over due to being too tall for the rack. The hymnal/bible rack was not ideal either. It seemed out of place, sometimes fell out or fell to the bottom where it would become bent and unusable. Our committee had looked into purchasing racks for the backs of the pews just for the brochures. The cost would have been approaching \$500 not counting the labor of attaching them. The new brochure, while not offering printing or pictures as large as the old brochure, will fit very nicely in the visitor/prayer card rack. We hope you like them.

Steve and Linda Gehling, Larry Anderson, John & Barb Taylor, Warren Erickson, and Gary Parsons from Newton First are involved in taking Mark Sigurdson to cancer treatments in Des Moines. First Presbyterian in Grinnell and family members are also providing transportation. The treatments started in September and will go into October. A total of 7 weeks of treatment. What a blessing to have so many people step up to help out!

A P.E.W. (Pray, Eat, Work) event was held on September 12. Since our janitor was on vacation for a week, Rev. Meghan asked that we have the event to ready the church for Sunday. We had a good turnout, worked for about an hour, had a short prayer and devotion and ate pizza. We got a lot done. Thanks to all that took part.

Nominating Committee

Jen Norvell, Chair

Our committee will soon begin our work in finding 5 Elders, 4 serving 3-year terms and 1 serving a two-year term. For Deacons, we will also need 3, all serving 3-year terms. 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.

Church Life

Tara Zehr, Chair

The Ritter Hayride and Bonfire proved to be another successful Church Life outing on Sunday, September 16th. 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 14th.

October 14, 2018, 4:00 p.m.	Progressive Dinner
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

Progressive Dinner time! If you've never participated, this is the year to start. A four-course meal is shared with church friends. We'll gather together and share appetizers in one home; split up and travel to other homes for salad and main courses; and get back together again at the last home to share dessert together and compare experiences.

The date is Sunday, October 14, 2018, beginning at 4:00 p.m. The next course begins at 5:00 p.m., and so on, so that everyone's full and ready to go home by 8:00 or so.

We need people to:

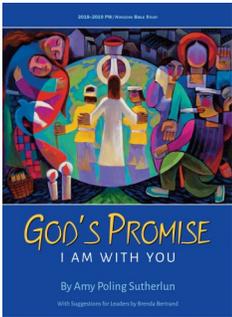
- Host a salad course or a main course in their home
- Host the appetizer course
- Host the dessert course
- Bring an appetizer or dessert
- Assist the host with a main course (by bringing side dish and serving)

Everyone is welcome – singles and couples. We will take care of transportation for non-drivers, if you let us know when you sign up.

For more information or to sign up, please contact Tara Zehr at tarazehr@gmail.com or (641) 521-3600. We'll also be in Fellowship Hall after worship on September 23rd, September 30th and October 7th which is the sign-up deadline.



Women's Bible Study



This year's Women's Bible Study is: *God's Promise: I Am with You*
 Our first meeting will be Wednesday October 3 so mark your calendars and contact the office to reserve your copy! Booklets this year are \$10.

Women of the Bible Coloring Group

Some of us met on Saturday, September 22 for our first meeting. We had a good time and look forward to more joining us in upcoming sessions!

The plan is: for October we will be meeting the 2nd and 4th Saturday, in November and December we will move to 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month and we'll see where we go from there.

October 13
 October 27

November 3
 November 17

December 1
 December 15



We will be meeting at 11 a.m. in the church basement on these days, for an hour to an hour and a half. Of course, all of this is subject to change if/when/as appropriate. Join in for a time of fun and fellowship!

We met the 2nd Sunday of September, after not meeting during the summer. At this meeting, we had the following business:

- ◇ The minutes of the June meeting were approved as written.
- ◇ Information was shared regarding summer visits we continued to make.
- ◇ Meghan gave further details/clarifications on the Cents-ability program.
- ◇ Shirley sent a total of 45 cards during June-Aug. This is a lower number for the period as a result of new guidelines for sending cards to members.
- ◇ As a follow-up to Meghan's information, deacons decided to revisit in October the question of whether the coins from the loose offering on the first Sunday of the month might go to Cents-ability.
- ◇ After discussion, it was decided that having 10 deacons rather than 12 should be sufficient, given the number of visits to be made.
- ◇ The Procedures notebook in the office is being updated. Diane is reviewing the deacons portion, looking for possible changes.

Diane Moles, Moderator



Budget and Finance Corner

Jen Norvell, Chair

At the August Session meeting, a recommendation by the Budget and Finance committee of providing financial statistics quarterly rather than monthly, was approved. This will also be the case of information provided through the Messenger.



Stewardship Campaign

Jen Norvell, Chair

You will soon be receiving information on this year's stewardship campaign, along with your pledge card. We ask that you return your card to the office by November 4. 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 2019. 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 \$44.00. If you are unable to pay the full amount, a portion would help.

Please prayerfully consider your tithe for 2019. Remember that pledge cards need to be turned in by November 4. We cannot set our 2019 budget until we hear from all of you.



The following thank you note was sent to the church with memorial checks. The original is on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Thank you so much, 1st Presbyterian family, for all you did for us after the passing of my dad, Richard. It was so touching to have people who cared for my dad, caring for us!

*Love,
Mike Means & family*

Mission Committee

Marilyn McCallister, Chair

The purpose of the Mission Committee is to recommend, approve, manage, and terminate mission projects. The committee communicates about opportunities for mission involvement and promotes congregational participation.

- ✦ The CROP Hunger Walk is Sunday afternoon, October 7. Join us in walking to end hunger, one step at a time! The route is about three miles in length, starting with registration at the Courthouse at 1:30 pm. Collect sponsors and add their donations to the First Presbyterian team goal of raising \$750. If you don't want to walk, please consider donating to support this mission. Checks can be made payable to First Presbyterian with "CROP Walk" noted and turned in to the office, or you can donate by going to www.crophungerwalk.org and sponsoring walker Linda Curtis-Stolper. See Linda for envelopes to collect donations from your sponsors or if you have any questions.
- ✦ First Presbyterian Church volunteers will be helping with Neighbors Helping Neighbors Laundry Nights on Monday, October 8 and Monday, October 22. The congregation continues to be very generous with donations of quarters to pay for washers and dryers – thank you! Now, we need some of you to volunteer a couple of hours to be at the Newton Laundromat (behind Domino's) to help the folks who come. The main requirement is that you are willing to be friendly and welcoming. The main benefit is knowing that you are helping folks maintain their health and dignity through clean clothing, friendship, and food while the clothes wash and dry. Please sign up on the sheet on the Mission bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.
- ✦ The McCann Flea Market will be Saturday, Nov. 3. As in past years, the Mission Coalition will be selling pies as a fundraiser. Profits this year will be split between Neighbors Helping Neighbors and the Jasper County Elderly Nutrition Program. First Presbyterian is being asked to contribute at least ten pies for the sale. Pies should not contain cream or milk (no cream topping); fruit pies, pumpkin, pecan, etc. would be perfect. Pies should be covered with plastic wrap and labeled with the kind of pie. They need to be delivered to McCann Center by 8:00 AM on Saturday morning – if delivery is a problem, arrangements can be made. Please talk to Linda Curtis-Stolper if you can help with this. Thank you!
- ◇ Presbyterian Women. The Fall Gathering will be on Saturday, October 13 from 9 am to 2:30 pm at the Mill Pond Presbyterian Retirement Center in Ankeny. The theme will be "Arise, Shine, Your Light has Come". The PW committee is changing the vision and name of PW to make it more welcoming to all women, not just those that have a PW group.
- ◇ Days for Girls – Mark your calendars for the upcoming workshop dates on Thursdays: October 25, November 29 (week after Thanksgiving Day), and January 24, 2019! We play a small but important part in the lives of thousands of girls all over the world. They are able to remain in school all month due to the sustainable feminine hygiene kits given to them. Our workshops are from 9-2 with a light lunch provided. All are welcome to join in!
- ◇ The October menu for SHARE is on the Mission bulletin board. Please note that checks are to be made out to First Christian Church and pick-up will be at their church also.
- ◇ Information about Bread for the World is found on page 9.

Bread for the World Offering of Letters

First Presbyterian has for a long time focused efforts on relieving hunger at home and around the world. We give food to the local food pantry. We raise money for hunger relief through the Crop Walk (which will be Oct. 7), the Cents-ability campaign, and the Presbytery's Harvest Offering (coming in November – and which was initiated by our church). And many of us contribute privately to other efforts to promote hunger relief. Our church was designated a "Hunger Action Congregation" by our denomination in recognition of all these efforts.

The one area in which our church, as a body, has so far not been active, is **ADVOCACY** – that is, making our voices heard by our legislative and congressional representatives regarding our concerns about hungry people. This is where Bread for the World comes in.

Bread for the World is an ecumenical Christian organization that, since 1975, has worked to influence our government to act with compassion and justice on behalf of hungry people in the U.S. and around the world. Here is how they describe what they do:

"Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. By changing policies, programs, and conditions that allow hunger and poverty to persist, we provide help and opportunity at home and far beyond where we live. We can end hunger in our time. But churches and charities can't do it all. Our government must also do its part.

With the stroke of a pen, policies are made that redirect millions of dollars and affect millions of lives. By making our voices heard in Congress, we make our nation's laws fairer and more compassionate. We leverage big changes for people in our country and around the world who struggle with hunger.

Bread equips people to write personal letters and emails, meet with their members of Congress, and to work with others to end hunger. Each year, Bread invites churches across the country to take up an Offering of Letters to Congress on legislation that impacts hungry and poor people. We organize advocacy campaigns to pass or block federal legislation that will help end hunger and poverty.

Bread works in a bipartisan way. Our network of thousands of individual members, churches, and denominations is active in every congressional district. We speak the truth to power with a moral and Christian voice and at the right time. And together, we are building the political will to end hunger and poverty."

Throughout October during worship we will be highlighting the problem of hunger and ways we as Christians can intervene on behalf of hungry people. This will culminate on Reformation Sunday, October 28, when we will invite the congregation to write letters to our congressional representatives.

You may have questions or concerns about how this will work. Hopefully over the course of these weeks in October such questions or concerns will be addressed. But please feel free to talk with Meghan or the Mission Committee.

Larry Anderson

October 2018 **BIRTHDAYS & EVENTS**

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1 4:45p Personnel	2 11a Gentle Yoga	3 Kay Parsons 9:30a Women's Bible Study 6p Membership 7p Choir	4 Brad Ritter 6:30a Early Men's Group 9a Men's Group 3p Chair Yoga	5	6
7 World Communion Sunday 1:30p CROP Walk	8 4p-6p - 1st shift Laundry Night 6p-8p-2nd shift Laundry Night	9 Bev Rossow 11a Gentle Yoga 1p Worship & Music 3:30p Mission	10 9:30a Women's Bible Study 6p Budget & Finance 7p Choir	11 3p Chair Yoga	12	13 Roger Harmelink 9a-2:30p PW Fall mtg in Ankeny 6-8p Dinner at Windsor Heights church featuring Peacemaker
14 Pat Koppin 9a Deacons 10:30 Message by Peacemaker Rev. Michael Muot Put from South Sudan 4p Progressive Dinner	15	16 11a Gentle Yoga 6:30 Session	17 Jean Lithicum 9:30a Women's Bible Study 7p Choir	18 6:30a Early Men's Group 9a Men's Group 3p Chair Yoga	19	20
21 Lou Axtell	22 Josh Ventling 4p-6p - 1st shift Laundry Night 6p-8p-2nd shift Laundry Night	23 11a Gentle Yoga	24 9:30a Women's Bible Study 7p Choir	25 9a-2p Day for Girls 3p Chair Yoga	26 Steve Gehling	27
28 Reformation Sunday	29 Jim Skokan	30 Jonnie Carpenter 11a Gentle Yoga	31 9:30a Women's Bible Study 7p Choir			

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

**SCHEDULE
OF**



VOLUNTEERS

October	7	14	21	28
Worship Leader <i>Mickey Van Baale</i>	Jane Repp	Linda Campbell	Gary Parsons	George Wilkening
Host Elder/Deacon <i>Church Life</i>	Nancy Mott	Mary Roskilly	Elsie Nelson	Kevin Peska
Greeters <i>Julie Brodersen</i>	Dick & Shirley Mielke	Randy & Carol Camp	Gary & Kay Parsons	Kevin & Toni Peska
Ushers <i>Mickey Van Baale</i>	Larry & Shari DeCook	Dan & Cheryl Ritter	Tom & Nancy Mott	Terry & Cat Rickers
Audio <i>Mickey Van Baale</i>	Shirley Stevens	Kyle Doerring	Dan Ritter	Shirley Stevens
Counters <i>Budget & Finance</i>	Jonnie Carpenter Tom Weeks	Jen Norvell Janet Shields	Terry Rickers Peggy/Chris Lickiss	Mary Roskilly Bev Rossow
Bread Ministry Baker <i>Barb Taylor</i>	Jane Repp	Val McKee	Dixie Zegers	Sharon Black
Bread Ministry Taker <i>Barb Taylor</i>	Carol Russell	Toni Peska	Dana Hashman	Nancy Mott
Communion Set up <i>Worship & Music</i>	Jen Norvell Mickey Van Baale			

First Presbyterian Church
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Newton, Iowa 50208

641-792-2790

Return Service Requested

Lectionary —

October, 2018

October 7 - 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Job: 1:1;2:1-10; *Ps.* 26, Heb. 1:1-4;2:5-12;
Mark 10:2-16

October 14 - 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Job 23:1-9, 16-17; *Ps.* 22:1-15;
Heb.4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31

October 21 - 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Job 38:1-7 (34-41); *Ps.* 104:1-9, 24, 35c
Heb. 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45

October 28 - 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Job 42:1-6, 10-17; *Ps.* 34:1-8 (19-22);
Heb. 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52

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