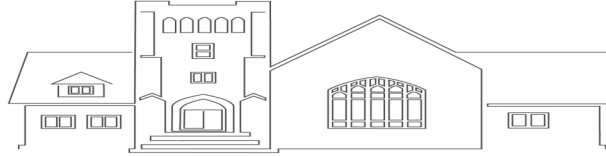


**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NEWTON, IOWA
641-792-2790**

“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 2015

Meghan's Musings

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for in doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.” Hebrews 13:2

Last month I talked about the Syrian refugee crisis in one of my sermons. While this crisis is not new, it is only recently come to receive some of the attention it deserves here in the US. Like many, I was vaguely aware it was going on but felt powerless to help and therefore kept my head in the sand as long as I could. But I can no longer. And, of course, the Syrians are not the only refugees in the world. According to UN figures, there were 19.5 million refugees worldwide at the beginning of 2013 and we know the number has grown significantly since then. And that number does not include “internally displaced”, those who have been forced to leave their homes and communities but remain within the borders of their country. Nor does that number include economic migrants, those who leave their homes in search of a better life in hopes of a liveable life.

Scripture is clear from the Prophets to Jesus to the Epistles that we are to care for the strangers in our midst for we too were once strangers in a strange land. Basic human decency, too, demands that we work to alleviate the pain, suffering and inhumane living conditions of our fellow children of God, lovingly created in God's image throughout the world.

Here are some ways you can help:

- Follow the Presbyterian Church (USA) response on the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance webpage <http://pda.pcusa.org/situation/syria/> and on Facebook www.facebook.com/PDACARES
- Donate to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance on their website pda.pcusa.org. If you do not have internet access or prefer to write a check directly to Presbyterian Mission Agency, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), 100 Witherspoon Street, Louisville, KY 40202-1396 (write PDA-Syria in your memo line).
- There may also be opportunities to help resettle Syrian refugees. If this is something that interests you, please let me know. Highland Presbyterian Church in Louisville is already sponsoring a family. Might we be called to serve similarly?
- Finally, pray. Pray your own prayer or use this written by Rev. Dr. Laurie Ann Kraus, coordinator of PDA: God of mercy,

We can no longer pretend to be distant from the heartbreak afflicting your children who have fled Syria in fear of their lives, stopped at the borders of countries too overwhelmed to welcome them, held in trains, awaiting a word of hope, huddled in camps and overcrowded shelters with nowhere to turn and no way to turn back.

We can no longer pretend that that small pair of black tennis shoes, washed up on the shore, could not be the shoes of one of our own sons or daughters.

Continued on page 2

Be Praying For...

- ✚ The Brent Parker family, whose son, Jared, age 36 was killed in a motorcycle accident September 15 in the Omaha area. Brent was a former co-worker with Steve Hopkins. Jared was a graduate from Newton High school and UNI. He was currently working as director of the Eastern Nebraska 4-H Center in Omaha. Jared was preceded in death by his birth mother, Debra Parker. He is survived by his wife, Jennifer Parker; daughter, Violet Parker; parents, Brent Parker and Suzanne Secor Parker; brother, Travis (Jennifer) Parker; sister, Laura Parker; and numerous uncles, aunts and cousins. A memorial service was held on Monday, September 21 at the Congregational United Church of Christ in Newton.
- ✚ Len Woythaler, who is being treated for multiple myeloma.
- ✚ Warren Jontz, who has been re-admitted to Skiff Medical Center.

Continued from page 1

We know the truth: all of these children are our sons and daughters; and their parents are our brothers and sisters, and we owe them a room in the inn, a place of safety, a chance to live and thrive.

We ask your forgiveness for our short attention spans and our limited imagination.

We pray that you will help us to do better.

We pray for those who live in Syria still, for the many whose faith in You has made them a target of hate.

For those trying to hold life together, always watching and waiting

for the ominous movement of troops on the road into town

for the whistle of incoming shells,

for a cry from a desperate neighbor or a shout of warning

wondering, *is it safe to remain? Shall I send my family away?*

We pray for neighbors in Lebanon, in Jordan, in Turkey,

who have already welcomed so many, whose resources are strained under the burden of hospitality

but who are still willing to do more.

We pray for those of us in the West, in Europe, the United States and Canada

whose time for generosity is upon us.

May we reach deeply, give generously, and welcome extravagantly.

May we lift our voices in a strong and unified advocacy so that governments will act now to save lives and to protect the peoples of Syria.

Jesus, who said, *let the children come to me*, receive our sorrow and the gift of our broken spirits, for we have so much yet to do to welcome even a few of *the least of these* to save your broken children, to strengthen and support their communities to call the world to accountability, to generosity, and to peace.

Help us find courage, compassion and hope, for we need your grace. Amen.



Congratulations to Tom Weeks and Elmira Zahlry on their marriage on September 18 in Lake Forest, CA. Tom is the son of Tom and Susan Weeks. Besides his parents, Tom's brother, Steve and family were a part of the wedding. Tom and Elmira live in West Hollywood. Tom is a freelance writer while Elmira works at Universal Studios!



October 3, 2015 Sandy Smit and Kris Simbro will be exchanging their wedding vows at Maytag park. Rev. Bill Calhoun will be performing the ceremony. All their children and grandchildren will be able to attend.



Congratulations to Vickie Carson and George Liston who recently became engaged. A May, 2016 wedding is being planned. Our best wishes go out to them.



***Parents, what are your kids doing this fall?
Soccer, football, cheerleading, acting in a play, cross country, band/vocal
concerts, volleyball, swimming...***

We want to show our support! If your child is participating in any school or non-school extra curricular activities, please send in their schedules. We'd love to get the word out to our Church Family so our members can come and show their support! This is an important mission to the youth and we can not accomplish it without you!

You can email their schedules to Mickey Van Baale at mckster52@iowatelecom.net.

Worship and Music

Linda Kirchhoff, Chair

The Worship and Music Committee met for its September meeting and reviewed all the services held during the summer. Of special note were Graduation Sunday, Worship in the Park (Fellowship Hall), and Rally Day. Positive feedback was given to Rally Day. Meghan said the pastors would be meeting to evaluate the day and to compile notes for next year.

- * Session has approved the following W&M concerns
 1. All substitute pastors/speakers will be paid the current rate paid for Presbytery Pulpit Supply plus mileage if the person is from out of town.
 2. The scripture and sermon will be recorded and put on our website. The entire service is available to members only by receiving a password from the office.
 3. Streaming and Podcast License has been purchased.
- * Summer music spots were filled thanks to Kim Schnell.
- * Dr. David Madsen from Des Moines filled the pulpit during Meghan's absence in September. He will also be preaching on November 1st when we have communion and remember our saints.
- * The Oct. 4 service will commemorate our 20 year fellowship with El Salvador. Bill Calhoun will be preaching. This is also World Wide Communion Sunday.
- * Jane Repp has agreed to be in charge of this year's Advent Booklet. The committee chose *Angels Among Us* as the theme. Advent begins Nov. 29. 26 entries will be needed.
- * Larry Anderson will resume duties as choir director starting October 1. Thanks to Norm Grimm for conducting through September.
- * Advent bulletin covers have been ordered. We may need to order a minimum number of our current covers to be used. The Membership Committee presented a new church theme to Session. New bulletin covers may be designed utilizing the theme.
- * Meghan stated that a liturgical arts group is being considered.

Building and Grounds

Norm Grimm, Chair

Architect Jack Topp returned to the committee with modifications requested to his initial drawings for front steps, handrails, and sidewalk. The committee agreed on a plan that would eliminate the awkward step beside the front doors, and replace the current steps. Replacement steps would feature a lower rise (6") and longer tread (16") than the current steps. The plan retains the look of the current, original steps, including sides, but easier to climb and with better railings that retain the same style. Mr. Topp will seek bids from contractors on the plan the committee adopted, including cleanup and removal of debris. Building and Grounds will present bids to Session for decision as soon as practicable.



Budget and Finance Corner

Jonnie Carpenter, Chair

Pledges for the month of August were \$11,845. This was \$27 above the amount we had budgeted. Other Regular Giving, which represents donations from people who tithe, but do not pledge was \$190 for the month, which was \$546 below budget. In total for the month, expenses were \$447 under budget. Year-to-date pledges are \$4,281 over budget and year-to-date expenses are \$2,575 above budget.

The Capital Development - Maintenance fund paid an expense of \$6,522 to replace an air conditioner.

The Work Week fund paid trip-related expenses in the amount of \$2,773 and received a donation of \$964 from the Brooklyn Presbyterian Church.

Christian Nurture

Virginia Bennett, Chair

A work day will be held on Saturday, September 26 from 11 am to 3 pm. The main project will be painting the Sunday School room on the second floor where Kids Action Hour is held. Norm Grimm and Karen Quinn will get bright white paint/primer, along with yellow, blue and red paint in quart sizes. The bright white will be used to paint all the walls. The children will put hand prints on the wall in the bright colors. Kelly Koenen will teach Kids Action Hour on Sunday, the 27, to kick off the new season. The room will be renamed the "Power Room", since Jean Power donated money that is being used to help us redo the classroom

Youth Downtown Group is up and running, having met twice since the planning meeting. There will always be 2 pastors at the meetings, but congregation members are encouraged to help teach the classes. Each year the story of the Bible will be discussed. This program is open to all middle and high school aged kids and will meet at our Friendship House every Sunday evening from 6pm-8pm.



At our September meeting we:

- ◆ Voted to give \$100 to the Salvation Army to be used for the food pantry.
- ◆ Received a report from Shirley Stevens that she had sent out many cards for birthdays, sympathy, thinking of you, get well, anniversaries and a new baby
- ◆ Visits continue to be made and discussion was held on any additions.
- ◆ Assigned a member to do flower deliveries during the months of October, November and December

Dana Hashman, Moderator

Church Life Activities

Diane Moles, Chair

Sign up for the 2015 Progressive Dinner

The leaves are starting to turn color – and so it’s time to sign up for the 2015 Progressive Dinner! 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 25, 2015, 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.

Here’s who we need:

- People to host a salad course or a main course in their home
- People to bring an appetizer or dessert
- People to assist with a main course

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 Diane Moles, at 792-2133, or via e-mail at jasperdem@iowatelecom.net. We’ll also be in Fellowship Hall after worship on October 4th and October 11th, which is the signup deadline.

Your Church Life Committee:

Kay Parsons, Janie Moles, Dan Ritter, Nancy Mott, 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
October 25, 2015, 4:00 pm	Progressive Dinner
November 22, 2015, 11:30 am	Thanksgiving Feast and Communion**
December 20, 2015, 4:00 pm	Christmas Caroling and chili supper

*Joint venture with Christian Nurture Committee

**Joint venture with Worship & Music Committee

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

And, if you want to see what happened at some of the events last year, check out the Church Life bulletin board in Fellowship Hall – the red one on the north wall. It’s got all new photos and the schedule for the year.

See pictures on page 8 from the Hay Ride and bonfire held at the Ritter farm on Sunday evening, September 20.

Mission Committee

Linda Erickson, Chair

Local:

Kids Against Hunger – John Taylor reported that the next event will be in November in Lynnville. Mission Coalition. The Crop Walk will be October 4. The annual McCann Center Flea Market will be October 29 and Marilyn McCallister will need 7 pies donated from our church members. The date for our church to ring bells for the Salvation Army will be December 5. Marilyn will provide more information as the events get closer.

Presbyterian Women – The Fall Connection will be October 17 at the First Presbyterian Church in Oskaloosa. The theme will be “Come to the Waters” and the meeting runs from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm.

Iowa Hunger Summit – Barb Taylor indicated that she will be attending this meeting, which will be October 13 at the downtown Marriott.

National:

Mariners in Mission (MIM) –Taylors reported they will be leaving Sunday morning, September 13 for their Annual Meeting at Clear Water Forest in Minnesota. They are not sure how the make-up of the MIM group will come out, as the group is aging and traveling and doing the work projects are becoming more difficult. At this location, they will also be doing work projects. The first part of November, the group will travel to Kemmerer Village in Assumption, IL.

Work Week – Mickey Van Baale said that all expenses have been paid from this year’s trip. While there are some ideas for next year’s trip, we are waiting to see what might develop from the newly formed Downtown Youth Group. The Steering Committee will meet soon to begin brainstorming.

International:

El Salvador – Linda Erickson indicated the 20th Anniversary Celebration will be October 4. Rev. Bill Calhoun will be delivering the message at worship that morning, followed by a meal and then some fun activities, including piñatas.

The above activities are church supported mission projects. We know, however, that other members of our congregation reach out to others through various programs. Mickey talked to one of those people, Dave Boyd, and obtained information from him on his activities. He is active in the IMOM program which provides free dental care to those in need over a weekend. Dave just attended one such event in Council Bluffs. Not only does he attend Iowa locations, but also ones across the nation. Dave has recently applied for and is awaiting schedules for training to work with the Salvation Army food trucks. He states that this could mean deployment to local disasters or anywhere they need staff to support their mission. He is also working into positions as a volunteer at the VA Hospital in Des Moines. So far it’s mostly a sort of orientation situation. Dave says so far it’s been pretty interesting & rewarding. Over the years, Dave has been very active with PDA (Presbyterian Disaster Association). Thank you, Dave, for your outreach to others.

If you participate in some sort of outreach or mission event, please let Mickey Van Baale know at mckster52@iowatelecom.net. We’d love to do a feature on you also.



Marriage Study: As you may or may not be aware, in addition to same-sex marriage now being legal nationwide, it has also recently become allowable according to our PC(USA) denominational polity. What does that mean? It means that according to both church and civil law clergy *can*—but are not *required* to—perform same-sex weddings. Likewise, sessions can, but are not required to, permit their sanctuaries to be used for same-sex weddings. Session will be studying the topic of marriage in an effort to prayerfully and thoughtfully discern a policy regarding *all* weddings at First Presbyterian. We’ll be using a 6 session study published by the denomination a couple years back. Any and all who are interested are welcome to join us on the following **Sundays at 4pm** in Fellowship Hall:

September 27, October 11, October 18, November 8, November 15 and November 22

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

- ◆ Had an update on the Downtown Youth program.
- ◆ Approved having Christian Nurture paint the room used for Kid's Action Hour, using money that was left by Jean Powers.
- ◆ Approved having that room renamed the "Power Room".
- ◆ At a special meeting, met with prospective new members, Marilyn McCallister, Sandy Shaver, Bonnie Rasmussen and Erick Zehr and approved their membership. They will be added to our church family during service on September 27.
- ◆ Received the dates of the Christian Marriage Study that will be held from 4:00 to 5:00 pm on Sunday afternoons starting September 27.



MEMBERSHIP



MOMENT

The new directory distribution project is completed. However, we still have some available so if you do not have one please contact Gary Parsons at 792-6753.

We are now preparing for participation in Trunk or Treat. It is a fun activity which is occurring on October 30, the day before Halloween. Our church has been involved the three prior years and it is a lot of fun. Individuals dress in a Halloween costume & decorate their car or van trunks (or pick up beds) in a Halloween mode. We park in our parking lot north of the church & hand out candy (provided by the church) to the kids coming from the uptown and hospital activities. We have a lot of kids coming through and usually run out of candy before we run out of kids. We start around 4:15 and go till about 6:00. The costumes and trunk decorations DO NOT have to be elaborate. You probably have things around the house that can be used. If you plan to participate, please let Gary Parsons know at 793-6753.

Greeters and ushers please note: There are now clasp type name card badges available which are much more garment friendly than the pin type. Your name card can easily be changed from one badge to the other depending on your preference.

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 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 month.

Gary Parsons

The evening of September 20 was a beautiful Iowa fall night, just perfect for 20 people to go to the Ritter farm for a hay ride, bonfire, food and fellowship. A big thank you goes out to Dan, Cheryl, Brad and Megan for being gracious hosts to this event. Doug Cutts captured the following shots for all of us to enjoy.





COME CELEBRATE

THE 20th ANNIVERSARY OF
THE EL SALVADOR MISSION

On October 4, 2015, First Presbyterian Church will celebrate its 20 year mission in Berlin, El Salvador. This church, along with other Newton churches, has sent delegations nearly every year since our first delegation in 1995. It's a date worthy of celebrating with a special worship service being led by Rev. Bill Calhoun. Bill, along with Bob Cook, accompanied the first delegation to Berlin, El Salvador.

Following the service, a light lunch will be served and then a fiesta complete with piñatas. We hope you will join the celebration!

Who: Everyone is welcome!

When: October 4. 2015 Worship at 10:30 am followed by lunch and fiesta.

Why: In thanks for the gift of relationship with the people of El Salvador which has enriched all of our lives.

COME CELEBRATE

YOUR PRESENCE WILL MAKE IT EXTRA SPECIAL



2015 BIRTHDAYS & EVENTS

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<p>9:00 am Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 am Fellowship</p> <p>10:30 am Worship</p> <p>11:30 am Fellowship</p>				<p>1</p> <p>6:30 am Men's Group</p> <p>9:00 am Men's Group</p> <p>3:00 pm Chair Yoga</p> <p>4:30 pm Missions</p>	<p>2 Jackie Moles</p>	<p>3 Kay Parsons</p> <p>9:00 am Spanish Plus</p> <p>10:00 am Yoga Flow</p>
<p>4 Brad Ritter</p> <p>6:00 pm Youth Downtown</p>	<p>5 Ian Day</p> <p>6:15 pm Yoga Flow</p>	<p>6</p> <p>11:00 am Gentle Yoga</p> <p>6:30 pm Worship & Music</p>	<p>7 Peder Hopkins</p> <p>9:30 am WBS</p> <p>6:00 pm Budget & Finance</p> <p>7:00 pm Choir</p>	<p>8</p> <p>3:00 pm Chair Yoga</p>	<p>9 Bev Rossow Brad Moles</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10:00 am Yoga Flow</p>
<p>11</p> <p>9:00 am Deacons</p> <p>10:30 am Kids Action Hour</p> <p>6:00 pm Youth Downtown</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 Roger Harmelink</p> <p>11:00 am Gentle Yoga</p>	<p>14 Pat Koppin</p> <p>9:30 am WBS</p> <p>7:00 pm Choir</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:30 am Men's Group</p> <p>9:00 am Men's Group</p> <p>3:00 pm Chair Yoga</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 Jean Linthicum</p> <p>10:00 am Yoga Flow</p>
<p>18</p> <p>6:00 pm Youth Downtown</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:15 pm Yoga Flow</p>	<p>20</p> <p>11:00 am Gentle Yoga</p> <p>6:30 pm Session</p>	<p>21 Lou Axtell</p> <p>9:30 am WBS</p> <p>7:00 pm Choir</p>	<p>22 Joshua Ventling Scott Stanton</p> <p>3:00 pm Chair Yoga</p>	<p>23 Bob LeBlanc</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10:00 am Yoga Flow</p>
<p>25</p> <p>10:30 am Kids Action Hour</p> <p>4:00 pm Progressive Dinner</p> <p>6:00 pm Youth Downtown</p>	<p>26 Clayton Case</p> <p>6:15 pm Yoga Flow</p>	<p>27</p> <p>11:00 am Gentle Yoga</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:30 am WBS</p> <p>7:00 pm Choir</p>	<p>29 Jim Skokan Kristen Stanton</p> <p>3:00 pm Chair Yoga</p>	<p>30 Jonnie Carpenter</p>	<p>31 Ali Stanton</p> <p>10:00 am Yoga Flow</p>



October



Volunteers

October	4	11	18	25	November 1
Worship Leader Office	Tom Mott	Dave Stolper	Linda Kirchhoff	Linda Campbell	George Wilkening
Host Elder/Deacon Diane Moles	Bret Doerring	Karen Quinn	Elsie Nelson	Kevin Peska	Virginia Bennett
Greeters Julie Brodersen	Doug Cutts Cole Doerring	Janet Shields Valerie Barney	Dick & Shirley Mielke	Gary & Kay Parsons	
Ushers Office	Don & Sharon Black	Leonard Family	Les & Kay Gause Shirley Stevens	Tom & Nancy Mott	Pete & Pat Koppin
Audio Les Gause	Doug Cutts	Doug Cutts	Doug Cutts	Dan Ritter	Dan Ritter
Candlelighter Office	Joshua Ventling	Natalie Camp	Skye Koenen	Allie Norvell	Emily Miller
Counters Jonnie Carpenter	Roger Harmelink Dave Stolper	Kelly Koenen Jen Norvell	Terry Rickers Dave Boyd	Gary Haynes Tara Zehr	Dan Ritter Bill Shields
Bread Ministry Baker Barb Taylor	Sharon Black	Dixie Zegers	Val McKee	Diane Moles	Shari DeCook
Bread Ministry Taker Barb Taylor	Joan Rusk	Dana Hashman	Nancy Mott	Barb Gallaher	Mickey Van Baale
Kids Action Hour Jen Norvell		Jane Repp		Tara Zehr	
Communion Set up Linda Kirchhoff	Linda Kirchhoff Bev Rossow				Linda Erickson Val McKee

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

641-792-2790

Return Service Requested

Lectioary —

October, 2015

October 4 - 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Job 1:1; 2:1-20; *Ps. 26*; Heb. 1:1-4; 2:5-12
Mark 10:2-16

October 11 - 20th Sunday after Pentecost

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

October 18 - 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Job 38:1-7 (34-41); *Ps. 104:109, 24, 35c*
Heb. 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45

October 25 - 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Job 42:1-6, 10-17; *Ps. 34:1-8 (19-22)*
Heb. 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-32

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