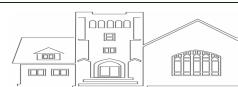
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWTON, IOWA

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



September 2018

Meghan's Musings

I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

For our fourth annual outdoor worship service with the other downtown churches this year, the pastors chose a hymn to use in the service and offer a brief meditation based on the hymn. This baptismal hymn came to mind, probably because Dick Means' sister-in-law referred to it at his funeral. I first heard it in seminary and I've always found it particularly moving. It's a beautiful reminder that God is always with us: from our first breath to our last and everything in between. God is always with us, not only in the good times but also when things are hard... especially when things are hard. Since this hymn isn't in our current hymnal (though it is in the newer hymnal) I wanted to share it here for all to soak in.

I was there to hear your borning cry,

I'll be there when you are old.

I rejoiced the day you were baptized,

to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child,

with a faith to suit you well;

to find where demons dwell.

In a blaze of light you wandered off

When you heard the wonder of the Word I was there to cheer you on; You were raised to praise the living Lord, to whom you now belong. If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one, I'U be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk 'till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life,

not too old, no longer young,

I'll be there to guide you through the night,

complete what I've begun.

When the evening gently closes in,

and you shut your weary eyes,

I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old. I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold. ~ John Ylvisaker, 1985



Jack Meredith Nicholson, the son of Roy Dix and Erma Meredith Nicholson, was born on November 07, 1929 in Newton, Iowa. Jack died on Tuesday, July 10, 2018. He was 88. A memorial service was held July 23rd at the First Presbyterian Church. A private family burial was held at the Newton Union Cemetery in Newton.

He was a graduate of Newton High School in 1948. On June 27, 1951 Jack was united in marriage with Joyce A. Hausner in Des Moines, Iowa. They were blessed with two daughters, Janell Sue and Janet Anne. Jack worked with his mother in the family business, Nicholson Paint and Wallpaper. He worked there until 1957 when the store closed. Jack served in the Iowa Army National Guard for 9 years. He worked for the U. S. Postal Service and retired from there in 1988 after 31 years service.

Jack was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program), Jasper County Cancer Society's Loan Closet; the Salvation Army Loan Closet and NARFE (National Association of Retired Federal Employees). Jack and Joyce loved to travel, seeing most of the United States and Canada. Their favorite trip was going to Hawaii. He had gone to the Indianapolis 500 for many years until his friend he went with was unable to go any longer.

He was preceded in death by his parents and wife, Joyce, in 2013. Those left to honor Jack's memory are his daughters, Janell (John) McClellan of Eden Prairie, Minnesota and Janet Groen of Omaha, Nebraska; three grandchildren, Katherine "Kaytie" (Jeff) Fuller of Omaha, Nebraska, Jenna (David) Estlick of Edina, Minnesota and Jeremy (Jenny) Groen of Omaha, Nebraska and his two great-grandsons, Dominic and Jack Estlick.

Upon graduation, he entered the US Army as a 2nd lieutenant serving stateside until his honorable discharge as a captain. He continued to serve in the US Army Reserves until 1969.

In 1957, he married Linda Joan (Hill) Means in Des Moines, Iowa. The couple settled in Charles City, Iowa, where Dick operated an agency with the FEMIC Insurance Company. In 1972, he moved the family to Newton upon accepting an executive position with its parent company, Farmland Insurance, at their Des Moines headquarters. In 1975, Dick declined a promotion with Farmland's company headquarters in Kansas City to avoid uprooting his young family again. He chose to continue his insurance career locally, most notably as a partner in IFS/Century 21. He finished his career as a stockbroker with Piper Jaffrey & Hopwood in Des Moines, retiring in 1993.

Dick was an avid snow skier, and an active golfer, being a member of the Newton Country Club. During his retirement years, he enjoyed spending time with his wife Linda and volunteering locally. They enjoyed traveling to see family, including several weeks in Florida each year. He was known for his quick wit and love for his family and animals. In 2012, Linda suffered a debilitating illness and moved to Park Centre. Dick and Linda were a familiar sight in the lobby sitting side-by-side holding hands.

Survivors include his wife of 61 years, Linda of Newton; his sons Michael (Melinda) Means of Port Charlotte, Florida and Dan (Carole) Means of Urbandale; daughter-in-law Anne Means of Madison, Wisc. and sister-in-law Janice Hill of Des Moines; seven grandchildren, Kathryn Means of Seattle, Wash.; Claire Means of Madison; Molly Means of Miami; Micah Means of Port Charlotte, Florida; Melissa (Ben) Horton of West Des Moines; Michael (Alicia) Litogot of New Hampton, Missouri and Ryan Litogot of West Des Moines and five great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and a son, Steven Means.



*Mary Roskilly, who is recuperating from recent surgery.

*David Shannon, who has been in Skiff Medical Center, and is now home recovering.

- *Gladys Sparks, as she makes Nelson Manor her home. Her home on E. 17th St. N. is for sale and she has had a tag sale.
- *Clarice Sigurdson and her son, Mark, as he continues to receive cancer treatments.

*Our chancel choir, as they prepare for another season of offering songs to our worship services.



Congratulations to Mallory (Sturtz) and Jack Shipley on the birth of Julian Dale, who was born July 27, 2018. He weighed 8 pounds and 9 oz. and was 21 inches long.

Julian is the couple's first child and the first grandchild for Stan and Carma Sturtz. According to Grandpa, Grandma and Uncle Garrett, he is definitely a keeper.

Congratulations from your church family!

MEMBERSHIP



MOMENT

The Membership Committee has not had a formal meeting since May 24 but has conducted our committee work by email and informal conversations at church. Of course, we have a number of functions that continue whether we meet or not, such as Greeting Ministry and Bread Ministry. During June much of our work was directed toward organizing the 4th of July parade, which now seems like ancient history, but I have not had a chance to thank Michael and Taylor McGonegle for the use of their pickup and for the involvement & help of so many people. It went

very well and we had 19 people associated with the church involved that day-the 2nd most ever. See pictures from the last Messenger (July/August).

The Attendance Sheets the ushers fill out have gone through 2-3 months of use and we are thinking they are helpful to us in tracking changes in attendance patterns. If you are ushering in the future and have not used them yet ask Gary Parsons or another member of the Membership Committee to help. They are not difficult to use at all.

We have continued to work toward producing a new church brochure and have had some challenges to our original plans but feel we are near the end and hope we will have them in the church within the next month or so.

Gary Parsons, pro tem



Welcome Our New Member

In our last Messenger, we introduced new members, Steve and Linda Gehling. In June, the Session also approved the membership of Lawrence Kenyi. Here is some information about Lawrence so our entire church family can get to know him better.

Lawrence, the youngest of 4 children, is from South Sudan. Lawrence says he doesn't really know his exact birthday. In his country, they knew the year and the season, but not the day. When Lawrence arrived in the United States, it was determined that his date of birth would be January 1, 1969. So, this coming year we will all have to celebrate his 50th birthday!

The village Lawrence and his family grew up in was Wonduruba, South Sudan, in the region of Equatoria. There were over 2000 people in the village, many

related to each other. Due to the civil war and medicine being hard to obtain, Lawrence's parents died of illness – his mother in 1988 and his father in 2000. He also lost a brother in 2003 and his sister in 2010. He has one brother still living, in Juba, South Sudan.

Lawrence grew up in an Anglican Church in his village. When Sudan was one country, the Muslims were in the North and the Christians were in the South. With the creation of South Sudan as a nation in 2011, it is primarily a Christian nation, although there are some Muslims also. The civil strife, however, has been among Christian tribes.

When Lawrence was about 14, he left his village and went to the capitol of Juba. This is where his journey to the United States began. In 2003, he went to Uganda and applied for refugee status to travel to the US. When his application was initially rejected, he was not allowed to enter the refugee camp and was forced to live under a tree for more than a year. His appeal was eventually successful, however, and he then spent time in the refugee camp before traveling to Baltimore, MD in 2013. From there he went to Omaha, and in 2015 he was employed by TPI and moved to Newton.

Asking Lawrence what he thought of Newton, he indicated it was very friendly and welcoming. He really likes it. He did say that he wasn't real happy with all the fireworks on the 4th of July, as it brought back memories of all the bombings he and his family lived through when he was a child. In addition to his brother still being in South Sudan, he has 3 children there: a daughter, Rose; a son, Peter and another son, Steven. We all need to pray for the safety of Lawrence's family who remain in South Sudan. Lawrence's hope is that one day his entire family will be able to come to the United States.

Lawrence did indicate that he welcomes questions from the church family about his past or the current status in South Sudan. He finds it easier to answer questions rather than just talking about these things.

Welcome to our church family, Lawrence!



Church Life

Tara Zehr, Chair

On Sunday, July 15th, 54 members came to Worship at Woodland. There was a good breeze, which helped everyone deal with the heat. Instead of a sermon, a hymn sing was held. Following the church service, a potluck lunch was enjoyed by all. Downtown worship was held August 27 outside on the lawn at First Lutheran Church. Approximately 150 people attended. More information is below.

September 16, 2018, 4:00 p.m.	Hayride and weenie roast at the Ritter Camp
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

The next activity for Church Life is the annual hayride and weenie roast at the Ritter Camp on Sunday, September 16th. For those wanting to carpool to the Ritter homestead, please meet at the church at 4:00 pm. We hope to see everyone there!

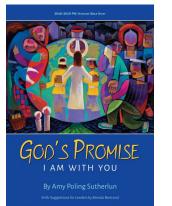
Downtown Ecumenical Service August 26, 2018

The fourth annual service was held on the green area behind First Lutheran Church. Approximately 150 people attended from the participating churches: First Lutheran, First Presbyterian, Salvation Army, UCC, United Methodist and United Presbyterian. Larry Anderson directed the ecumenical choir, which was accompanied by Jean Ibbotson from United Presbyterian. The group sang for the Introit and again when the collection was taken. The collection, which was over \$550, was earmarked to go to the Jasper County Elderly Nutrition Program.

Each clergyperson spoke on their favorite hymn, telling what it meant to them, why it was written or some other information. The congregation would sing a couple of verses of each hymn.

Following the worship service, refreshments were served. Contributions were from each church and was what is normally served at their Fellowship time. Thank you for everyone who attended and to the clergy who put together this wonderful service.





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!

Women of the Bible Coloring Group

Interested? Please let Meghan know. We will probably meet monthly on a Saturday morning (maybe Uncle Nancy's) but the when/where/frequency be determined by the participants. Feel free to invite friends from outside our church family. There's a discount for 5 or more books and if we order before Labor Day we'll get free shipping so the books will be approximately \$10.50. If you miss the deadline, there will still be an opportunity to order, but the price will likely be more. Also, please do not let the price of the book deter you (let Meghan know if you're interested but price is a factor).





Dear Meghan and the other wonderful people at First Presbyterian Church, Thank you so much for allowing us to park on your lot during RAGBRAI. Meghan was amazing to keep in touch with us and do the leg work to ensure we had a nice spot to stay. Generosity like this allows us to do our annual ride with much less stress. We truly appreciate it!

Best regards!

Rachel, Todd, Tim, Brenda, Brian, Sara, Derick, Fred, Brenda, Amy and Dirk.

(These folks contacted our church prior to RAGBRAI to see if they could park their RV's in our parking lot, which Session approved. In addition to sending this nice note, they make a monetary contribution to our church. There were also several tents that popped up on our front lawn for the night.)

______ A card was received from Janet Groen and family and Janell McClellan and family, daughters of Jack Nicholson. It reads:

God can BLESS you with everything you need And you will always have MORE than enough TO DO all kinds of GOOD things for others. 2 Corinthians 9:8 His kindness shines through you! Thank You

The originals of both of these are on the bulletin board across from the office.

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Budget and Finance Corner

Jen Norvell, Chair

Operating Revenue and Expenses for the month of June: Pledges for the month were \$10,464. This was \$509 above budget for the month \diamond Other Regular Giving, which represents donations from people who tithe, but do not \Diamond pledge, was \$355 for the month, which was \$48 below budget. Other Income for the month: The Designated Mission fund received \$17.38 in Cents-Ability donations. \Diamond The Undesignated Mission fund received \$2,506.35 in contributions for the Ice Cream \Diamond Social. Expenses for the month: Administrative Expense was \$115 above budget due to the purchase of a supply of coffee for church use and resale. Personnel expenses were above budget due to paying for music substitutes and payment \Diamond of unused 2017 vacation time for Barbara and Bob. Membership Expense for the month included candy for the 4th of July parade and printing of the brochure. The One Great Hour offering of \$655.48 was remitted to Presbytery. \Diamond The Undesignated Mission fund paid \$397.59 for expenses for the Ice Cream Social and \Diamond \$16.73 for a "Just Eating" curriculum book. In total for the month, expenses were \$1,132 over budget. Year-to-date through June: Year-to-date pledges are \$29,138 over budget \Diamond \Diamond Other Regular Giving is \$2,058 over budget. \Diamond Expenses are \$3,154 over budget. Operating Revenue and Expenses for the month of July: Pledges for the month were \$11,744. This was \$1,789 above budget for the month. \Diamond Other Regular Giving, which represents donations from people who tithe, but do not \diamond pledge, was \$1,025 for the month, which was \$622 above budget. Other Income for the month: The Designated Mission fund received \$95.15 in Cents-Ability donations. \Diamond The Memorial Fund received donations honoring Dick Means and Jack Nicholson. \Diamond Other/Misc Income includes a \$1,000 donation to go toward organ/piano repairs. \Diamond Expenses for the month: Personnel expenses were above budget due to paying for music substitutes and payment \Diamond of quarterly payroll taxes. The International Mission account made a \$360 contribution for a food packaging event \Diamond and paid \$240.52 for Days for Girls expenses. The Undesignated Mission fund paid \$80.19 for expenses for the Ice Cream Social. \diamond In total for the month, expenses were \$256.64 below budget. \Diamond Year-to-date through July: Year-to-date pledges are \$30,927 over budget, \Diamond Other Regular Giving is \$2,680 over budget. \Diamond \Diamond Expenses are \$2,898 over budget.

Mission Committee

Marilyn McCallister, Chair

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

Jean Scott Power Fund offers Organ Scholarships: Jean Scott Power left a bequest to First Presbyterian, Newton, with the stipulation that it be used for "benevolences" within the church. Jean Power was active in the church and community, singing in the choir and directing the nursery for more than 20 years at First Presbyterian and serving on the Newton Community School Board. Jean greatly appreciated the quality of music offered at First Presbyterian. In an era when many churches have turned to praise bands and rarely use an organ or choir, First Presbyterian has become a haven for those who still love a well-played organ and a well-rehearsed choir singing quality music. Many in the congregation stay to listen to the postlude after worship and show their appreciation for Sandy's efforts at the organ. Jean's love of music and children and the diminishing number of people training to play the organ prompted us to use some of the Power Fund to offer, through Sandy Simbro, two scholarships for the study of organ. Two students have been taking lessons with Sandy through the summer months and have both expressed a desire to continue into the school year. We hope to hear the scholarship students play for worship one day when they become more proficient. Thank you to Jean Scott Power and Sandy Simbro for making this outreach possible.

<u>Back to School supplies</u>: Our church donated over 5 boxes of supplies for the Salvation Army school supply give away for needy students whose parents have signed up for help. We also had 2 volunteers who helped with the fun- filled event at Maytag Park west shelter where a family friendly event was held which included inflatables, cotton candy and snow cones. The children were able to pick up their backpacks filled with school supplies while enjoying a fun time with their families.

International Peacemaker Rev. Michael Muot Put from South Sudan: Mark your calendars! This year the Presbytery of Des Moines will be hosting Rev. Michael Muot Put from South Sudan. There will be two opportunities to meet Rev. Put and to hear him speak. There will be a special dinner on Saturday October 13 from 6-8 pm at Windsor Heights Presbyterian Church. The meal will be provided by the congregation of First Arabic Sudanese Church and a free-will offering will be taken as a fundraiser to support their ministry. On Sunday October 14, Rev. Put will be preaching in our worship service. More information on Rev. Michael Muot Put and the dinner will be available as we get closer to the date.

<u>Cents-ability collection</u> of coins for hunger programs locally, regionally and nationally began in May. As of our July financial report, \$262.16 has been collected. Thank you for participating in our hunger and poverty awareness program by expressing thanksgiving for what we have received, sharing with others in response to Jesus' command, "You give them something to eat.", and making a joyful noise unto the Lord. Collection of coins will continue on the fourth Sunday of the month, our Hunger Action Sunday.

<u>The beautiful Blazing Star quilt</u> was presented to the Presbyterian Women (PW) of the Des Moines Presbytery by the women of the Dakota Presbytery at the October 2015 Presbytery meeting in Sisseton, South Dakota. It was presented with the idea that it can be shared by all PW's in the Des Moines Presbytery. We have had the pleasure of displaying the quilt for the months of July and August. A monetary donation has been sent to the PW of the Dakota Presbytery so they can continue their work.

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A monetary donation has been sent to First Presbyterian, our sister church in Dickinson, Texas due to the significant damage inflicted by Hurricane Harvey for repair of their church building and rebuilding their various mission efforts. First Presbyterian, Dickinson, is the home church of Marilee Norred, daughter of John and Barb Taylor. We continue to pray for them as they continue to recover from this natural disaster.

In the midst of war, the <u>South Sudan Education and Peacebuilding Project (SSEPP)</u> strives to ensure teachers are being trained, schools are established in camps for the displaced, traumatized children and teachers are being healed, and communities are given the skills to support schools. A monetary donation has been sent to be matched by the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota to support the SSEPP. These donations "help prevent children from becoming child soldiers. Instead of going to war, they are now going to school and they will be able to support peace by learning Christian values regarding the importance of human life."

<u>Days for Girls workshops</u> continue on the 4th Thursday of the month. Our most recent workshop on August 23rd included 17 workers and creating 18 completed sustainable hygiene kits with many components for more kits. Our next workshop is Thursday, September 27th, from 9 am - 2 pm in fellowship hall. All are welcome to come!

<u>Mission Coalition</u> activities provide opportunities for First Presbyterian members to join members of other churches in community-wide mission projects. Upcoming events include the CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, October 7 (information about pledging and/or walking can be obtained by contacting Linda Curtis-Stolper) and the McCann Center Flea Market on Saturday, November 3. First Presbyterian cooks are asked to contribute a total of ten pies for sale as a fundraiser at the Flea Market. Proceeds will be split between Jasper County Elderly Nutrition and Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

<u>Neighbors Helping Neighbors</u> volunteers continue to help community members with Laundry Nights on the second and fourth Mondays of every month. First Presbyterian volunteers are needed to help with this mission on Monday, October 8 and Monday, October 22.

<u>SHARE Food</u> menu for September is on the bulletin board in the narthex. Orders need to be placed by September 7 for food pick-up on the 22nd. Checks need to be made out to First Lutheran Church.



The deacons did not meet in August, but continue to make our monthly visits. Our next meeting will be September 9 at 9:00 a.m.

Diane Moles, Moderator

SEPTEMBER 2018 BIRTHDAYS & EVENTS Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	P		FOR FAL			1 Melissa Sommars
2 Last Sunday Summer Hours 9:30 a Fellowship 10:00 a Worship 11:00 a Fellowship	3 Office Closed	4 11a Gentle Yoga	5 6p Membership 7p Choir	6 Linda Ver Steegt 6:30a Early Men's Group 9a Men's Group 3p Chair Yoga	7	8
9 Start regular worship schedule 9a Deacons	10 John Taylor Ruth Ann Van Elswyk 4:30p Church Growth	11 <i>Kay Gause</i> 11a Gentle Yoga 1p Worship & Music 3:30p Mission	12 Dick Mielke 5:15p Membership 7p Choir	13 3p Chair Yoga	14 Carma Sturtz	15
16 Janet Shields 4p Hayride and Weenie Roast at Ritter camp	17 Harriett Harmelink	18 Pete Koppin 11a Gentle Yoga 6:30 Session	19 9:30a Women's Bible Study 7p Choir	20 6:30a Early Men's Group 9a Men's Group 3p Chair Yoga	21 Ann DeGrado	22
23	24 Norm Grimm	25 Garrett Sturtz	26 Clarice Sigurdson 9:30a WBS 7p Choir	27 <i>Randy Camp</i> 3p Chair Yoga	28	29 Larry Anderson Julie Broderson
30	G				%	

Normal Worship Schedule9 00 a Adult Sunday School10:30 a Worship10:00 a Fellowship11:30 a Fellowship



September	2	9	16	23	30
Worship Leader Mickey Van Baale	Tom Mott	Linda Kirchhoff	Bev Rossow	Deanna Manley	Gary Parsons
Host Elder/Deacon Church Life	Dave Stolper	Jen Norvell	Janet Shields	Shirley Stevens	Marilyn McCallister
Greeters Julie Brodersen					
Ushers Mickey Van Baale	Dana Hashman Mickey Van Baale	Kevin & Toni Peska	Don & Sharon Black	Gary & Kay Parsons	Bonnie Rasmussen Shirley Stevens
Audio Mickey Van Baale	Shirley Stevens	Kyle Doerring	Shirley Stevens	Shirley Stevens	Dan Ritter
Counters Budget & Finance	Terry Rickers Peggy/Chris Lickiss	Mary Roskilly Bev Rossow	Dan Ritter Don Black	Dave Stolper Kathy Ventling	Tara Zehr Bret Doerring
Bread Ministry Baker Barb Taylor	Diane Moles	Shari DeCook	Sandy Simbro	Barb Taylor	Linda Campbell
Bread Ministry Taker Barb Taylor		Mickey Van Baale	Mary Jane Tripp	Barb Taylor	Linda Campbell
Communion Set up <i>Worship & Music</i>	Larry Anderson				

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

641-792-2790

Return Service Requested

Lectionary —

September, 2018

September 2 - 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Song of Sol. 2:8-13; *Ps. 45:1-2, 6-9;* James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

September 9 - 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Prov.22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; *Ps. 125;* James 2:1-10 (11-13) 14-17; Mark 7:24-37

September 16 - 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Prov.1:20-33; *Ps. 19;* James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38

September 23 - 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Prov. 31:10-31; *Ps. 1:* James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37

September 30 - 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22; *Ps. 124*; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50 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