

**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



**April
2021**

Meghan's Musings

Last Easter I “joked” about it being the first Easter of the COVID-19 Pandemic. I thought it was a joke. At that point we were almost exactly a month into the pandemic and already it felt like a year had passed. Little did we know how we’d feel when an *actual* year had passed. Little did I know that my “joke” wasn’t a joke and that the first Easter of the pandemic wouldn’t be the last.

But the good news is, we are so close to being out of this! So many of us have been vaccinated—thanks be to God! And last I checked, COVID numbers in Newton and Jasper County were way down (and I hope they stay there!) We’re slowly getting back to something resembling normal with our first “in-person” worship service in a year on March 14. We’ll be back in the sanctuary for Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday. We’ll have a traditional Easter service with communion pre-recorded and online only but we’ll also have a short sunrise service on the front lawn—bring your own chair—weather permitting (and given as much as I’m looking forward to worshiping with you in-person on Easter, the weather will have to be really, REALLY terrible for me to surrender and call it off! Heaven forbid!)

So here’s what we have planned for Holy Week:

Palm Sunday (March 28)—in person worship (face masks and social distancing required). We still won’t be singing though so we’ll have to sing our “Hosannas” on our own at home. Like last year, palms will be spread on the front walkway Sunday morning so if you’re planning to worship online, you can still come pick up a palm either prior to or later in the day. This service will also be pre-recorded and available online.

Maundy Thursday (April 1)-- in person worship (face masks and social distancing required). We will be providing pre-packaged individual communion elements (a tiny cup of juice and tiny wafer) but you are welcome to bring your own juice/bread if you prefer (i.e. you don’t want to hassle with trying to open the package or if you have any other concerns). This service will NOT be pre-recorded but will be available via ZOOM using the log-in information used for Sunday fellowship, technology permitting.

Good Friday (April 2)—Something a little different this year:

First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto will be hosting a Traditional Midday Good Friday Service and welcoming in the current Co-Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA), Gregory Bentley, as well as seven former Moderators and Vice-Moderators. This is a unique experience to meet and hear the voices of leaders from our church as each takes one of the seven last words of Christ.

This will be held on Zoom only. No registration required. 1 pm Central Time.

To join service: <http://bit.ly/FPCPAGoodFriday>

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Easter (April 4)—As mentioned above, we will have two worship opportunities:

Sunrise Service (7 am)—Bring your own chair. Again, just as with Maundy Thursday, we will be providing pre-packaged individual communion elements (a tiny cup of juice and tiny wafer) but you are welcome to bring your own juice/bread if you prefer. Masks and distancy, no singing.

Online Worship Pre-recorded, with music and communion.

Looking forward to worshipping together this Holy Week.

In Christ,

Meghan



Wilma Manning, with the help of her caretaker, Mary, wanted to share this thank you with all of us. "I wish to extend a warm thank you to my church family for the calls, cards and well wishes I have received. They have brought so much joy as I have dealt with the recovery from surgery to remove blood clots from both of my legs and the transition to my new home with Randy and his family.

Although I have been unable to attend church for some time, I keep up with the Messenger newsletter. I keep you all in my heart and prayers.

Wilma Manning"

(Side note: Wilma will be celebrating her 99th birthday on April 30th. I'm sure she will appreciate cards and phone calls to mark this milestone. Wilma's address is now: 2401 Rusty Wallace Drive, Newton, IA 50208)



Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all the cards, phone calls, texts, and gifts of food sent to us during this time of recovery from my surgery. We are grateful for all of your expressions of care from you all.

Larry and Linda Anderson



Barb and Randy Ferguson sent a very nice thank you to us for everyone who remembered Lauren when she had surgery recently. She was so excited to get the amount of mail that was sent to her. They indicate the surgery went well and Lauren's recovery has been a good one. They thank us for thinking of their family during this time. And Lauren wrote "I Thank You from Lauren". The thank you know is posted on the bulletin board outside the office.



Don Black has moved from Mercy hospital to a rehabilitation center in Johnston where he is doing Physical Therapy. He is hoping to be back home in Newton by the first of April.

An update on the Mauck family from Linda Anderson. They are the adoptive family of Anderson's granddaughter, Carly. Things are about the same. Ron, the husband/dad, will be having surgery on April 26 for probable kidney cancer. Geri, the wife/mom, could use prayers for sleep/rest as she takes care of herself, Carly, and the rest of her family's needs

Bret Doerring let us know that his dad, Bob, has been under hospice care since January. Bret had been staying at night so his mom, Marva, could get some relief and rest. The plan is to move Bob to Newton Village, as soon as a room becomes available. Monday, March 15, was not a good day for Bob, as he was very confused and needed more help than usual. The hospice personnel suggested finding somewhere else Bob could be moved to as a bridge until a room becomes available at Newton Village. So, he is at a Hospice House in Johnston. Bret emphasized that death is not eminent, though Bob is not doing as well as he was. Rather this is a place for him to be until a room becomes available here in Newton.

Peter Van Elswyk, who had a recent CT scan that revealed nodules in his lungs that appear to be cancerous. He had a biopsy done on Tuesday, March 23. Peter said that went fine, but it will be 3-5 days before he gets the results. Peter requests that the church family keep him in thoughts & prayers.

Kay Parsons, who will have a cornea transplant on March 31.

Daxton Dorr, 3-year old son of Emily and James and grandson of Sandy and Kris Simbro. Daxton broke his leg in 2 places, both below the knee and will have a cast from his hip to his ankle.

The two people, a nurse and a correctional officer, who were killed by two inmates in the Anamosa Correctional facility and their families and co-workers.

The ten people, one of whom was a police officer and father of seven, who were killed while at their neighborhood grocery in Boulder, Co. The victims ranged in age from 20 to 65. Prayers for their families, co-workers and the people of Boulder.

People suffering from acts of nature, such as tornadoes. which have hit the south in the past few weeks. Iowa is now in "weather awareness", so please watch the skies, listen to the radio and/or TV and be aware of any severe weather in our area.

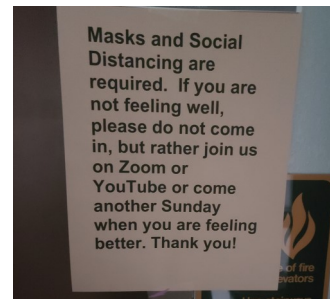
As we do every week, pray for the people around the world who are living in conflict and dangerous conditions that they might have peace.

Our First “In-Person” Worship in a Year

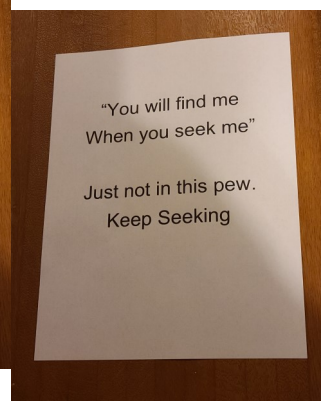
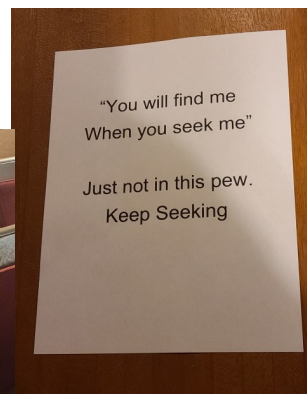


Thirty-six (36) people attended our first time of being able to worship in person since the start of the pandemic a year ago. This will now be the occurrence on the 2nd and 4th Sundays until such a time as we are able to have services in the sanctuary every week. Until we are fully back to having church in the sanctuary, the service will be taped and available on YouTube and our website.

Precautions were taken to ensure the safety of everyone. Masks and social distancing are required. Bulletins and the collection plates were available for members to get/use outside the sanctuary doors. Masks, hand sanitizer, and disinfectant wipes were also available.



Every other pew is taped off to ensure social distancing as well as the cushions being flipped up.. Funny biblical signs were placed on the pews not to be used.



Reading the Bible in the Year 2021

Below is the schedule for the months of April and May. Each month we'll feature that month's readings and the readings for the following month. If you would like a copy of the schedule for the entire year, please contact Meghan or the church office. **We will have a weekly Bible study/discussion at 6pm on Mondays (via Zoom for the time being) to discuss what we're reading.**

<u>April</u>		<u>May</u>	
Thursday, April 1	2 Samuel 1-3	Saturday, May 1	1Chronicles 7-9
Friday, April 2	2 Samuel 4-7	Sunday, May 2	1 Chronicles 10-12
Saturday, April 3	2 Samuel 8-11	Monday, May 3	1 Chronicles 13-16
Sunday, April 4	2 Samuel 12-13	Tuesday, May 4	1 Chronicles 17-19
Monday, April 5	2 Samuel 14-16	Wednesday, May 5	1 Chronicles 20-23
Tuesday, April 6	2 Samuel 17-19	Thursday, May 6	1 Chronicles 24-26
Wednesday, April 7	2 Samuel 20-22	Friday, May 7	1 Chronicles 27-29
Thursday, April 8	2 Samuel 23-24	Saturday, May 8	2 Chronicles 1-4
Friday, April 9	1 Kings 1-2	Sunday, May 9	2 Chronicles 5-7
Saturday, April 10	1 Kings 3-5	Monday, May 10	2 Chronicles 8-11
Sunday, April 11	1 Kings 6-7	Tuesday, May 11	2 Chronicles 12-16
Monday, April 12	1 Kings 8-9	Wednesday, May 12	2 Chronicles 17-20
Tuesday, April 13	1 Kings 10-12	Thursday, May 13	2 Chronicles 21-24
Wednesday, April 14	1 Kings 13-15	Friday, May 14	2 Chronicles 25-28
Thursday, April 15	1 Kings 16-18	Saturday, May 15	2 Chronicles 29-31
Friday, April 16	1 Kings 19-20	Sunday, May 16	2 Chronicles 32-34
Saturday, April 17	1 Kings 21-22	Monday, May 17	2 Chronicles 35-36
Sunday, April 18	2 Kings 1-3	Tuesday, May 18	Ezra 1-4
Monday, April 19	2 Kings 4-5	Wednesday, May 19	Ezra 5-7
Tuesday, April 20	2 Kings 6-8	Thursday, May 20	Erza 8-10
Wednesday, April 21	2 Kings 9-10	Friday, May 21	Nehemiah 1-3
Thursday, April 22	2 Kings 11-13	Saturday, May 22	Nehemiah 4-7
Friday, April 23	2 Kings 14-16	Sunday, May 23	Nehemiah 8-10
Saturday, April 24	2 Kings 27-18	Monday, May 24	Nehemiah 11-13
Sunday, April 25	2 Kings 19-21	Tuesday, May 25	Esther 1-5
Monday, April 26	2 Kings 22-23	Wednesday, May 26	Esther 6-10
Tuesday, April 27	2 Kings 24-25	Thursday, May 27	Job 1-4
Wednesday, April 28	1 Chronicles 1-2	Friday, May 28	Job 5-8
Thursday, April 29	1 Chronicles 3-4	Saturday, May 29	Job 9-12
Friday, April 30	1 Chronicles 5-6	Sunday, May 30	Job 13-16
		Monday, May 31	Job 17-20

Mission Committee

Larry Anderson, Chair

One Great Hour of Sharing

Lent is the time of year when we follow Jesus through the journey to his ultimate self-emptying act of dying on a cross. The One Great Hour of Sharing offering is one opportunity to participate in Jesus' identification with those on the margins, those who don't count for much by the world's standards. Your gifts go to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. To learn more about what these programs do, please visit the PC(USA) website at [Presbyterian Special Offerings - One Great Hour of Sharing \(pcusa.org\)](http://pcusa.org). The church will be receiving this offering through Lent and Easter Sunday.

If writing a check, please designate on the memo line it is for One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS).

Thank you!
The Mission Committee



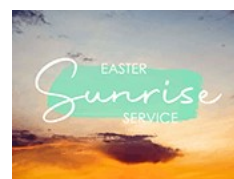
Music and Worship

Jeanette Shannon, Chair

Services during Holy Week:

- ✦ Maundy Thursday, April 1st at 7:00 pm - In person worship with communion and via Zoom using Sunday morning's link.
- ✦ Good Friday, April 2nd at 1 pm - Traditional Midday Good Friday Service via Zoom. The link is : <http://bit.ly/FPCPAGoodFriday>. No reservations required.
- ✦ Easter Sunrise Service, April 4 at 7:00 am - bring your lawn chair and sit on the front lawn. We will have communion.
- ✦ Easter service, April 4 at 10:30 am on Zoom or YouTube. Have your own elements for communion during the service.

Meghan's article gives more detail on all of these services.



Membership Committee

Marilyn McCallister, Chair

Membership Spotlight ---

Meet Toni Peska

Toni is a lifelong resident of Newton. She attended Aurora Heights Elementary School, Berg Junior High (as it was called then) and is a 1976 Newton Senior High School graduate. Toni worked at Newton Mfg. Co., for 38 years, until its close in 2015. That is where she met her husband, Kevin. Toni is now a realtor with Iowa Realty in Newton. Kevin, her husband, is the Director of Sales Development, for Bankers Advertising, Iowa City.

They are blessed that their immediate family all live in town. Toni and Kevin have three daughters:

*Tara Zehr – serves as the principal for WEST academy. Her husband, Erick, runs his own consulting business, Han Consulting. They have three sons: Emmett-6, Garrett-4 & Bennett-18 mos.

*Rachel Skaggs – works as a Customer Support Specialist at Farm Credit Services of America, in Newton. Her husband, Bryce, is a service locator for IRUA. They have a 4½ mo. old daughter, Claire.

*Taylor McGonegle – teaches 2nd Grade at Aurora Heights Elementary in Newton. She has a 2 yr. old daughter, Rylie.

Toni and Kevin live on an acreage SE of town. They are busy with their many ‘rescue’ animals: dogs, cats, sheep, goats, pigs, a rooster, guinea pigs, horses, and miniature donkeys. They also have two parrots, a chameleon, tortoises and a koi pond.

Sports are important to Toni and Kevin. They enjoy the Chicago Cubs, the Chicago Bears and a number of NHS sports. Their son-in-law Erick is the girl’s tennis coach for the Cardinals.

Toni has served as a Sunday school teacher, Deacon, Session member, Clerk of Session and she is really enjoying the ‘Bible reading in a year’ project.

Thank you, Toni, for allowing us to get to know you better!

Helping Church Family Keep Connected!!

Alas, our progress on the Pictorial Church Directory has been stymied with the Pandemic of 2020-2021. That does not mean we do not have changes in our church family – move to new address, new phone number, new members, new additions into church families, etc. The Church Office keeps an up-to-date copy of name, address, phone number(s), and email address, if available. If you are unsure if the Church Office has your most up-to-date information, please contact Mickey with that information by April 15 either during Church Office hours (Tues.-Thurs., 1-5 p.m., phone 641-792-2790) or by email (office1stpresnewton@gmail.com) or by USPS mail (220 N. 2nd Ave. E., Newton, IA 50208). After April 15, if you would like a hard copy of the church family contact information, contact the Church Office.

Zoom Happy Hour Open House

To stay connected, our Happy Hour Open House Zoom meeting is continuing on Wednesday evenings, 6-8 p.m. This is a social gathering with a drop in and out format as it works best for your schedule. AND on the last Wednesday Happy Hour Open House, Church Life is sponsoring a “dinner meeting.” Join Zoom meeting – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86377811346> with passcode of [641792](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86377811346). We hope to see you there!

Committee: Marilyn McCallister, Warren Erickson, Mary Roskilly, John Taylor, Joan Tyler



Christian Nurture

Mickey Van Baale, Chair

I thought we were going to have Sunday school for the children, you might be saying to yourself. And you would be correct - that was the plan. Then COVID-19 hit. We knew we couldn't have in person classes and thought about doing them over Zoom, but that didn't seem feasible either. So, like so many other things, it was put on hold. But ... we haven't forgotten.

Our committee (myself and Steve Gehling) have talked and with the blessing of the Session at the March meeting, plans are to start Sunday school in the fall. Doing so right now would only give us April and May, as Sunday school is normally not held over the summer months.

We are excited about this, and we hope you are also. We will be in contact with families who have youngsters about their willingness to have the kiddos attend. Also needed will be teachers. To start with, this will last only half an hour on Sunday mornings preceding worship.

How can you help? First of all by a lot of prayers that we return to having a successful Sunday school program. Secondly, a willingness to teach. If God calls you to that, please let one of us know. Materials for a story and craft will be available. And lastly, contributing ideas to us - perhaps even joining our committee.

Thank you for your support as we begin again a long time tradition that has been missing for our youngsters.

Church Life

Gary Parsons, Chair

Sunday afternoon, March 21, 26 hearty souls met at 2 pm at Agnes Patterson park for a walk. Though the wind was quite brisk, the weather was warm. Below are some pictures Warren Erickson took. Thank you, Warren.



News from Days for Girls International – Newton IA Team!

Session has approved the start-up of the monthly DfG workshops in fellowship hall beginning Thursday, April 22, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Following our church COVID precautions to keep everyone as safe as possible:

- ★ Attend only if you are comfortable doing so. Do not feel obligated to come;
- ★ Please hold off attending if you feel ill in any way;
- ★ Masks and social distancing are required – hand sanitizer and masks will be available (if you forget);
- ★ Lunch will be handled by a BYOL (bring your own lunch, snack and/or beverage).

The workshop day would be an opportunity for team members to drop off or pick up supplies to “work from home” on DfG kit parts. Again, we encourage team members to only come if they feel safe and comfortable with being in an inside group setting. Julie and Marilyn would love to see everyone but in these uncertain “COVID” times, stay safe!

Marilyn McCallister and Julie Fisher

Per Capita Assessment

If you haven't paid your per capita assessment, we are still accepting these. The amount of \$45 per person is the same as last year. Per capita is the way churches share in the work of the wider church family. Some of each member's assessment goes to each level of governance: Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly. Thank you.

Reminders

- The church office is now open from 1 pm to 5 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons.
- Even though the building is closed for in-person worship, meetings and other activities, the sanctuary is still in use multiple times throughout the week. Please make sure to check with Meghan and/or Mickey if you need to be in the sanctuary for any reason for musical practice, maintenance or any other reason, so we can make sure there is not a conflict.
- Most weeks, the sanctuary is unavailable: Wednesday 10:45 am-12:15 pm (when Meghan teaches Gentle Yoga via Zoom)
- Thursday 2:45 pm-5:30 pm (Chair Yoga followed by recording worship)
- Additionally, special music is usually recorded on Thursday mornings.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding in this matter.

Proposed schedule to resume when deemed safe to do so.



2021 *BIRTHDAYS* & EVENTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1 Bob Vander Veer 6:30a Early Men's Group 9a Men's Group 3p Chair Yoga 7p Maundy Thursday Svc.	2 1p Good Friday Service via Zoom	3
4 Easter 7a In-Person Sunrise Serv 10:30a Zoom Worship 11:30a Zoom Fellowship	5 6p - Reading the Bible in a Year Study/ Discussion	6	7 Kris Simbro 9:30a—WBS 11a Gentle Yoga 6:00p-8:00p Zoom Happy Hour Open House	8 11a Gentle Yoga	9 Cole Doerring Joan Aldridge	10 Linda Anderson Carol Russell
11 Linda Means 9a Deacons 10:30a In-Person Worship 11:30 Zoom Fellowship	12 Deanna Manley 10:00a—Membership 6p - Bible Study/ Discussion	13 Meghan Davis-Brass 3:30p Mission	14 9:30a—WBS 11a Gentle Yoga 6:00p-8:00p Zoom Happy Hour OH	15 Cat Rickers Kyle Doerring 6:30a Early Men's Group 9a Men's Group	16 Kim Miller	17
18 10:30a Zoom Worship 11:30a Zoom Fellowship	19 6p - Bible Study/ Discussion	20 Tara Zehr 7p Session	21 9:30a—WBS 11a Gentle Yoga 6:00p-8:00p Zoom Happy	22 Barb Roese 9a-2— Days for Girls 3p Chair Yoga	23 Carroll Brodersen	24
25 Rachel Skaggs 10:30a In Person Worship Baptism of Claire Skaggs 11:30 Zoom Fellowship	26 6p - Bible Study/ Discussion	27	28 9:30a—WBS 11a Gentle Yoga 6:00p-8:00p Zoom Happy Hour OH w/ meal	29 Sharon Black 3p Chair Yoga	30 Wilma Manning (99th Birthday)	

**All meetings, fellowship and yoga are via Zoom.
 Worship services are posted online and/or available via Zoom at the times indicated. In person worship will be the 2nd and 4th Sundays**



April	4	11	18	25
Worship Leader	Larry Anderson	Marilyn McCallister	Val McKee	
Greeters		Janet Shields Rachel Skaggs or Taylor McGonagle		Gary & Kay Parsons
Ushers		Barb & John Taylor		Don & Sharon Black
Audio		Erick Zehr		

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

Lectionary —

April, 2021

April 4 - Resurrection of the Lord/ Easter

Acts 10:34-43 *or* Isa. 25:6-9 *and*
Ps. 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Cor 15:1-11 *or* Acts
10:34-43; John 20:1-18 *or* Mark 16:1-8

April 11 - 2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:32-35 *and* *Ps. 133*;
1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31

April 18 - 3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:12-19 *and* *Ps. 4*: 1 John 3:1-7;
Luke 24:36b-48

April 25 - 4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:5-12 *and* *Ps. 23*; 1 John 3:16-24;
John 10:11-18

May, 2021

May 2 - 5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:26-40 *and* *Ps. 22:25-31*;
1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

May 9 - 6th Sunday of Easter (Mother's Day)

Acts 10:44-48 *and* *Ps. 98*; 1 John 5:1-6;
John 15:9-17

May 15 - 7th Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 *and* *Ps. 1*;
1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

May 23 - Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21 *or* Ezek. 37:1-14 *and*
Ps. 104:24-34, 35b; Rom. 8:22-27 *or*
Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

May 30—Trinity Sunday

Isa. 6:1-8 *and* *Ps. 29*;
Rom. 8:12-17; John 3:1-17