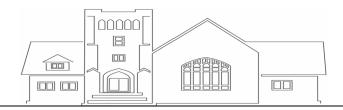
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWTON, IOWA

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**



AUGUST, 2013

Message from Pastor John

My friends in the Lord of 1st Presbyterian Church of Newton, Iowa,

The Lord is blessing you daily with His life-invigorating, unceasing breath of refreshment! Oh how exciting it will be for this congregation as the Pastor Nominating Committee culls down the Personal Information Forms to the select few they find attractive and worth pursuing. I truly believe they will be near the right person for the ministry of 1st Presbyterian Church very shortly!

This congregation is in the very capable hands of Linda Curtis-Stolper who will direct you in the short term until the PNC has made their selection and the congregation has affirmed that choice with the election of the new pastor.

Meanwhile, everyone is to be an active part of this calling, commissioning process. I usually culminate my ministry with the reminder of what that process entails from Matthew 28 of Christ's Great Commission to all disciples. The Message Bible describes the commission as follows:

18-20 Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave his charge: "God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age."

What is it we are to do? Heed the verbs of these verses:

Let's go and be actively seeking people in the streets, care centers, schools, and factories and speedways.

Let's train a group of select lay persons to be the Sunday School teachers, the youth leaders, couples' club conveners, singles' ministry leaders, or with whomever the Spirit directs this congregation and *trains* a person to be a witness.

Marking for baptism is identifying and befriending candidates of faith through every opportunity and venue where a likely child of God may be loved. Oh think of the possibilities!

Instructing – We are a teaching congregation! We have a core of gifted teachers and wise members whose faith experience can serve to mentor people in their faith and in their practice of their ministry. Instruct people of what their refreshingly vibrant Holy Spirit gifts are and help them discover them for the ongoing building up of the Body of Christ at First Presbyterian Church of Newton, Iowa.

I leave this congregation with great love. I will cherish these memories for the remainder of my life. You have made a profound impression on me. I pray that what minimal impact I may have had has directed this congregation to a place of readiness to receive her next pastor. You have been a blessing and may God continue to raise your eyes to God's future in which all are commissioned in Jesus' name.

Your Interim Pastor, Pastor John J. Duling

Be Praying For:

- Pastor John and Kathy as they begin the next phase of their faith journey at Wahoo, NE and for safe travels to California to visit family.
- ★ Linda Curtis-Stolper, as she is commissioned and begins her ministry as our interim.
- ★ The Pastor Nominating Committee as they continue their search for a new pastor.
- ★ Teachers, students and parents as a new school year begins in the next few weeks.
- Our college students, as they continue on their academic pathway.
- Kaitlyn Camp, Collin Ferguson, Andi Hollenbeck, Peder Hopkins, James Leonard, Amanda Richtsmeier and Blake Wathen who embark on a new phase in their lives by either starting college or working full time.
- ◆ Linda Campbell's granddaughter, Margaret, who is leaving for a year mission trip in Ecuador. She will not have a cell phone or computer during her time there.

We are looking for Special Music for worship services in August.

There are still weeks in August to fill, so please consider sharing your talents.

If interested, please contact: Larry Anderson (641-792-5220) or Kim DeGraff (641-521-8571)



Congratulations

Norm and Marlys Grimm welcomed two new grandchildren into their family recently. Noah Robert Truesdell, son of Tim and Molly Truesdell from Bettendorf, lowa, was born June 28 and joined siblings Micah, Anna, and Joshua. Suzanne Beth Grimm, daughter of Adam and AnneBeth Grimm from Sibley, lowa, was born July 11 and joined big brother Adrian.



On Sunday, July 28, Isabella Ray and Gracie May Carson were baptized. The twin girls are the daughters of Greg and Jen Carson and siblings to Bridget, Devin and Indy. We welcome Bella and Gracie into the family of God through their baptism.



Norm and Marlys Grimm celebrated their 40th Anniversary on July 18. Congratulations and thank you for furnishing coffee cakes for Fellowship Time on Sunday, July 21.

As you are probably aware, the Membership Committee arranged a church float in the 4th of July parade last year, the Christmas lighting parade last year and this year we had an entry in the 4th of July parade again. The Ritters let us use their pickup and Cathy Rickers made signs honoring our WWII veterans, Ken Johnson, Pete Koppin, and Wendell Wendt. Ken, Betty Lou, and Wendell were able to be with us and rode in the pickup. All told we had those three honorees, one driver (Carl Repp), and 19 walkers. I was very pleased with our turnout. We handed out candy this year and had a lot of fun. It was very special being able to honor our veterans in that way and the crowd along the way often stood and clapped as they passed by. It was very moving! At this point the committee is planning on making this and the Christmas lighting parade a tradition. We had also planned on entering the Jasper Co. Fair parade on July 22 but decided not to because we were running into a lot of problems especially associated with vacations and participants being gone.

From The LAYMAN Online: The largest group of Presbyterians lives in the South (39%), followed by the Midwest (30%), Northeast (18%), and West (14%).

Remember: Forbidden fruits create many jams.

Gary Parsons, chair Membership Committee



On August 12, Pastor John will be moving out of his apartment in Bristol Square. If you donated any furniture and would like it back, please be there or make arrangements to pick up the items.

Help is also needed to help move the items out of his apartment. Items will either be going back to the church or be donated to the Salvation Army or the Community theatre.

Moving will start at 8:00 am and the address is 315 1st St S.

George Wilkening, Personnel Chair

Worship & Music Committee

Kim DeGraff, Chairperson

Our deepest thanks and gratitude to Pastor John for his devoted service here at First Presbyterian Church of Newton. He has served us well!!!

We wish him all the best with his new calling and what the future holds for him and his family. Please join us August 11 for Worship in the Park, to bid him farewell and enjoy his last worship service with us.

Also, we are blessed to have one of our own, Linda Curtis-Stolper, step up and serve as our interim pastor going forward. Thank You Linda!

Although the Deacons do not have formal meetings in July and August, we continue to make our visitations.

The Moderator met with Session committee chairs concerning the Manual of Operations, and the Deacons' portion is complete.

We wish to acknowledge the "love notes" received from Work Week participants and are happy that we could contribute to the success of their mission.

The Deacons also gratefully thank Pastor John. He has attended our meetings and gone on visits with us, sometimes delivering communion to our members- as well as conducting communion services at Park Centre and Newton Village. We are appreciative of the pastoral care he has offered our congregation during his interim ministry with us and wish the Dulings continued success in their journey.

Linda Kirchhoff, Moderator



Community Meals

Our meal for the community, served on July 17, was a good learning experience. We think we fed over 100 people as we ran out of tuna salad and bread. We hurriedly made grilled cheese sandwiches from shredded cheese for the rest. We learned that not all the people come early, so we needed to save some for the late comers. Thanks to all who helped. We had a fun time. At the writing of this Messenger, we will have another date to serve a meal, July 31, where we will be serving spaghetti bake, green beans and cherry chocolate cake. The last meal of the summer will be August 14 which will involve all 4 churches. It will be a salad supper and the committee will be doing the serving. Thank you to those who volunteered to make salads for this meal.

We will be joining the First Lutheran Church for meals on the 4th Wednesday of August, September, and October. We will need 3 people each of those Wednesday nights. Some can be for food preparation, some for clean up. If you are interested in this generous endeavor, please keep those Wednesday nights open and look for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by the parlor.

Barb Taylor, Chairperson from Mission Committee

PNC Update:

The PNC has made the Church Information Form (C.I.F.) available in the office and on the website (What's New tab) for you to look at if you desire. This is the form that we are required to submit to the Church Leadership Connection to aid in our search for a pastor. We hope you will take a look at it. It is a very interesting document! The committee has received a large number of PIFs (Personal Information Form) from ministers seeking churches and we are meeting almost weekly trying to sort through a huge amount of information to try to find a minister that will be a good fit for our church and vice/versa.

Gary Parsons, chair PNC and Larry Anderson, Ann Cutts, Kelly Koenen, Steve Hopkins, Linda Kirchhoff and

First Presbyterian Church 220 N 2nd Ave E 641-792-2790

Email: new1pres@iowatelecom.net (this email goes to Jenny Verwers, Office Mgr.)

Website: www.newton1stpresbyterian.org

Church Office Hours: M, W, Thurs: 8:30 am to 3:00 pm

Custodian Hours: M-Thurs: 8am to 11am

Pastor Linda's Schedule:

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Monday: 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday: 12 noon to 5:00 p.m. Wednesday: 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Friday: as needed

Saturday: as needed

(Hours may vary from week to week based on her need to be at the church for meetings, etc.)

"The Mission of First Presbyterian Church of Newton, lowa is to share the love of God and grow the

Building and Grounds

Roger Harmelink, Chair

Blessing of the Sign

By Steve Hopkins

The new church sign was dedicated with a "blessing of the sign" ceremony, led by Pastor Duling, at the end of the July 21st Sunday worship service. Although the ceremony was originally intended to be held outside, at the new sign, a much-needed rainstorm kept the ceremony inside the sanctuary.

Jim Oskam, the designer and contractor who built the sign, was recognized during the ceremony and thanked for his work to produce an attractive sign that fits the architecture of the church.

Funding for the new sign was provided as a gift from longtime church members Maxine and the late Sterling Swanger. Maxine would like church members to know that the gift is from both of them, that she and Sterling were married at First Presbyterian Church in 1950, and that she is very proud to call First Presbyterian her church home.

The Building and Grounds Committee would like to thank the Swangers for their gift that made the new sign possible, as well as thank Mr. Oskam for his excellent work to create such an attractive addition to the church. The Committee hopes the new sign will serve as a way for our church to reach out to the community through its beauty and its positive messages for many years to come.





Sign Committee I to r: Les Gause, Steve Hopkins, Jim Oskam, Roger Harmelink. Linda Campbell, absent.

New Carpet in Fellowship Hall

On Saturday, July 20, several people met at the church and cleared out Fellowship Hall in preparation for the new carpet. Thank you to all who were able to help.

You will now notice new carpet, which matches what we have on the main floor and sanctuary, in Fellowship Hall. This is a project that has been in the works for some time. The old carpet had been in place for quite a number of years and served us well, but the time had come for replacing it.

Moving items back into Fellowship Hall will be taking place very soon. Please watch for announcements, as help will again be needed for this task.

Church Life Activities

Randy Camp, Chair

Save the Dates



August 11: Worship at Woodland Park, followed by a picnic. This will be Pastor John's last Sunday. There may be some special things done during the service (plans are still in the works.). Hot dogs and Park hamburgers will be provided. And, a ball game may break out afterwards.



August 23: I-Cubs vs. Memphis Redbirds baseball game at Principal Park, with fireworks following the game. We'll carpool from the church parking lot for this game that has a 7:05 p.m. start. The price of a ticket

is \$6.00 and is non-refundable. We need at least 25 people to commit in order to purchase the tickets. Look for the signup sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office. Update: Not many people have signed up—if we don't get at least 25, this activity will be cancelled.



October 20: Progressive Dinner (begins at 4:00). Watch for further details.

Helping in Joplin, Missouri

By Linda Erickson

Val McKee and I were living at Abundant Life Church In Joplin, Mo. and were helping to prepare, serve, and clean up 2 meals a day for about 350 people. We worked about 10 hour days beginning at 5:30 am and ended about 9 pm when we gratefully fell into our beds in the associate pastor's office. We had a few hours to rest between meals. We were serving a youth group of about 300 from a church in Texas which has almost as many members as Newton has citizens and a smaller group from NW lowa. This church has only about 250 members but has been housing and feeding volunteers for the 3 years since the tornado

Budget and Finance Corner

Bill Shields, Chairperson

Pledges for the month of June were \$10,159. This was \$1591 below budget for the month. Other Regular Giving for the month continues to run above budget and was \$236 above budget for the month of June. Total expenses were \$109 over budget.

Year-to-date figures through June show pledges to be \$1,238 below budget and expenses \$3,481 under budget. It is not unusual for pledges to fall behind during the summer months and it is why Budget and Finance encourage everyone to use the automatic deduction option from your banking account.

The Capitol Development Fund received a donation of \$2500 toward the cost of the new carpet.



Sermon/Preaching Schedule for August 2013

August 4—Sara Hopkins preaching

August 11—Final Message from Pastor John Faith and the Hat, Hebrews 11:1, 10-20.

August 18—Linda Curtis-Stolper preaching. "My Commission - Our Commission" based on Isaiah 43:1-3a, 10-13 and Matthew 28:16-20

August 25—George Wilkening preaching



Christian Nurture

By Virginia Bennett, Chair

The middle school and senior high youth will be gathering for pizza and planning on Sunday, Aug. 4. We'll be brainstorming activity ideas for the coming school year, with the hope of planning at least one gathering every month and the goal of more often.

Christian Nurture is exploring possible ways to offer Sunday School during the coming year, possibly involving more than just our youngest members in the classes.

VBS 2013: Thanks for the Memories

First Presbyterian Church Vacation Bible School was held in collaboration with United Presbyterian and First Lutheran Churches June 24 through June 28. The theme this year was "Kingdom Rocks." Nearly fifty children were in attendance. This number included students from pre-school through fifth grade and student helpers who were middle school, high school, and college students.

Each morning began with everyone meeting in the sanctuary of First Lutheran Church which was decorated as a castle. Activities included story telling and singing. The children also learned what the daily Bible point and verse were for the day. This was reinforced with each station they travelled to.

The group was divided into two crews, mixing ages of the students. This included all except the Preschoolers, who participated in opening exercises, snacks, and closing exercises. The rest of the time was spent in their classroom, rather than travelling. The two crews travelled to various stations to learn more and reinforce the Bible point and verse for the day.

The stations that were visited were: **Imagination Station** which mixed fun, science and Bible truths for experiential learning; **Chadder's Royal Theatre**, where Chadder Chipmunk lived out the daily Bible point on his adventure in a castle; **Tournament Games**, which allows physical learners to wiggle and move as they explore the Bible point in active ways; **Epic Bible Adventures**, where the people of the Bible verses came to life in small dramatic plays; and **Kingdom's Kitchen**, where daily snacks, again reinforcing the Bible lesson of the day, were served. Imagination Station and Chadder's Royal Theatre were at First Lutheran, Tournament Games and Kingdom Kitchen were at our church and Epic Bible Adventures were at United Presbyterian.

Adults from our church who assisted with Epic Bible Adventures were John Duling in the role of King David on Monday, Mickey Van Baale as Queen Esther on Tuesday, and George Wilkening as Jesus Christ on Thursday. Mickey was in charge of this station for the week and Dana Hashman provided invaluable help in preparing the props for the dramas.

Jane Repp and Linda Curtis-Stolper ably served once again as teachers for the pre-school class. Virginia Bennett and Valarie Barney, with wonderful help from some Lutheran ladies, prepared and served the refreshments from what was known as the "King's Kitchen." A big thank you to all church members who provided food for the refreshments. The food disappeared very quickly, as you might imagine. We were blessed to always have enough and more!

Members of the VBS steering committee included Deb Zieman and Chris Moore from United Presbyterian Church, Robyn Friedman from First Lutheran Church, and Virginia Bennett from First Pres. Further, the work of Deb Zieman as General Organizer of VBS and Josh Zieman as main set-builder was truly invaluable.

In conclusion, VBS was just one more example of receiving far more in gratifying experiences than we ever put into making it go. We all had a very good time! Perhaps some of you will consider joining us next year.

2013 Work Week Trip

If you were to ask any of the 14 members of this year's Work Week group what they got out of the experience, you would be likely to get 14 different answers. We gathered at 7:30 am in the church parking lot on Saturday, July 6 to pack the cargo van, say good-byes to our family members and head out to Benton Harbor, Michigan. Linda Curtis-Stolper and Dave Stolper, along with parents and spouses joined in our traditional send-off prayer.

We were greeted by Rev. Laurie Hartzell and she gave us a brief tour. Everyone staked out their area, mattresses were blown up and we were ready for supper at the Livery, a local establishment known for its pizza.

Most of our time was spent working at the Boys and Girls Club of Benton Harbor. Through donations of many businesses in the area, a beautiful facility was built within the last 4 years to have a place in the summer 350 youth can go for learning opportunities and recreation. Money ran out before all of the landscaping was done, so part of the group built flower boxes and finished the landscaping the first couple of mornings. The rest of the group worked at the Mosaic Redemption Center in downtown Benton Harbor. This facility offers clothing and household items at very reduced prices for those in need, or really anyone in town. Our work was to sort through incoming donations, inspecting them and either put them in the storage bins or put them out on the shop floor.

We all spent the afternoons working with the children of the Boys and Girls Club. There were recreation opportunities, working with a newly formed choir, working in the computer lab or working with the reading program. This was such a rewarding experience for all of us.

One morning some of us moved the household belongings of an elderly church member into a U-Haul truck while her apartment was getting painted and new carpet. On Thursday morning, the items were moved back into her home.

Thursday night we enjoyed the fellowship of people in the area who came for the free Community Meal. A short worship service with communion was held for any who desired,. Pastor John and Dana helped.

We had several visitors during this Work Week. Jean Bloomquist, former member, still lives in Benton Harbor and stopped by a few times. Rex and Janet Miller, also former members, now live in Virginia, but Janet was in Benton Harbor for the week and also visited. A few other former Newton residents who know some of the kids stopped by and many brought goodies for the group. Larry Anderson, Jordan Norvell



(Back row, I to r: Megan Ritter, Cole Doerring, Brad Ritter, George Wilkening, Ligie from Boys & Girls Club, Dana Hashman, Mickey Van Baale. Front row: Sam Cutts, Josh Ventling, Josh Zieman,, Peyton Patterson, Pastor John, Linda Anderson,

Our "fun" activities included a trip to Saugatuck, MI on Sunday afternoon for a Dune Ride and visit to Oval Beach, and going to the beach in St. Joseph, which is across the bridge from Benton Harbor. On Friday morning, we pulled up stakes and went to Chicago to catch a Cubs/Cardinals game. Following the afternoon game, we travelled to Naperville, IL where we spent the night at the Presbyterian church.

Thanks to everyone for your prayers, goodies and donations to make this trip possible. It was great!

Larry and Linda Anderson, Dana Hashman and Mickey Van Baale, Steering Committee



Presbytery of Des Moines

REV. PHILIP W. BARRETT, GENERAL PRESBYTER & STATED CLERK EMAIL: pbarrett@dmpresbytery.org

Friends -

The Presbytery Personnel Committee has approved the creation of a new staff position for the Presbytery – Communication Coordinator.

This position is being created following input from groups of presbytery leadership and office staff. It is designed to help improve and increase communication from and within the presbytery, as well as to remove some of the extra duties assumed by our office staff in the last year.

We will appreciate your assistance in sharing this information with your congregation or group and mentioning it to folks who might be interested in filling the position. Attached to this email you will find the job description that can be shared.

Questions and applications can be submitted to me.

Phil

Philip W. Barrett
Presbytery of Des Moines
2400 8th Street, Suite 20
Urbandale, IA 50322-4306
515-276-4991
pbarrett@dmpresbytery.org

(A copy of the job description is in the office or can be emailed to you by sending a request to Jenny in the church office. This position would be about 10 hours per week and would be at the Presbytery office in Urbandale.)



2013 BIRTHDAYS & EVENTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Worship Times 9:30 am				1 Rachel Rickers	2	3
Fellowship 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship				6:30 am Early Men's group 9:00 am Men's group 3:30 pm		
				Missions		
4 Linda Campbell	5	6	7 Frank Buckley	8 Lois Harrington	9 Nancy Shields	10 Pat Mitchell Dixie Zegers
5-7:00 pm Middle & High School			5:30 pm Membership 6:00 pm Budget & Finance			
11	12 Branson VerSteegt	13	14 George Wilkening	15	16 Cheryl Case	17 Dale Gardner
Worship at Woodland Park						
followed by a potluck dinner. Pastor John's last service with us.	5:30 pm Building & Grounds			6:30 am Early Men's group 9:00 am Men's group		
18 Michelle Leonard	19 Helyn Wohlwend	20 Mercedes Wathen	21 Fran Hoffman	22	23 Gary Haynes Larry Rossow	24
	6:15 pm Worship & Music	6:00 p.m. Session Meal			Karen Wathen	
	6	7:00 p.m. Session				
25	26	27	28 Bill Zegers	29 Danielle Hamilton	30 Blake Wathen Kimberly Schnell	31



August



Volunteers

August	4	11	18	25	Sept. 1
Worship Leader	Mickey Van Baale	Harriet Harmelink	Kristen Stanton	Jane Repp	Kristen Stanton
Office					
Host Elder/Deacon	Roger Harmelink	Jay Koenen	Kristen Stanton	Gary Parsons	Kim DeGraff
Greeters	Randy & Carol Camp	Kevin & Toni Peska	Terry Rickers Bev Rossow	Jack & Joyce Nicholson	
Julie Brodersen					
Ushers	Les & Kay Gause	The Camp Family	Dana Hashman	Larry & Linda	Bill & Nancy Shields
Office			Diane Moles Gary Haynes	Anderson	Dick Mielke
Audio	Jay Koenen	Jay Koenen	Roger Harmelink	Roger Harmelink	Roger Harmelink
Les Gause					
Candlelighter	Megan Ritter	Emily Miller	Joshua Ventling	Jordan Norvell	Natalie Camp
Office					
Little Church					
Virginia Bennett					
Counters	Bill Shields	Jonnie	Roger Harmelink	Kelly Koenen	Dave Boyd
Bill Shields	Dan Ritter	Carpenter Gary Haynes	Dave Stolper	Marshall Critchfield	
Bread Ministry Baker Barb Taylor	Shari DeCook	George Wilkening	Barb Taylor	Linda Campbell	Jane Repp
Bread Ministry Taker <i>Barb Taylor</i>	Mickey Van Baale	Mary Jane Tripp	Barb Taylor	Linda Campbell	Carol Russell
Communion Set up Kim DeGraff	Virginia Bennett Steve Hopkins				Randy Camp George Wilkening

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

641-792-2790

Return Service Requested

Lectionary —

August, 2013

August 4—11th Sunday after Pentecost Hos. 11:1-11; *Ps. 107:1-9, 43* Col. 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21

August 11—12th Sunday after Pentecost Isa. 1:1, 10-20; *Ps. 50:1-8, 22-23* Heb. 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40

August 18—13th Sunday after Pentecost Isa. 5:1-7; *Ps.* 80: 1-2, 8-19 Heb. 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56

August 25—14th Sunday after Pentecost Jer. 1:4-10; *Ps. 71:1-6* Heb. 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17

September, 2013

September 1 –15th Sunday after Pentecost Jer. 2:4-13; *Ps. 81:1, 10-16* Heb. 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14

September 8—16th Sunday after Pentecost Jer. 18:1-11; *Ps. 139:1-6, 13-18* Philem. 1-21; Luke 14:25-33

September 15—17th Sunday after Pentecost Jer. 4:11-12, 22-28; *Ps. 14* 1 Tim. 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

September 22—18th Sunday after Pentecost Jer. 8:18-9:1; *Ps. 79:1-9*; 1 Tim. 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

September 29—19th Sunday after Pentecost Jer. 32:1-3a, 6-15; *Ps. 91:1-6, 14-16* 1 Tim. 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31