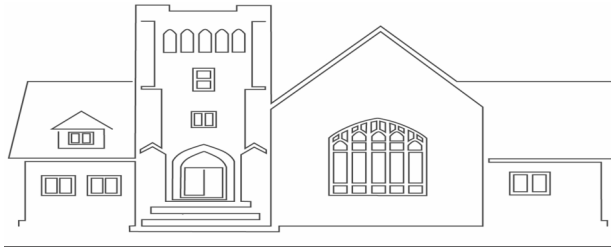


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NEWTON, IOWA
641-792-2790

THE MESSENGER



JANUARY, 2013

Message from Pastor John

My Dear Friends and Family of 1st Presbyterian Church.

At this writing, we are anticipating the celebration of the Christmas Eve Service with all the great and inspiring music as well as the beauty of the Candle Light Service. I don't know of anyone who would not be moved by this awesome spectacle and moment of the immanent presence of God. For this is when we celebrate the moment of Emmanuel – God with us!

As an ongoing encouragement for everyone to really know and experience the nearness of God, why not challenge yourselves to discovering God-moments in the New Year? To help in that discovery, consider one of my favorite words which is descriptive of the Church Season of Epiphany, which immediately follows Christmas. The word is "Serendipity." It is defined as "an aptitude for making desirable discoveries by accident." It could also mean "good fortune or luck."

Epiphany is a season of revealing and discovery, indeed! For example: The Season begins with the visit of the Magi /Wisemen who discover the child Jesus. Another discovery is the baptism of Jesus as an adult when He comes to John the Baptist to be baptized in the river Jordan. A voice of God from heaven comes out at the moment of baptism and announces – reveals – that Jesus is "My beloved Son with whom I am well pleased."

What further discoveries would one expect to find in Epiphany? Look at Luke 4:14-21; Luke 5: 1-11; Luke 9:28-36. What discoveries do you find?

Historically, consider the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (whose birthday we celebrate in January). What discoveries would that reveal to you and me?

Some events that are beginning in the New Year will be moments ripe for discovery. The Confirmation Classes that will begin for the youth in Middle School. We will have an organizational meeting for parents, youth (confirmands), and mentors in mid-January to begin that journey of new learning and insights. Not to be left out, we will include the senior high youth in a new Bible Study that hopefully starts in January. (Time and place are to be figured out when most youth can participate) This excites me to provide such serendipitous moments, even for old pastors like me!!! No one is too old or too young to encounter new things!

So Epiphany is a season of surprising discoveries. I pray that 2013 will be filled with such opportunities of new revelations for you and yours.

Looking forward to the new things to be revealed in Jesus' name,
Pastor John J. Duling

Worship & Music Committee

Kim Schnell, Chair

We would like to Thank all the volunteers who enhanced the services and helped organize many different events during Advent and the blessed Christmas season.

Linda Curtis-Stolper has graciously agreed to fill the pulpit January 6th, with Marvin Potter officiating communion, while Pastor John is on vacation and visiting his father. Thank You!

[On a personal note, Scott & I would like to thank the many First Presbyterian staff and friends who played a special part in our wedding day! And for all the well-wishes we have received along the way. This sanctuary truly is a beautiful setting for a wedding ceremony! Thank You, Kim & Scott D.]

The Deacons continued making their visits in December, spreading some Christmas cheer.

The first Sunday loose offering which is given to the Deacons was presented to the Salvation Army to help with Christmas needs in the community. An additional \$200 was added to this amount from the Deacon Fund. \$150 was donated to the Food Bank of Des Moines for the Backpack Buddies Program. (2 Newton schools are included in this venture. On Fridays, non-perishable food items are discreetly sent home in the backpacks of qualifying children for assistance for the weekend). The Deacons also gave \$150 to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) to help with the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

Linda Kirchhoff has been reelected as Moderator. Dave Stolper will continue as a non-voting secretary. Barb Gallaher will be in charge of sending cards.

Incoming Deacons are Sharon Black, Sheri DeCook, Gary Haynes, and Kevin Peska.

We express our heartfelt thanks to retiring Deacons Harriet Harmelink, Nancy Mott, Barb Jackson Roese, and Dave Stolper. Their dedication has been greatly appreciated.

Linda Kirchhoff, Moderator.



Budget and Finance Corner

Bill Shields, Chairperson

For the month of November, pledges were \$9,753, which was \$1,741 below budget. Buildings & Grounds expenses continued to be below budget due to lower than expected maintenance and Utility expenses. Church Life expenses were below budget due to the Thanksgiving dinner not being catered this year. Personnel expenses were over budget by \$4578 for the month due to the session decision to set aside \$5000 for future pastor nominating committee expenses related to the search for a permanent pastor. All other expenses were close to or below budgeted amounts. In total, expenses were \$1,997 above budget for the month.

Year-to-date pledges were \$3,961 lower than budgeted. Expenses are \$23,432 under budget due primarily to the pastor vacancy at the beginning of the year. Other committees expenses are significantly below budget.



I would like to thank the members of my church family for the cards and calls following my recent surgery, I feel so fortunate to belong to such a caring and supportive church congregation. Everything was very much appreciated.

Carol Russell

THANK YOU!!!!!!

I would like to thank everyone for their expressive Christmas cards and generosity shown to Cathy and me this Christmas. I have been so blessed and humbled to be part of such a thriving and exciting church as 1st Presbyterian Church of Newton, Iowa. God continue to bless and keep all of you in the New Year!

Pastor John and Cathy Duling

MEMBERSHIP



MOMENT

Because the church's schedules for volunteers are sometimes set up for several months in advance, it is not easy for people to remember all their church commitments. Clarice Sigurdson has graciously consented to call

some of the volunteers as a reminder in the week prior to their commitment.

Our committee was planning on having a movie on January 13 as a Sundays at 4 activity and it was announced at church last Sunday. We have since learned there is already a Sundays at 4 scheduled for that date that we were not aware of, so we are canceling the movie in January and will reschedule it for a later date. When it is rescheduled we will announce the date in intra church communications.

We are planning to have a trip to a Grinnell College men's basketball game on January 26 when they play Lake Forest College. If you have not been to one of their games you need to try it once. They are often the highest scoring men's college basketball team in the U.S. and often AVERAGE 125 points per game. They play a very different style that encourages their opponent to score a lot also. A combined total of 300 points for both teams is not unusual. We will meet in front of the church at 2:00 and will car pool for those that want to and leave by 2:15 for a 3:00 game (there is no admission fee). After the game, we will go to Pagliai's Pizza. I would like to know how many are going to give Pagliai's a rough estimate but it is not absolutely necessary. Hope you will be able to join us!!

Gary Parsons, chair



Church Outing
Grinnell Basketball Game

Condolences to Marie Achtemeier and family on the death of Darrell. Darrell passed away on Wednesday morning, December 26. At the time of this writing, arrangements have not been completed at Pence Funeral Home.



Elder/Deacon Training Retreat – January 12
Held at First Presbyterian Church
tentatively set from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm
with lunch served.

Installation of Officers – January 13
Held during Worship

Beginning of Wow - January 16

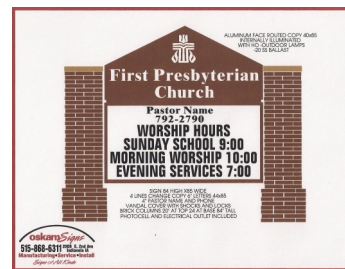
Annual Meeting/Congregation Meeting to approve nFOG recommendations – January 27.

A potluck meal will be immediately following worship on January 27, proceeding the Annual Meeting. Please bring a dish to share. Table service and drinks will be furnished. At this meeting, the congregation will receive the reports of the various committees, receive the 2013 budget, which has been approved by the Session and vote on the compensation package for Interim Pastor John.

Buildings and Grounds

Steve Hopkins, Chair

Church Sign: Jay Jensen finished building the two brick columns for the new church sign, except for the two limestone caps on top of the columns (the caps were finished later in the week). Jim Oskam, the sign maker, has ordered parts for the sign, but does not think he will be able to finish the sign before Christmas. He estimates completing the sign in January.



Christian Nurture at Work

By Kathy Ventling, Chair

Thank you to Virginia Bennett, Kelly Koenen, Stephanie Critchfield and parents who helped us present yet another successful Christmas pageant. A big round of applause goes out to all the youth and adults who participated. Who knew that the names of the Wise men were Goldie, Frankie and Murray? We were also blessed with the talents of Emily Miller, Natalie Camp, and Stephanie and Jane Hadley Critchfield for sharing their talents by offering special music.

On December 2nd, following practice for the pageant, the group enjoyed a meal together before going shopping for some of the Salvation Army angels. Each brought \$10 to use toward the purchases.

Confirmation Classes Are Being Organized. Youth in Middle School and their parents and mentors will be encouraged to be part of the organizational meeting which will give specific dates, times, and places when Confirmation will meet. Each youth (to be known as confirmands) will be given a study bible, the workbook, and meet with his or her mentor over a period of 10 weeks beginning the first week of February. Pastor John will meet with the mentors to help train them in their great opportunity of establishing a relationship with each confirmand. Please keep all who are part of this exciting new class and journey in your prayers.

Youth Bible Study to Begin! All Senior High Youth are invited to be part of an interactive Bible Study that will begin in January. Parents and teens will be contacted to find the most convenient and effective time to gather, possibly Wednesday evening after sports. Consider this an early notice and an opportunity to unite in some discoveries that will enhance and challenge your faith.

The winter session of WOW will be January 16 to February 20. The proposed plan is to hold the first 3 sessions at our church and the last three at First Lutheran. Additional information will be in Church Happenings and the bulletin.

Prayers for Healing to:

Linda Anderson who had shoulder surgery on Dec. 7. She is home recovering and doing very well.

Kimberly Schnell who also had surgery on Dec. 7. After a bit of a set-back after getting out of the hospital, Kimberly is recuperating at home.

Ben Smit was in a bicycle accident. He fractured his knee in several places. Following surgery to insert screws, Ben is at Sandy's, recuperating.

Ahren Rickers had an abscess removed from his throat that was making it difficult to swallow. He is at home and is getting along very well.

Pastor John's father who lives in California. He fell and broke his hip. It was pinned back together and he is in rehab. Pastor John will be travelling to see him the first week of January,



We have information on Westminster College in New Wilmington PA as well as their scholarship programs that are available to Presbyterians. Ask Jenny for it.



Sermons for January

January 6 - Linda Curtis-Stolper offering the sermon: "Are We There Yet?", based on Isaiah 60:1-6 and Matthew 2:1-12. Rev, Dr. Marvin Potter will be officiating at communion .

January 13 - "Called Out from a Rock and a Hard Place" Isaiah 43:1-11; Acts 8:14-17. Ordination and Installation of elders and deacons.

January 20: "The Lingering Hangover" John 2:1-11; Isaiah 62:1-5.

January 27: "The Ageless Time Capsule" Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Luke 4:14-21.

Emergency Closure of the Church

With winter weather upon us, we have reviewed and updated our policies at First Presbyterian. In the event of severe weather, any changes to scheduled activities at the church will be communicated to KCOB Radio. They have assured us such information will be sent out over all 3 of their stations (1280 AM, 95.9 FM and KRTI 106.7 FM which covers Grinnell, Marshalltown, parts of Des Moines, etc.) In addition, we have established an account with KCCI Television and WHO radio. When severe weather occurs, check these sources. If First Presbyterian is not mentioned on any of these, there is no change in our plans. However, if you have any doubts, please error on the side of caution and be safe!

The Session

Highlights from Session

Dave Boyd, Clerk

- Approved a budget for 2013 that includes funds for the PNC
- Approved a contract for Sara Hopkins to be in effect once she receives approval as a Commissioned Ruling Elder from Presbytery.
- Confirmed the following dates:
 - Election of Corp Officers – January Session meeting
 - Election of Clerk & Treasurer - January Session meeting
 - Installation of Officers – January 13
 - Elder/Deacon Training Retreat – January 12 @ 1PC
 - Annual Meeting and vote on nFOG standards - January 27
- Approved support for a group meeting at the United Methodist Church that will support those who have experienced loss due to a suicide

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 4pm

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

Pastor John's Hours:

Sunday:9:00-12:00 p.m.

Monday:9:00-12:00 p.m.

Thursday:9:00-12:00 p.m.

Friday:9:00-12:00 p.m.

Saturday: by appointment

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

Mission Committee

By Linda Anderson, Chairperson

International Mission:

El Salvador:

Starting in 2013, a \$300 yearly donation to Companeros will be a budgeted item. We will donate \$300 to Companeros out of the International Fund for 2012. The new Mission Co-worker, Katherine Pater, will be installed at the January 19 Des Moines Presbytery meeting, to be held at Covenant Presbyterian, Des Moines. She will move to Berlin shortly after that.

“Sunday at 4” Presentation: “Sustainability in Gaviotas

Steve Hopkins has arranged for his friend, John Andelson from Grinnell to give a talk at First Presbyterian on Jan. 13, 2013. Jonathan Andelson teaches anthropology and directs the Center for Prairie Studies at Grinnell College. Dr. Andelson, who studies sustainability, visited the village of Gaviotas in Columbia in Jan. 2010, along with his wife, Karen Stein. Karin is a Colombian musician who specializes in Latin American music, including the music of the Llanos. Gaviotas is the subject of the book titled Gaviotas, by Allen Weisman, which describes the village's efforts to achieve economic and environmental sustainability. The church's El Salvador interest group is particularly interested in discussing if there are lessons from Gaviotas that can be applied to the church's sister village, Muñoces, in El Salvador.

The El Salvador interest group will prepare a soup supper meal so that we can continue our discussions together over some food. Any interested persons should feel free to attend. Come in the east kitchen door. Freewill donation accepted for the cost of the meal.

For more information, contact Linda Anderson (792-5220) or Steve Hopkins (641-831-3552.)

National Mission:

Church World Service: We are investigating the “Clean-up Bucket” project for next year. These are buckets filled with supplies needed by residents and volunteers when disasters strike. Be watching for additional information.

Work Week: The committee hopes to meet soon and plan a parent meeting for all those who will be in High School next year (2013-2014) and previous attendees. Our hope is to have enough interest to go to Benton Harbor, MI, which we had in the works for last year. The group normally includes the youth of our church and UP. There is also some interest in possibly inviting youth from congregations who might not have enough to go on a trip themselves. The Brooklyn/Malcolm youth have expressed an interest as did the minister at Winterset, where we built the ramp for Audrey. More information will be coming. Watch for it.

Local Mission:

Three Ways to Give campaign: Again this year, members of our congregation were very generous in helping make Christmas a reality for needy families in our community. This was done through Salvation Army angels, gifts for Progress Industries residents and monetary donations to the St. Nick Christmas Club. Thank you for your assistance in these worthwhile programs.



Plans are being finalized for a work group to go to Joplin MO leaving here on February 10 and returning on February 15. The group consists of people from East IA and Des Moines Presbytery. If you have any interest in this very rewarding and needed work, please contact Dave Boyd at 831-0878.

WORKINGS OF THE CHURCH

Things To Be Decided by the Congregation

By Dave Boyd, Clerk of Session

Recent changes to the Constitution of Presbyterian Church - Book of Order for PC(USA) – require each congregation make certain decisions as to how their church will operate. In general, many activities and policies that were directed by the Book of Order are now open for each congregation to determine for themselves. In the table below the items congregations need to decide are shown on the left with recommendations of our Session on the right. We will vote on these at our annual meeting tentatively scheduled for January 27, 2013. In the meantime, questions and discussion are welcome and members are encouraged to contact any of the Elders on this subject.

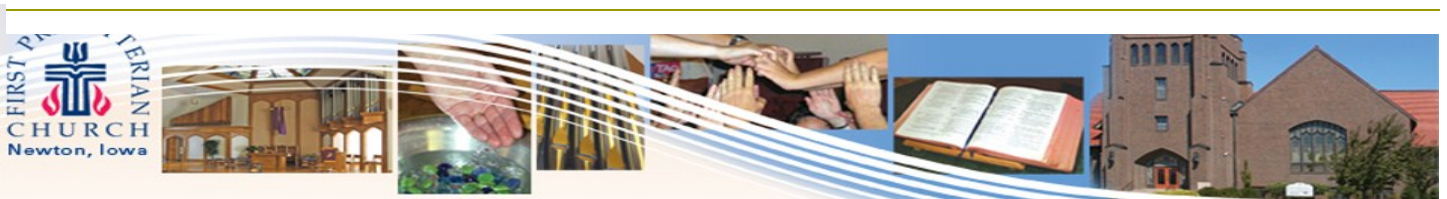
Decision To Be Made	Recommendation of The Session
Determine the quorum for congregational meetings. (G-1.0501)	We recommend leaving the requirement at one tenth of the members.
Determine the period of minimum notice for a congregational meeting (G-1.0502)	We recommend that this be changed to “notice be given in intra-church communications on three successive Sundays. The meeting may be convened following the notice given on the third Sunday.”
Determine whether the congregation wishes to adopt <i>Robert’s Rules</i> as parliamentary authority	We recommend that Robert’s Rules of Order be adopted as parliamentary authority.
Determine the size and composition of the congregational nominating committee (G-2.0401)	We recommend the following change: “The committee be composed of one actively serving member of the session who will serve as moderator, one member of the deacons, and three active members of the congregation. The pastor shall serve ex officio and without vote”.

If you have lost a loved one through death by suicide, you are invited to a newly established support group at Newton First United Methodist Church . Elsie Ulland and Gary Marzolf have been trained through the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention to facilitate support groups for those who have lost a loved one through suicide. They have both lost friends and loved ones through suicide and believe that by meeting together with other survivors we can grow and support one another in their journey.

We meet monthly on the third Thursday of each month at First United Methodist Church (210 N 2nd Ave E) at 7:00-8:30 PM. Please call the church (641-792-8575) after 5:00 and leave a message on Elsie Ulland’s voice mail if you are planning to come or if you have questions.

JANUARY 2013 BIRTHDAYS & EVENTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Lyndee Hashman	2	3 Jay Koenen 6:30 am Early Men's group 9:00 am Men's group 10:00 am Newton Village Worship	4 Mary Jo Niskin	5 John Carl 9:00 am Spanish IV
6 8:30 am Deacons	7 4:45 pm Personnel 5:00 pm W & M	8 Patty Skokan	9 Marlys Grimm 9:30 am WBS 5:15 pm Span. I 5:30 pm Membership 6:00 pm B & F 6:20 pm Span. IV 7:00 pm Choir	10 Emily Miller Linda Erickson Jane Repp	James Leonard	12 Tom Atwood Barb Ferguson Karen Liebl 9:00 am Spanish IV Training Retreat
13 Installation & Ordination of Officers 4:00 pm El Salvador Soup Supper	14 Rhonda Cupples Dorothy Van Elsen 5:00 pm C N 5:30 pm B & G 6:00 pm W & M	15 Megan Ritter Jenna Blunt 6:00 pm Session Meal	16 Macy Leonard 9:30 am WBS 5:00 WOW 5:15 pm Span. I 6:20 pm Span. IV 7:00 pm Choir	17 6:30 am Early Men's group 9:00 am Men's group	Zach Roskilly	19 Barb Woythaler 9:00 am Spanish IV
20	21 Gary Kirchoff Jennifer Carson Shae Koenen	22 Sara Moore	23 9:30 am WBS 5:00 WOW 5:15 pm Span. I 6:20 pm Span. IV 7:00 pm Choir	24	25	26 9:00 am Spanish IV
27 Carol Soderbloom-Proctor Annual Meeting	28 Shari DeCook	29 Allison Norvell	30	31	Worship Times 9:00 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	



January



Volunteers

JANUARY	6	13	20	27	
Worship Leader <i>Office</i>	Linda Campbell	Dave Stolper	Gary Parsons	Kristen Stanton	
Host Elder/Deacon <i>Dave Boyd</i>	George Wilkening	Linda Kirchhoff	Bill Shields	Annual Meeting	
Greeters <i>Julie Brodersen</i>	Terry Rickers Bev Rossow	Jack & Joyce Nicholson	Doug Cutts Wilma Manning	Chris & Peggy Lickess	
Ushers <i>Office</i>	Miller Family	Suzanne Funk Mary Jane Tripp	Ventling Family Roger Harmelink	The Ritter Family	
Audio <i>Les Gause</i>	Les Gause	Les Gause	Les Gause	Brad Ritter	
Candlelighter <i>Office</i>	Emily Miller	Megan Ritter	Natalie Camp	Joshua Ventling	
Little Church <i>Virginia Bennett</i>					
Counters <i>Bill Shields</i>	Dan Ritter Bill Shields	Jonnie Carpenter Gary Haynes	Roger Harmelink Dave Stolper	Kelly Koenen Marshall Critchfield	
Bread Ministry Baker <i>Barb Taylor</i>	Shari DeCook	George Wilkening	Barb Taylor	Linda Campbell	
Bread Ministry Taker <i>Barb Taylor</i>	Mickey Van Baale	Mary Jane Tripp	Barb Taylor	Linda Campbell	
Communion Set up <i>Dave Boyd</i>	Gary Parsons Mickey Van Baale				

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

641-792-2790

Return Service Requested

Lectionary —

January, 2013

January 6—Epiphany of the Lord

Isa. 60:1-6; *Ps. 72:1-7, 10-14*
Eph. 3:1-12; Matt. 2:1-12

January 13—Baptism of the Lord

Isa. 43:1-7; *Ps. 29*; Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 20—2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Isa. 62:1-5; *Ps. 36:5-10*
1 Cor. 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

January 27—3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Neh. 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; *Ps., 19*
1 Cor. 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

February, 2013

February 3—4th Sunday after Epiphany

Jer. 1:4-10; *Ps. 71:1-6*;
1 Cor. 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

February 10—Transfiguration of the Lord

Ex. 34:29-35; *Ps. 99*; 2 Cor. 3:12-4:2
Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

February 17—1st Sunday in Lent

Deut. 26:1-11; *Ps. 91:1-2, 9-16*
Rom. 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

February 24—2nd Sunday in Lent

Gen. 15: 1-12, 17-18; *Ps. 27*
Phil. 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35