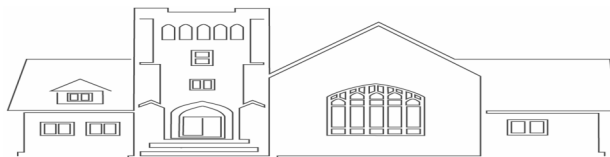


**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NEWTON, IOWA
641-792-2790**

"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



March, 2019

Meghan's Musings

It's That Lovely Time of Year!

I always look forward to Lent. I know I have few who join me in this sentiment. Few pay much heed and among those who do recognize there aren't many who particularly *like* it. But I do. I look forward to it the same way, toward the end of December, after a week (or month) of Christmas gluttony and sloth I look forward to starting my New Year's resolutions, to begin to focus on my physical health in order to feel better all around (though typically I don't start New Year's resolutions until January 2... after all, January 1 is a holiday! Ha ha!)

I look forward to Lent because it is an opportunity/encouragement to switch things up in some way, to make some change in order to turn toward God and to focus on my spiritual health in order to feel better all around. Because, at the end of the day, that really is the purpose of taking on a spiritual practice at any time, but particularly at Lent. It's not so much about giving up something that you enjoy in order to be miserable in hopes of somehow identifying with Jesus. (While giving up caffeine certainly made me miserable that one year, I'm pretty sure it had nothing on what Jesus endured in the wilderness much less on the cross.) We take on spiritual disciplines in order to draw closer to God.

So this year I again invite you to find a spiritual practice to take on or a habit to let go. We have a couple Wednesday offerings beginning Ash Wednesday (March 6): again this year we have the Lenten breakfasts that meet at 6:45 AM and a new opportunity is the "Just Eating?" study of food from different angles such as community building, poverty and the environment; this study will include a light dinner and be meeting Wednesday evenings 5:30-6:45 PM.

Of course, there are any number of daily prayer practices you can take on such as meditation, journaling or reading the Bible. And there are a variety of kinds of fasting you can take on that don't even have anything to do with food: I might try a social media "fast" giving up Facebook for Lent or perhaps a one day a week "technology" fast, avoiding my smartphone and computer. Or maybe a "fast" from a behavior you'd like to stop such as impatience, unkind words or sarcasm. These are just a few ideas of endless possibilities.

Now, I admit, I sometimes get carried away at Lent. I often "give up" and/or "take on" so many things that it's hard to keep track and by the end of Lent I may have only kept up with one or two. However, I find encouragement from Benedictine Sister Joan Chittister who writes in *The Radical Christian Life*:

The gospels tell of Jesus' journey into the wilderness and the temptations that face him there. It's an important story because it reminds us that temptations are part of life, part of growing up. We grapple with them often—in some instances for our lifetime—before we come to realize that it is not so much the victory as it is the effort to overcome that is holy-making.

Whatever you do to mark your Lenten fast this year, and I do encourage you to do something, may you always remember that "it is not so much the victory as is the effort to overcome that is holy-making." May you draw closer to God this Lenten season...



Patricia L. (Schlotfeldt) Koppin of Newton died at home January 31, 2019. Funeral services were held February 6, 2019 at 11 am at the Pence ~ Reese Funeral Home in Newton. Burial was at Newton Union Cemetery.

Patricia, the daughter of Dale and Agnes (Klewer) Schlotfeldt was born October 14, 1929 in Newton, Iowa. She graduated from Newton Senior High School in 1948. On September 17, 1950 she married C.E. (Pete) Koppin in Newton.

Pat was a 75+ year member of the First Presbyterian Church, teaching the first grade Sunday School class. She was a member of Skiff Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, the Jasper County Historical Society, Newton Community Theater, and Lady Elks. She was Worthy Advisor of Rainbow Girls in 1947. In 1969, Pat was President of Jaycee Jills and was a grade school Bluebird leader, member of Mother's Night Out Club for over 65 years. Pat worked as Office Manager at Maples Chevrolet for 14 years, retiring in November 1989.

Survivors include her husband Pete, her son Dale Koppin of Lutz, Florida, her daughter Barb (Steve) Roesse of Johnston; her four grandchildren: Jeremy (Andrea) Koppin of Altoona, Nikki Marshall of Knoxville, Brandon (Samantha) Jackson of Newton, and Stacy (Nick) Kuiper of West Des Moines; her nine great-grandchildren: Tyger, Levi, & Kobie Marshal, Lydia and Milena Koppin, Khloe, Quinn, Boston Kuiper and Morgan Jackson; her two sisters-in-law, Greta Koppin and Darlene Koppin; several nieces and nephews and one cousin Jackie (Jim) Black of Salinas, California.

She was preceded in death by her parents, a brother Bill and sister-in-law Marjorie, and her three brothers-in-law Ray, Leo, and Gene Koppin.



I would like to say how very, very appreciative I am for the visits and calls while I was in the hospital and since returning home. Also I thank those who have been willing to take me to appointments and to the grocery store while I am unable to drive at this time.

I hope I can repay your kindness if you ever need help.

JoAnn Munger



- † Prayers for Pete Koppin as he has left his home and is in a skilled care facility.
- † Prayers for JoAnn Munger, as she continues to recuperate at home after a stay in the hospital.
- † Prayers for Linda Campbell recovering after recent hospitalization.
- † Prayers for Lawrence Kenyi, as he travels to Uganda, for safe travels.
- † Prayers for those that have been forced to stay in their homes due to the cold and snowy weather.
- † Prayers for all of us as we continue to deal with winter storm after winter storm.
- † Prayers for those who have recently lost a loved one.
- † Prayers for those suffering from addiction, for their family and friends who suffer with them and for those who seek to help.
- † Prayers for Peace on Earth.

News from the Session

Mickey Van Baale, Clerk of Session

At our February monthly meeting, besides approving minutes and receiving reports from the various committees, we:

- † Met with Michael, Taylor and Rylie McGonegle to examine and approve them and their desire to have Rylie baptized.
- † Approved the reconstruction of the lily cross frame, making it small in proportion to the number of lilies purchased by congregants, but not smaller than will hold a minimum of 26 plants.
- † Learned that Budget and Finance plan to do an audit of our books on April 8th.
- † Received the report of the Pastor.
- † Learned that the officers retreat will be January 18, 2020 and the Annual Meeting will be January 26, 2020.
- † Shared memories of Pat Koppin, had a prayer for her and her family and unanimously voted to remove her name from the Roll Books.
- † Discussed members of our congregation who have been receiving Pastoral care and/or Deacon visits.

Worship and Music

Jeanette Shannon, Chair

The Worship and Music Committee met by email due to illness and weather.

The scaffolding for the lily cross was discussed. George Wilkening has been contacted and something will be done about it soon. A place to set it up and work on it is an issue.

Organ issues were also brought up. The computer board/switch is slowly going out. Sandy Simbro is keeping notes and is in touch with the tuner.

Events coming up for Lent and Easter were discussed. We thank Mary Jane Tripp for coordinating the Lenten Breakfasts the past few years. She has decided to step aside this year. Jeanette Shannon will be taking on that task this year.

Barbara will order palms and also put the form in the bulletin for ordering Easter lilies.



Worship and Music Committee

MEMBERSHIP



MOMENT

Warren Erickson, Gary Parsons, John Taylor, Joan Tyler, Rev. Meghan Davis, and Marilyn McCallister met and reviewed the three focus areas of our committee – Information About Our Church; Retention of Current Members; and Acquisition of New Members.

The recent Membership Committee events were fun and well attended. The Grinnell men's basketball game included 17 attendees and a delicious meal at Paglias. The Drake men's basketball game included 38 (which included Rylie McGonegle) attendees and special notice to all

Newtonians – Drake won with an exciting finish. Next event on the schedule is the Pacesetters Winter Performance on Saturday, March 9 at 7 pm at the high school. Our own Allie Norvell will be participating. Plan to attend!

Several musical programs will be featured at our church – The Grinnell Singers have been scheduled on Thursday evening, March 21st (not a Sunday but a great program!). The Iowa Youth Chorus will be practicing at our church all day Saturday, March 30 culminating with a performance open to the public (also not a Sunday, but oh well). More programs to come!

The Bread Ministry is going well – thanks to all the volunteers and leadership by Barb Taylor. Transportation Ministry is available, contact is Gary Parsons. Thanks, Gary.

Our committee will be making plans to update the church directory. We'll keep you posted.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn McCallister, Session Rep. & Chair

Presbytery Meeting Report

The 515th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Des Moines was held on Saturday, Feb. 9, 2019 at Community United Presbyterian Church in Hartford, Iowa. Rev. Meghan Davis and Parish Associate Linda Curtis-Stolper attended.

Opening worship focused on "The Constancy of God". Rev. Kip Harris based his sermon, "Stay with Me!", on Matthew 24:36-44. His message suggested that Jesus called the disciples – and is calling us – to do much more than simply remain awake; that we are called to remain actively involved in prayer and in ministry.

The Leadership Council of Presbytery has been working to consolidate policies and practices that have been scattered throughout many documents into a smaller number of more uniform pieces. An Amended Articles of Incorporation for the Presbytery of Des Moines, By-Laws for the Presbytery, an Employee Handbook, and a Manual of Operations were provided prior to the meeting for commissioners to review and prepare to discuss. The first two of these were largely unchanged from what they have been in the past. The Leadership Council's recommendation was that the Employee Handbook and Manual of Operations should be adopted at this time, with the understanding that amendments would probably be needed as time and experience revealed items that needed to be changed. After discussion, the Employee Handbook was approved for implementation at this time. Some commissioners were concerned that various addendums to the Manual of Operations were not printed and available for review and discussion at the Presbytery meeting. It was decided to postpone action on adoption of the Manual of Operations until the next Presbytery meeting, so that all addendums and other materials can be printed/posted/distributed to all commissioners for review prior to discussion.

Presbytery voted on proposed amendments to the *Book of Order* that were recommended to the presbyteries for their consideration by the 223rd General Assembly.

The 516th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Des Moines will be Tuesday, May 21 in Corning. An all-Iowa event, including multiple presbyteries in the state that are considering combining some functions, is being planned for Nov. 1-2, with more information to be made available soon.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Curtis-Stolper

A new furnace has been installed which heats Meghan's office and the main office. The cost of this was \$3486. We were able to get \$800 in rebates, bringing the final total to \$2686. A video door bell has been installed at the front door. This allows Barbara the ability to see who is coming into the church when the door bell rings. Some other updates to our security system are being looked at. At the request of the Budget and Finance Committee, research has been done on comparing various insurance companies that would give us the same or better coverage at a better price. A decision will be made very shortly. The computer in the office and Meghan's computer do not have sound available. This hiccup is being checked out and corrected.

George Wilkening, Chair

Building &
Grounds
Committee



Order your Easter Lily

As is our church's tradition, the Deacons will be putting together the lily cross for display on Easter Sunday. You may order a lily or additional ones to honor or remember loved ones. An order form will be in the bulletins and in the church office.

The last day to order is Sunday, April 14. The lilies will be delivered from Hy-Vee on Thursday, April 18.

The cost this year has yet to be determined. Watch the bulletins and Church Happenings for updates.. Be sure to indicate on the form if you will be taking yours home or leaving it to be shared.



2019 Lenten Breakfasts and Devotions

A wonderful tradition that continues in our church is the Lenten breakfasts and devotions. These start on Ash Wednesday and continue every Wednesday morning through Lent. We start breakfast at 6:45 am with devotions following. We strive to finish by 7:45 to 7:50 for those needing to get to work.

Below is the schedule for this year. A big "thank you" goes out to Jeanette Shannon for making the contacts to find those who will prepare the meal and those who offer the devotions each week.

We hope to see many of you there.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Breakfast</u>	<u>Devotions</u>
3/6	Gary & Kay Parsons	Rev. Meghan Davis
3/13	Don & Sharon Black	Don Black
3/20	Larry & Linda Anderson	Larry Anderson
3/27	Carl & Jane Repp	George Wilkening
4/3	John & Barb Taylor	John Taylor
4/10	Dave Stolper and Linda Curtis-Stolper	Linda Curtis-Stolper
4/17	Larry & Shari DeCook	Mickey Van Baale



Lenten Breakfasts
& Devotions

Church Life

Kay Parsons, Chair

Our February activity was going to the Drake men's basketball game in conjunction with the Membership Committee. A recap can be found as part of their report on page 4.

March 10, 2019	Potato Bar following worship
April 21, 2019	Easter Breakfast
July 14, 2019	Worship at Woodland, potluck to follow with Worship and Music Committee
August 25, 2019	Downtown churches Ecumenical Rally Day service
September 22, 2019	Progressive Dinner
October 20, 2019	Movie Night
November 24, 2019	Thanksgiving Feast and Communion, with Worship and Music Committee
December 15, 2019	Christmas caroling followed by chili supper

Make plans now to attend the annual Potato Bar Sunday, March 10th following worship. HUGE hot potatoes and all the fixins! Free will donations will fund other Church Life events this year.

Church Life Committee- Diane Moles, Nancy Mott, Bonnie Rasmussen, Dan Ritter, Tara Zehr, Kay Parsons, Chair

The following business was taken care of during our February meeting:

- Approved the minutes of the January meeting with one correction.
- Received the reports of visits made during the month of January.
- Were informed the financial report dated Jan. 31 showed a deacons' balance of \$482.83.
- Were told of congregants in facilities in Newton who have moved to different rooms, areas or facilities.
- Voted to give \$200 to the Newton Salvation Army, designating the money for the local food bank.

Diane Moles, Moderator



Mission Committee

Larry Anderson, Chair

Ramp building: There have been 9 requests for ramps since last fall. Three ramps have been installed, although one will need to be altered due to the nature of the recipient's disability. In two of the situations, ramps would not have been an appropriate solution. The remaining four will be built in warmer weather.

SHARE: food program continues with information on the fellowship hall bulletin board. First Christian church is administering the program.

Presbyterian Women: The synod gathering is scheduled for June 20-23 with Linda Curtis-Stolper working on a display about Neighbors Helping Neighbors and Meghan Davis scheduled to lead a yoga session.

Jasper County Take Away Hunger: The first two packaging events for 2019 are scheduled for March 23 in Lynnville and June 29 in Newton. The website for the organization is: jchtakeawayhunger.org.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: Nearly \$200 was collected in the "laundry jug" over the last several weeks.

Days for Girls: The January Days for Girls workshop had 14 daytime workers and 4 evening workers even on the frigid cold Thursday (1/24). Our next 2 workshops will be February 28 and March 28. We have the daytime hours of 9 am to 2 pm and then an evening session from 6 - 9 pm. Thank you to all who gave generously at our Annual Meeting fund raiser for Days for Girls. A total of \$299 was raised for material and supplies! Thanks to the Mission Committee and all who worked and donated to the delicious chicken and noodles meal! News! We will be sending some feminine hygiene kits to El Salvador in March. Veronica Mangrich of Newton has been certified to provide the education which is required for hygiene kit distribution. She works with the Medical Mission group from the Sacred Heart Catholic Church. All are welcome to come see the process of building a kit and be a part of this great ministry!

Just Eating: Meghan will lead a weekly study during Lent using the "Just Eating" curriculum. Sessions will be Wednesdays 5:30 to 6:45 beginning March 6.

Request from Lawrence Kenyi: Lawrence has requested financial assistance from the church for regular expenses he must meet while he is on his upcoming trip to Uganda. The committee decided to commit up to \$750 from the Power Fund as matching money for gifts to be solicited from the congregation.

Sheltering: Meghan brought up the topic of whether our church should find a way to offer shelter to people without other options during extreme cold such as the recent polar vortex. A local business opened its doors for that purpose. Discussion included comments about Red Cross procedures during emergencies, what is considered an emergency, and questions about liability and insurance. One step decided on was to find out what Red Cross currently does concerning such emergencies.

Members of Mission Committee: Larry Anderson, chair, Larry Rossow, Session, Linda Anderson, John and Barb Taylor, Linda Erickson, Linda Curtis-Stolper, Rev. Meghan Davis

Update from Bread for the World

Larry Anderson, Mission Committee

Last fall, as part of a month-long focus on hunger issues, our congregation participated in the annual Offering of Letters campaign with Bread for the World. This was a new effort for our church that went beyond our history of involvement in direct hunger relief. It represented an acknowledgement that hunger is often the result of systemic inequities that require systemic changes. It also represented a recognition that it is a responsibility of the Christian community to advocate for political change on behalf of those who suffer hunger and poverty as a result of those inequities. As we emphasized last fall, Bread for the World is a non-partisan Christian organization. It is on the side of social justice for all – not on the side of any political party.

Here are some excerpts from a message from BFW's president in their latest newsletter:

Bread for the World members played a leadership role in winning unanimous passage of the Global Food Security Reauthorization Act in September. It mandates the continuation of international agriculture, nutrition, and food-aid programs for another five years.

Bread for the World members spoke out against a proposed cut of \$20 billion from SNAP food assistance. That's a lot of groceries. After the fall elections, in a strongly bipartisan vote, Congress passed the Farm Bill with no cuts to SNAP.

Congress also passed – and the president signed – a criminal justice reform bill in December. Bread for the World members and other faith groups contributed to success on this issue. Reducing the high rate of incarceration is important to progress against hunger, especially in communities of color.

Bread for the World's 2019 Offering of Letters will urge our government to accelerate progress toward the end of child malnutrition (there are ten million fewer malnourished kids in the world than there were ten years ago). I am hopeful this cause will draw conservatives and liberals together – in churches and communities across the country, and in Congress.

Thanks to the letters you wrote, together with many thousands across the country, the poor and hungry in the US and around the world have had a voice, and our government has listened.

Grinnell Singers concert at First Presbyterian

This student choir from Grinnell College is an excellent ensemble directed by John Rommereim. Several FPC musicians are very familiar with Rommereim and many of his students through the community choir, the Grinnell Oratorio Society. Marlys Grimm accompanies both the Oratorio Society and the Grinnell Singers. We are very pleased that the Grinnell Singers will perform at our church as a finale to their spring tour. The concert will be Thursday, March 21, at 7:30 PM.

Our own First Presbyterian choir will sing on the program as well. Please mark the date, plan to attend, and invite your friends!



2019 **BIRTHDAYS & EVENTS**

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1	2 <i>Katelyn Camp</i> 11a Women's Coloring
3	4 6p Book Club at Peanut Pub	5 11a Gentle Yoga	6 <i>Jennifer Ventling</i> 6:45 Lenten Breakfast 9:30a Women's Bible Study 5:30p-6:45P "Just Eating" 7p Choir	7 6:30a Early Men's Group 9a Men's Group 3p Chair Yoga	8 <i>Barb Gallaher</i>	9 <i>Kevin Peska</i> 7p Pacesetter Winter Show at High School
10 9a Deacons 11:30p Potato Bar	11 <i>Linda Curtis-Stolper</i> 3:30p Mission	12 11a Gentle Yoga 4p Worship & Music	13 6:45 Lenten Breakfast 9:30a WBS 2:30p Membership 5:30p-6:45P "Just Eating" 7p Choir	14 3p Chair Yoga	15	16 11a Women's Coloring
17	18	19 6:30p Session	20 6:45 Lenten Breakfast 9:30a WBS 5:30p-6:45P "Just Eating" 7p Choir	21 <i>Julie Fisher</i> 6:30a Early Men's Group 9a Men's Group 3p Chair Yoga 7:30p Grinnell Singers Concert	22 <i>Elsie Nelson</i>	23 <i>Dan Skokan</i> Jasper County Take Away Hunger packing event in Lynnville.
24 31 3p Opera Guild Concert	25 6p Pub Theology at Peanut Pub	26 <i>Don Black Les Gause</i> 11a Gentle Yoga	27 6:45 Lenten Breakfast 9:30a WBS 5:30p-6:45P "Just Eating" 7p Choir	28 9a-2p Days for Girls 3p Chair Yoga 6p-9p Evening Days for Girls	29	30 Iowa Youth Chorus Concert

Regular Worship Schedule

9:00 a Adult Sunday School
10:00 a Fellowship

10:30 a Worship
11:30 a Fellowship



March	3	10	17	24	31
Worship Leader <i>Mickey Van Baale</i>	George Wilkening	Terry Rickers	Mickey Van Baale	Dave Stolper	Tara Zehr
Host Elder/Deacon <i>Church Life</i>	Kay Parsons	George Wilkening	Diane Moles	Janet Shields	Mickey Van Baale
Greeters <i>Julie Brodersen</i>	Cole Doerring Carroll Brodersen	Janet Shields Kim or Kert Schnell	Randy & Carol Camp	Gary & Kay Parsons	Kevin & Toni Peska
Ushers <i>Mickey Van Baale</i>	Kathy Ventling Jeanette Shannon	Mary Jane Tripp Suzy Funk	John & Barb Taylor	Kevin & Toni Peska	Don & Sharon Black
Audio <i>Shirley Stevens</i>	Kyle Doerring	Brad Ritter	Shirley Stevens	Dan Ritter	Dan Ritter
Counters <i>Budget & Finance</i>	Terry Rickers Janet Shields	Terry Rickers Peggy/Chris Lickiss	Don Black Bev Rossow	Dave Stolper Kathy Ventling	Tara Zehr Bret Doerring
Bread Ministry Baker <i>Barb Taylor</i>	Mickey Van Baale	Sandy Simbro	Barb Taylor	Linda Campbell	Jane Repp
Bread Ministry Taker <i>Barb Taylor</i>	Mickey Van Baale	Mary Jane Tripp	BarbTaylor	Linda Campbell	Carol Russell
Communion Set up <i>Worship & Music`</i>	Jen Norvell Mickey Van Baale				

First Presbyterian Church
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Return Service Requested

Lectionary —

March, 2019

March 3 - Transfiguration of the Lord

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

March 10 - 1st Sunday in Lent

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

March 17 - 2nd Sunday in Lent

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

March 24 - 3rd Sunday in Lent

Isa. 55:1-9; *Ps.* 63:1-8;
1 Cor. 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

March 31 - 4th Sunday in Lent

Josh. 5:9-12; *Ps.* 32;
2 Cor. 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

April, 2019

April 7 - 5th Sunday in Lent

Isa. 43:16-21; *Ps.* 126; Phil. 3:4b-14;
John 12:1-8

April 14 - Palm/Passion Sunday

Palms: Luke 19:28-40; *Ps.* 118:1-2, 19-29
Passion: Isa. 50:4-9a; *Ps.* 31:9-16
Phil. 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23, 56 or
Luke 23:1-49

April 21—Resurrection of the Lord/Easter

Acts 10:34-43 or Isa. 65:17-25
Ps. 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Cor. 15:19-26 or
Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

April 28 - 2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 5:27-32; *Ps.* 118:14-29 or *Ps.* 150;
Rev. 1:4-8; John 20:19-31