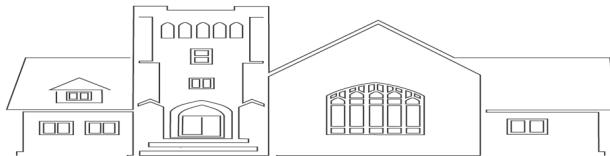


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NEWTON, IOWA
641-792-2790

"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



NOVEMBER 2017

Meghan's Musings

Nourishing Our Grateful Hearts

It's that time of year... when I'm likely to preach and/or write a newsletter article about gratitude. Yep, it's that time of year and, having just finished a sermon about gratitude in worship this morning, I'm going to offer an opportunity to fill you in if you were not there and a recap for those who were.

The scripture I was preaching from was Paul's letter to the Thessalonians (1 Thess 1:1-10). Paul begins his letter, "We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." Later in this letter Paul will urge the Thessalonians to "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thess 5:16-18). In the spirit of giving thanks always in all circumstances, I invited those in worship on Sunday (and those reading now, even if you already did it on Sunday) to nourish your grateful heart by:

- Taking some time to think about your blessings, what you are grateful for. Begin a list.
- Paul expresses joy and gratitude for the church in Thessalonica, that despite the persecutions to which they have been subjected, that they "became imitators... of the Lord" and "received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that [they] became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia." So I invite you to look back on your list, try to focus less on what you have, including relationships and opportunities, and more on what God has brought you through and the joy it brings.
- This scripture is a letter from Paul to the early church in Thessalonica. It is believed to be the earliest extant letter written by Paul. Review your list once more. Write a letter of gratitude. Perhaps it is a letter to God. Perhaps a letter to someone on your list.
- If your letter is written to someone you know, you might choose to send it to that person. If your letter is addressed to someone no longer living, you might choose to read it out loud. If it is to God, you might wish to pray it. Whether or not you ever send the letter, keep the sentiment fresh in your heart. Develop your grateful heart. Seek to find the cause for rejoicing in everything, every day.

As the hustle and bustle of the holiday season approaches, perhaps your grateful heart will inspire you to alternative gift giving. Perhaps you will give and/or receive Fair Trade products, donations to non-profits or other gifts that help make the world a better place while expressing your love for the recipients. For more ideas, check out the Presbyterian Gift Catalog (hard copies available at the church or check it out online <https://presbyteriangifts.org>) Another resource is www.alternativegiftregistry.org

Continued on page 2

Macy Jontz, who continues to recover at Park Centre from her accident and following surgery.

Tom and Nancy Mott's 21 year old grandson, Trent Werner, as he recovers from serious injuries suffered in an auto accident Saturday morning, October 21st. He is in an ICU in a hospital in Portland, OR, as of this writing.

Those facing the holidays without loved ones, whether it be the first year or several.

The people around our country who have faced deaths, injuries and destruction from the fires, hurricanes and other natural disasters that have struck.



June Crawford died on October 1, 2017 at the Accura Health Care Newton-West. A memorial service was held at 10:00 am, Monday, October 9, 2017 at Wallace Family Funeral Home.

The daughter of Clarence and Marguerite (O'Leary) Crawford, June was born June 15, 1955, in Newton, Iowa. She is survived by her sister, Marilyn Kay Pearson of Montezuma; niece, Jennifer Pearson of Newton; and nephew, Jeff Pearson.



- ⇒ **Congratulations to Diane Moles, who was presented an award for outstanding service at a recent meeting of the Iowa Section of the American Water Works Association**
- ⇒ **Congratulations to Natalie Camp for making the 2017 All-State Chorus.**

Continued from page 1

May this Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas season be one in which we truly imitate Paul in his example of giving thanks always, in his example of the well-developed grateful heart, even as we follow Christ's example of loving God with all our heart, mind and strength and our neighbor as ourselves

Church Life

Tara Zehr, Chair

2017 Progressive Dinner Recap

42 people attended our progressive dinner on Sunday, October 15th. Everyone started at Joan Tyler's house with a nice selection of appetizers. From there we split into five groups to have salad/soup course hosted at the McGonegle, McKee, Repp, Mott and Grimm households. Following wonderful courses and conversations the groups broke up again and went to their main course locations hosted by Kay and Gary Parsons, Linda and Larry Anderson, Barb and John Taylor, Meghan Davis and Curt Brass and Sharon and Don Black. Assisting main course meals were Shirley Stevens and George Wilkening, Bonnie Rasmussen and Gary Haynes and Dave Stolper and Linda Curtis-Stolper. For the second year in a row, we ended our dinner with a wonderful variety of desserts hosted at the Manley household. Thank you to everyone who hosted a portion of the meal and to the people who assisted in the different courses. A special thanks to Diane Moles and Kay Parsons for all their behind the scenes planning and organizing!

Date & Time	Event
November 19, 2017, 11:30 am	Thanksgiving Feast and Communion, jointly with Worship and Music Committee
December 17, 2017, 4:00 pm	Christmas Caroling followed by supper

The 2017 Thanksgiving Feast, November 19th, noontime meal after worship

We'll be having the Thanksgiving Feast potluck this year in Fellowship Hall after worship on Sunday, November 19th. The committee members will roast the turkeys, set the tables, and provide the drinks. Bring your favorite holiday dish to share. Following the meal, Thanksgiving communion will be held. Please plan to attend and bring your favorite people with whom to share this time.

Nominating Committee

Bev Rossow, Chair

Kevin Peska was elected as a member-at-large to our committee at the Congregational Meeting following worship on Sunday, October 15. Kevin is finishing the 3-year term of Steve Hopkins, who resigned due to their move to Des Moines. Other members in addition to Kevin and myself are Dave Stolper, deacon representative, Jen Norvell, additional session representative and Cathy Rickers and Joan Tyler as the other at-large members.

Our committee has begun our work in finding 5 Elders, 4 for a 3-year term and 1 Elder for a 2-year term and 5 Deacons, 4 for a 3-year term and 1 for a one-year term. We are also needing to fill 1 member for next year's Nominating Committee, serving a 3 year term. Please be prayerfully considering how you may serve our church. Could it be by filling one of these spots? If you feel you would be interested, please let me know.

On the other hand, if the committee comes knocking on your door to see if you would be interested, we ask that you give it serious thought, and talk to God in prayer. Others normally can see talents within us that we don't see ourselves.

MEMBERSHIP TRUNK OR TREAT**MOMENT**

Trunk or Treat was held on Tuesday, October 31, 2017. Participants decorated the trunk of their car, wore a costume, and passed out candy purchased by the committee to children from 4:45 to about 6 PM in the church parking lot.

SUNDAYS @ 4

We plan to invite Ekram Kachu, from Des Moines, to speak about South Sudan refugee sponsorship and resettlement, perhaps followed by a soup supper. Details will be announced as plans materialize.

HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITIES

Church member groups, both organized and not organized, continue to attend high school athletic and musical events. We are proud of our students' participation and achievements!!

T-SHIRTS!

There are about a half-dozen church T-shirts still available for purchase at \$10 each. Interested persons should contact Rachel Peska. It was suggested that we have a "T-Shirt Sunday", when the shirts might be worn to our worship services. The shirts will also be worn by church groups attending high school activities.

RETENTION OF CHURCH MEMBERS/ACQUISITION OF NEW CHURCH MEMBERS

We discussed various ideas aimed to attract and invite visitors to our church, and to encourage those visitors to continue visiting and ultimately consider joining our congregation. Plans continue to be developed. We welcome ideas from church members, and encourage everyone to invite friends and acquaintances to attend worship with us.

Worship and Music

Linda Kirchhoff, Chair

All Saint's Day will be observed during Sunday worship on November 5. As is in years past, the service will include a special reading of names of loved ones who are gone whom we would like remembered. Names should be submitted to the church office by Wednesday, Nov. 1 to be included in the printed bulletin.

Our special "Blue Christmas" service will be Thursday December 21, at 7:00 pm. This new addition to our Advent/Christmas season is a service for those people struggling during the Christmas season. This will be a service of hope and comfort provided by Reverend Meghan.

Be watching the bulletins, Church Happenings and next month's Messenger for information regarding the All Church Christmas Pageant, the Christmas Eve service and ordering Poinsettias. As in the past, we will have an insert in the bulletin that you can use to order your Poinsettia and to let us know who they are given for, either in memory or to honor.

Peacemaker and Mission Co-Worker from Guatemala Speak at Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, October 11 during Women's Bible study, we were honored to have Rev. Delia Leal, a Guatemalan Peacemaker and Rev. Leslie Vogel, a PC(USA) Mission Co-Worker, at our church. Delia and Leslie spent a month travelling in the United States as part of the Peacemaker Program, telling of the plights of females in Guatemala. Both pastors work through CEDEPCA (Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America) but Rev. Leal was the official speaker and Rev. Vogel served as her interpreter.

Their hour-long presentation highlighted their work with women and girls in a patriarchal, androcentric, often violent culture in which women are considered property by the men, their educational opportunities are limited and they are led to believe their only purpose in life is to have children and do household work. Sexual assault is common with most girls getting pregnant before the age of 20, sometimes as young as 11 years old. The pregnant girls are expected to get married, often to men who have raped them.

Among the various programs CEDEPCA offers is a Bible-based retreat to empower and teach girls that they have worth and can further their education and become valuable members of their communities outside the home.

It was a very informational and interesting presentation that ended with a question and answer session. Below are brief bios on both women. Thank you to Meghan in offering the opportunity for the ladies to visit and speak at our church.

- † Rev. Delia Leal, an ordained pastor in the Church of the Nazarene, serves as the pastor of a Baptist Congregation (Iglesia Bautista "Luz") in Cobán Alta Verapaz, Guatemala. She is also the Regional Coordinator for the Women's Ministry of the Protestant Center of Pastoral Studies in Central America (CEDEPCA). Rev. Leal is an engaging preacher and workshop facilitator who provides theological reflection and analysis on violence faced by Guatemalans.
- † Rev. Leslie Vogel is a Pastor of the Presbytery of the Grand Canyon and is affiliated with Palo Cristi Presbyterian Church in Paradise Valley, Arizona. After graduation from San Francisco Theological Seminary in 1985, Leslie Vogel worked for almost eight years in El Salvador, a portion of this time as a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) mission co-worker. She also served two years under Presbyterian mission appointment as co-coordinator of the Central America Education Program at Stony Point (N.Y.) Center.

Leslie sees her new assignment with CEDEPCA focusing on challenges related to poverty and violence, which are among three critical global issues identified by Presbyterian World Mission as priorities. "I am also eager to share how U.S. Presbyterians are working with our global partners to address these concerns, grounded in our common faith in Jesus Christ," she said.



Dear Members,

Thank you for all the care and kindness you have given to me since Bill's death in January. Your thoughts and prayers have certainly comforted me.

Gratefully,
Nancy Shields



At our October meeting we:

- ◆ Received and approved the minutes from our previous meeting.
- ◆ Heard reports of visits made in September.
- ◆ Was given a report by Meghan on visits she had made.
- ◆ Had a discussion of possible new people we might want to add to our visitation list.
- ◆ Found out that 28 cards had been sent out during the month of September.

Dave Stolper will attend the nominating committee meetings as the representative from the deacons.

The next meeting will be November 12.

Mickey Van Baale, Moderator

Budget and Finance Corner

Bev Rossow, Chair

Operating Revenue and Expenses for month:

- ◊ Pledges for the month of September were \$8,618. This was \$2,026 below budget for the month.
- ◊ Other Regular Giving, which represents donations from people who tithe, but do not pledge, was \$1,700 for the month.
- ◊ Investment income was strong for the third quarter, adding \$3,902 to income.

Other income for the month:

- ◊ The Memorial fund received a donation of \$1,110 for donations associated with a memorial project to replace several plumbing fixtures in the church, in memory of Janie Moles.
- ◊ The Memorial fund received \$150 donations from other memorials.
- ◊ The Sundays at Four fund received donations of \$80.

Expenses for the month:

- ◊ The Designated Mission fund remitted the special offerings of \$1,140 for the One Great Hour offering and an additional \$10 for the Christmas Joy offering.
- ◊ The International Mission fund paid \$492.73 in expenses for Days for Girls supplies.

In total for the month, expenses were \$171 under budget.

Year-to-date through September:

- ◊ Pledges are \$695 under budget.
- ◊ Other Regular Giving is \$2,647 over budget.
- ◊ Expenses are \$391 over budget.
- ◊ For the year, the church is experiencing a shortfall of \$9,206. The 2017 anticipated annual shortfall was \$26,417.



Mission Committee

Marilyn McCallister, Chair

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

September 26 – First Presbyterian Church became a **Certified Hunger Action Congregation** with the PC(USA). This means we are doing at least one activity in the following six areas to alleviate hunger: (1) providing and/or sharing food in a dignified way with an eye to long-term structural solutions; (2) addressing the root causes of hunger and poverty through equitable and sustainable development; (3) learning about systemic causes of hunger, leading towards faithful action that is informed and directed by directly affected people and partners; (4) adopting sustainable personal and corporate lifestyles to restore justice and protect all God's creation; (5) advocating and campaigning for changes in policies and practices to end hunger and its causes, promote self-development, and care for creation; (6) incorporating prayer, education, and preaching about ending hunger and its causes into worship. Stop and take a look at the **certificate** on the Mission bulletin board in fellowship hall.

October 1 – CROP Walk sponsored by Mission Coalition raised money for feeding the hungry both locally and -“to the ends of the earth.” Thank you for your contributions totaling \$383.

November 6 – is the due date for SHARE food orders to be in the First Christian Church office for a November 18 distribution at the United Methodist Church. Food package information can be found on the Mission bulletin board in fellowship hall or on-line at www.shareiowa.org. If you have questions, contact Linda Anderson at 641-521-1153. Looking ahead, mark your calendars for the December 4 order deadline for distribution on December 16!

November 16 & November 30 are our scheduled Days for Girls (DfG) workshop days to finish out 2017. (9 am to 2pm in fellowship hall). We are joining with those across the country to participate in the Celeste Mergens' challenge to reach 1 million women and girls through the **#countHERin campaign** providing sustainable feminine hygiene kits by January 1, 2018. Come enjoy the fun and fellowship and help us work toward this great goal! Lunch is provided. If you have questions, you may contact Marilyn McCallister at 641-521-1485.

November 26 – Watch for the **Angels** that will appear on our Salvation Army Angel Tree in the church narthex. We are again helping the Salvation Army provide Christmas gifts to local children in need. The Mission Committee also voted to donate \$150.00 to the Salvation Army Holiday Food Baskets program which includes both Thanksgiving and Christmas meals.

December 2 – Mission Coalition has scheduled Saturday, December 2nd to ring the bells for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign. Mission Coalition Rep. Linda Curtis-Stolper will provide times and locations once she knows! Look for the sign-up sheet on the Mission bulletin board in fellowship hall.

Mariners in Mission (MIM) – Barb & John Taylor returned from the Idaho mission reporting the many work projects accomplished including remodeled/replaced windows in the recreation hall, made signs and curtains, and designed a t-shirt quilt. They were able to combine our donation and the donations of other participants to create around 20 Church World Service school kits and delivered in November. The next MIM conference is November 5-10 in Arkansas. Contact Barb or John at 641-792-6990 for the details.



2017 BIRTHDAYS & EVENTS

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

9 00a Adult Sunday School 10:00a Fellowship 10:30a Worship 11:30a Fellowship			1 9:30a WBS 7p Choir	2 Jane Birkenholz Steve McKee Dan Ritter 6:30a Early Men's Group 9a Men's Group 3p Chair Yoga	3 Bret Doerring	4
5 End of Daylight Saving Time - Fall Back	6 Larry DeCook Barb Zacheis	7 Jack Nicholson Macy Jontz 11a Gentle Yoga 6:30p Worship & Music	8 5:15p Membership 6p Budget & Finance 7p Choir	9 3p Chair Yoga	10	11 Kathy Ventling
12 9a Deacons	13 Barb Taylor Carol Goodwin	14 8:30a-3p Presbytery Mtg Central Pres Church in DSM 3:30p Mission	15 Tim Leonard 9:30a WBS 3p Chair Yoga 7p Choir	16 6:30a Early Men's Group 9a Men's Group 9a-2p Days for Girls	17 Steve Hopkins	18
19 11:30a Thanksgiving Feast	20	21 11a Gentle Yoga 6:30 Session	22	23 Mickey Van Baale  Thanksgiving Day	24 Jeanne Bridenstine	25
26	27	28 11a Gentle Yoga	29 JoAnn Munger 9:30a WBS 7p Choir	30 3p Chair Yoga 9a-2p Days for Girls		

** No Women's Bible Study (WBS) on November 8 and November 22

No Choir Practice November 22

**SCHEDULE
OF
VOLUNTEERS**



November	5	12	19	26	December 3
Worship Leader <i>Mickey Van Baale</i>	Val McKee	Linda Kirchhoff	Deanna Manley	Dave Stolper	Bev Rossow
Host Elder/Deacon <i>Church Life</i>	Marilyn McCallister	George Wilkening	Tara Zehr	Janet Shields	Mickey Van Baale
Greeters <i>Julie Brodersen</i>	Dick & Shirley Mielke	Chris & Peggy Lickiss	Janet Shields Kert or Kimberly Schnell	Randy & Carol Camp	Gary & Kay Parsons
Ushers <i>Mickey Van Baale</i>	Les and Kay Gause	Don and Sharon Black	Dick and Shirley Mielke	Kevin and Toni Peska	Tom and Nancy Mott
Audio <i>Mickey Van Baale</i>	Dan Ritter	Kyle Doerring	Erick Zehr	Les Gause	Kyle Doerring
Counters <i>Budget & Finance</i>	Jen Norvell Janet Shields	Terry Rickers Chris or Peggy Lickiss	Mickey Van Baale Jonnie Carpenter	Dan Ritter Don Black	Dave Stolper Roger Harmelink
Bread Ministry Baker <i>Barb Taylor</i>	Shari DeCook		Barb Taylor	Linda Campbell	Jane Repp
Bread Ministry Taker <i>Barb Taylor</i>	Mickey Van Baale		Barb Taylor	Linda Campbell	Carol Russell
Communion Set up <i>Worship & Music</i>	Larry Anderson Bret Doerring		Tara Zehr Linda Kirchhoff (Thanksgiving)		Tom Mott Val McKee

First Presbyterian Church
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Return Service Requested

Lectionary —

November, 2017

November 5 - 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Josh. 3:7-17; Ps. 107:1-7, 33-37,
1 Thess. 2:9-13; Matt. 23:1-12

November 12 - 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Josh. 24:1-3a, 14-25; Ps. 78:1-7;
1 Thess. 4:13-18; Matt. 25:1-13

November 19 - 24th Sunday after Pentecost

Judges 4:1-7; Ps. 123; 1 Thess. 5:1-11;
Matt. 25:14-30

November 26 - Christ the King Sunday

Ezek. 34:11-16, 20-24; Ps. 100;
Eph. 1:15-23; Matt. 25:31-46

December, 2017

December 3 - 1st Sunday of Advent

Isa. 64: 1-9; Ps. 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Cor. 1:3-9;
Mark 13:24-37

December 10 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

Isa. 40:1-11; Ps. 85:1-2, 8-13;
2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

December 17 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

Isa. 61:1-4, 8-11; Ps. 126 or
Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Thess. 5:16-24;
John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 24 - 4th Sunday of Advent

Christmas Eve
Isa. 9:2-7; Ps. 96; Titus 2:11-14;
Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

December 31 - 1st Sunday after Christmas Day

Isa. 61:10-62:3; Ps. 148; Gal 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40