

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
2019

Meghan's Musings

A Life of Gratitude

It's that time of year again. For many of us, autumn naturally nudges us toward introspection; with Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas on the horizon, it is a great time to reflect on gratitude. This year I'd like to invite us to dive a little deeper into gratitude, beyond the surface of noticing all we have in our lives for which we are (or should be) grateful. I'd like us to really contemplate what it means to live a life of gratitude. Additionally, I invite us to go yet a bit deeper than just coming up with an answer and going on with our lives: let's consider it, let's do it, let's continue to consider it, let's continue to do it.

What does it look like to live a life of gratitude? Today, my answer is: Living a life of gratitude requires not only noticing the blessings in our lives, not only thinking or even feeling grateful for those blessings but also acting on those blessings. Using the gifts we have been given to bless others, sharing our gifts and, cliché though the term may have become, "paying it forward." That's my answer today. My answer a month from now might be a bit different.

So from now and through Advent, I invite us all to continue considering "what does it look like to live a life of gratitude" and as we name various people, things, and experiences for which we are grateful, also consider how those blessings can be leveraged in our actively living our lives of gratitude.

Below are some journaling/meditating gratitude prompts. As you reflect on one or all of these questions, one I invite you to not only think about and name your "gratitudes" but also **find how your gratitude can move beyond a noun to become a verb. How can you enact your gratitude?**

- What was the last thing a family member did that made you happy?
- What is something beautiful that you saw in the last 24 hours?
- What's the last thing that made you laugh?
- What is something that was hard to do but you did it anyway?
- What is a favorite family outing you went on this year?
- What is something you are good at?
- What gift did you love receiving this year?
- What is something you love in nature?
- What do you love about your parents?

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- What was the best thing that happened in the last 24 hours?
- What is a favorite family tradition?
- What kindness did someone give you today/this week?
- What do you like about where you live?
- What do you love about one or more of your friends?
- What is a trial or challenge that has strengthened you?
- What is a special memory you have from childhood?
- What do/did you like about your job?
- What spiritual beliefs are you grateful for?
- What freedoms are you grateful for?
- What do you like about the current season?
- What is different today than a year ago for which you are grateful?
- What accomplishments in life brought you the most happiness?
- Who are you grateful for, and why?
- What is one thing you love about yourself?
- What was the last thing that made you smile?

This season, may our seeds of gratitude grow and blossom into lives lived in active gratitude.



God has given us various gifts. We are looking for those who have the gifts that can help with some of the following needs in our church.

1. Readers for special services, such as Blue Christmas or Christmas Eve. We appreciate those who have helped in the past. It is always nice to have some fresh voices.
2. People willing to be Elders or Deacons. The Nominating Committee has begun their work in finding Elders, Deacons, and a new member of the Nominating Committee. These are all 3-year commitments. Spend time with God to see if you have the talents and desire to fill one of these positions.
3. Volunteers to run the audio system on a rotation basis. Due to a variety of reasons we are down to very few audio system operators for our weekly service. Can you help? It would involve getting the microphones in place prior to the service, monitoring the sound system and recording the service. Training will be given..
4. Audio volunteer coordinator. This individual will make the yearly schedule of who will do the weekly task and send this out to those involved. They also make sure that batteries are changed in the microphones regularly.

It's said that it takes a village to raise a child ...well, it takes volunteers from the congregation to make our church and our various services run smoothly. It cannot be done by just a handful. Thanks for your consideration and saying yes as you are able.



Church Life

Kay Parsons, Chair

It was a "Wonder"ful evening Sunday. October 20th as 20 of us gathered for walking tacos and other movie treats to watch the movie "Wonder". We shared some laughs and a few tears along the way.

Our next church family event is the annual Thanksgiving meal on Sunday, November, 24th after worship. It is a potluck with the turkey, drinks, and table service provided. Make plans now to attend and bring your favorite dish to share. Following the meal, communion will be served.

Church Life Committee: Tara Zehr, Diane Moles, Dan Ritter, Nancy Mott, Bonnie Rasmussen, and Kay Parsons, chair



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|-------------------|--|
| November 24, 2019 | Thanksgiving Feast and Communion, with Worship and Music Committee |
| December 15, 2019 | Christmas caroling followed by chili supper |



Robert A. (Bob) Fisher, father of Don Fisher, passed away peacefully October. 6, 2019, surrounded by his four boys. A funeral service was held at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church on October 11, 2019 with burial at Newton Union Cemetery.

Bob was a 1948 graduate of Newton High School. He married Doris A. Douglas on May 28, 1950. He owned and operated "Fisher Millwork," a custom cabinet shop, from 1961 until 1985. Bob and Doris then opened "Fisher's Gallery" on the north side of the town square where they offered custom picture framing, prints and unique gifts. Bob was a charter member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in 1954 and was an active member throughout his life. He was a member of Newton Masonic Lodge #59, but his greatest joy was following the school and sporting events of his four boys and 13 grandchildren.

He is survived by four sons, Doug (Pam) of Fountain Hills, Ariz., and their children, Joe (Kristine) and Jeff (Gabrielle); Dan (Lynnette) of Urbandale and their children, Erin (Matt), Matt (Jamie), Sara (Grant) and Lauren (Chris); Dave (Terri) of Des Moines and his children, Dallas (Emily), Darian (Shelbi), Brandon and Taylor; and Don (Julie) of Newton and their children, Cody (Ashley), Caitlin (Curtis) and Cal. Also surviving are nine great-grandchildren, Vera, Weston, Greta, Gwen, Cooper, Maxon, Rylin, Riley, Noah, and another on the way. Bob was preceded in death by his parents; and his wife of 66 years.

Be watching the bulletins, Church Happenings and next month's Messenger for information regarding the All Church Christmas Pageant, the Blue Christmas service, 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 it is given for, either in memory or to honor. These are wonderful traditions carried out year after year.

October 3, 2019

Meghan and congregation:

Dear friends,

I realize this is very late, but I wanted to take this opportunity to express my appreciation on behalf of Neighbors Helping Neighbors for your generous gift of quarters for our ongoing laundry night project. It is because of caring people like yourselves that we are able to continue such ministries to assist the needy, including our blessing boxes and free clothing giveaways. May God continue to bless each of you for your thoughtfulness.

Gratefully,
Barry Hurto
For Neighbors Helping Neighbors



Kris Simbro, husband of Sandy, who is recovering from recent surgery.

Those who are homeless, as the weather turns colder, that they may find shelter and warmth.

Those who are hungry, that they may find places with doors open and have warm meals available, or groceries for their homes.

People facing the upcoming Holidays without a loved one. May they find peace and comfort.

People in California facing yet another round of fires.

The people of the South Sudan.

And prayers of joy for:

Dave Moles, who has completed his cancer treatments.

Zach Roskilly, who is making great progress - more than doctors expected.

Stewardship Campaign

Jen Norvell, Chair

You will soon be receiving a letter from the Stewardship Committee, along with your pledge card. We ask that you return your card to the office by November 24 so we can dedicate our pledges as part of our Thanksgiving Dinner celebration.

Your pledges are invaluable to our annual budgeting process. Once we know the total on pledges, and take into account Other Regular Giving, we will know our income amount for 2020. We will compare this to the expenses the various committees present. This will let us know if we will have the income to cover the expenses or if the committees will have to sharpen their pencils and come back with adjusted requests.

Another factor where congregation members can help is by paying their per capita. This is the per person amount our church is required to pay to Presbytery. Last year, this amount per person was \$45.00. If you are unable to pay the full amount, a portion would help.

Please prayerfully consider your pledge for this year and return you pledge card by November 24.

Stewardship
CAMPAIGN

At our recent meeting, we handled the following business:

- ♦ The minutes of the September meeting were approved.
- ♦ Reports of September visits were given and discussion held on some possible congregants we might add to our visitation list.
- ♦ Shirley Stevens said she sent 15 cards during the month of September.
- ♦ Taylor McGonegle volunteered to be the deacons representative to the Nominating Committee.
- ♦ Dave Stolper volunteered to replace Barb Taylor as host deacon on Nov. 24.
- ♦ Kevin Peska noted that "thezoo@pcpartner.net" should now be used as his email address.

The next meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. Nov. 10th in the library.

Diane Moles, Moderator



Happy 100th Birthday Carol Goodwin

When: Wednesday, November 13

Time: 3:00—4:00 PM

Where: Bistro at Park Centre

Cake & Ice Cream served

Please come!

No Gifts



MEMBERSHIP



MOMENT

Sundays at 4 event: Mark your calendar for Sunday, November 10 at 4 p.m. to hear soprano Randye Jones, accompanied by Marlys Grimm. The music performed will be related to the Underground Railroad. A complete article on this is on page 8.

P.E.W. (Pray, Eat, Work) event: As we head into a busy holiday time (Thanksgiving and Advent/Christmas), we need to “spiff up” our sanctuary and balcony areas. Come help out on Thursday, November 14 from 5:30-8 p.m. We’ll have a light supper and devotional, then get to

work housecleaning our beautiful sanctuary and balcony areas. Feel free to bring a hand held vacuum and other cleaning supplies.

Church Directory with photographs: Warren Erickson and Dave Stolper will be taking photographs to update our Church Directory. Members are encouraged to personalize their photo with “props” or by dressing in attire that shows a favorite activity or hobby, or by having your picture taken in a special or favorite place, or in some other way showing who you are or what you do. You will be contacted, or you may contact Warren (275-1926 or 792-8630) or Dave (840-2422) to set up a time and place for a photo session. There will also be a form available to indicate what personal information you would like in the directory along with your photo.

Thank you to all of you who volunteer to help us be a welcoming church to our visitors and members – greeters, bread ministry, transportation, etc.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn McCallister, Session Rep. & Chair

Worship & Music

Jeanette Shannon, Chair

At our October meeting the following topics were discussed:

*The committee reviewed their budget. It was decided that the \$1000 allocated for flowers was unnecessary. \$400 will be the budget for communion and worship expenses. \$435 will be budgeted for music supplies.

*The Advent Devotions Booklet is progressing. Val M. has found volunteers to write. The deadline for turning in their writing was November 1st. Possibilities were discussed for a cover design.

*The Thanksgiving dinner celebration will take place on Sunday, Nov. 24. Meghan will provide the liturgy. The Church Life Committee will be in charge of the meal. Communion will follow the meal.

*The next topic was decorating the sanctuary for Advent. Linda K.'s coffee group will decorate the sanctuary on Dec. 3. The advent candle wreath and the banner will be put up before that.

*The Blue Christmas service will take place on Dec. 19. A Facebook event will be written by Meghan. The committee will usher.

Upcoming "Sundays at 4" Event

Joan Tyler, Membership Committee

Jones, Grimm to Present Concerts, Book Talk on Negro Spirituals

Soprano and author Randye Jones, accompanied by pianist Marlys Grimm, will present two free public performances in November. Norm Grimm will be the narrator at both events.

- Concert "Carry Me Home: A Story of the Underground Railroad Told in Narrative and Song," at 4 p.m. Sunday, November 10, at our church.

- * Concert "Carry Me Home: A Story of the Underground Railroad Told in Narrative and Song," at 4 p.m. Sunday, November 17, in Herrick Chapel at Grinnell College.

* Jones will also present a talk on her newly published book, *So You Want to Sing Spirituals*, at 4:15 p.m. Wednesday, November 20, in Burling Library Lounge at Grinnell College.

The recitals combine the performance of Negro spirituals, set by composer Harry T. Burleigh, with the reading of a narrative of an escaped slave named Margaret who used the historic Underground Railroad to take the perilous journey to freedom. The narrative will be read during both programs by Norm Grimm. Also, a quilt based on patterns called "The Underground Railroad" is scheduled to be on display for both concerts.

During the book talk, Jones will focus on the question of whether non-Black students should study and perform spirituals. The presentation will spend some time on historical concerns, on points to consider when deciding whether to study spirituals and on some thoughts about using dialect in performance. While conducting research for the book, Jones drew from resources at the libraries of Grinnell College, which encouraged enhancement of their score, recordings, and book collections in the area of concert spiritual performance. The author plans to share a bibliography of materials available in the libraries as well as to display some of these materials for the talk.

The events commemorate the 400th anniversary of the arrival of captured Africans to the English colony at Jamestown, Virginia--an event that would introduce enslavement of Africans and their descendants to what would become the United States.

Each event is free and open to the public.

Randye Jones holds her Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Education from Bennett College, Greensboro, North Carolina, and her Master's degree in Vocal Performance from The Florida State University, Tallahassee, with additional study in vocal literature at the University of Iowa in Iowa City. Jones has gained recognition for her research of and published writings on African American vocalists and composers and as a performer and lecturer through her projects, *The Art of the Negro Spiritual*, *Afrocentric Voices in "Classical" Music*, and the online publication, *The Spirituals Database*. Her first book, *So You Want to Sing Spirituals*, was released in October 2019. Jones currently serves as the media collections coordinator for the libraries at Grinnell College.

Mission Committee

Larry Anderson, Chair

Days for Girls International – Newton IA Team

Our September Days for Girls (DfG) workshop produced 20 sustainable feminine hygiene kits by 14 participants. We recently delivered 100 kits to the Cedar Rapids collection point to be included in the 33,000 kits for the DfG Refugee Project. Days for Girls International has partnered with World Vision. Because of their extensive network, DfG will be able to reach beyond our work in Lebanon and expand to South Sudan, Afghanistan, and Somalia with the supplies and services they need most. This means that women and girls receive access to sustainable menstrual health products and vital health education. We have sewing and non-sewing tasks. All are welcome!

Bread for the World: The Offering of Letters was held during worship on October 27. There was again a door on which members could post their letters after writing them during worship. Hammers, nails, paper and pens were available. Rev. Davis took the lead and guided the congregation. The committee voted to donate \$100 to Bread for the World, partly to cover the cost of the posters, bulletin inserts, and prayer folders provided by BFW.

CROP Walk: Was held October 6 with approximately 25 participating from the various churches. So far more than \$700 was contributed from members of our church.

Salvation Army Red Kettle Bell Ringers: First Presbyterian volunteers will be needed to ring bells for the Salvation Army Red Kettle campaign on Saturday, December 7. We don't know where we will be ringing as yet (but we will be inside) or the hours, but check your calendar and be ready to sign up when asked. This is another ministry coordinated by the Mission Coalition. Thank you!

Harvest Offering: We will take up this offering in November, traditionally around Thanksgiving.

Ramp-Building Project: The family slated to have the next ramp built is able to pay for the materials. We are waiting for the family to have the concrete steps taken out before we can start the ramp.

Presbyterian Women: The Fall Gathering was held October 12 at Trinity United Presbyterian Church in Indianola. The Rev. Eugenia Gamble was the featured speaker. She is the author of **Loved Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments**, the 2019 PW Horizons Bible Study we are using.

Take Away Hunger: The Jasper County unit celebrated their 10 year anniversary in October. A packing event was held November 2 at the Jasper County Community Center..





2019 **BIRTHDAYS & EVENTS**

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thur

Fri

Sat

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|---|---|--|--|---|--|---|
| | | | | | 1 5:30p-100p All Presbyterian Meeting- Heartland Pesbyterian Church Clive | 2 Dan Ritter 7:30a-3:30p All Presb Meeting in Clive 11a McCann Center Flea Market and Pie Sale |
| 3 Bret Doerring End of Daylight Savings Time All Saints Day | 4 | 5 6p Book Club at Peanut Pub | 6 Larry DeCook Barbara Zacheis 7p Choir | 7 Macy Jontz 6:30a Early Men's Group 9a Men's Group | 8 | 9 |
| 10 9a Deacons 4p Sundays at 4 Concert | 11 Kathy Ventling 3:30p Mission | 12 8a-3p Presbytery Mtg in Indianola 4p Worship & Music | 13 Barb Taylor Carol Goodwin 2:30p Membership 6p Budget & Finance 7p Choir | 14 5:30p PEW | 15 | 16 11a Adult Coloring |
| 17 | 18 | 19 11a Gentle Yoga 6:30p Session | 20 9:30a WBS 7p Choir | 21 6:30a Early Men's Group 9a Men's Group 3p Chair Yoga | 22 | 23 Mickey Van Baale |
| 24 11:30a Thanksgiving Feast | 25 | 26 11a Gentle Yoga 1:30p JCRSPA 6p Pub Theology | 27 7p Choir | 28 Office Closed  | 29 JoAnn Munger | 30 |

Regular Worship Schedule

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

10:30a Worship
11:30a Fellowship



| November | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 |
|---|---|------------------------------|---|---|
| Worship Leader <i>Mickey Van Baale</i> | Bev Rossow | Gary Parsons | Jane Repp | Linda Campbell |
| Host Elder/Deacon <i>Church Life</i> | Taylor McGonegle | Marilyn McCallister | Nancy Mott | Dave Stolper |
| Greeters <i>Julie Brodersen</i> | Kevin & Toni Peska | Terry Rickers Bev Rossow | Chris & Peggy Lickiss | Janet Shields and/or Rachel Skaggs Taylor McGonegle |
| Ushers <i>Mickey Van Baale</i> | Gary & Kay Parsons | Tom & Nancy Mott | Kevin & Toni Peska | Larry & Shari DeCook |
| Audio <i>Shirley Stevens</i> | Dan Ritter | Erick Zehr | Kyle Doerring | |
| Counters <i>Budget & Finance</i> | Jonnie Carpenter Tom Weeks | Jen Norvell Janet Shields | Terry Rickers Peggy/Chris Lickiss | Don Black Bev Rossow |
| Bread Ministry Baker <i>Barb Taylor</i> | Shari DeCook | Sandy Simbro | 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>Worship & Music</i> | Jeanette Shannon Marilyn McCallister | | | Mickey Van Baale Toni Peska (Thanksgiving Feast) |

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

641-792-2790

Return Service Requested

Lectionary —

November, 2019

November 3 - 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Hab. 1:1-4; 2:1-4; *Ps. 119:137-144*;
2 Thess. 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10

November 10 - 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Hag. 1:15b-2:9; *Ps. 145:1-5, 17-21 or*
Ps. 98; 2 Thess. 2:1-5, 13-17;
Luke 20:27-38

November 17 - 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Isa. 65:17-25; *Isa. 12*;
2 Thess. 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19

November 24 - Christ the King/Reign of Christ

Jer. 23:1-6; *Luke 1:68-79*;
Col. 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43

December, 2019

December 1 - 1st Sunday of Advent

Isa. 2:1-5; *Ps. 122*; Rom. 13:11-14;
Matt. 24:35-44

December 8 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

Isa. 11:1-10; *Ps. 72:1-7, 18-19*;
Rom.. 15:4-13; Matt. 3:1-12

December 15 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

Isa. 35:1-10; *Ps. 146:5-10 or*
Luke 1:46b-55; James 5:7-10;
Matt. 11:2-11

December 22 - 4th Sunday of Advent

Isa. 7:10-16; *Ps. 80:1-7, 17-19*;
Rom 1:1-7; Matt. 1:18-25

December 29 - 1st Sunday after Christmas Day

1sa. 63:7-9; *Ps. 148*;
Heb. 2:10-18; Matt. 2:13-23