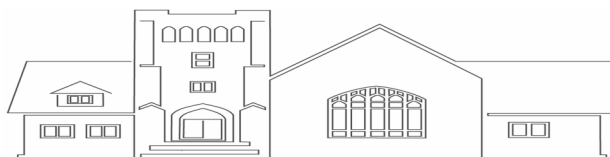


**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
NEWTON, IOWA  
641-792-2790**

***"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  
2021**

## **Meghan's Musings**

### The Season for Gratitude

First of all, I would like to take an opportunity to thank you all once again for all your generosity for "Pastor Appreciation" month. I just love the "God's Thumbprint" artwork. So perfect, particularly this year when as we're in our Journey through the Bible in a Year. I appreciate being appreciated and, likewise, I appreciate you and am beyond grateful that God called me to be your pastor.

Speaking of gratitude, it's that time of year: the time of year when many of us turn our thoughts and hearts toward gratitude. Gratitude is such an important aspect of our faith, not to mention our emotional and mental well-being. We know this and yet, sometimes we struggle to focus on all we have to be grateful for when the troubles in our lives and in our world seem to take up so much of our energy and focus.

We know we are to be grateful to God for all good things because God made us and we belong to God. God made us, we did not make ourselves. Without God, we are literally nothing. We know that the proper response to God's grace is making joyful noise, praise, and worship in thanksgiving.

We know this. We know that we should thank God for everything. And most of us are pretty good at thanking God when something big happens. When friend has a baby, when a family member emerges safely from a car accident, when we get a job, when we keep a job among lay-offs, when our candidate wins, when our team wins. There are plenty of things large and small to be thankful for but it's not always **easy** to be grateful.

Once when I was living in California I was driving on a busy freeway and looking in my rearview mirror saw a car barreling up behind me. "Slow down!" I said, as if the driver could hear me. Luckily the driver did slow way down before hitting me. Watching her in my mirror I saw she was singing along to the radio which for some reason annoyed me even more. Probably because I was listening to the dreary news of the day and not enjoying my drive while she clearly was having a grand old time. A little later I pulled into the next lane over and as she passed me I looked to see what bumper stickers she would have—I was certain she would have a bumper sticker and that it would be something irritating. Yes! I was right. I could see that she did have a bumper sticker. Then I saw what it said, "What are you grateful for?" Oh... That wasn't irritating. Not at all. In fact, it was exactly what I needed to see. Immediately my mild road rage was stopped in its tracks. What am I grateful for? I began to list off all the usual suspects: God, family, friends, income, roof over my head, food on my table, opportunities—things that are cliché but they are cliché for a reason—because they're true, because they are vitally important. Ok, I'll admit a couple mundane things made the list as well: grateful you didn't run into me, grateful the traffic back-up reported on the radio isn't actually here... grateful I saw your bumper sticker.

So what's on your list? What are you grateful for? I invite you to devote some time right now, throughout your day, throughout the month, take some time to really think about it. What are you grateful for?



### Be Praying For:

- ✝ Our towns, county, state, country and world as so many acts of Mother Nature, prejudice, and hatred seem to be running rampant. May we all pray for peace and justice and especially kindness to one another. As the song goes, "Let there be peace on Earth and let it begin with me."
- ✝ Linda Gehling, who had knee surgery. She is home and starting physical therapy.
- ✝ Joel Shields is home and doing better after emergency heart-bypass surgery at the end of October. Please hold him and Janet in prayer as he continues to recover.

## Building and Grounds

George Wilkening, Chair

Thank you to this crew who worked to move the pews, the organ, the piano and baptismal font prior to the painters coming.



Front row l to r: Linda Gehling, Steve Gehling, George Wilkening, Kevin Peska, Harold Manley

Back row l to r: Linda Curtis-Stolper, Dave Stolper, Val McKee, Deanna Manley, Toni Peska.

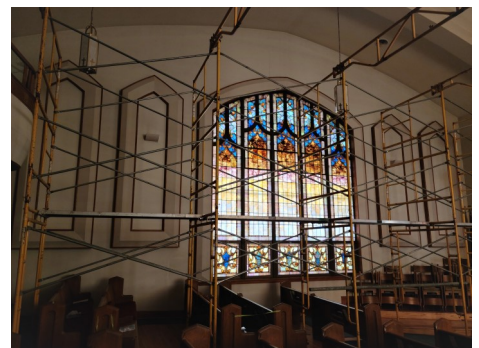
These pictures were taken Tuesday afternoon, October 26, after some of the scaffolding was put up. The outdoor pictures show more materials that likely will be used. More pictures will be in next month's Messenger.



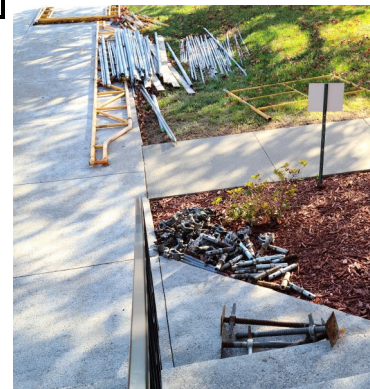
South side of Sanctuary



Front of Sanctuary



North side of Sanctuary





# DAYS FOR GIRLS NEWTON IA TEAM

## Days for Girls International – Newton, IA Team Update!

Our Newton, IA Team participated in the Jordan Humanitarian Response. Jordan covers an area of 34,495 square miles and houses a population of 10 million people (majority Jordanian and Palestinian). The majority of the population is Muslim (95%). Jordan is home to approximately 2.3 million Palestinian refugees who arrived as a result of both the 1947-49 Palestine war and the Six Day War in 1967. There are also over 670,500 Syrian refugees. It has received the second highest number of refugees in proportion to its population in the world, behind Lebanon. Since the mid 1990's, Jordan has faced recession, debt, and unemployment that has been exacerbated by large numbers of refugees. As a result, a number of social groups, including Jordanians, refugees, and other marginalized populations are in need of support accessing menstrual care solutions and menstrual health education.



Four team members (Julie Fisher, Linda Curtis-Stolper, Rose Evans, Marilyn McCallister) were able to join together on Thursday, October 14 to prepare the DfG kit components listed below. Julie Fisher delivered the components to our collection point in Liberty, Missouri on Friday, October 15.

- 102 shields (enough for 51 kits)
- 477 liners (enough for almost 60 kits)
- 114 drawstring bags (1 bag per kit)
- 228 underwear-various sizes (enough for 114 kits)
- 200 washcloths (1 washcloth per kit)

A huge “thank you” goes out to all team members for your dedicated work both at our workshops AND those working at home on kit components!!

*Continued on page 4*

## Membership Committee

Marilyn McCallister, Chair

### First Presbyterian Church Photo Directory

THANKS TO ALL OUR CHURCH FAMILIES that have had your “photo shoot” with Warren Erickson or Dave Stolper OR have sent a photo you wanted in the photo directory – we’re half-way there!! For our “other half”, feel free to include some items in your photo that share your interests and hobbies. To illustrate this, consider using some props, clothing, tools, or a location. “A picture is worth a thousand words!”

Contact Warren Erickson (641-792-8630) to schedule a time to complete your part of this project. If you have a recent photo you would like to use for the directory, you can submit it to church office with person’s (and pets?) identified (office1stpresnewton@gmail.com).

Thank you for your help in updating our Church Photo Directory with a photo and contact information.

Marilyn McCallister, Membership Committee Chair

Membership Committee: Joan Tyler, John Taylor, Mary Roskilly, Warren Erickson



### *Continued from page 3*

Days for Girls Workshops meet once a month on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. in fellowship hall. Our church COVID precautions are being followed:

Attend only if you are comfortable doing so. Do not feel obligated to come;

Please hold off attending if you feel ill in any way;

Social distancing is required; masks are optional for those who have been fully vaccinated; masks are required for those not vaccinated; hand sanitizer and masks will be available;

Lunch will be handled by a BYOL (bring your own lunch, snack and/or beverage).

We held a workshop on **Thursday, October 28, 2021, from 9 am to 2 pm** in the First Presbyterian Church fellowship hall. We will not have a workshop in November & the December workshop will be December 9th. These changes are due to Thanksgiving and the Holidays.

Until our next update, take care, be safe and stay connected!

Julie Fisher & Marilyn McCallister, DfG International Newton IA Team



## Church Life

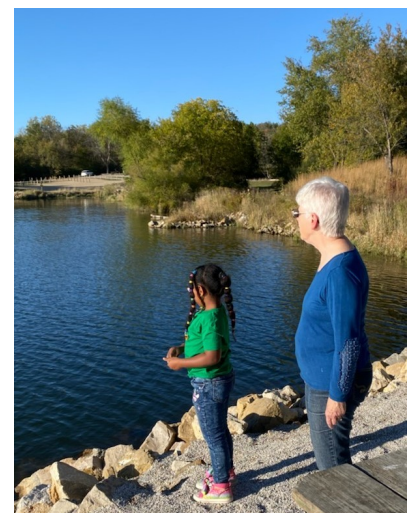
Gary Parsons, Chair

I have finally created a new Church Life bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. There were several challenges including the fact that I realized not many people would see it. However, since completion, there is a certain degree of satisfaction even though I realize the fact still exists that not many people will see it. Thanks, Mickey, for your help.

We had a Church Life picnic at Mariposa Park last evening (17<sup>th</sup>). We had good attendance (20) and the weather was almost perfect. Most people left by 7 but 6-8 of us stayed until 9 enjoying the fire, the chance to visit with each other and the beauty of the area and the weather. The moon came out and as we were leaving one person said it's not often you can see your shadow at 9 o'clock at night. Thank you to Dave Stolper for the pictures below.

Though not a part of Church Life officially Dave Stolper and I are working to keep Men's Group a viable part of our church experience and we are talking about several possible changes including having some meetings at Park Centre so we can include some of our members who live there.

I continue to faithfully discharge my duties as PHE. (Permanent Host Elder)





## Note from the Deacons

Diane Moles, Moderator

The Deacons were contacting all of the church members periodically while the congregation was unable to meet in person. Now that we are able to congregate, the Deacons have returned to contacting those on our list each month. If you would like to have a visit from the Deacons, please let me know at 792-2133 or notify the church office.



## Don't you love seeing the children?

Here are some snapshots from Children's time during October. Also Claire Skaggs found a perfect spot to listen to the church service on October 24, 2021.



## Christian Nurture

Mickey Van Baale, Chair

With much anticipation, the children's Sunday school program kicked off on October 17. We have 8 children registered to attend, and all have been able to come at least once. The teaching team of Linda Curtis-Stolper and Deb Zieman taught the first two weeks, with Jane Repp and Taylor McGonegle doing the next two.

During the last few minutes of class, the students are provided with snacks. If you would be willing to donate some, it would be appreciated. All snacks need to be individually wrapped, such as fruit snacks, packages of Goldfish, or something along those lines. Due to a limited amount of storage in the classroom, please let Mickey know in the church office, so she can set up a schedule of the receipt of snacks.

God is so good and many prayers have been answered in being able to offer children's Sunday school again.

## Mission Highlights

Larry Anderson, Chair

**CROP Walk** donations have been sent to Barry Hurto, CROP WALK coordinator for Jasper County. Our church collected \$420.00. Thank you for your generosity.

### Harvest Offering to be Collected

The Harvest Offering is supported through the Compassion, Peace and Justice Task Force of the Presbytery of Des Moines and is divided for two designations:

- Half supports programs and projects in rural Iowa.
- Half supports international programs benefiting farmers with an emphasis on women in agriculture.

This offering was developed many years ago with the leadership of Murray Nelson, longtime member of this congregation. Originally called the Rural Harvest Offering, it has evolved over the years but continues to be an important mission outreach to persons directly involved with agriculture.

We will be collecting this offering on Sunday, November 21, although donations any time during the month of November will be accepted. Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian and note "Harvest Offering" in the memo line. Thank you

The next **Take Away Hunger** packaging event will be in Lynnvile on November 6. It would be great if we had a team to participate. The cost is \$30 per person. Events such as this one help feed the hungry in Iowa. Please get ahold of John Taylor (641-792-6990) if interested.

The clothing give-away for **Neighbors Helping Neighbors** was held Saturday, October 23. Money donated was used to purchase new socks and underwear. It was successful event and thanks goes to the committee and especially those who donated fall and winter coats and clothing.

## Nominating Committee

Toni Peska, Chair

With our declining membership numbers, Session voted at it's September meeting to reduce the number of Elders and Deacons from 12 to 6. Since the number of Elders and Deacons are a part of the church bylaws, the congregation will need to approve this at a congregational meeting following worship on December 5.

At this meeting, the new Elders and Deacons will be voted on, as well as a member at large for the Nominating committee from the congregation. Each of these positions will serve for 3 years

Thank you to those of you who said "yes" when we asked. We needed to fill positions for 3 Elders and 2 Deacons. The candidates are:

### For Elders

Linda Gehling  
Kevin Peska  
Deb Ziemann

### For Deacons

Randy Camp  
Taylor McGonegle

Nominations from the floor will be accepted, but to do this, you must talk to the person you want to nominate and have them agree to accept the nomination.

The only business that will be conducted at the Congregational meeting will be voting on the change to the bylaws and electing the new slate of officers.

## Farewell to Carl and Barbara Zacheis

October 17, 2021 marked the last Sunday the Carl and Barbara Zacheis worshiped at First Presbyterian Church. Rather than being snowbirds to Florida, they decided to move there permanently. During worship, Carl and Barbara shared great memories they had made with our church family during the time they were here. Rev. Meghan Davis-Brass gave a blessing and prayer for the Carl and Barbara, as they begin this next chapter of their lives. They will definitely be missed.





## October was Pastor Appreciation Month

After a year of stress, coming up with creative ways to offer worship to the church family, and making tough decisions with Session on having worship back in the church—to just name a few—Rev. Meghan Davis-Brass was honored on October 17, 2021 during worship. With contributions from many of you, Mickey Van Baale presented her with a matted and framed print entitled “God’s Thumbprint”. While it is hard to see what this looks like in some of the shots below, it is a large thumbprint that is made by using one verse from every book of the Bible. It starts with Genesis 1 and ends with Alleluia from Revolutions. Meghan hung the picture in her office, as shown in the center picture. She was also given a card and several gift cards.



## Stewardship Campaign

Toni Peska, B&F chair

Letters, contribution reports and pledge cards have been delivered at church or mailed by October 27, 2021. This marks the kick-off of our 2022 Stewardship campaign. We ask that pledge cards be returned to the church office by November 15th. Once we know our income for 2022, our committee and Session will be able to set the budget for next year.

Have you thought about having your pledge taken out of your account automatically. By marking the appropriate section on the card, indicating the amount you want to come out each month, choosing if you want the deduction to be the first or third Monday of the month and providing a voided check, we will get you set up. No worries that you might forget to make a monthly tithe or two. No need to remember to write a check and get it to the church while you are on vacation. It is a very easy way to make your pledge and be assured that your monthly contribution is made.

If you have any questions, please contact myself, Bev Rossow, Jen Norvell, Tom Weeks or Mickey Van Baale at the church office.

## Reading the Bible in the Year 2021

Below is the schedule for the months of November and December. Each month we'll feature that month's readings and the readings for the following month.

**Did you start the Journey Through the Bible in a Year challenge only to get thrown off in Leviticus, one of the prophets or maybe somewhere else in the Old Testament? Good news! We're finally getting to the New Testament scriptures starting October 2. Why not join in now and finish 2021 off strong by reading the New Testament? The more the merrier!**

### November

Monday, November 1 [John 1-2](#)  
 Tuesday, November 2 [John 3-4](#)  
 Wed, November 3 [John 5-6](#)  
 Thursday, November 4 [John 7-8](#)  
 Friday, November 5 [John 9-10](#)  
 Saturday, November 6 [John 11-12](#)  
 Sunday, November 7 [John 13-15](#)  
 Monday, November 8 [John 16-17](#)  
 Tuesday, November 9 [John 18-19](#)  
 Wed, November 10 [John 20-21](#)  
 Thursday, November 11 [Acts 1-3](#)  
 Friday, November 12 [Acts 4-5](#)  
 Saturday, November 13 [Acts 6-7](#)  
 Sunday, November 14 [Acts 8-9](#)  
 Monday, November 15 [Acts 10-11](#)  
 Tuesday, November 16 [Acts 12-13](#)  
 Wed, November 17 [Acts 14-15](#)  
 Thursday, November 18 [Acts 16-17](#)  
 Friday, November 19 [Acts 18-19](#)  
 Saturday, November 20 [Acts 20-21](#)  
 Sunday, November 21 [Acts 22-23](#)  
 Monday, November 22, [Acts 24-26](#)  
 Tuesday, November 23 [Acts 27-28](#)  
 Wed, November 24 [Romans 1-3](#)  
 Thursday, November 25 [Romans 4-7](#)  
 Friday, November 26 [Romans 8-10](#)  
 Saturday, November 27 [Romans 11-14](#)  
 Sunday, November 28 [Romans 15-16](#)  
 Monday, November 29 [1 Corinthians 1-4](#)  
 Tuesday, November 30 [1 Corinthians 5-9](#)

### December

Wed, December 1 [Corinthians 10-13](#)  
 Thurs, December 2 [1 Corinthians 14-16](#)  
 Fri, December 3 [2 Corinthians 1-4](#)  
 Sat, December 4 [2 Corinthians 5-9](#)  
 Sun, December 5 [2 Corinthians 10-13](#)  
 Mon, December 6 [Galatians 1-3](#)  
 Tues, December 7 [Galatians 4-6](#)  
 Wed, December 8 [Ephesians 1-3](#)  
 Thurs, December 9 [Ephesians 4-6](#)  
 Fri, December 10 [Philippians 1-4](#)  
 Sat, December 11 [Colossians 1-4](#)  
 Sun, December 12 [1 Thessalonians 1-5](#)  
 Mon, December 13 [2 Thessalonians 1-3](#)  
 Tues, December 14 [1 Timothy 1-6](#)  
 Wed, December 15 [2 Timothy 1-4](#)  
 Thurs, December 16 [Philemon 1; Titus 1-3](#)  
 Fri, December 17 [Hebrews 1-4](#)  
 Sat, December 18 [Hebrews 5-8](#)  
 Sun, December 19 [Hebrews 9-10](#)  
 Mon, December 20 [Hebrews 11-13](#)  
 Tues, December 21 [James 1-5](#)  
 Wed, December 22 [1 Peter 1-5; 2 Peter 1-3](#)  
 Thurs, December 23 [1 John 1-5](#)  
 Fri, December 24 [2 John 1; 3 John 1; Jude 1](#)  
 Sat, December 25 [Revelation 1-3](#)  
 Sun, December 26 [Revelation 4-7](#)  
 Mon, December 27 [Revelation 8-11](#)  
 Tues, December 28 [Revelation 12-14](#)  
 Wed, December 29 [Revelation 15-17](#)  
 Thurs, December 30 [Revelation 18-19](#)  
 Fri, December 31 [Revelation 20-22](#)





# 2021 **BIRTHDAYS & EVENTS**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> 4:30p Personnel	<b>2</b> 11a Gentle Yoga 4p Worship & Music	<b>3</b> 9:30a WBS 7p Choir	<b>4</b> 9a Men's Group 3p Chair Yoga	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Take Away Hunger event in Lynnville
<b>7</b> 9a Adult SS 9:45a Sunday School 10:30a Worship	<b>8</b> 10a Mbrship	<b>9</b> 3:30p Mission	<b>10</b> 6:00p B&F 7p Choir	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9a Deacons 9a Adult SS 9:45a Sunday School 10:30a Worship	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 7p Choir	<b>18</b> 9a Men's Group 4:30p Christian Nurture	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9a Adult SS 9:45a Sunday School 10:30a Worship	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 11a Gentle Yoga 6:30p Session	<b>24</b> 9:30a WBS 7p Choir	 <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9a Adult SS 9:45a Sunday School 10:30 Worship	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 11a Gentle Yoga				



<b>November</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Worship Leader</b>	Val McKee	Taylor McGonegle	Gary Parsons	Joan Tyler
<b>Greeters</b>	Kevin & Toni Peska	Terry Rickers Bev Rossow	Randy & Carol Camp	Chris & Peggy Lickiss
<b>Ushers</b>	Don & Sharon Black	Harold & Deanna Manley	John & Barb Taylor	Terry & Cathy Rickers
<b>Audio</b>	George Wilkening	Erick Zehr	Mickey Van Baale	George Wilkening
<b>Counters</b>	Terry Rickers Chris/Peggy Lickiss	Toni Peska Kathy Briggs	Jen Norvell Tara Zehr	Tom Weeks Bev Rossow



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

## Lectionary —

### November, 2021

#### **November 7 - 24th Sunday after Pentecost**

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17; *Ps* 127; Heb. 9:24-28;  
Mark 12:38-44

#### **November 14 - 25th Sunday after Pentecost**

1 Sam. 1:4-20; 1 Sam. 2:1-10; *Ps* 16;  
Heb 10:11-14 (15-18) 19-25; Mark 13:1-8

#### **November 21 - Christ the King/Reign of Christ**

2 Sam. 23:1-7; *Ps* 132:1-12 (13-18);  
Rev. 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37

#### **November 28 - 1st Sunday of Advent**

Jer. 33:14-16; *Ps* 25:1-10; 1 Thess. 3:9-13; Luke  
21:25-36

### December, 2021

#### **December 5 - 2nd Sunday of Advent**

Mal. 3:1-4 *and Luke* 1:68-79;  
Phil 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

#### **December 12 - 3rd Sunday of Advent**

Zeph. 3:14-20 *and Isa.* 12:2-6;  
Phil 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

#### **December 19 - 4th Sunday of Advent**

Micah 5:2-5a *and Luke* 1:47-55  
*or Ps.* 80:1-7; Heb. 10:5-10;  
Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

#### **December 26 - 1st Sunday of Christmas**

1 Sam. 2:18-20, 26 *and Ps.* 148;  
Col. 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52