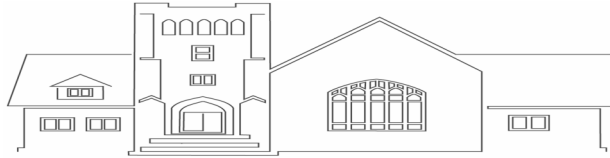


**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NEWTON, IOWA
641-792-2790**

"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
2022**

Meghan's Musings

Dear Church Family—

If you are reading this at the end of October or beginning of November I'll be finishing up my Spain/Scotland pilgrimage portion of my sabbatical. I'll be home for a few days to re-unite with Curt and ZuZu and then I'm off again to Washington (state) where I'll be attending the Fiftieth Anniversary of Longview Presbyterian Church (my first call church).

While in Scotland, my mother and I spent a week on the Isle of Iona with the Iona Community "an international, ecumenical Christian movement working for justice and peace, the rebuilding of community and the renewal of worship." Last month I closed with a teaser: stay tuned for next month's Messenger to learn how I intend to bring Iona to Newton during Advent.

In my weeks ahead of sabbatical a book on my shelf caught my eye: Celtic Prayers for Iona by J. Philip Newell. It's a book of morning and evening prayers designed to bring the spirit of Iona to those who are scattered around the globe. The prayers are set up for Monday through Saturday and are intended for use at home, a way to be connected to the community through prayer while apart. (There are no Sunday prayers as the assumption is that you are actually worshipping in community on Sunday.)

This Advent, I invite you to join me at the church twice a day, Monday through Saturday at 9am and 6pm for the contemplative prayer service, beginning at 9am on my first day back (Monday November 28, 2022). I have purchased ten used copies of the book with the idea that they will stay at the church but if you would like to purchase your own book, feel free to do so (or I can for you after I return). There is no expectation of commitment to be at the church every day, twice a day, six days a week. Of course, if you do join me every time, that will be great! But that's not the expectation.

However, I do hope that you'll give it a try once or twice (or more) and see if this spiritual practice might strengthen your relationship with God, deepen your spiritual life and your experience of Advent.

Until we meet again, I continue to pray for you and covet your prayers for me.

In Christ,
Meghan

What a Journey!

Thank you!!!

When Meghan talked about using her Camino walk as a fundraiser for the Mission Committee, it was a wonderful offer. The Mission Committee receives no funding from the yearly budget. In past years, funds for that committee's activities have been raised through ice cream socials or style show luncheons. Due to a variety of factors, it does not seem likely that we will be using those methods of raising money for missions in the future, but the mission needs continue.

After accepting Meghan's offer, the question arose, "How much do you think might be raised?" After much discussion, the conclusion was that we had no way of predicting an amount but the hope was that maybe \$3,000 would be donated in sponsorship of her efforts. The plan was that the funds would not replace all special offerings collected by the PC(USA), but would be divided among five causes that are supported by our church through the Mission Committee. Those beneficiaries would be the CROP Walk, the Harvest Offering, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the ramp ministry and other mission opportunities.

The final count is not quite complete, but it appears the total may exceed \$6,000! What an incredible outpouring of support for Meghan and for mission! What a marvelous demonstration of the generosity and commitment to caring that this church family has shown through the years! Thank you to all who donated to this fundraiser, on behalf of Meghan, the Mission Committee, the Session, and – most importantly – those who will benefit from the support of these offerings. What a multitude of blessings you have made possible. Again, thank you!

Days for Girls



Our last Newton IA Days for Girls Team workshop for 2022 will be Thursday, December 1, 2022, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. in fellowship hall. Sewing and serging, ironing and cutting fabric, folding underwear and washcloths plus other tasks are involved in creating the sustainable feminine hygiene kits that allow girls to continue their schooling. Please come and see how these kit components are made; stay if you would like to help with this very worthwhile project!

Submitted by Marilyn McCallister, co-team lead

Church Life

We started having coffee and donuts BEFORE and after church starting on 9-25-22. The committee helped with the Mission Committee meal after church on 10-16-22.

Membership

When Bob was on vacation, we organized and worked to clean church before worship on Sunday. We were helped by Dave Stolper, Norm Grimm, Randy Camp and Tom Mott.

We made volunteer reminder calls for the October 2 & 9 worship services while Elsie Nelson was gone on vacation. Elsie contacts the people listed to be worship leader, ushers, greeters, counters and audio the week before their assignments.

We are working with Lauren to refine the Messenger distribution methods.

Men's Group met at Park Centre on September 29 for a 5th Thursday meeting.

We started distributing the new photo directory at church on 10-16-22.

Mission Committee Highlights

Recent committee activities included:

- The ramp-builders have been busy! We have one more ramp to build in late October – the fifth one this season. Thanks to all who have helped with these projects, including our fearless leader/designer/foreman George Wilkening.
- The “meal with a mission” lunch was held following worship on Oct. 16. We celebrated the Camino fundraiser’s total, with donations and pledges, of almost \$5000! Thank you!
- We learned that all of Newton schools now have active food pantries, and that there are some non-food items they need. Look for more information soon about how you can help. We continue to support the Salvation Army food pantry with donations. Thanks for your generosity.

Larry Anderson, chair

Budget and Finance

Stewardship letters have been distributed. If for some reason you do not have yours, please contact Kevin or Toni Peska, Bev Rossow, Jen Norvell or Tom Weeks.

Our goal is to have all pledge cards returned as soon as possible (November 6) so we can begin the process of preparing our 2023 budget. Please let any one of us know if you have questions.

Thanks for your continued support of our church family!

Kevin Peska, Chair

Building and Grounds

The tuck-pointing has been completed. The cost was covered by the generous donation from Peter Van Elswyk in his parents' names. The final amount was lower than estimated which allows us to repair several broken windows in the church. Thank you, Peter!

The city recently completed an inspection of the church and I'm happy to report we passed! Special thanks to Tom Mott and Harold and Deanna Manley for completing several tasks that helped us pass this inspection!

Kevin Peska, Co-Chair

Worship, Prayer and Study

October 10, 2022

Members present were Jane R., Deb Z, Linda C-S, Karen Q, Steve G, and Linda G.

Linda G began with devotions.

Children's concerns:

- Nursery sign-up sheet has not been working. Please consider signing up to assist with the nursery. The sign-up is on the bureau in the narthex.
- There will be a first aid kit downstairs beginning next week for the nursery/Sunday school.
- Children's activity sheets will continue to be available.
- Diapers will need to be available for use in the nursery.
- We may be introducing a Sunday School offering during Lent for Heifer International.
- No need for more treats at the present.
- The children's choir did very well Sunday. Thank you to Karen. They will continue to practice twice a month and prepare for Christmas.
- Older children may begin helping with offering during the service.

Worship concerns were discussed next.

- The advent devotions booklet was discussed. Val and Rachel are doing a great job.

Worship, Prayer and Study Cont.

Please get your contributions to the office or Val or Rachel by **Oct. 31st**. The coffee group will put it together on Nov. 22nd and it will be handed out on Nov. 27. We will deliver to people not there that Sunday and only mail to those out of town.

Advent begins on Nov. 27 this year.

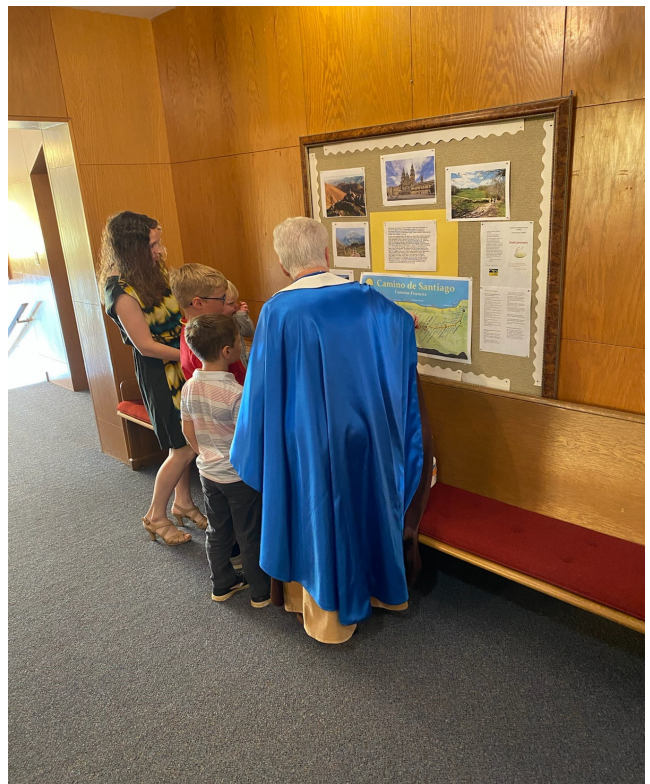
- The coffee group and other volunteers will decorate the church for Christmas on Nov. 22 and carry over to the 23rd if necessary. We need to find the Christmas banner.
 - There was discussion about the choir possibly singing the first verse of an unfamiliar hymn before congregational singing to assist the congregation.
 - Linda G will look into buying a color appropriate Jesus doll for the Christmas pageant.
 - Linda G is going to begin working on our volunteers list for next year. If anyone wishes to volunteer that did not last year, please tell Linda. We appreciate all of our volunteers.
- Linda's email is stevelinda2cats@gmail.com.

The committee ended with prayer led by Linda C-S.

Our Church in Pictures



Our Church in Pictures



NOVEMBER



2022 *BIRTHDAYS* & EVENTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1	2 7pm choir	3 Bret Doering 9 am Men's Group 3p Chair Yoga (Video)	4	5
6 Larry DeCook Barb Zacheis Macy Jontz 10:30a Worship 11:30a Fellowship	7 5p Worship & Music	8 2:30 p Mission	9 6p Budget & Finance 7p Choir	10 3p Chair Yoga (video)	11 Kathy Ventling-Briggs	12
13 Barb Taylor Aubrianna McDowell-McKee 9:00a Deacons 10:30a Worship 11:30a Fellowship	14 10a Membership	15 11a Gentle Yoga (video) 6:30p Session	16 7p Choir	17 9 am Men's Group 3p Chair Yoga (video)	18	19
20 10:30a Worship 11:30a Fellowship	21	22 11a Gentle Yoga (video)	23 Mickey Van Baale 7 pm Choir	24 Thanksgiving 	25	26 Chris Lickiss
27 10:30a Worship 11:30a Fellowship	28	29 JoAnn Munger 11a Gentle Yoga (video) 1pm Retired Teachers	30 7p Choir	1 9a Men's Group 3p Chair Yoga (video)	2 Karen Quinn	3



	6	13	20	27
Worship Leader	Diane Moles	Jane Repp	Karen Quinn	Dave Stolper
Greeters	Rachel Skaggs & Taylor McConagle	Gary/Kay Parsons	Kevin/Toni Peska	Terry Rickers & Bev Rossow
Ushers	Kevin/Toni Peska	Don/Sharon Black	Harold/Deanna Manley	John/Barb Taylor
Audio	Terry Rickers	Shirley Stevens	Erick Zehr	Marilyn McCallister
Counters	Terry Rickers & Chris/Peggy Lickiss	Toni Peska & Kathy Ventling Briggs	Jen Norvell & Tara Zehr	Tom Weeks & Bev Rossow

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

Lectionary —

November, 2022

November 6 - 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Hag. 1:15b-2:9 & Ps. 145:1-5, 17-21 or Ps. 98;
Job 19:23-27a & Ps. 17:1-9; 2 Thess. 2:1-5,
13-17; Luke 20:27-38

November 13 - 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Isa. 65:17-25 & Isa. 12; Mal. 4:1-2a & Ps. 98; 2
Thess. 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19

November 20 - Christ the King/Reign of Christ

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

November 27 - 1st Sunday of Advent

Isa. 2:1-5 & Ps. 122; Rom 13:11-14; Matt.
24:36-44