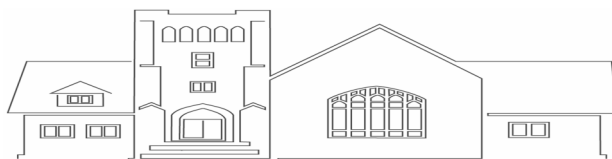


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NEWTON, IOWA
641-792-2790

"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



October
2022

Meghan's Musings

Scotland, Ho!

Dear Church Family—

If you are reading this at the end of September or beginning of October I'll be more than halfway through my Camino pilgrimage across Spain and nearing the end. Of course, I'm writing this before leaving for my sabbatical so I can't give you an *actual* update on how it's going but as of this writing, I'm anticipating that it will be life-changing!

My Camino will end at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compestela sometime in the week of October 2. From there I hope to have a few days of genuine rest and relaxation, perhaps at the coast, before heading to Edinburgh, Scotland on October 9.

While my Camino will be solo, the second stage of my pilgrimage will be with my mother, who you might recall is a retired pastor. Together we will explore our Scottish and Presbyterian roots. Just as I have desired to walk the Camino ever since first learning about it, I have also yearned to visit the Isle of Iona since first learning of its ancient history as well as its modern incarnation as "an international, ecumenical Christian movement working for justice and peace, the rebuilding of community and the renewal of worship."

Meghan's Musings Continued

The Isle of Iona is considered the birthplace of Christianity in Scotland. It was on Iona that St. Columba established a mission and Iona continues to be considered a "thin place" in which the material and spiritual realms are only almost imperceptibly separated. It is my hope that my time in Iona will be not simply as a tourist or visitor but that I will be able to become an Associate Member committing myself to the Iona Community Rule of Life: 1) Daily prayer, worship with others and regular engagement with the Bible and other material which nourishes us. 2) Working for justice and peace, wholeness and reconciliation in our localities, society and the whole creation. 3) Supporting one another in prayer and by meeting, communicating, and accounting with one another for the use of our gifts, money and time, our use of the earth's resources. 4) Sharing in the corporate life and organization of the Community.

Stayed tuned for next month's Messenger to learn how I intend to bring Iona to Newton during Advent. And meanwhile, I continue to pray for you and covet your prayers for me.

In Christ,

Meghan

Days for Girls

Ten volunteers shared time and talents last month creating fabric sustainable feminine hygiene kit elements. The final two workshops scheduled for 2022 are Thursday, October 27 and Thursday, December 1st (no workshop in November).

Workshops run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. Both non-sewing and sewing activities are available – cutting fabric, surging liners, folding washcloths and underwear, sewing drawstring bags and fabric shields, ironing cotton and flannel fabric, just to name a few!

The DfG sustainable feminine hygiene KITS are KEY in helping GIRLS all over the WORLD continue to attend school EVERY day of EVERY month. All are welcome to stop in and see a completed hygiene kit and the activities involved in this very worthwhile mission!

Julie Fisher and Marilyn McCallister, co-team leads of DfG Newton IA Team

Meal with a Mission

For the first time since the pandemic started we are planning a meal at the church. The Mission Committee is hosting a meal to be served after worship on Sunday, October 16. The occasion is a confluence of: Food Week of Action (an initiative of the PCUSA to highlight the need for action on hunger), Meghan's anticipated completion of the Camino walk, and the effort to raise funds for mission activities including hunger-related ministries.

This fall, instead of separate requests for donations to several ministries, we are rolling them into one "Camino fundraiser." CROP Walk is an initiative of Church World Service and targets global hunger needs. The Harvest Offering, started in 1987 in response to the farm crisis, sends half its donations to development programs for families in rural Iowa and the other half to such programs in rural areas of developing countries. The ramp-building project, a joint effort of FPC and Kid Assist, continues to build accessibility ramps in Newton and Jasper County – by this winter we will have completed five projects and funds will be depleted. Finally, the mission committee has donated funds for several needs that arise urgently, such as storm damage in Winterset, flooding in Kentucky, displaced people in Ukraine, and so on. By donating to the Camino fundraiser you will be supporting these varied ministries.

Please plan to attend the lunch on October 16. But if you can't, please donate by giving a check designated for the Camino fundraiser, or use one of the green slips in the narthex to pledge an amount you will donate per mile walked by Meghan. And enjoy being able to gather again for a meal at church!

Worship, Prayer and Study

Minutes of Music, Worship, and Prayer meeting on September 13, 2022

- Discussions regarding Nursery and Sunday School schedules and materials
- We could really use volunteers to help with the Nursery during church
 - A. Karen Quinn will help you get your background check.
 - B. There will be a sign-up sheet available.
- Advent Booklet devotional time is here.
 - A. Please plan to write a devotional piece.
 - B. Email it to the office or
 - C. Talk to Val McKee or Rachel Skaggs
- ◆ Discussion regarding other Advent needs:.. candle lighters for Advent wreath, decorating the church, volunteers to help with special services.

ADVENT BOOKLET

It's time to begin planning to prepare this year's Advent Booklet!

The topic, selected by the Worship and Music Committee, is "Good News!" We're aiming to have collected participants' written contributions by the end of October, allowing plenty of time to organize, proofread, print, and prepare the booklets for distribution before Advent begins. We welcome original writing of your own thoughts or, if you have read something elsewhere that reflects the "Good News!" topic, that can also be submitted with its origin identified. For those with talents in the visual arts, or perhaps younger family members who can draw, an appropriate drawing could also be included.

Please let one of us know by the end of September if you will help our church family prepare our hearts for Christmas in this annual tradition! It would be helpful if the devotions are emailed straight to the church office. If yours is handwritten, that is not a problem. We will get them typed. Please contact Val McKee (valmckee50208@aol.com or 641-831-0388)

Rachel Skaggs (peskar7@gmail.com or 641-521-8686)

Thank you!

Building and Grounds Windows and Bricks

The Newton Fire Marshall issued our church building a currently required occupancy permit, valid until 8 September 2025, following a professional inspection this month. The Fire Marshall publishes a checklist of requirements. Thanks to a few minor updates from the committee, and ongoing skilled attention to many details in the building, we passed on the first inspection. The Fire Marshall focuses on safety, notably from fire. The church building has required, current fire extinguishers, emergency lighting in case of power failure, and exit lighting for safe evacuation in case of emergency. Issuance of the occupancy permit means we do not need to schedule, or pay for, a re-inspection.

Notwithstanding issuance of the occupancy permit, we have some missing or cracked window glass to be repaired or replaced. Hamilton Glass is preparing an estimate of the cost to do the work, some of which may be optional depending on the expense. The cracked and missing glass, dating from the infamous derecho in August 2020, is located on the west side of the second and third floors, as well as on the stair landing between the second and third floors. Although some of the spots are located on the fire escape, repair and replacement will require skilled work. Some work may require special equipment to reach the outside of the building that high above the ground. Session will consider the matter when we receive an estimate for the different items needing attention.

Building and Grounds Windows and Bricks Continued

Forrest and Associates Masonry of Des Moines recently completed their work repointing the brick work on the exterior of the church building. Josh, the mason who performed the work, paid attention to the directions given to him by the company, to our indications of needed work, and to his own observations based on some 20 years of experience. Many areas of mortar that he needed to prepare with his grinder or chisel were visible from the ground. Those high above the lawn or parking lot sometimes could only be seen from the ground with binoculars. Using his power lift, he found other areas that he photographed and displayed on this phone. One could see, for example, that the area above the large stained glass window on the north side needed extensive removal and replacement of old mortar. He also saw, however, that the area at the base of that large window needed the caulking removed and replaced. Most of the work entailed grinding out weak mortar, but the mason also replaced brick as needed.

Forrest and Associates obtained more than enough new brick that matched the original bricks, which required considerable search and effort on their part. Due to safety rules, they could not repair several holes left on the west end of the building left by anchors for the electrical power lines that enter above the alley. The expense for us to place our power entrance below ground would have been prohibitive (we obtained a bid of \$29,000 for this work), so the wires remained. Because the wires remain, so do the holes in the bricks and mortar around them. The good news is that the mast, which carries the electrical wires from above the alley into the electrical equipment in the furnace room, has been secured permanently. The fire escape on that wall also looks solid.

Our Church in Pictures



Our Church in Pictures

Clarice Sigurdson's 99th Birthday



Minute with the younger church



Our Church in Pictures

Sunday School



Our Church in Pictures



Fellowship - Church Life & Nominating

CHURCH LIFE

*We will start having coffee and donuts available before and after church on October 25.

*We have decided not to have the Progressive Dinner this year due to the very real chances of disruption if any of the hosts became ill with Covid. There will be a dinner at church on October 16 hosted by the Mission Committee. We may plan some extra activities in October. The Thanksgiving Feast is a go.

*We had an After Church Lunch at Arby's on September 18. Fifteen attended.

MEMBERSHIP

*The photo directory is at the printing office. Hope to have it within 10-14 days.

*On August 21 we welcomed Kyle Schnell and Beth Bonnicksen as new members in our church and celebrated the baptism of their daughter Aspen. On August 28 we welcomed Jeremy and Emily Vesely as new members and celebrated the baptism of their daughter, Leia. Our committee hosted a reception in Fellowship Hall both Sundays. (See pictures).

Gary Parsons, chair

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

We were able to have in place church officers before Rev. Davis-Brass left on her sabbatical on August 28, which had been our goal.

The following are those who are nominated:

SESSION:

Two for Class of 2025

1. Cathy Rickers
2. Kim Miller (Will serve 1 year with option to cease or continue at end of 2023)

One for Class of 2024

1. Gary Parsons

DEACONS:

One for Class of 2023

1. Barb Taylor

Two for Class of 2025

1. Linda Kirchhoff
2. Dave Stolper

Nominating Committee At Large Representative-Starts serving in 2023 for 2024 officers-3 years

1. Rachel Skaggs

I wish to thank the members of the Nominating Committee for their dedication this year that enabled us to get a difficult job done in a timely manner.

Linda Gehling-Session; Barb Taylor -Deacons; Dave Stolper-At Large-1 st year; Sheri DeCook -At Large-2nd year; Karen Quinn-At Large-3rd year

Gary Parsons-session, chair

Camino Fundraiser for Mission

Remember the fall style show we had for several years? And the ice cream social every June? Those activities raised funds supporting Work Week and other missions of the church. Times have changed, but we still want to be a church that supports missions and is directly involved in mission. Fall is a time when we usually invite donations for both the CROP Walk and Harvest Offering. Instead, this year we will be inviting donations as an encouragement to Meghan Davis-Brass as she walks the 500 mile Camino pilgrimage during her sabbatical. You can pledge an amount per mile walked, or give a flat amount. Funds raised will be divided equally among:

CROP Walk: The ongoing war in Ukraine, on top of the pandemic and other disasters is causing a global food crisis. Millions are on the brink of famine. The CROP Hunger Walk and the funds we raise will feed the hungry through Church World Service (CWS). When you join this movement to raise funds and donate, these gifts will provide life-saving support like emergency food along with the seeds, tools and programs that will help families feed themselves in the future.

Harvest Offering: For more than 40 years the Presbytery of Des Moines has supported programs and projects addressing root causes of hunger and poverty in rural Iowa and around the world through gifts to the Harvest Offering. Congregations of the Presbytery have been faithful to the call of neighbors near and far by giving to this, our own special offering, since 1978. Half of the proceeds are designated for rural Iowa, and half are designated for international programs benefitting farmers, with a special emphasis on women in agriculture.

Our ramp-building ministry: We partner with Kid Assist to build wheelchair ramps for people in need. The labor is volunteer and 100% of these funds are used for materials.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA): Provides disaster and refugee assistance immediately and also stays for in for the long-haul, long after agencies like Red Cross and FEMA have departed. Here are some quick glance figures from 2021:

- \$3.1 million granted in 30 states and 15 countries
- 60 National Response Team members were deployed to 19 presbyteries
- 112 Presbyterian Women trained in Disaster Preparedness; 400 work team volunteers served in CA, NC, NE and NJ
- Developed a new grant opportunity supporting refugee and asylum advocacy programs
- Hosted more than 500 people in 41 Emotional & Spiritual programs
- In partnership with Church World Service, assisted in the collection and distribution of 191,182 Gift of the Heart Kits and blankets

(continued on the next page)

Camino Fundraiser for Mission Continued

- **Future undesignated missions of our church:** Past uses of these funds have included:
- PDA for Kentucky (floods)
- PDA for Ukraine
- Winterset Presbyterian for tornado recovery in the community
- Friends from Iowa Foundation, for Munoces, El Salvador
- Food Bank of Iowa
- Salvation Army food pantry
- Marian Medical Mission (building/maintaining wells in Africa)
- Bread for the World
- Peace and Global Witness fund of the PC(USA)

Join Meghan's footsteps with your Mission donations!
Goal: \$3000





2022 ***BIRTHDAYS*** & **EVENTS**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
						<i>1</i>
2 10:30a Worship 11:30a Fellowship	3 <i>Kay Parsons</i>	4 <i>Brad Ritter</i> 11a Gentle Yoga (video)	5 7 pm Choir	6 9 am Men's Group 3p Chair Yoga (video)	7	8
9 <i>Bev Rossow</i> 9:00a Deacons 10:30a Worship 11:30a Fellowship	10 10a Membership Meeting 5 pm Christian Nurture, worship & music comm.	11 <i>Peggy Lickiss</i> 11a Gentle Yoga (video) 3:30 pm Mission Comm.	12 9:30 am Women's Bible Study 6 pm Budget & Finance 7 pm Choir	13 <i>Roger Harmelink</i> 3p Chair Yoga (video)	14	15
16 10:30a Worship 11:30a Fellowship	17 <i>Jean Linthicum</i>	18 11a Gentle Yoga (video) 6:30 pm Session	19 7 pm Choir	20 9a Men's Group 3p Chair Yoga (video)	21 <i>Lou Axtell</i>	22 <i>Josh Ventling</i>
23 10:30a Worship 11:30a Fellowship	24	25 11a Gentle Yoga (video) 1p Retired Teachers Meeting	26 <i>Steve Gehling</i> 7 pm Choir	27 <i>Claire Skaggs</i> 9a Days for Girls 3p Chair Yoga (video)	28	29 <i>Jim Skokan</i>
30 <i>Jonnie Olsen</i> 10:30a Worship 11:30a Fellowship	31					



October	2	9	16	23	30
Worship Leader	Linda Kirchoff	Terry Rickers	Tara Zehr	Linda Kirchoff	Kevin Peska
Greeters	Randy/Carol Camp	Elsie Nelson & Jen Norvell	Carroll Brodersen & John Taylor	Mary Jane Tripp & Suzie Funk	Chris/Peggy Lickiss
Ushers	Terry/Cathy Rickers	Dana Hashman	Larry/Shari DeCook	Terry/Cathy Rickers	Joan Tyler & Jeanette Shannon
Audio	Bryce Skaggs	Shirley Stevens	Erick Zehr	Marilyn McCallister	Terry Rickers
Counters	Tom Weeks & Jen Norvell	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 —

October, 2022

October 2 - 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Lam. 1:1-6; 3:19-26; Ps. 137; Hab. 1:1-4;
2:1-4; Ps. 37:1-9; 2 Tim. 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-
10

October 9 - 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Jer. 29:1, 4-7; Ps. 66:1-12; 2 Kgs 5:1-3, 7-
15c; Ps. 111; 2 Tim. 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19

October 16 - 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Jer. 31:27-34; Ps. 119:97-104; Gen. 32:22-
31; ps. 121; 2 Tim. 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8

October 23 - 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Joel 2:23-32; Ps. 65; Jer. 14:7-10, 19-22;
Ps. 84:1-7; 2 Tim 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14

October 30 - 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Hab. 1:1-4; 2:1-4; Ps. 119:137-144; Isa.
1:10-18; Ps. 32:1-7; 2 Thess. 1:1-4, 11-12;
Luke 19:1-10