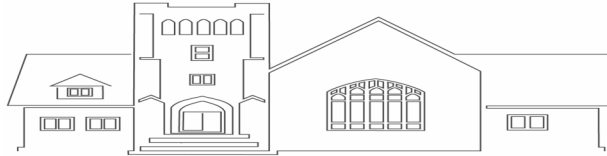


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
NEWTON, IOWA  
641-792-2790

*"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  
2019

## Meghan's Musings

### Solid Goals

This morning I overheard a conversation in the women's locker room at the YMCA. I didn't see the speakers but I'm pretty sure they were high school girls from the swim team. The conversation went something like this:

Girl 1: Did you know that I used to be jealous of you in middle school?

Girl 2: Really? Why?

Girl 1: Because you were always talking to people and always had so many friends. It seemed to be so easy for you.

Girl 2: That is really funny. Sometimes all you have to do is say "hello" or "how are you" and people just open up.

The girls proceeded to have a conversation about talking to people and making their day better. The discussion ended with:

Girl 2: I have a goal to make five people smile each day in the hallway.

Girl 1: That is a solid goal.

Shortly after hearing these words of wisdom and kindness from these impressive young women I came across this quip from Mark Twain, "I can live for two months on a good compliment."

And it got me to thinking what "solid goals" I could incorporate to help make people's days go better? Could I get five strangers to smile each day? Could I make it a point to give at least one meaningful compliment a day? One of my favorite assignments to give couples during pre-marital counseling is the daily compliment wherein couples are encouraged to focus on the positive things they like about each other by giving at least one genuine compliment every day. These compliments can be general (such as "you are fun to be around") or specific ("I appreciate that you were on time for the concert").

These small things, smiles and compliments, not only make the receiver feel good, but they also make the *giver* feel good and they go a long way toward making our lives and the world that much better. What solid goals can you incorporate into your daily routine?

I  
PRESS  
ON  
TOWARD  
THE  
GOAL  
PHILIPPIANS 3:14, NRSV



Lois Jean Harrington, 89, of Newton died on Tuesday, September 10, 2019, at her home in Newton Village. A memorial service was held at 11:00 a.m., Friday, September 20, at the Wallace Family Funeral Home and Crematory. The family greeted friends after the service with a lunch at the funeral home. Memorials were to Newton Village or Hospice of the Midwest.

Lois, the daughter of Paul G. and Ida (Holmes) Brand, was born on August 8, 1930 in rural Sully. She grew up in the Sully and Killduff area graduating from Killduff Elementary School in 1944 and then from Newton High School in 1948. After meeting at a dance, Lois was united in marriage with Roy Ratcliff on April 9, 1949 in Killduff. They were blessed with four children, Robert, Randall, Scott, and Angela. Lois and Roy lived in Killduff until 1961 when they moved to Newton. Lois was a homemaker for 41 years and then worked at Power Drug Store for five years, retiring in 1995. On October 14, 1995, Lois was married to Charles "Chuck" Harrington in Newton.

Lois was a member of the Newton First Presbyterian Church, Skiff Medical Center Auxiliary, Newton Alumni Association, Jasper County Historical Society, Jasper County "I" Club, and the Newton Senior Alumni Association. Lois loved visiting with family and friends, attending her children and grandchildren's activities, and babysitting her grandchildren. She also enjoyed crossword puzzles, reading, and traveling.

Lois is survived by her children, Randall (Wanda) Ratcliff of San Antonio, Texas, Scott (Traci) Ratcliff of Newton, and Angela (Steve) Harlow of Newton; daughter-in-law, Thelma Ratcliff of Newton; her step-children, Cheryl and David Harrington; 12 grandchildren and step-grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren and step-great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Chuck Harrington; first husband and the father of her children, Roy Ratcliff; her son, Robert Ratcliff; and brother, Gerald Brand



David Hill, son of Alton and M. Ruth Gates Hill Appleby, died on Thursday, September 19, 2019 at University Park Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Des Moines. He was 72 years old. Funeral services were held Friday, September 27th at the Wallace Family Funeral Home in Newton. A memorial service will be held in Des Moines at a later date. Burial was at the Newton Union Cemetery Veteran's Section in Newton.

He attended country school in Jasper County and was a graduate of Newton High School in 1966. David served his country in the U. S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam War, where he received two purple heart medals, a Presidential Unit Citation and the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Alton Hill and Ruth Hill Appleby; stepfather, Delmar Appleby. Those left to honor David's memory are his wife, Eileen of Des Moines; daughters, Carrie Hill of Des Moines and Debbie Hill of Des Moines; his five grandchildren, Noah Stanton, Georgia Hill, Paige Hill, Arianna Floyd and Easton Nittler; and sister, Susan (Tom) Anderson of Newton.

*Continued on page 3*

*Continued from page 2*

Our sympathy also goes out to Carl and Jane Repp and family on the recent death of Carl's sister, Mary Lou Able. Mary Lou died on Thursday, September 5 at the age of 87. Funeral services were held September 11 at the Wallace Family Funeral Home and Crematory. Burial was at the Newton Union Cemetery.

Those left to cherish Mary Lou's memory are her children, Tom (Angela) Abel of Newton, Tonda (Tom) Hulbert of Baxter, Toni (Mark) Cupples of Newton, Teresa (Dan) Ely of Newton, Tim (Rachel) Abel of Newton and Tammy Abel of Newton; fifteen grandchildren, twenty-five great-grandchildren and her siblings, Gerald (Betty) Repp of Newton, Donna Jean (Maynard) Mettler of Newton, Carolyn Kay Revell of Newton and Carl (Jane) Repp of Newton.

## Church Life

Kay Parsons, Chair

Our annual Progressive Dinner was held Sunday, Sept. 22nd. We had a record setting number of participants. Beginning at Park Center and ending at Harold and Deanna Manley's we had great food and conversation. Since everyone who participates also provides, a big thank you to all who made this event so special. An extra thank you to Diane Moles for keeping us all going the right way.

Plan now to join us for Movie Night on Sunday, Oct. 20th. Watch the bulletin for details.

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



October 20, 2019	Movie Night
November 24, 2019	Thanksgiving Feast and Communion, with Worship and Music Committee
December 15, 2019	Christmas caroling followed by chili supper



Wilma Manning, who has been suffering with pneumonia and was in the hospital for a while. She is now back at Newton Village in the nursing home part.

Dave Moles, as he continues with his battle against cancer.

Barbara Vasquez, as she pursues other opportunities.

Our city, state, and country and the leaders of each, as they faced with every changing situations, many resulting from drug use and human trafficking.

The hungry, homeless, and those suffering with illnesses that they cannot afford to get medicine for. Some are in these situations of their own accord, while others have just fallen on hard times.

Those who find themselves unemployed, for whatever reasons. May they persevere.

The people of the South Sudan.

For each other that we may listen to opposing views without reacting with violence. As Jesus said, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone". (John 8:7)

## Budget and Finance

Jen Norvell, Chair

The final puzzle piece has been found. Sherry Griggs of Dimensions Accounting has agreed to do the several of the end of quarter and end of year accounting duties formerly done by Cheryl. These will include remitting federal payroll tax withholding quarterly, filing Form 941 with the IRS quarterly, remitting state payroll tax withholding quarterly, and various end of year functions. We look forward to working with Sherry.

The end of September will mark the end of our third quarter. Information in next month's Messenger will include where we are on pledges, other regular giving and expenses for the quarter. We will also have information on year-to-date figures compared to the budget.

Thank you to everyone for your support and patience during this transition. A special thank you goes to Cheryl Ritter, who remains willing to answer questions for us.



## Bread for the World Offering of Letters

Larry Anderson, Mission Chair

**The bad news:** about 1 in every 4 children in the world (that's 151 million) suffers from physical and cognitive effects of stunting from malnutrition.

**The good news:** since 1990 the number of children dying of malnutrition-related causes has been cut in half, and the percentage of children under 5 who are stunted from chronic malnutrition has dropped from 40% to 23%.

The US has been a longstanding global leader in funding efforts to address malnutrition. But despite the gains made over these years, there are still millions of children dying or living lives of misery. And this is just one aspect of the problem of hunger. There are many others, and many who are hungry even in our affluent country, and in our state and community. In the face of such a huge problem, it's tempting to think anything we do is a mere drop in the bucket. But there are evidence-based interventions that are cheap when compared to the costs of dealing with the human consequences of hunger.

What would it take to realize God's vision for a world in which everyone has enough? We have the resources now to feed all people, but we need the political will to make it happen. Our nation's leaders have the ability to craft policies that establish pathways out of hunger and poverty for our brothers and sisters both at home and abroad. This is God's vision. But leadership must come from God's people.

**At our September meeting, we:**

- \*Approved the June meeting minutes with one correction.
- \*Recapped our monthly visits, that were made during June to August. The visitation teams were able to visit most of the people on the visitation list during this time.
- \*Heard Rev. Meghan Davis' report on visits she has made.
- \*Learned that as of August 31, there was \$421.14 in the deacons fund.
- \*Were reminded by Moderator, Diane Moles, that she will be asking for a volunteer to be the deacons representative to the church nominating committee for 2019. Kevin is already a member at large on the committee.
- \*Were updated that as of August 31, 2019 there was \$421.14 in the deacons fund.

The next meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. Oct 13<sup>th</sup> in the library.

Diane Moles, Moderator



A special Deacon's visit. Riley Ann McGonegle, our youngest church member when she visited Gladys Sparks, our oldest member. Mommy, Taylor and papa, Kevin Peska also enjoyed the visit with Gladys.

### Show who you are

The church soon will be publishing a new member directory that hopefully will look a bit different. Warren Erickson and Dave Stolper will be taking photographs for the directory. This time around, 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.

The date for the CPR certification/recertification class is not available at the time of printing. Eight interested church members will be part of selecting the date in the near future. Watch Church Happenings and Sunday bulletins for the scheduled class and details to be held at our church. All are welcome to attend.

The Newton Police Department will be presenting a 45 minute safety program for our congregation this fall. The program follows the philosophy of Run, Hide, Confront of the US Homeland Security Department. Look for more details in Church Happenings and Sunday bulletins.

Another PEW effect will hopefully take place in October, but a date has yet to be determined. Be watching Church Happenings and the bulletins for updated information.

We appreciate the many members who volunteer for the many “behind the scene” tasks: Greeters, Transportation, Bread Ministry, etc.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn McCallister, Session Rep. & Chair

MEMBERSHIP



MOMENT

### Administrative Assistant, Barbara Vasquez, Resigns

Barbara resigned from her position on Wednesday, September 18, 2019. We thank Barbara for her service to our church and wished her well in any future endeavors.

The Personnel committee will begin the search for a replacement. If you know of someone who is interested in a 20 hour per week job, doing secretarial work with some accounting, please have them contact the church office.

Until a new Administrative Assistant is hired and trained, Mickey Van Baale will be assuming the position. Her hours will be 9 am to 3 pm, taking an hour lunch. There are some upcoming days Mickey already had plans. We'll notify you of these days and if the office will be closed or if we will be having someone come in to answer the phone.

Articles or information for the Messenger should be sent to Mickey's home email: [grandmavb1@gmail.com](mailto:grandmavb1@gmail.com). Editing the Messenger is not a part of the secretarial work and will be done outside the hours worked at the church..



**Congratulations are certainly in order for:**



**Rev. Meghan Davis and Curt Brass on their recent engagement. Rumor has it that the marriage will take place next summer but the location is yet to be determined.**

**Cole Doerring and Mallory Brown of Runnells announced their engagement. The couple met three years ago at the Iowa State Fair. The planned date for the wedding is next Labor Day week-end.**



**Eric, Tara, Emmett and Garrett Zehr on the birth of Bennett Allen. Bennett was born at 9:12 pm on September 12. He weighed 8 lbs, 11 oz. Papa Kevin, Nonna Toni, aunties and uncles are all doing well.**

**His big brothers, and cousin Riley, seem to be taking it all in stride, as shown in the picture.**



## **Worship & Music**

**Jeanette Shannon, Chair**

**The main discussion at our September meeting was the Advent Devotional booklet. The theme for this year will be "Light Shining in the Darkness" inspired from scripture John 1:1-5.**

**Val McKee will be obtaining church members who will be willing to write an article for our booklet. Mickey Van Baale will edit and publish these, with committee members from Worship & Music doing the proofing.**

**To be able to distribute the Advent booklet by November 24, the deadline for submitting articles will be November 1st. Please send these to the church office as either part of an email or as a Word document sent as an attachment to an email.**

**Please be willing to make a contribution to our annual booklet. It takes 25 people to do this to make the booklet possible.**

**Other dates of importance are October 27 - Reformation Sunday and November 3 - All Saints Sunday.**



**Rev. Arlington Trotman, International Peacemaker, will be at Heartland Presbyterian Church in Clive on October 6 at 4:00 pm. There will be a brief worship service, his presentation and a time for questions. His topic is timely and his experience is relevant to the important issues of our day.**

**Rev. Trotman, and ordained minister with the Methodist Church in Britain, is the former moderator of the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe and previous managing director of AW Trotman Associates, doing work on anti-racism and discrimination.**

**The topics he is prepared to address these from Mathew 25 Church Initiative: hunger ministries (I was hungry and you gave me food), immigration/migration/refugee welcome (I was a stranger and you welcomed me), and racism/systems of oppression and violence (I was in prison and you visited me).**

**See the poster on the bulletin board for additional information. Plan to attend this event.**

## Wednesday Night Meals

Linda Anderson, Mission Committee

For a few years, people in need have been meeting at First Methodist Church, Newton for a free meal and fellowship. In addition to the Methodists, several other church groups have taken on responsibility for planning, preparing, and cleaning up the meal. Mel Wilson representing First Methodist has been responsible for organizing the meals. Mel is now looking for another church or group to take over responsibility for making the free meal happen for the third Wednesday of the month.

Meals will be planned by the group. The food will be purchased by the group planning it. The cost is the responsibility of the church. The meal is prepared at the First Methodist church in their kitchen. There is an industrial type dish washer which can be used by persons trained on it. Normally, all activities are completed by 7 PM. The group can request help with desserts by having other church members make them and deliver to First Methodist on Wednesday afternoon. Free will donations are accepted and are used by the group to help defray costs of the meal.



## Upcoming "Sundays at 4" Events

Joan Tyler, Membership Committee

Cory Grimm and Jesse Dager will take the stage on Sunday, October 13 at 4 pm. Cory Grimm and Jesse Dager are currently performing eleven original songs under the title of "Searching for Zion", which contemporize the story of Abraham and his quest for the Promised Land. Utilizing a variety of guitars, piano, and vocal harmonies, their music incorporates sounds of folk, blues, bluegrass, and other styles. Come and enjoy stories and thoughtful lyrics that will evoke laughter, faith, contemplation, and maybe even dancing! Cory is a pastor, husband, and father of three who often spends time collaborating with musicians in prison. Jesse works with adults with intellectual disabilities and can be found recording music, filling in with various bands or teaching himself Hebrew.

On Sunday, November 10 at 4 pm, soprano Randye Jones, accompanied by Marlys Grimm, will perform a program of music related to the underground railroad.

Watch for additional information in the bulletin, Church Happenings and the Messenger. Get the dates on your calendar now - both promise to provide a great afternoon of music.



## Mission Committee

Larry Anderson, Chair

At our September meeting, our committee discussed:

- ♦ **Sheltering Discussion:** Capstone is planning a drop-in center and other services in their former facility which may include some accommodation for weather emergency overnight stays. Ministerial Alliance, Capstone, and others are actively addressing this concern.
- ♦ **Bread for the World:** See the article on page 4
- ♦ **First United Methodist Wednesday dinners:** See article on page 8
- ♦ **CROP Walk** will be held October 6. Linda Curtis-Stolper will be participating and provide information to others who want to either join the walk, or make a contribution. A contribution of \$100 from our committee was approved.
- ♦ **Mission Coalition Pie Sale** will take place Nov. 5. Linda Curtis-Stolper will recruit pie bakers after CROP walk is complete.
- ♦ **Harvest Offering:** will take place in November.
- ♦ **Peace and Global Witness contribution:** A contribution of \$100 was approved. A peacemaker working in Barbados will be appearing at Heartland Presbyterian Church at 4 PM on October 6 for a brief worship and presentation.
- ♦ **Marion Medical Mission:** Rev. Suzanne Gorhau, a representative of the mission will be preaching in worship on September 22, and will do a Q and A session in fellowship hall after church.
- ♦ **Ramp-Building Project:** There is one possible project remaining. There are no available funds but George Wilkening is working with the family about the possibility of them funding the materials with the team providing the labor.
- ♦ **Presbyterian Women:** The Fall Gathering is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 12 at 9 am. A featured speaker will be Rev. Eugenia Anne Gamble, author of this year's bible study entitled "Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments."
- ♦ **Mariners in Mission:** John and Barb Taylor recently returned from a work week at Mt. Ridge Presbyterian Camp near Rolla, MO where 15 volunteers built a swing set, made curtains and signs, and provided electrical work among other activities.
- ♦ **Take Away Hunger:** The Jasper County unit will be celebrating their 10 year anniversary sometime in October. The next packing event will be sometime in November.
- ♦ **Neighbors Helping Neighbors:** Linda CS will be contributing \$107 from First Presbyterian donors at the next board meeting. There will probably be a fall clothing drive. *Friends in Hope* maintains a furniture stash for people in need.
- ♦ **Days for Girls International:** The next workshop will be held on October 24.

# October 2019 **BIRTHDAYS & EVENTS**

**Sun**

**Mon**

**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thur**

**Fri**

**Sat**

		1  6p Book Club at Peanut Pub	2  7p Choir	3 <i>Kay Parsons</i>  6:30a Early Men's Group  9a Men's Group	4 <i>Brad Ritter</i>	5
6  Crop Walk  4p Rev. Arlington Trotman @ Heartland Pres. Church in Clive	7  3:30p Mission 4:45p Personnel	8  11a Gentle Yoga  4p Worship & Music	9 <i>Bev Rossow</i> 9:30a WBS  2:30p Membership  6p Budget & Finance  7p Choir	10  3p Chair Yoga	11	12
13 <i>Roger Harmelink</i>  9a Deacons  4p Sundays at 4 Concert	14	15  11a Gentle Yoga  6:30p Session	16  9:30a WBS  7p Choir	17 <i>Jean Lithicum</i>  6:30a Early Men's Group  9a Men's Group  3p Chair Yoga	18	19  11a Adult Coloring
20  Movie Night	21 <i>Lou Axtell</i>	22 <i>Josh Ventling</i>  11a Gentle Yoga  6p Pub Theology	23  9:30a WBS  7p Choir	24  9a-2p Days for Girls  3p Chair Yoga  6p-9p Evening Days for Girls	25	26 <i>Steve Gehling</i>
27`	28	29 <i>Jim Skokan</i>  11a Gentle Yoga  1:30p JCRSPA	30 <i>Jonnie Carpenter</i>  9:30a WBS  7p Choir	31  3p Chair Yoga		

## Regular Worship Schedule

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

10:30a Worship  
11:30a Fellowship



<b>October</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Worship Leader</b> <i>Mickey Van Baale</i>	Deanna Manning	Karen Quinn	Tom Mott	Linda Kirchhoff
<b>Host Elder/Deacon</b> <i>Church Life</i>	Diane Moles	George Wilkening	Nancy Mott	Kevin Peska
<b>Greeters</b> <i>Julie Brodersen</i>	Dick & Shirley Mielke	Randy & Carol Camp	Cole Doerring & Carroll Brodersen	Gary & Kay Parsons
<b>Ushers</b> <i>Mickey Van Baale</i>	Randy & Carol Camp	Dick & Shirley Mielke	Kathy Ventling Jeanette Shannon	John & Barb Taylor
<b>Audio</b> <i>Shirley Stevens</i>	Dan Ritter	Shirley Stevens	Kyle Doerring	
<b>Counters</b> <i>Budget &amp; Finance</i>	Terry Rickers Peggy/Chris Lickiss	Don Black Janet Shields	Dave Stolper Kathy Ventling	Tara Zehr Bret Doerring
<b>Bread Ministry Baker</b> <i>Barb Taylor</i>	Val McKee	Dixie Zegers	Sharon Black	Diane Moles
<b>Bread Ministry Taker</b> <i>Barb Taylor</i>	Toni Peska	Dana Hashman	Nancy Mott	
<b>Communion Set up</b> <i>Worship &amp; Music</i>	George Wilkening Larry Rossow			

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

641-792-2790

Return Service Requested

## Lectionary —

### October, 2019

#### **October 6 - 17th Sunday after Pentecost**

Lam. 1:1-6; *Lam. 3:19-26 or Ps. 137*;  
2 Tim. 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10

#### **October 13 - 18th Sunday after Pentecost**

Jer. 29:1, 4-7; *Ps. 66:1-12*;  
2 Tim. 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19

#### **October 20 - 19th Sunday after Pentecost**

Jer. 31:27-34; *Ps. 119:97-104*;  
2 Tim. 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8-

#### **October 27 - 20th Sunday after Pentecost**

Joel 2:23-32; *Ps. 65*;  
2 Tim. 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14

### 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