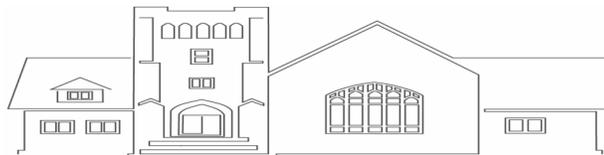


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NEWTON, IOWA
641-792-2790

"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



SEPTEMBER 2016

Meghan's Musings

"Love is patient..."

I Corinthians 13:4-7: Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

We all know the verses. We've heard them at weddings. Maybe it was even used in your own wedding. But when Paul was writing to the church in Corinth, he wasn't dispensing marriage advice. He was trying to help the different church members and factions to get along better: to *be* the Body of Christ. I've been thinking about patience a lot this summer. How easily I lose my patience with others. How easily church members seem to lose patience with one another (or*gasps* maybe even me). And I write this article for my own sake as much as for the sake of anyone else.

I notice that a couple of things tend to challenge my ability to be patient. One is simply my own health and well-being. When I'm not eating well, getting sufficient exercise and especially if I'm not getting adequate sleep, it's more difficult for me to remain patient. Perhaps the same is true for you. So this is yet another reason to add to the pile of reasons why self-care is so important. The other major factor is how close I am to someone. It's odd but true that for me, and perhaps for you, the better I know someone, the harder it is for me to be patient with them and the harder it is for me to be on my kindest, best behavior with them. (As my poor mother can attest, as close as we are, I lose my patience with her shamefully easily.) So, as work week wore on and I got more tired and also closer with the other members of the team, I'm sorry to say that my patience grew pretty thin at times.

When I was a kid I had a record (remember LPs?) that had a Christian themed story and songs on it. I do not remember the name of the record or the story or any of the songs except one that I still sing to myself and my unfortunate family with some regularity: "Have patience, have patience, don't be in such a hurry. When you get impatient, you only start to worry. Remember, remember, that God has patience, too. And think of all the times that others had to wait for you."

Of course, patience has many more facets than simply waiting for people who are slow. I know that there have been some mix-ups lately with volunteer schedules, items not being communicated properly, and the like. I know this can be frustrating. But I would like to ask you to have patience with me, with the office staff during this time of transition and with other church volunteers remembering, "Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." And also, "Remember, remember, that God has patience, too. And think of all the times that others had to [be patient with] you."



**Lawrence Kenyi, an employee of TPI, has been worshipping with us for several months. Lawrence is from South Sudan, a nation that is experiencing a civil war. We have received word that some of Lawrence’s family have been slaughtered. Details are sketchy at this time. He is frequently with family in Omaha. Please keep Lawrence in your prayers, as well as all of the peoples of South Sudan.

Our Presbytery is supporting the First Arabic Presbyterian located in Des Moines. Information we received at our recent Presbytery meeting is on the bulletin board.

**The people of Louisiana are again facing flooding. Please keep them in their prayers.

**Tornados have ripped through parts of Indiana. Remember them.

**Victims of senseless shootings— the most recent being in Paris.

**Those trying to put their lives back together after the earthquake in Italy.



Thank you so much to Shirley Stevens, Janet Shields and Sara Hopkins for organizing the Puppy Shower/Meet and Greet with my ZuZu. And thank you to all who came and for the lovely gifts and contributions to ZuZu’s scholarship fund for training. I am excited that we will be starting puppy classes on August 31 and plan to go through the line-up of American Kennel Club classes: Puppy 1, Puppy 2, Basic Obedience, Good Canine Citizen and (if all goes well, finally) Therapy Dog training. While I will be sending thank yous to each of you, there

was one gift—a dog biscuit cookbook I’m excited to try—that did not have a name with it so I don’t know whom to thank. If you were the giver, please let me know so I can thank you personally!

As anyone who is friends with me on Facebook knows, ZuZu has brought such joy into my life. I am ever so grateful that she loves people so much and I am equally grateful for the warm welcome she has received from her new church family.

Many thanks and Blessings,
Meghan (and ZuZu says, “ruff!”)

Congregational Meeting

Session has called a congregational meeting following worship on Sunday, September 18. The purpose of this meeting is to approve the recently updated by-laws of our church and corporation. Both sets of by-laws were approved by the Session at their June meeting. This will be the only business addressed at this meeting.

Copies of both sets of bylaws are available in the narthex, for those who like to review them prior to the meeting. The two sets are paper clipped together to ensure you receive everything.



CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

Presbytery Meeting

Mickey Van Baale, Commissioner

Meghan and I attended the Presbytery Meeting in Knoxville on Saturday, August 20. Items of interest from this meeting were:

1. Our worship service was based on “Hope” and mirrored a service held at General Assembly. James Koopman, our Interim General Presbyter, gave the message.
2. Received a report from those who attended the General Assembly meeting in Portland, Oregon. Each told of the committee they were on and the highlights they experienced while there.
3. Heard from the Sudanese Support Team. A couple representatives from the Sudanese Arabic Congregation spoke about the civil war going on in their country and gave a heartbreaking account about the whereabouts of their families. Many don’t know where their families are and if any are even alive. A prayer was offered for all peoples of the South Sudan going through this war.
4. Approved having the Interim General Presbyter position be full-time position and his salary retroactive back to when he began on May 18, 2016. Also approved having his membership moved from the Reformed Church in America to PC(USA).
5. Approved extending the term of service for our Stated Clerk from 1-year to 2-years, at the same compensation rate.
6. Heard the report of CROSS Ministries and their 24th annual back-to-school giveaway. This year a record number of 1,641 children were provided with a new backpack filled with basic supplies. Some people waited in line for nearly five hours to receive their supplies.
7. Voted to approve the dissolution of the First Presbyterian Church in New Sharon.



- ⇒ **Sunday, October 9 - Sundays at 4 presentation by Gary Parsons entitled “Bears I Have Known”. Watch for further details**
- ⇒ **Saturday, October 15 - Fall Style Show featuring fashions from The Hall Tree in Pella and Urbandale. This is the same merchant we used at our Spring Style show. Linda Campbell and her helpers will be making a delicious luncheon. More information will be published as it is available.**

Worship and Music

Linda Kirchhoff, Chair

Sunday, September 11 is the date that we return to our normal church hours. Adult Sunday school will be held at 9:00 a.m. Fellowship will be at 10:00 a.m. Worship will begin at 10:30 a.m.



Choir will begin rehearsals Aug. 31 and will meet each Wednesday at 7 p.m.. If you enjoy singing, please join us! If you have any questions, contact Larry Anderson at [641-521-1337](tel:641-521-1337)



Church Life Activities

Tara Zehr, Chair

Next Event: Hayride and Weenie Roast at Ritter's. Dan and Cheryl have let us know that they have added flush toilets at the site. Again this year, Bill Zegers is allowing us to use his wagon which has benches and stairs. Thanks, Bill.

| Date & Time | Event |
|--|--|
| September 25, 2016, 4:00 p.m. from church | Hayride and Weenie Roast at the Ritter Camp |
| October 23, 2016, 4:00 p.m. | Progressive Dinner |
| November 20, 2016, 11:30 a.m. | Thanksgiving Feast and Communion, jointly with Worship and Music Committee |
| December 18, 2016, 4:00 p.m. | Christmas Caroling followed by supper |

Worship Downtown and Block Party

The second annual Rally Day was another huge success. Over 200 people attended the worship service, hearing a sermon by Major Jeff Carter from the Salvation Army. Communion was served by intinction with all Worship Leaders helping, Rev. Zach Bey of First Lutheran, Major Jeff and Mikey Carter from the Salvation Army, Rev. Karen Crawford of St. Stephen's Episcopal, Rev. Don Freeman of United Presbyterian, Rev. Gary Marzolf of First United Methodist, Rev. Jessica Petersen from Congregational United Church of Christ, Pastor Mark Young of First Christian and Meghan. Norm Grimm directed a choir made up of members from all churches participating. Jean Ibbotson and Marlys Grimm served as accompanists for the service.

Following the church service, a delicious meal was enjoyed. This year's participants contributed: Congregational Church - side dishes; First Christian - desserts; First Lutheran - side dishes; First Presbyterian - water, ice tea, hot dogs and all the fixings; First United Methodist - desserts; Salvation Army, - table settings: plates, silverware and napkins; St. Stephen's - sides dishes and United Presbyterian - desserts. Our church life committee served 183 hot dogs to hungry individuals!

Next up was the "Olympics" contests. Those wanting to participate met in the street and were divided into teams. The events started off with a pastor's scooter race. Each church was responsible for an event, such as hula hoop, volleyball with balloons, javelin throw with pool noodles, freebie throw and several others. Josh Ventling and Jordan Norvell maned our church's contest which was watermelon seed spitting. Also available was a jump house with balloon animals being made and music. When all the teams had participated in all events, a reward ceremony took place awarding bronze, silver and gold medals.

Thank you to everyone who continues to make this a wonderful tradition.



ZuZu was even a part of Children's Time.



Thank you, Doug Cutts, for taking pictures.

Mission Committee

Marilyn McCallister, Chair

Mission Committee Purpose: To recommend, approve, manage, and terminate mission projects. The committee communicates about opportunities for mission involvement and promotes congregational participation.

Reports

Mariners in Mission event participants were well taken care of and directed by staff at the Illinois camp from June 27 to July 1.

Work Week 2016 was a successful trip to Saint Louis, Missouri working with the AMEN Ministry. AMEN/St. Louis works with several organizations within St. Louis, so we worked at a different location each morning and each afternoon. We spent a lot of time sorting clothes, sorting food, stocking shelves, and working with children from infants to young adults. One afternoon we were split into two groups, each going to a different location. Linda Anderson did an excellent job in planning our fun day on Wednesday and finding great places for us to go in the evenings. We all went to the top of the arch on our fun day, as well as touring the old capitol and an old cathedral. We enjoyed Ted Drewes frozen yogurt one evening, went to two excellent restaurants and toured and did devotions one evening at the botanical gardens. Our group of 11, which included 5 youth and 2 adults from Brooklyn as well as 4 adults from Newton, formed a close bond and everyone is already looking forward to our trip next year. A big thank you goes out to all of you for your support in this long-standing mission trip. (See a picture of the group on page 6)

Upcoming Events

September 11-17 Mariners in Mission event located in Stoney Point, New York. Barb and John Taylor will be participating. If interested, contact the Taylors (792-6990).

September 22 Days for Girls Workshop scheduled Thursday, 9:00 – Noon in the First Presbyterian Fellowship Hall. The workshop will be led by Kay Hertz, Iowa Regional Representative, to make sustainable feminine hygiene kits. Materials will be provided but sergers are needed. All are welcome.

September 25th is the fourth Sunday of the month which means it's Salvation Army Food Pantry Sunday. The Salvation Army continues to distribute food individuals and families in need. Monetary donations are accepted as well as food products. Suggested food items are: baked beans/pork and beans, canned green beans, canned corn, canned peas, canned spaghetti sauce, complete pancake mix, hamburger helper, jelly, macaroni and cheese, peanut butter, Ramen noodles, canned peaches, canned pears and canned tuna.

October 7 or 8 – Plan to attend the presentation of Tamar Wasoian, who is a PC(USA) International Peacemaker from Syria and Armenia. She is being sponsored by The Compassion, Peace & Justice task force of our Presbytery. Meghan is the moderator of this task force. Information about her can be found on a flyer on the bulletin in the narthex.

October 15 – “Happy and Healthy Women” is the theme for the Presbyterian Women Fall Connection meeting at Saint Paul Presbyterian Church in Johnston, IA. Workshops will be held on worship, healthy cooking and crafting. For more details, contact Barb Taylor (792-6990).

October 15 – Mark your calendars for a Fall Fashion Show and Luncheon. More details to come.

A fall event to package food for those in need both here at home and abroad will be scheduled in Lynnville for the Jasper County Take Away Hunger organization (previously known as Jasper County Kids Against Hunger). The name has changed but the purpose is the same. Actual date is still to be determined.



Our College Members

We'd like to improve our outreach to the members of our congregation who are in college. Parents -- please send us the address of your college-age kids. We'd like to periodically send them cards, newsletters and reminders of their family at First Pres. Please email or drop a note to the church office.



The deacons will resume their meetings on September 11 at 9:00 am. We have continued our visits during August, even though we did not have our monthly meeting. We did donate money to the Work Week mission trip.

If you know of anyone that would like to be visited by the Deacons, please let me know.

Dana Hashman, Moderator

At the Arch



Only two adults from our Work Week group had been to the top of the arch previously, but everyone was brave and went. Yeah, us!

Front row l to r: Aisha, the intern from AMEN/St. Louis, Jorian, Angel, Emily and Lara

Back row, l to r: Linda, Mickey, Meghan, Dana, Dorian, Tony and Anna.

Budget and Finance Corner

Jonnie Carpenter, Chair

Pledges for the month of July were \$9,610. This was \$910 below budget for the month. It is not unusual to have lower pledges during the summer months. Other Regular Giving, which represents donations from people who tithe, but do not pledge, was \$439 for the month, which is \$297 below budget. In total for the month, expenses were \$1,115 under budget.

Year-to-date through July, pledges are \$3,709 over budget and expenses are \$1,500 over budget.

Activity included:

- * Additional memorial funds received honoring Noel Burton
- * Deacons received contributions of \$69.21 and purchased stamps.
- * Work Week received additional money from the Ice Cream Social and a refund from Oak Hill Presbyterian church, refunding costs submitted for 2 individuals who ended up not being able to go on the trip.
- * Additional expenses were paid for the Ice Cream Social and items related to the trip.



Building and Grounds

George Wilkening, Chair

A conversation was held with the contractor on the new sidewalk and steps. He, the contractor, is waiting on the final drawings from the architect. We are hoping that the drawings have been received by the time this edition reaches you.

A contractor and roofer were at our church on August 22, looking at the ceiling that keeps peeling. It appears that part of the problem is condensation above the ceiling.

We have also discovered that a floorboard on the second floor, behind the balcony has buckled. The roofer, with the use of a drone, found we have a problem with the roof above the tower.

More details are needed on what the problem is and possible ways of solving it. We will continue to be working on this.



Christian Nurture

Karen Quinn, Chair

Our committee did not meet in July or August. Stephanie Critchfield resigned from the committee and we seriously need a couple more members.

The next concern is finishing the Power Room for Sunday School. We need to remove unwanted or unneeded furniture and put down a new carpet and edging from wall to floor.

Very soon we'll be getting back into Christmas planning. Please have anyone interested in being on this committee contact Karen Quinn at [641-275-1432](tel:641-275-1432).

The congregation needs to seriously consider this. We all wonder why we have no children and teens in the church; well, we need to support them. So come on folks. Help us support our youth by volunteering for this committee.

MEMBERSHIP



MOMENT

The Membership Committee is planning Sundays at 4 presentations for the fall, beginning with a program about bears, to be presented by Gary Parsons on October 9. The title of the presentation is "Bears I Have Known". We welcome

your suggestions for other programs, both musical and informational/educational.

We also are planning a third "PEW" (Pray, Eat, Work) event this fall. Watch for further details in bulletins, Church Happenings and perhaps the next edition of the Messenger.

Our church entry in Newton's 4th of July Parade, "8 Presbyterian Presidents", was well received and a lot of fun for those who participated!



Those riding were Abriana McKee, Dick and Shirley Mielke, Dave and Jeanette Shannon, Marilyn McCallister, Meghan Davis and Mickey Van Baale.



Steve McKee drove his pick-up and furnished the trailer for the riders. Walkers included Gary and Kay Parsons, Ann Cutts, Val McKee and Terry Rickers.



2016 BIRTHDAYS & EVENTS

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|--|
| <p>9:00 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship</p> | | | | <p>1 <i>Melissa Sommars</i></p> <p>6:30a Early Men's Group 9a Men's Group</p> | 2 | 3 |
| <p>4 Last Sunday for Summer Hours</p> | <p>5 <i>Office Closed</i></p> | <p>6 <i>Linda VerSteegt</i></p> <p>5:30p Building & Grounds</p> | <p>7</p> <p>5p Membership 6p B&F 7p Choir</p> | <p>8</p> <p>7p Christian Nurture</p> | 9 | <p>10 <i>John Taylor Ruth Ann VanElswyk</i></p> |
| <p>11 <i>Kay Gause</i></p> <p>9a - Deacons</p> <p>Return to Regular Worship Schedule</p> | <p>12 <i>Dick Mielke Ann Cutts</i></p> | <p>13 <i>Sara Hopkins</i></p> <p>11a Gentle Yoga 3:30p Mission 6:30p Worship & Music</p> | <p>14 <i>Carma Sturtz</i></p> <p>7p Choir</p> | <p>15</p> <p>6:30a Early Men's Group 9a Men's Group 3p Chair Yoga</p> | <p>16 <i>Janet Shields</i></p> | <p>17 <i>Harriett Harmelink</i></p> |
| <p>18 <i>Pete Koppin</i></p> <p>Congregational meeting following worship</p> <p>4p Hayride and Weiner Roast at Ritters</p> | 19 | <p>20</p> <p>11a Gentle Yoga 6:30p Session</p> | <p>21</p> <p>7p Choir</p> | <p>22</p> <p>9a-noon Days for Girls 3p Chair Yoga</p> | <p>23</p> <p>Articles due for October Messenger</p> | <p>24 <i>Norm Grimm</i></p> <p>11:30a Pastor's Book Club</p> |
| <p>25 <i>Garrett Sturtz</i></p> | <p>26 <i>Clarice Sigurdson</i></p> | <p>27</p> <p>11a Gentle Yoga</p> | <p>28</p> <p>7p Choir</p> | <p>29 <i>Larry Anderson Julie Broderson</i></p> | <p>30 <i>Elaine VanderBroek</i></p> | |

**SCHEDULE
OF**



VOLUNTEERS

| September | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | Oct 2 |
|--|---|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Worship Leader <i>Office</i> | Bev Rossow | Linda Campbell | Sara Hopkins | Dick Mielke | Harriet Harmelink |
| Host Elder/Deacon <i>Diane Moles</i> | George Wilkening | Linda Kirchhoff | Janet Shields | Nancy Mott | Bret Doerring |
| Greeters <i>Julie Brodersen</i> | Doug Cutts Cole Doerring | Janet Shields Valerie Barney | Gary & Kay Parsons | Randy & Carol Camp | Terry Rickers Bev Rossow |
| Ushers <i>Office</i> | Terry & Cathy Rickers | Les & Kay Gause | Gary & Kay Parsons | Ritter Family | Barb Gallaher Shirley Stevens |
| Audio <i>Doug Cutts</i> | Jay Koenen | Jay Koenen | Jay Koenen | Doug Cutts | Doug Cutts |
| Counters <i>Jonnie Carpenter</i> | Dan Ritter | Roger Harmelink Dave Stolper | Jonnie Carpenter Tara Zehr | Kelly Koenen Jen Norvell | Terry Rickers Mickey Van Baale |
| Bread Ministry Baker <i>Barb Taylor</i> | Shari DeCook | George Wilkening | Barb Taylor | Linda Campbell | Jane Repp |
| Bread Ministry Taker <i>Barb Taylor</i> | Mickey Van Baale | Mary Jane Tripp | Barb Taylor | Linda Campbell | Carol Russell |
| Communion Set up <i>Linda Kirchhoff</i> | George Wilkening Marilyn McCallister | | | | Val McKee Bret Doerring |

First Presbyterian Church
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220 N 2nd Ave E
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641-792-2790

Return Service Requested

Lectionary —

September, 2016

September 4 - 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Jer. 18:1-11; *Ps. 139: 1-16, 13-18;*
Philem. 1-21; Luke 14:25-33

September 11 - 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Jer. 4:11-12, 22-28; *Ps. 14;*
1 Tim. 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

September 18 - 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Jer. 8:18-9:1; *Ps. 79: 1-9;* 1 Tim. 2:1-7;
Luke 16:1-13

September 25 - 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Jer. 32:1-3a, 6-15; *Ps. 91:1-6, 14-16;*
1 Tim. 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31

October, 2016

October 2 - 20th Sunday after Pentecost

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

October 9 - 21st Sunday after Pentecost

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

October 16—22nd Sunday after Pentecost

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

October 23 - 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

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

October 30 - 24th 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