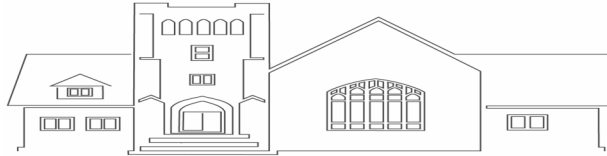


**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NEWTON, IOWA
641-792-2790**

"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
2019**

Meghan's Musings **"How Long, O Lord?"**

Because I write in the wake of yet more mass shootings—the most recent being Gilroy, El Paso and Dayton but sadly, by the time you read this there very well could be another—I feel compelled to share a prayer. As you may know, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) addresses not only disasters caused by nature (hurricanes, earthquakes, etc.) but also human caused disasters such as mass shootings. Each time a national or international disaster hits, Rev. Dr. Laurie A. Kraus, the director of PDA, writes a prayer that is shared through social media. In the wake of El Paso and Dayton, Kraus wrote that she was unable to compose yet another prayer and instead wrote, "Thoughts and prayers are not going to help us if we don't confess how deeply we have failed to confront our racism and fear, failed to honor the image of God in every human being, speak out, rise up, and change."

And therefore, I offer this prayer, adapted and somewhat revised and rewritten by me from two separate prayers Kraus posted after the mass shootings in Orlando and Las Vegas.

Once again, Holy One, we cry, *how long, O Lord?*

We wonder, *when will it be enough?*

We pray you will forgive our tolerance of cultures of violence and hatred.

Our fearful xenophobia, and our willingness to turn a blind eye and a deaf ear to words and deeds of intolerance, our willingness to excuse "hate speech" as "free speech." We forget that those targeted by hate speech become those targeted in acts of violence and that they too, are your beloved children. Your beloveds are being slaughtered and too often we forget that they are our brothers, our sisters, our parents and our children, and these losses of life diminish the entire human family.

The same lifeblood flows through all our veins, and spills out without regard to difference, staining the floors of our places of worship, fellowship, community, and learning.

Staining our lives with sorrow, fear and regret.

God of life, whose presence sustains us in every circumstance,
As the sound of gunfire echoes as over yet more American cities,
we seek the grounding power of your love and compassion.

As death rains down time and time again,
We pray this day for the Sun of Righteousness to arise with healing in its wings,
and rain mercy, grace and peace upon our broken people.
We open our hearts in anger, sorrow and hope:

Continued Page 2

Continued from Page 1

Time and time again, too many have been lost: brothers and sisters, neighbors and friends gathered in the unity of festivals, work, play and mundane errands, only to be scattered by evil and hatred.

We pray for solace for all who loved them.

We pray for those who have been spared and those whose lives are changed forever that they may find healing, sustenance, and strength in the difficult, painful days to come.

We give thanks for first responders:

who run toward gunfire, rather than away

who drop everything to save the wounded and comfort survivors

We pray for doctors and nurses and mental health providers

who strive to repair what has been broken

who work to bring healing and hope in the face of the unchecked principalities and powers of violence.

We ask for sustaining courage for those who are suffering and traumatized.

We cry, *how long, O Lord?*

But the same words echo back, again and again

as if the question comes to us from You— *how long, how long, how long...*

In the wake of an event that should be impossible to contemplate

but which has become all too common in our experience,

open our eyes, break our hearts,

and turn our hands to the movements of your Spirit,

that our anger and sorrow may unite in service to build a reign of peace,

where the lion and the lamb may dwell together,

and terror no longer holds sway over our common life.

In the name of Christ, our healer and our Light, we pray, Amen.

Let the same heart beat as one among us, that we will draw together across these false divides,

And rise up as one to breathe peace where there is no peace,

and heal our communities and our world.

In the name of Christ, our healer and our Light, we pray, Amen.

Summer is over and we can begin to feel autumn in the air. This not only signals back to school, it also indicates our church will return to our regular schedule.

Starting Sunday, September 8, we will return to our regular schedule of Adult Sunday School at 9 am; Fellowship at 10 am; Worship at 10:30 am; Fellowship at 11:30 am. The choir will be offering their first anthem that Sunday.

Other programs of the church that didn't meet during the summer months will start up again. This includes committee meetings, Deacons, Women's Bible study, Adult Coloring, Sundays at 4 and perhaps some new ones. Women's Bible study and Adult Coloring and Sundays at 4 will be starting back up in October

Please watch the Church Happenings, bulletins and Messenger for additional updates.

Please
Pray
for...



***Dave Moles and family as he is taking treatments for his recently diagnosed**

***Clarice Sigurdson, as she and the family prepare for the private burial of her Mark on September 21. Rev. Davis will be officiating.**

***Dick and Shirley Mielke as they transition into their new home at Park Centre. Also Gary Haynes and Bonnie Rassmussen and Joan Aldridge who recently moved into Park Centre.**

***Administrators, teachers, parents, and students that have started school. May they have a good year, and may there be kindness shown to each other. No bullying, no shaming, no prejudice. May all feel that school is a safe place to be each day.**

***Everyone involved and/or effected by the senseless shootings that have been happening way too frequently in our nation.**

***The people of the South Sudan.**

***Our national, state and local officials as they make decisions for the welfare of all of us.**



Bishop Matthew Taban, an Episcopal Church leader from South Sudan and a cousin of Lawrence Kenyi, was in the USA for a two-month visit. He has heard about our congregation from Lawrence and expressed a desire to visit us. On Sunday, August 4, Bishop Matthew filled the pulpit for our morning worship service. He was accompanied by a number of friends from the South Sudanese community in Des Moines, Omaha and Minneapolis. Following church, a potluck was held in Fellowship Hall to honor their attendance.

The following week, Rev. Meghan Davis received the following thank-you message:

**“Dear beloved in-Christ Meghan Davis,
Greetings in the precious name of our Lord Jesus.
Please, I wish to extend my note of thanks to your Leadership and the Congregation for your warm reception last Sunday. In fact, I felt honored and loved by all of you and it clearly reminded me that, we are all Partners of the Gospel. Kindly, continue to pray for Peace in South Sudan and harmonious relationship with each other. There are areas of direct challenges in my Diocese which I will seek your prayers and Partnership support.
Thank you very much for your hospitality.
Bishop Matthew”**

MEMBERSHIP



MOMENT

Anderson, Linda Curtis-McCallister.

Our PEW (Pray, Eat, Work) event was very successful with our church building and out) all spiffed up for the Presbytery of Des Moines meeting. The PEW were treated to a wonderful breakfast snack & devotion and delicious mention the great fellowship! Thank you to Dave Stolper, Deanna Manley, Janet Shields, Kay Parsons, Larry Anderson, Linda Stolper, Linda Erickson, Val McKee, Rev. Meghan, Marilyn

Mark your calendars for our upcoming Sunday's at Four concerts scheduled for this fall: Sunday, October 13 AND Sunday, November 10. More details to come!

The Church Pictorial Directory organizers are working on the logistics to get photos taken and information collected. We'll keep you in the loop of when and where for pictures!

CPR (Cardiopulmonary resuscitation) is a lifesaving technique useful in many emergencies in which someone's breathing or heartbeat has stopped. We are working with the YMCA to provide a CPR certification/recertification class at our church this fall. If you would like to be part of the group that decides date and time, get your name on the list in the church office.

Some members of Session and Membership Committee met with a Newton Police Department officer to work on strengthening our church security. A recommendation which we hope to initiate is to secure the church doors (front, East, elevator door) once everyone arrives for each church event held. This will be a work in progress and we ask your participation in this endeavor.

A BIG THANK YOU to all the volunteers who help with the many continuous Membership Committee tasks – Bread Ministry, Greeters, Transportation, etc.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn McCallister, Session Rep. & Chair

Update on Treasurer Position

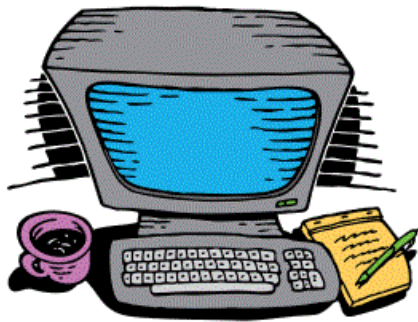
Jen Norvell, Chair of Budget & Finance

As has been mentioned in previous publications, the duties of the position of Treasurer is being split up three ways. Some of the tasks have been passed on to our Administrative Assistant and Barbara has been doing them for a while now.

The end of the month reporting and a few other tasks will be outsourced to an accounting firm. This still left the fact that we are required to have a Treasurer and the person needs be a church member.

Being unable to find someone willing to be this part of the puzzle, we got approval from Presbytery to have the Budget and Finance committee assume this role. Our committee will go back to meeting monthly, rather than quarterly.

Requests from our



Administrative Assistant

- ♦ As of November 2019, First Presbyterian will no longer use P.O. Box 7. Please send all mail to 220 N. 2nd Ave. E., Newton, IA 50208. For those using a financial institution to automatically send pledges, please ask your financial institution to discontinue using P.O. Box 7 and send all payments to 220 N. 2nd Ave. E., Newton, IA 50508.
 - ♦ A reminder...if you change your address, telephone/cell phone numbers or email address, please notify the church office of your changes.
 - ♦ To those who possess a Walmart charge card in the church's name. If you have a church Walmart charge card, please come to the office with your card. New cards will be issued late September, and the old cards will be invalid.
- I need to ascertain:
1. Who has cards
 2. That old cards are collected when the new ones arrive
 3. That the new cards will be issued to the proper people

Racial Harmony & Justice Book Club

Those interested in promoting racial harmony and justice in our community are encouraged to gather for the Racial Harmony and Justice Book Club at **6:00 pm - 7:00 pm** on the first Tuesday of each month at the Cellar Peanut Pub (403 W. 4th St. N.). Over the course of five monthly meetings (September - January) participants will read and discuss "Waking Up White: and Finding Myself in the Story of Race" by Debby Irving. Participants should read and come prepared to discuss the introduction and Section 1 (Childhood in White) for the September 3 gathering. Please contact Rev. Davis or Rev. Petersen with any questions.

Pub Theology

Pub Theology meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month from **6:00 pm - 7:00 pm** at The Cellar Peanut Pub. The format is simple: beer, conversation, and God. Be ready to engage with people of varying religious traditions, philosophical perspectives, and life experiences as you share your own thoughts while learning something new along the way.

The ministry is offered cooperatively by Congregational UCC and First Presbyterian Church. Participants are responsible for purchasing their own beverages and encouraged to drink responsibly. No purchase is required. Contact Rev. Petersen or Rev. Davis with any questions.

As is the tradition of our committee, we do not meet during the summer months, but continue to make our monthly visits.

Our next meeting will be Sunday, September 8 at 9 am.

Diane Moles, Moderator



Fifth Annual Worship Downtown Sunday, August 25th

Members from Congregational United Church of Christ, First Lutheran, First Presbyterian, First United Methodist and United Presbyterian churches enjoyed a wonderful outdoor ecumenical service on the lawn of First Lutheran church. It was exciting to also have some congregants from Holy Trinity Lutheran and St. Andrew's Lutheran churches joining us.

Though cloudy, the group enjoyed very pleasant weather which resulted in a big crowd. An "Ecumenichoir" was formed from members of the various churches, under the direction of Norm Grimm. Marlys Grimm was our accompanist. The group offered an introit, anthem while the offering was taken and benediction response.

The clergy from the above churches, Rev. Jessica Petersen (UCC); Rev. Mark Holmes (First Lutheran); Rev. Meghan Davis (First Presbyterian); Rev. Paul Smith (First United Methodist); Rev. Don Freeman (UP) and Rev. Kari Lee (Holy Trinity and St. Andrew's Lutheran churches), offered the messages for the morning. Each picked a favorite scripture, which they read and spoke on. Then a song with the same theme was sung.

Approximately 200 people were in attendance, one of our largest gatherings. The offering for the morning went to Jasper County Elderly Nutrition.

Thank you to Meghan Davis and Gary and Kay Parsons for capturing pictures of the day, as shown below.



Church Life

Kay Parsons, Chair

Progressive Dinner time! New month - same great event!! If you've never participated, this is the year to start. A four-course meal is shared with church friends. We'll gather together and share appetizers in one home; split up and travel to other homes for salad and main courses; and get back together again at the last home to share dessert together and compare experiences.

The date is Sunday, September 22, 2019, beginning at 4:00 p.m. The next course begins at 5:00 p.m., and so on, so that everyone's full and ready to go home by 8:00 or so.

We need people to:

- Host a salad course or a main course in their home
- Host the appetizer course
- Host the dessert course
- Bring an appetizer or dessert
- Assist the host with a main course (by bringing side dish and serving)

Everyone is welcome – singles and couples. We will take care of transportation for non-drivers, if you let us know when you sign up.

For more information or to sign up, please contact Kay Parsons at 03kaylynn@gmail.com or Diane Moles at jasperdem@iowatelecom.net We'll also be in Fellowship Hall after worship starting September 1st.

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

September 22, 2019	Progressive Dinner
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

Mission Committee

Larry Anderson, Chair

The Mission Committee met August 12. Here are some of the topics discussed or acted on:

- *The idea of using the church building – and perhaps other church buildings -- as short-term shelter during extreme weather emergencies will be brought to the Newton Area Ministerial Association. Several churches decided years ago to offer this if needed but no request was ever made. (Since our meeting it was in the news that some county buildings may be used in this way, so it may be unnecessary for the churches to develop any plans, but that is pending.)
- *Cooking classes planned at the Salvation Army for this summer did not happen, as apparently the proposal got hung up within the Salvation Army administration. We hope this will become a reality at some point in the future.
- *Bread for the World – plans will be made to again mark Reformation Sunday by participating in the annual offering of letters to Congress in support of policies and programs that benefit hungry people.
- *First United Methodist Church has invited our church to become involved in the community suppers at FUMC on Wednesday evenings. We are obtaining further information about what this would involve, both in terms of volunteers needed and costs for the food.
- *Days for Girls – Marilyn McCallister sent a report that an average of 14 people participated in each Days for Girls event. As of the end of this past June, they have completed 500 hygiene kits. She requested, and the committee approved, a transfer of \$500 to the DfG fund (this will come from the International Missions budget). Since our meeting, 12 participants met on Aug. 22 and made 12 kits.
- *Meghan suggested we consider supporting the Marion (IL) Medical Mission, which constructs wells in African countries. The wells cost \$400, and the program works with local builders in the construction and ongoing maintenance of the wells. She will obtain further information about where specifically they are working, etc.
- *Ramp building – we have 3 requests pending for ramps, but money for probably only one.
- *John & Barb Taylor will be on a work week with Mariners in Mission in Mt. Ridge, MO, the week of Sept. 8

Upcoming “Sundays at 4” Events

Cory Grimm and Jesse Dagel will take the stage on Sunday, October 13 at 4 pm. Cory Grimm and Jesse Dagel 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.

Presbytery Meeting

Joy Lane, Recording Clerk from UP church

The 517th Meeting of the Presbytery was held at First Presbyterian Church in Newton on Saturday, August 17, 2019. After a brief business opening, a worship service was held featuring the First Presbyterian Church choir. The theme of the service was "For the Beauty of the Earth" and featured songs, prayers, and sermon vignettes concerning the natural world around us. Rev. Davis officiated communion.

Committee reports followed discussing ministry, leadership, and stewardship. The Committee on Budget and Finance gave a report that led to discussion of financial issues concerning the Presbytery. Discussion followed concerning sending full Per Capita to Synod and General Assembly whether or not full Per Capita is received from the churches.

A delicious lunch was served in the Fellowship Hall. The meeting came back to order with committee reports from camping and youth ministries. Two particular highlights occurred; one being the introduction of a ministry candidate from Grinnell, Hannah Lundberg. She briefly gave a statement of faith and then took questions about her call and her particular areas of interest. The other highlight was the retirement of Rev. Jeff Means, who has served the Presbytery in a number of capacities.

The afternoon session included discussion of potential shared services with two other Presbyteries and an invitation to hear International Peacemaker Rev. Arlington Trotman speak about International refugee crises at Heartland Presbyterian in Clive of October 6.

I would like to thank all of you who helped to make this a successful day. To those who set-up tables, to Linda Campbell and her kitchen help for the wonderful luncheon, to those who helped with registration and those who served as guides, to Sandy Simbro for playing the organ during the worship service, to Larry Anderson and the chancel choir for offering an anthem during the worship service and to George Wilkening for being our commissioner. A special thanks to Joy Lane for filling in as the recording clerk.

Rev. Meghan Davis

(Pictures taken by Betty Dyer of the Presbytery office)





2019 **BIRTHDAYS & EVENTS**

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thur

Fri

Sat

1 <i>Melissa Sommars</i> Last Sunday of Summer Hours	2  Office is Closed	3 11a Gentle Yoga 6p Book Club at Peanut Pub	4 7p Choir	5 6:30a Early Men's Group 9a Men's Group 3p Chair Yoga	6	7
8 <i>Beginning of Regular Worship schedule</i> 9a Deacons	9 3:30p Mission 4:45p Personnel	10 <i>John Taylor Ruth Ann Van Elswyk</i> 11a Gentle Yoga 4p Worship & Music	11 <i>Kay Gause</i> 2:30p Membership 6p Budget & Finance 7p Choir	12 <i>Dick Mielke</i>	13	14 <i>Carma Sturtz</i>
15	16 <i>Janet Shields</i>	17 <i>Harriett Harmelink</i> 11a Gentle Yoga 6:30p Session	18 7p Choir	19 6:30a Early Men's Group 9a Men's Group 3p Chair Yoga	20	21 <i>Ann DeGrado</i>
22 4p Progressive Dinner	23	24 <i>Norm Grimm</i> 6p Pub Theology	25 <i>Garrett Sturtz</i> 7p Choir	26 <i>Clarice Sigurdson</i> 9a-2p Days for Girls 6p-9p Evening Days for Girls	27 <i>Randy Camp</i>	28
29 <i>Larry Anderson Julie Broderson</i>	30					

Regular Worship Schedule

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

10:30a Worship
11:30a Fellowship



September	1	8	15	22	29
Worship Leader <i>Mickey Van Baale</i>	Linda Curtis-Stolper	Val McKee	Shari DeCook	Diane Moles	Dick Mielke
Host Elder/Deacon <i>Church Life</i>	Larry Rossow	Jen Norvell	Janet Shields	Shirley Stevens	Jeanette Shannon
Greeters <i>Julie Brodersen</i>	Gary & Kay Parsons	Kevin & Toni Peska	Terry Rickers Bev Rossow	Chris & Peggy Lickiss	Janet Shields &/or Rachel Skaggs Taylor McGonegle
Ushers <i>Mickey Van Baale</i>	George Wilkening Shirley Stevens	Gary & Kay Parsons	Larry & Shari DeCook	Tom & Nancy Mott	Terry & Cat Rickers
Audio <i>Shirley Stevens</i>	George Wilkening	Kyle Doerring	Shirley Stevens		Dan Ritter
Counters <i>Budget & Finance</i>	Dave Stolper Bev Rossow	Don Black Kathy Ventling	Tara Zehr Bret Doerring	Jonnie Carpenter Tom Weeks	Jen Norvell Janet Shields
Bread Ministry Baker <i>Barb Taylor</i>	Shari DeCook	Sandy Simbro	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>Worship & Music</i>	Jen Norvell Karen Quinn				

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

641-792-2790

Return Service Requested

Lectionary —

September, 2019

September 1-12th Sunday after Pentecost

Jer. 2:4-13; *Ps. 81:1, 10-16*
Heb. 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14

September 8 - 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Jer. 18:1-11; *Ps. 139:1-6, 13-18*;
Philem. 1-21; Luke 14: 25-33

September 15 - 14th Sunday after Pentecost

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

September 22 - 15th Sunday after Pentecost

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

September 29 - 16th 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, 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