

**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
2022**

Meghan's Musings My Way of the Pilgrim

It is no secret that ministry is a difficult vocation with a high rate of burnout and more than two years after the start of the COVID pandemic, exponentially more so. The pilgrimages I have planned for my sabbatical are spiritual journeys I have long desired to undertake. However, I now find myself in a position of not only wanting but needing this opportunity to re-set. Both you—my church family—and I are in need of a season of discerning God's will for us. We all need time for renewal.

It is said that the pilgrim journey begins with the first step. In that sense, my pilgrimage on Spain's legendary Camino de Santiago* might start on the marked path in St. Jean Pied de Port, France, on the morning of September 5, 2022. Or it might start the morning of September 2, when I catch my first flight to Madrid. But I believe my Camino began thirty or more years ago when a dear family friend gave me a tiny little copy of *The Way of the Pilgrim* with the inscription "for Meghan, the pilgrim." Little did I know...

Little did I know what seed would be planted within me by reading that little autobiographical account of a pilgrim wandering through the Russian countryside with all his worldly belongings in his knapsack, seeking to learn how to "pray without ceasing" in devoting his every breath and action to God. But I was moved by the Pilgrim's spiritual yearning and I recognized it in myself. I, too, desired to be in a state of ceaseless prayer but as a teenager with school, activities and all that goes along with adolescence, the Way of a Nineteenth Century Russian peasant pilgrim was not going to be my pilgrim way. Indeed, that little seed germinated at such glacial speed that when I was re-introduced to the Jesus Prayer decades later in seminary, I didn't even recognize it as the same prayer the Pilgrim prayed constantly throughout the day and night. And yet, I don't believe it was a coincidence that the Jesus Prayer became my "go to" prayer throughout the day. My mind did not recognize, but my soul surely did.

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Had I known about the Camino de Santiago at the time, it would have already been a dream to walk it. As it was, I only learned about it many years later upon seeing the film *The Way*, when the call of the Camino became louder, clearer and more specific. Ever since, I have desired to follow in the footsteps of pilgrims from the Middle Ages to the present in my desire to pray without ceasing and devote my every movement, breath and action to God.

It is my intention to send weekly updates to the church throughout my Camino. There will be a map on which you can track my progress. But most of all, I covet your prayers and your Buen Camino!**
**"Camino" simply means "way" and the Camino de Santiago is an ancient pilgrimage across Spain to the Santiago de Compostela, where the remains of St. James are believed to be held. This is a very limited explanation and for more information Wikipedia is always a good start.

**Buen Camino, literally "good Camino" is a common greeting of well-wishing for pilgrims on the Way.

Spotlight-Chris & Peggy Lickiss

Meet Chris and Peggy Lickiss!

Chris and Peggy were both born and raised in the Northwest town of Cherokee. Chris moved to Newton in 1990 and began work in Research and Development at the Maytag Company. In 2006 he started working at Musco Sports Lighting also in Research and Development.

Peggy started her teaching career in South Texas. She has substitute taught in Newton schools, taught at the Newton Correctional Facility and has now been teaching in Des Moines for more than twenty years.

In their spare time they enjoy boating, exercise and Iowa State University sports. Chris loves to spend time fishing and hunting. They both love to travel and spend time with family and friends.

Peggy and Chris faithfully serve as Sunday morning greeters and offering counters.

Thank you, Chris and Peggy, for sharing your story!



Foundation Article

The by-laws of your FPC Foundation state that the Board of Directors will hold an educational event yearly to give church members a better understanding of the FPC Foundation.

The current board decided to utilize the Messenger to accomplish this goal for 2022. This article will cover the mission statement and goals, the history of the foundation, receiving, investing and expenditures of the funds the foundation manages.

Mission Statement and Goals

The Foundation of the First Presbyterian Church was established to receive gifts/bequests deemed beneficial to the church foundation from any source. These gifts are to be used exclusively for the purpose of the foundation as set forth in the foundation articles.

Goals:

- ☐ Educate the members of the First Presbyterian Church on the purpose of the Foundation.
- ☐ Encourage members to donate to the Foundation.
- ☐ Receive general and special gifts and bequests.
- ☐ Administer, manage and invest the gifts/bequests donated to the foundation.
- ☐ Make funds available to the Building and Grounds Committee of the session of the First Presbyterian Church to make capital improvements.

HISTORY OF THE FOUNDATION

The Foundation was established in 2005, the same year the First Presbyterian Church celebrated its 150th anniversary. The Foundation was created to give members and friends of the church an opportunity to make gifts to the church for capital improvements to the church and its grounds and special projects and programs. Unless designated, all gifts to the foundation shall be un-designated and credited to the capital improvement endowment. Gifts may be designated for special projects and programs which the Foundation has decided to administer. The Foundation Board of Directors will actively encourage church members in charitable giving, and will provide information on the foundation to members. Foundation Gifts may be designated for special projects and programs which the Foundation has decided to administer. Any undesignated gift of over \$1,000.00 to the First Presbyterian Church will be a gift to the Foundation. The foundation shall distribute the income from both the restricted and unrestricted funds held by it to First Presbyterian Church when requested by the Session of First Presbyterian Church, providing the Session's use of the income from restricted funds is in compliance with the donor's instructions. Unless a gift, bequest, donation or contribution has been made with the grantor's intent that the principal of the gift, bequest, donation or contribution be expended, the foundation shall not expend the principal of the unrestricted funds received by it without prior approval by both the Session and the congregation of First Presbyterian Church.

Foundation Article Cont.

Expenditures of Foundation Funds

The Board of Directors of the Foundation may employ a qualified, established investment manager to manage the invested funds of the Foundation. If the Foundation employs an investment manager it shall do so using a written management agreement setting forth the fees and expenses of the investment manager, as well as the terms and conditions of the investment manager's powers and duties, including but not limited to, requiring the investment manager to manage the funds of the Foundation in accordance with any directives of the Foundation and to provide at least quarterly written reports to the Foundation as to the status and performance of its invested funds. The Board of Directors shall establish and update from time-to-time investment policies and objectives for the guidance of its investment manager.

The Board of Directors will periodically monitor the performance of the investment manager to ensure that the investment policies and objectives of the Foundation are being met. Any questions regarding the FPC Foundation can be directed to any current board member:

Jane Repp - President

Joan Tyler – Vice President

Dan Skokan – Secretary

Warren Erickson – Treasurer

Days for Girls

Days for Girls Update!

Each month this year we've had 7-11 volunteers meeting and making progress on the Days for Girls sustainable feminine hygiene kit components. A goal for the near future is to be able to send a distribution of kit components for another 50 kits. Since our DfG Team's beginning in September 2016, the team members have created and sent for distribution 707 kits for girls and women in 15 different countries. Our next Days for Girls workshop will be Thursday, September 22 (not the 29th) in fellowship hall from 9 am – 2 pm. All are welcome to join in this worthwhile mission.

Days for Girls Newton IA Team

Julie Fisher and Marilyn McCallister, co-team leads

Worship, Prayer and Study

Minutes of the August 8, 2022 meeting of the Worship, Prayer and Study Committee.

September 11 will be the first day of Sunday School.

Tara Zehr suggested that high school students may be willing to volunteer for the nursery for volunteer credits for school.

The committee thought that would be okay if one of our members was with the student. All individuals working with children must have a background check. Karen found how to accomplish this. She will have forms and will announce that people can pick them up and fill them out after church. The expense will be paid by the church. She will be available to answer questions.

Deb Z and Linda G have met with parents who may have children in Sunday school or the nursery.

Meghan had a special part of the service 8/21/22 to bless the new school year and the teachers and students returning to school.

Deb. Z mentioned that we need an up to date first aid kit. She is also looking into toys for little children.

Meghan will be on Sabbatical from August 28 till Nov. 28. Linda Curtis-Stolper will be acting as minister in her absence.

The committee discussed Advent booklets. The theme was decided to be "Good News". The deadline for contributions is October 31.

The committee discussed communion bread and grapes. Session will set up the communion. Gluten free bread will be in the freezer. The elder in charge will buy grapes.

The committee will meet the second Monday of each month.

Our Church in Pictures



... of Christ be with you.
... us share that peace with each other.

The Word

"Joy in the Morning"

The Four Linda's (Anderson, Erickson, Gehling, Curtis-Stolper)

Younger Church

Blessing: You are...



... Child.

By Natalie Sleeper
(Gehling, Curtis-Stolper)

Fellowship - Church Life & Nominating

FELLOWSHIP-CHURCH LIFE

The Host Elder and; Deacon schedule is set up through the rest of the year. The first Sunday of the month an elder is scheduled so they can also do communion preparation. We usually have 20-25 people come down for coffee and donuts after church. Sometime in the future we will probably start having coffee and donuts before in addition to after church. Worship at Woodland was on July 10. We had food at WaW for the first time since the pandemic started. The committee supplied sloppy joes and drinks and attendees were asked to bring a dish to share and their own table service. Forty-one attended. The weather was beautiful! We had an After Church Lunch at Hardee's on July 24. Twelve attended.

FELLOWSHIP-MEMBERSHIP

Photo Directory-We have had four rough drafts of the directory at church for the last three weeks and have encouraged members and attendees to check their page and sign if it is OK or to make corrections and then sign the page if they did find needed corrections. For those at church, two copies were in the parlor and two in Fellowship Hall. If unable to come to church to check them, people were encouraged to contact the church office or Gary Parsons to examine them. We checked them on August 22nd and hopefully they will go to the printer soon after corrections are made. Spotlight-This issue features Chris and Peggy Lickiss.

Transport Ministry-We are hoping to organize a Transport Ministry to help members and attendees who have mobility or transportation problems to be able to attend church.

Coffee at Park Centre-We are hoping to have a coffee meeting at Park Centre to enable our church's Park Centre residents and non-residents to see each other and visit. Hopefully will occur in September.

Bread Ministry-We have reinstituted the Bread Ministry on the first of the month. Two loaves will be provided. One will be broken by the pastor during communion. The other will be given to visitors, people experiencing a crisis or to celebrate special occasions. Barb Taylor is coordinating the Bread Ministry. They will also bake and share bread with new members.

New Members-Great News! We will be welcoming new members and their families to our church on August 21 and August 28. They are Mimi Amouzou and her children, Benila, Godspell and Regina Issifou; Jeremy and Emily Vesely and their daughter Leia; and Kyle Schnell and Beth Bennichsen and their daughter Aspen. We are also "re-celebrating" the membership of Lawrence Kenyi, Curt Brass and Deb Zieman who joined in the last 2-3 years but due to the pandemic and other factors were not formally welcomed.

Gary Parsons, Chair

NOMINATING

We have started our Nominating Committee procedure much earlier than usual. It is usually started September 1 or later. This year we started in July to try to have a full slate of officers in place before Rev. Meghan begins her sabbatical on August 29. Our requirements this year were for two session members for three year terms each; one session member for a two year term; one deacon for a one year term; two deacons for a three year term each; and one Nominating Committee At Large Representative for a three year term.

At this time we have people to fill all the slots in January. Praise Be!

Gary Parsons-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



SEPTEMBER

2022 *BIRTHDAYS* & EVENTS

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thur | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---|-----------------------|---|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| | | | | 1 <i>Melissa Sommars</i> 9a Men's Group 3p Chair Yoga (video) | 2 <i>Brandon Jackson</i> | 3 |
| 4 10:30a Worship 11:30a Fellowship | 5 Labor Day | 6 11a Gentle Yoga (video) | 7 | 8 3p Chair Yoga (video) | 9 | 10 <i>John Taylor</i> |
| 11 9:00a Deacons 10:30a Worship 11:30a Fellowship | 12 <i>Dick Mielke Bennett Zehr</i> 10a Membership Meeting | 13 11a Gentle Yoga (video) Session 6:30p | 14 Carma Sturtz | 15 9a Men's Group 3p Chair Yoga (video) | 16 <i>Janet Shields</i> | 17 <i>Harriett Harmelink</i> |
| 18 10:30a Worship 11:30a Fellowship | 19 | 20 11a Gentle Yoga (video) | 21 <i>Ann Degrado</i> | 22 9a Day's for Girls 3p Chair Yoga (video) | 23 <i>Mary Roskilly</i> | 24 <i>Norm Grimm</i> |
| 25 <i>Garrett Sturtz</i> 10:30a Worship 11:30a Fellowship | 26 <i>Clarice Sigurdson</i> | 27 <i>Randy Camp Garrett Zehr</i> 11a Gentle Yoga (video) 1p Retired Teachers Meeting | 28 | 29 <i>Larry Anderson Julie Brodersen</i> 9a Men's Group 3p Chair Yoga (video) | 30 | |



| September | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Worship Leader | Deanna Manley | Taylor McGonegle | Gary Parsons | Joan Tyler |
| Greeters | Gary & Kay Parsons | Taylor McGonegle & Rachel Skaggs | Kevin & Toni Peska | Terry Rickers & Bev Rossow |
| Ushers | Kevin & Toni Peska | Don & Sharon Black | Harold & Deanna Manley | John & Barb Taylor |
| Audio | Terry Rickers | Bryce Skaggs | Erick Zehr | Marilyn McCallister |
| Counters | Tom Weeks & Bev Rossow | Terry Rickers & Peggy/Chris Lickiss | Toni Peska & Kathy Ventling Briggs | Bev Rossow & Tara Zehr |

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

Lectionary —

September, 2022

September 4 - 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Jer. 18:1-11; Ps. 139:1-6, 13-18;
Deut. 30:15-20; Ps. 1:1-21; Luke
14:25-33

September 11 - 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Jer. 4:11-12, 22-28; Ps. 14; Ex. 32:7-14; Ps.
51:1-10; 1 Tim. 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

September 18 - 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Jer. 8:18-9:1; Ps. 79:1-9; Amos. 8:4-7; Ps. 113;
1 Tim. 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

September 25 - 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Jer. 32:1-3a, 6-15; Ps. 91:1-6, 14-16;
Amos. 6:1a, 4-7; Ps. 146; 1 Tim. 6:6-19;
Luke 16:19-31

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