

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



JULY, 2013

Message from Pastor John

Dear Members and Friends of 1st Presbyterian Church of Newton, Iowa:

One will recall that when I first came to this church, I placed a hat on the chair near the pulpit only to be picked up when moving on to another interim ministry. Well, it is time to pick up the hat.

I have accepted an invitation to become the interim pastor at the 1st Presbyterian Church of Wahoo, Nebraska, just 40 minutes from my home in Lincoln, Nebraska. Consequently, Session has accepted with reluctance my resignation effective August 15, 2013. My last Sunday will be at the church picnic/worship service on August 11th.

I have enjoyed my ministry with this congregation and will cherish the precious relationships that I have made here. But, I leave with great confidence in this family of faith for two reasons: 1) 1st Presbyterian Church of Newton is a very strong family of faith and able to move on to the next level without my being with you as I was initially needed. 2) I have confidence in the plans that the Personnel Committee has made for the ongoing pastoral needs of this church with Linda Curtis-Stolper. She has been approved by the Session and Presbytery to be a Commissioned Ruling Elder for Pastoral Care for the next few months until a pastor is called.

My prayers will be with all of you in your ongoing ministry and mission. God has called each of you to serve the Church of Jesus Christ in a most exciting and fulfilling way. The joy will be discovering how God will reveal those opportunities to this congregation. May all eyes be lifted to the future with eyes fixed on God in Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Dr. John J. Duling, Interim Pastor



Be Praying For:

- + Rachel Rickers, who has been in the hospital for dehydration and tests.
- + The Work Week Group as they travel and work in Michigan.
- + The Mission Group going to Joplin, MO.
- + Pastor John as he begins the transition between his interim work with 1st Presbyterian and his new calling in Wahoo, NE.
- + Linda Curtis-Stolper as she starts this, her first calling, to be our Interim Pastor until a new Pastor is called.

Worship & Music Committee

Kim DeGraff, Chairperson

On July 21, we will hold a Blessing of the new church sign. Details haven't been totally worked out as to whether this will be before church that day, or after our service. Watch the Church Happenings and Bulletins for further information.

During the summer months, July, August, and September, we will be doing communion by intinction. July's communion service will be on the 14th. Pastor John will be officiating on July 14, Sarah Hopkins on August 4 and Linda Curtis-Stolper on September 1, which are the communion Sundays for the summer.

Terry Rickers will fill the pulpit on July 7 while Pastor John is gone with the Work Week group.

Our sympathy goes out to the family of Helen Wallace. Helen passed away on May 29 at Skiff Medical Center under the care of Hospice. Services were held on June 15 at First Presbyterian Church with Rev. John Duling officiating. Burial was at Newton Union cemetery.

Those left to honor Helen's memory are her children, son, Dr. John (Janeen) Wallace of Las Vegas, Nevada and daughter, Jane Reilly of Catonsville, Maryland; four grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; her identical twin sister, Hazel Cramer of Topeka, Kansas; and many nieces and nephews, including Gary (Pat) Wallace of Newton..



Thank you dear Church Family for the many well wishes and lovely cards that we received for our 60th Wedding Anniversary. Your warm thoughts and wishes are truly gifts to be treasured.

Shirley and Dick Mielke



Congratulations to Carroll and Julie Brodersen who celebrated their 50th Anniversary with an Open House at First Presbyterian on June 16.

We are looking for Special Music for worship services this summer!

There are many weeks to fill and plenty available yet, so please consider sharing your talents.



If interested, please contact:
Larry Anderson (641-792-5220) or
Kim DeGraff (641-521-8571)

PNC Update: Just about the time we were ready to put the CIF (Church Information Form) on line, we found that a new form was developed named the MIF (Ministry Information Form) and would replace the CIF as of 8-1-13. Long story short—we went ahead and put the CIF online and then filled out the new MIF. This new form has been approved by our Session and has been sent to the Presbytery CCD (Congregational Care and Development) committee for approval at their July meeting. Once that is done, we will be able to put the MIF online. Also, we have received 30-35 PIF (Pastor Information Forms). Our committee has done an initial read through of these. We will be going over them more thoroughly, determining if any seem like someone we might be interested in. At any time we can make contact to obtain another batch of PIFs for review. We are also investigating the possibility of finding a regional “face-to-face” where we would be able to interview prospects in person.

Committee: Gary Parsons, Larry Anderson, Ann Cutts, Kelly Koenen, Steve Hopkins, Linda Kirchhoff and Joan Tyler.

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

Email: new1pres@iowatelecom.net
(this email goes to Jenny Verwers, Office Mgr.)

Website: www.newton1stpresbyterian.org

Church Office Hours: M, W, Thurs: 8:30 am to 3:00 pm

Custodian Hours: M-Thurs: 8am to 11am

Pastor John's Hours:

Sunday: 9:00-12:00 p.m.

Monday: 9:00-12:00 p.m.

Thursday: 9:00-12:00 p.m.

Friday: 9:00-12:00 p.m.

Saturday: by appointment

(Hours may vary from week to week based on his need to be at the church for meetings, etc.)

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Mission Committee

By Linda Erickson, Chairperson

Local:

Free Community Meal: See article below.

Annie Wignall's program "Annie's Bags" is losing their space and is needing a free space for her program. Perhaps the upper room at Friendship House would accommodate her needs. We will be making contact with her to see if this is workable.

National:

Work Week: See separate article on page 7.

Joplin Work Week: Linda Erickson will be taking a group of 4-6 to Joplin the end of July. They will be doing kitchen duty and possibly some cleaning. There are plans for about 300 people to be in Joplin that week to help on the rebuilding.

International:

El Salvador – There was a solicitude from Muñoces for \$50 for food and fireworks needed for the celebration of their patron saint on June 13. Our committee donated this money.

Community Meals

First Presbyterian will be participating in the Community meals this summer. If you are not familiar with this program, it has been held at First United Methodist on Wednesday nights as a free meal for those wanting socialization and needing a meal. The summer program is being held at Sacred Heart Church. We were asked to help during the summer. Mission committee agreed to give it a try. There will be 4 churches participating which gives us 2 Wednesday nights during the summer.

We have been assigned July 17 and July 31. The meals are simple, but we will need to provide about 4 hours in the afternoon for preparation and about 3 hours in the evening for serving and cleanup. Disposable plates will be used so dishwashing will be at a minimum. Plans are for about 100 people being served each Wednesday. We will be providing the menu weekly in case there are any of our members or guests who would enjoy an evening with others.

The last meal of the summer will be August 14 which will involve all 4 churches. It will be a salad supper so we will be asking for donations of salads for that meal. We need to provide 1 meat salad, 1 fruit salad, and 2 vegetable salads. Each salad needs to serve 25. The committee will do the preparation, but we will need donations. If you can help on the 31st or can provide one of the salads we need, please contact me.



Barb Taylor, First Presbyterian representative
(792-6990)

Budget and Finance Corner

Bill Shields, Chairperson

Pledges for the month of May were \$10,159. This was \$1591 below budget for the month. Other Regular Giving for the month continues to run above budget and was \$526 above budget for the month of May.

Expenses are \$2,520 under budget.

Year-to-date, pledges through May were \$1,120 higher than budgeted and expenses were \$2,520 under budget.

The Capital Development Fund received \$3850 from the Foundation investments. Of this, \$918.71 was paid for electrical installation related to the new sign.

The Sundays at 4 received contributions of \$215. They made a \$50 contribution to the Newton Senior High Chorale and paid \$100 to Central College to cover mileage expense for their participation in the Sundays at 4 event.



The Membership Committee is planning to have an entry in the 4th of July parade again this year. The theme of the parade is "Salute to Our American Patriots". We are going to honor our church's WWII veterans, Ken Johnson, Pete Koppin and Wendell Wendt. We would like the veterans to ride in the pickup cab while other members sit in the bed and others walk behind (AKA candy distributors). Please join us if possible. It was much fun last year. Although not absolutely necessary it would be helpful to know who will be joining us—especially if they need to sit rather than walk. Please let Gary Parsons (792-6753) know. We would really like to have more kids join us this year.

Gary Parsons, chair

Remember: The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose - but mosquitoes come close!

MEMBERSHIP



MOMENT

Highlights from Session

Dave Boyd, Clerk

- Approved serving communion by intinction in July, August and September
- Accepted with regrets, the resignation of Interim Pastor John Duling
- Appointed Linda Curtis-Stolper Commissioned Ruling Elder-Interim Care pending commissioning by Presbytery and completion of a financial package
- Heard a report that new carpet & other changes are coming to Fellowship Hall in July
- Heard a very positive report from our PNC & approved the Ministry Information Form

Sermon/Preaching Schedule for July 2013

July 7: Ruling Elder Terry Rickers preaching - Message based on Luke 10: 1-11, 16-20.

July 14: Work Week Team Report of Mission to Benton Harbor, MI

July 21: "Both/And" Luke 10: 38-42; Colossians 1:15-28

July 28: Dialog Sermon with Pastor John and Linda Curtis-Stolper

Building and Grounds

By Linda Campbell

The Building and Grounds Committee has been busy. We have secured funding and will soon be replacing the carpet in Fellowship Hall with carpet matching that in the hall and on the stairs. We are working on finding a date for this to happen, so be on the watch for a "work weekend" when we remove all the books and book cases so the old carpet can be removed. New carpet will likely happen sometime in July, possibly early August.

We are concerned about the overgrown shrubs and trees and are seeking opinions and bids on cutting back some and/or removing a tree or 2. We are also looking for some volunteer labor to lay mulch and help trim some of the smaller shrubs. If you have a couple of hours to spare call Linda Campbell for directions on what should be trimmed, and so there will be mulch delivered to spread.

We plan on repainting the parking lines in the parking lot this summer, and are considering the possibilities of also painting a labyrinth there. Many things need to happen before this is a reality, like a plan and design, a template and the labor lined up to get it done, but we are dreaming!

Recently we hired M and G Laundry to place a clean mat in the kitchen every 2 weeks. The cost is minimal and we can expand the agreement for more mats if the season or circumstance demands or return to using our own mats.

We continue to monitor mundane stuff like HVAC filters, replacing light bulbs, weed control and other matters necessary to keep our church running smoothly and looking its best.

If you or your group can find 2 hours to spend on maintenance, call Linda Campbell, 792-1144.

Along with our church family, the Deacons mourn the death of Helen Wallace whom we had the privilege of visiting since she moved to Park Centre. Helen had been a deacon at one time. We also send our best wishes to 2 others we have visited and who were active members of First Presbyterian. In May John and LaVonne Erickson moved to a nursing home facility in Georgia to be nearer their family.

Since Helen was the only person who made use of the tape ministry, this service will be discontinued temporarily. To those of you who have computer access and would like to hear our church service, you may do so. (We have a wonderful website!)

Go to our webpage at <http://www.newton1stpresbyterian.org/>

Click on "Worship" in the green box at the top of the page.

Scroll down to "Listen to a Service."

There will be a variety of dates available to you.

Click on the service of your choice.



At our June Meeting, the Deacons voted to donate \$200 from their fund to Work Week.

We will not meet during June, July, and August, but we will, of course, continue our visitations. Since these visits are of a personal nature, we do not make mention of their content in the Messenger, and so our reports in this newsletter may appear short. Be assured, however, that we are doing the work of your church. One of our Deacons commented that if people knew how rewarding this ministry is, that there would be a waiting line of those wishing to be added to the Board.

Linda Kirchhoff, Moderator

Church Life Activities

Randy Camp, Chair

We did not have a meeting this month, as we don't have any immediate up-coming activities. Below is again a listing of some dates you will want to get on your calendar.

Save the Dates:



August 11: Worship at Woodland Park, followed by a picnic. This will be Pastor John's last Sunday. There may be some special things done during the service (plans are still in the works.). Hot dogs and hamburgers provided. And, a softball game may break out afterwards.



August 23: I-Cubs vs. Memphis Redbirds baseball game at Principal Park, with fireworks following the game. We'll carpool from the church parking lot for this game that has a 7:05 p.m. start. The price of a ticket is \$6.00 and is non-refundable. We need at least 25 people to commit in order to purchase the tickets. Look for the signup sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office. *Update: Not many people have signed up—if we don't get at least 25, this activity will be cancelled.*



October 20: Progressive Dinner (begins at 4:00)

2013 Work Week Trip

By the time you receive this edition of the Messenger, we will be about ready to load up the cargo van, jump in the Suburbans, and head east to Benton Harbor. We hope you will keep us in your prayers during this time. Again, we are leaving Saturday morning, July 6 and will be home on Saturday, July 13.

We did find out what work we will be doing on this mission trip. We will mainly be working with the Boys and Girls Club of Benton Harbor. **Monday - Tuesday mornings from 9:30 - 11:30** : Building herb garden boxes for the Benton Harbor Boys and Girls Club at the Boys and Girls Club site. **Monday - Friday mornings from 9:30 - 11:30** : Some people could work at the MOSAIC resale store helping with sorting clothing, books, etc. This work will be done alongside BH residents who are employed there. **Monday - Fridays from 12 noon - 5 p.m.:** Work at the Boys and Girls Club in Benton Harbor assisting in their programming with 350 children. Also during this week, there will be about 30 9-10 year olds doing a special drama workshop that will end up having a performance at the college Mendel Center on Friday. Some with music and theatrical skills may be helping with this.

We will be exploring the dunes of Lake Michigan on Sunday afternoon and evening, after church. On Friday, the 12th, we will be pulling up stakes and going to Chicago to take in a Cubs/Cards game that afternoon. We will then travel to Naperville, IL to spend the night.

Those going will be Larry and Linda Anderson, Sam Cutts, Cole Doerring, Pastor John Duling, Dana Hashman, Jordan Norvell, Peyton Patterson (from 1st Lutheran), Brad Ritter, Megan Ritter, Mickey Van Baale, Josh Ventling, George Wilkening and Josh Zieman (United Presbyterian).

Larry Anderson - 521-1154
Dana Hashman - 521-8820

Linda Anderson - 521-1153
Mickey Van Baale - 521-0549

The following is an excerpt from the conclusion of a book entitled "On God's Side: What Religion Forgets and Politics Never Learned About Serving the Common Good" by Jim Wallis, CEO and editor of Sojourners, a Christian journal. I found it both practical and challenging.

The common good and the quality of our life together will finally be determined by the personal decisions we all make. The "commons" — those places where we come together as neighbors and citizens to share public space — will never be better than the quality of human life, or the human flourishing, in our own lives and households.

Here are ten personal decisions you can make to help foster the common good.

1. If you are a father or a mother, make your children the most important priority in your life and build your other commitments around them. If you are not a parent, look for children who could benefit from your investment in their lives.
2. If you are married, be faithful to your spouse. Demonstrate your commitment with both your fidelity and your love. If you are single, measure your relationships by their integrity, not their usefulness.
3. If you are a person of faith, focus not just on what you believe but on how you act on those beliefs. If you love God, ask God how to love your neighbor.
4. Take the place you live seriously. Make the context of your life and work the parish that you take responsibility for.
5. Seek to develop a vocation and not just a career. Discern your gifts as a child of God, not just your talents, and listen for your calling rather than just looking for opportunities. Remember that your personal good always relates to the common good.
6. Make choices by distinguishing between wants and needs. Choose what is enough, rather than what is possible to get. Replace appetites with values, teach your children the same, and model those values for all who are in your life.
7. Look at the business, company, or organization where you work from an ethical perspective. Ask what its vocation is, too. Challenge whatever is dishonest or exploitative and help your place of work do well by doing good.
8. Ask yourself what in the world today most breaks your heart and offends your sense of justice. Decide to help change that and join with others who are committed to transforming that injustice.
9. Get to know who your political representatives are at both the local and national level. Study their policy decisions and examine their moral compass and public leadership. Make your public convictions and commitments known to them and choose to hold them accountable.
10. Since the difference between events and movements is sacrifice, which is also the true meaning of religion and what makes for social change, ask yourself what is important enough to give your life to and for.

Finding the integral relationship between your own personal good and the common good is your best contribution to our future. And it is the best hope we have for a better life together.

The only improvement I would make on this list is in item 1: "If you are a father or mother and you live with a spouse and children, make your relationship with your partner the first priority and your children a close second."

Larry Anderson

Scholarship Students from Muñoces!

Meet Francisca Araceli Munoz

One of the scholarship students this year from Muñoces is Francisca Araceli Munoz. Francisca is the daughter of Juan Ernesto Munoz and Milagro del Carmen Mejia and the family has always lived in Muñoces. When we first visited the family they had some chickens in a pen which was unusual... usually the chickens roam freely around the house. When asked why the chickens were in pens they explained that there had been a hawk stealing the chickens so they had built the pens. Milagro sells lotions from her home to help with the income from subsistence farming. Although Francisca is 21 years old she is still striving to continue her education so she is going back to high school this year with the help of a scholarship from First Presbyterian. Here is her application letter:

Dear and esteemed Ladies and Gentlemen of the First Presbyterian Church. Receive a friendly greeting wishing all of you are well on this precious day. The reason for writing this letter is to tell you all that I need help in order to be able to study in the National Institute of Berlín because I have lots of economic problems. Because of this I decided to write to you in order that you might help me with a scholarship. I hope that all-powerful God blesses all of you and is with you always.

Thank you for reading this letter.





2013 **BIRTHDAYS & EVENTS**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Worship Times 9:30 am Fellowship 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship	1	2	3 <i>Diane Moles</i>	4 <i>Frank Liebl</i>	5 <i>Natalie Camp</i>	6
			6:20 pm Span IV			Work Week Group leaves
7 <i>David Shannon</i>	8 <i>Jill Brown</i> <i>Ron Funk</i> <i>Kert Schnell</i> <i>Kim Illingsworth</i>	9 <i>Carl Zacheis</i>	10	11	12	13
			5:30 pm Membership 6:20 pm Span IV			Work Week Group returns
14	15	16	17 <i>Ken Johnson</i>	18 <i>Jean Bloomquist</i>	19	20
	6:00 pm Worship & Music		6:20 pm Span IV	6:30 am Early Men's group 9:00 am Men's group		
21 <i>Dana Hashman</i>	22	23 <i>Joyce Moen</i>	24	25 <i>Patrick Cupples</i> <i>Max Worthington</i> <i>Chris Norvell</i>	26	27 <i>Samantha Cutts</i>
			6:20 pm Span IV			
28 <i>Taylor Peska</i> <i>Janet Mount</i> <i>Sherry Reynolds</i>	29 <i>Carol Camp</i> <i>Devin Carson</i> <i>Lavonne Erickson</i>	30	31			
			6:20 pm Span IV			



July



Volunteers

July	7	14	21	28	
Worship Leader <i>Office</i>	Linda Curtis-Stolper	Jane Repp	John Taylor	Kristen Stanton	
Host Elder/Deacon <i>Dave Boyd</i>	George Wilkening	Linda Kirchhoff	Bill Shields	Kristen Stanton	
Greeters <i>Julie Brodersen</i>	Doug Cutts Wilma Manning	Dick & Shirley Mielke	Elsie Nelson Pat Mitchell	Gary & Kay Parsons	
Ushers <i>Office</i>	The Camp Family	Dana Hashman Diane Moles Larry & Linda Anderson	Max & Donna Worthington Wilma Manning	Barb & Steve Roese	
Audio <i>Les Gause</i>	Doug Cutts	Doug Cutts	Doug Cutts	Jay Koenen	
Candlelighter <i>Office</i>	Jordan Norvell	Natalie Camp	Garrett Sturtz	Allie Norvell	
Little Church <i>Virginia Bennett</i>					
Counters <i>Bill Shields</i>	Jonnie Carpenter Gary Haynes	Roger Harmelink Dave Stolper	Kelly Koenen Marshall Critchfield	Joyce Moen Dave Boyd	
Bread Ministry Baker <i>Barb Taylor</i>	Pat Mitchell	Dixie Zegers	Sharon Black	Diane Moles	
Bread Ministry Taker <i>Barb Taylor</i>	Barb Gallagher	Dana Hashman	Nancy Mott	Joyce Moen	
Communion Set up <i>Dave Boyd</i>	Mickey Van Baale Bill Shields				

First Presbyterian Church
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641-792-2790

Return Service Requested

Lectionary —

July, 2013

July 7—7th Sunday after Pentecost

2 Kings 5:1-14; *Ps.* 30; Gal. 6:(1-6) 7-16
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 14—8th Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 7:7-17; *Ps.* 82
Col. 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37

July 21—9th Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 8:1-12; *Ps.* 52
Col. 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42

July 28—10th Sunday after Pentecost

Hos. 1:2-10; *Ps.* 85
Col. 2:6-15 (16-19); Luke 11:1-13

August, 2013

August 4—11th Sunday after Pentecost

Hos. 11:1-11; *Ps.* 107:1-9, 43
Col. 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21

August 11—12th Sunday after Pentecost

Isa. 1:1, 10-20; *Ps.* 50:1-8, 22-23
Heb. 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40

August 18—13th Sunday after Pentecost

Isa. 5:1-7; *Ps.* 80: 1-2, 8-19
Heb. 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56

August 25—14th Sunday after Pentecost

Jer. 1:4-10; *Ps.* 71:1-6
Heb. 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17