



The Grinnell Presbyterian

The monthly newsletter of First Presbyterian Church

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August 2014

Kirsten Klepfer, Pastor

GARDEN OF READIN'.....

The story of the history of Jewish ó Christian relationships is not one we like to tell, but we don't tell it often enough. And even when we do tell it, we tend to let ourselves off the hook by saying we are Christians that don't discriminate against Jews ó that's just not *our* theology.

Well, it might not be our personal theology, but we have to contend with the fact that some of our scripture writers did have, and wrote about prejudices against the Jewish religion. We also have to contend with the fact that throughout Christian history many of those writings have been used to justify anti-Semitism and outright violence against Jews.

And of course, as much as we would like to take the moral high ground as enlightened Christians with a generous heart toward people of other faith traditions, anti-Jewish sentiment continues today in ways we don't even notice or aren't aware of. For example, many of us believe, consciously or unconsciously, that the New Testament is a corrective somehow to the "Old Testament" (even referring to the Hebrew scriptures as the Old Testament betrays a belief that one replaces the other).

All of this was brought to my mind as I read the lectionary scriptures for the summer. Most of the summer the lectionary follows the book of Romans ó Paul's treatise on the Christian faith. For multiple weeks the text deals with Paul's understanding of the Jewish people now that Jesus had come and he had had his dramatic conversion. It's pretty complex stuff, and Paul himself seems to be of about six minds on the matter, but there is no doubt that Paul is concerned for those who have not accepted Christ, because he believes they will not be saved until they do. This concern, we all know, has been used as a springboard for Christians to believe Jews are not saved unless they become Christian.

Too many times I don't know what to do with Paul. Too often that means I just don't deal with him at all. But as I read this, I realized that his writings still fuel a lot of anti-Semitism in Christians, and so maybe we should deal with it head on.

On August 10th and 17th, Rabbi Rob Cabelli will join me in giving the sermon during worship. Rob is the Rabbi at Grinnell College. He and I will have a dialogue of sorts, discussing some ways Christians misunderstand, and at times distort, Judaism ó often due to our (mis)understanding of Jesus and the scriptures. Rob obviously doesn't speak for all Jews, but his responses to Paul are very well researched and very thoughtful, and he yearns for right relationships between people of different faiths. We are blessed to have him join us for a couple weeks.

Each Sunday Rob is here, he and I will both stay after for further conversation if people are interested. I think this will be a great opportunity for us to grown in our faith and increase our ability to be in mutual, generous, and honest relationships with our Jewish brothers and sisters.

Peace,
Pastor Kirsten



GOT HISTORY?

There is a small group of interested historians (aka collectors, archivists, organizer freaks) working on First Presbyterian's collection of old stuff.

Some of these items, dating back to the early twentieth century, will be on display in Fellowship Hall through the month of August

Do you have any F.P.C. memorabilia that might fill in some gaps? Historic photographs are an especially big hole to fill.

There will be instructions with the display if you want to participate.

Gail Greenwald, 236-1542 or sgree@mac.com will answer your questions.



September 7th 9:15 AM

PreK-8th grade

SPIRITUAL ECOLOGY READING GROUP

We will meet to discuss Spiritual Ecology on Sunday August 10 at 7 PM and again on August 24 at 7 PM. Both meetings will be at the church. Plan to also meet once or twice in September.

If these times don't work don't worry; we can see what alternatives are doable.

If anyone wants to get a copy of the book and join us, please let me know. It is not too late!



LET US PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER...

First Presbyterian Church has a committed group of people who spend time each day in prayer for people in our congregation and larger community. They receive requests through our prayer chain, which is organized by our deacons. If you have a prayer request for this group you can email it to deaconsfirstpres@gmail.com or contact Sara McCue by phone at 990-7597.

CHOIR BEGINS ON
AUGUST 24

Choir will begin rehearsing on Sunday, August 24 at 9:15.



There are no auditions, no requirements and no reservations necessary. Everyone is encouraged to join the choir in offering music in our worship services every Sunday. The choir is directed by Lyn Howerzyl and practices from 9:15 to 10:15 on

Sundays mornings in the sanctuary. If you have questions, call the church office 236-6059.

THANK YOU!!

Thank you to all who helped us celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary. We especially thank Loisann Ferguson and our daughters Shelley and Cathy.

David and Linda Cranston

WORSHIP IN AUGUST

August 3—Holy Communion. Lectionary readings: Genesis:32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21.

August 10—Heifer Sunday. Lectionary readings: Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33.

August 17—Food Pantry Sunday. Lectionary readings: Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15: (10-20) 21-38.

August 24—Lectionary readings: Exodus 1:8-2:10; Psalm 124; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 156:13-20..

August 31—Lectionary readings: Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28.

GETTING TO KNOW US: KARLA KRIEGEL

(The "Getting to Know Us" column is a monthly column done by the Communications Committee. Every month someone from the congregation will be featured so that we get to know one another better.)

Karla Kriegel is a hard working woman, at home, at the bank, and for the church. She quietly goes about doing all kinds of good things and you might not even notice her.

Karla grew up around Kellogg, and attended Sully Christian grade school. After two years in Newton, her family moved to Grinnell and she graduated from high school here. 1978 was a big year for Karla, she graduated high school, started working at Grinnell State Bank and married Tom. She and Tom have 4 wonderful children. Lori lives in Des Moines and works for Principal. Lisa lives in Grinnell and works for Baker and Associates. Teresa works at Mercy in Cedar Rapids. Their son Matt is starting his third year at Indian Hills and also takes classes at Buena Vista.

Karla loves to be outside and keeps a beautiful yard including a rock garden. She admits to liking to mow with her feet on the ground, no riders for her. Tom plants a lot of food and Karla can't stand to waste anything so she cans and preserves as much as possible. She notes that she didn't say "I like gardening" instead I say "I garden!" She prefers to take long quiet walks by herself. She loves to bake especially when everyone is home at the same time.

The church is like another family to Karla. She just enjoys working with everyone there. She doesn't ever like to miss anything. One of her favorite things about the service is the music-especially the choir. She enjoys watching the children and chatting with the older folks. She appreciates the range of ages in our group.

When asked what people might not know about her Karla answered that she doesn't care for cell phones, email, spending time on the internet. She refuses to text with her children saying she wants to hear their voices. When her children were young they told their friends they were part Amish, because they didn't have cable or internet.

THANK YOU



Linda Cranston for organizing the annual rummage sale. And thanks to those who helped by putting in many person-hours to help pull it off.

Marta Miller and Crissy Hazlett for helping out with Vacation Bible School and to those who volunteered some time and snack food items.

Dennis Day and Al Ricks for organizing the great all church event.

Roger Bortel for helping someone move when she really needed the help.

Susan McIntyre for finding such a great book for us to read as a church and pulling us together to discuss it.

June Coffee Makers/Cleanup : **Mary and Marv Doty, Carolyn Jacobson, Dave and Linda Cranston and to the Cranstons for providing cake and lunch on their 50th celebration.**

RUMMAGE SALE THANK YOU.

Thanks to everyone who donated and helped with the Rummage Sale and who made purchases.

Special thanks to Russ and Doty Stoker, Barb Erquist, Marta Miller, Marlene Peak, Meredith Breiting, Carol and Bob Weisskopf, Chris Day, Janice Logan, Carey Krull, Al and Donna Ricks, Karla Kriegel, David Isch, Stan and Gail Greenwald. Everyone helped to make another rummage sale a success. **We raised about \$1,200.**

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

	<u>June</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Pledge Income	\$12,231	\$66,821
Budgeted	\$10,000	\$60,000
Total Income	\$14,633	\$73,784
Budgeted	\$10,800	\$64,800
Expenses	\$10,675	\$71,743
Budgeted	\$11,330	\$67,893



CONGRATULATIONS TO AMBER MARTENSON!

The 2014 Marshall County 4-H fair is now a part of history, but Amber Martenson can attest to the fact it was an exciting time for her with five Mini Rex rabbits -- *Chip, Cyclone, Romeo, Juliet, and Dakota* -- she works hard to raise and train all year long. At the rabbit show, Amber received three Grand Champions, three Reserve Grand Champions, two purples and two blues in the regular rabbit categories. Then, she was chosen as the Champion Intermediate Showman. Additionally, Amber had two of her projects selected to go to the State Fair, and she won Reserve Grand Champion and Reserve Overall Showman with her dog Sasha, an Australian terrier. If you ever have the opportunity to see Amber's rabbit Chip run through his agility trail, do so. It is fascinating!

THE CLIMATE MARCH IS ON ITS WAY! WHAT CAN YOU DO?



In the wee hours of Saturday, August 16, breakfast will be served to 40-50 walkers heading toward Washington, D.C. There are various food items that we hope will be donated to help with this breakfast. We are in need of muffins, cinnamon or pecan rolls, fresh fruit (strawberries, cantaloupes, watermelon, honey dew, pineapple, and grapes), and orange juice. We will also accept cash donations in advance to help purchase other ingredients for the casseroles, meat, pancakes and beverages. We are planning food for vegetarians, vegans, and meat lovers.

Please have the fruit cut and ready to be included in a large fruit bowl. All food donations should be brought to the church on Friday, August 15. A signup sheet will be available starting Sunday, July 27, to register your donation.

Questions? Please contact Marta Miller or Donna Ricks who will be preparing and serving this meal. Thank you, in advance, for your generous donations!

August 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 12:00 Lectionary Bible Study	2
3 10:30 Worship Holy Communion 2:00 Turlach Ur	4	5 12:00 Food Recovery Network 1:45 Prayer Time	6 6:30 Worship Committee	7	8 12:00 Lectionary Bible Study	9
10 10:30 Worship Heifer Sunday 2:00 Turlach Ur 7:00 Reading Group	11	12 12:00 Food Recovery Network 1:45 Prayer Time 5:30 Second Mile	13	14	15 12:00 Lectionary Bible Study	16 5:00 AM Breakfast for March for Climate walkers.
17 10:30 Worship Food Pantry Sunday 2:00 Turlach Ur	18	19 12:00 Food Recovery Network 1:45 Prayer Time	20 6:30 Deacons	21	22 12:00 Lectionary Bible Study	23
24 9:15 Choir 10:30 Worship 2:00 Turlach Ur 7:00 Reading Group	25 Newsletter Deadline	26 12:00 Food Recovery Network 1:45 Prayer Time	27	28 10:30 Newsletter Mailing	29 12:00 Lectionary Bible Study	30
31 9:15 Choir 10:30 Worship 2:00 Turlach Ur						



THE GREAT MARCH FOR CLIMATE ACTION HEADS TO GRINNELL

Walking 2,980 miles! Yes, that is what Rev. Bob Cook -- Presbyterian pastor, author, promoter of programs for world hunger, voice of the poor, founder of CROSS ministries -- has committed to do! Cook, along with a thousand others, started their trek in March, 2014, in California and will finish in November in Washington, D.C.

Why are Rev. Cook and others walking? Rev. Bob Cook, who many from this congregation have met after reading his book, *When the Sun Comes Up in the West*, is marching as part of The Great March for Climate Action (also known as the Climate March). Former Iowa lawmaker Ed Fallon wrote, "Since probably 2007, I've identified the climate crisis as the most serious challenge facing our planet, and I've been pondering ways in which I could most effectively help address it." The goal of the March is to change the heart and mind of the American people, our elected leaders and people across the world to act now to address the climate crisis.

Our congregation has been asked to provide a meal as they march through Grinnell. No, we are not feeding a thousand, but 40-50 people. Saturday morning, August 16, has been identified as a time a breakfast will be made available to these walkers.

How can you help? See a companion article elsewhere in this newsletter.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JULY SESSION MEETING

Reports from working groups

Facilities ó Three fire extinguishers have been installed by Sterling Fire and Safety, Marshalltown. Sterling will also service the extinguishers annually. Two carbon monoxide detectors are being installed. S&S Electric has been contacted to replace light bulbs in the sanctuary.

Education ó The book, *Spiritual Ecology Essays*, for the all church read is available for purchase. Vacation Bible School will be July 13 - 17, 2014.

Mission ó Carey Krull will facilitate the Food Recovery Program on Tuesdays in July and Janice Logan will facilitate during the month of August.

Communications ó The picture directory is expected to be completed by mid-September. The directory will be in a loose leaf format. Donations will be accepted to defray costs of the notebooks and in-house printing.

Communion to Homebound Members ó Donna Ricks will assist Pastor Kirsten during the month of July.

Guest Preachers ó Sara McCue will be preaching on Sunday, August 3rd. Rob Cabelli, Grinnell College, will be co-preaching with Pastor Kirsten on Sunday August 10th and Sunday August 17th.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Kirsten and Marta Miller will be attending Synod School at Buena Vista College in Storm Lake July 28 ó August 1.

SUNDAY SERVANTS

AUGUST

- 3^o Liturgist: Rich Thorson
Greeter: Irma Arnaman
Deacon: Jim Ahrens
Ushers : Sue Ahrens, Char Ewan
Coffee: Marie Eisenman
Acolyte: Amber Martenson
Van Driver: Carey Krull
Nursery Volunteer: Marta Miller
Communion Servers: Rich Thorson,
Donna Ricks, John Martenson
Offering counter: Rich Thorson
- 10^o Liturgist: Linda Stoll
Greeter: Krissy Hazlett
Deacon: Janice Logan
Ushers : Mary and Marv Doty
Coffee: Marlene and Ray Peak
Acolyte: Julio Parmley
Van Driver: Norm Schroeder
Nursery Volunteer: Evelyn Freeman
- 17^o Liturgist: Joy Krull
Greeter: Ramona McCaw
Deacon: Sara McCue
Ushers : Janet and Jim Ferguson
Coffee: Marta Miller
Acolyte: Alana Ferguson
Van Driver: John Martenson
Nursery Volunteer: Deb Martenson
- 24^o Liturgist: Saunia Powell
Greeter: Montie and Suzanne Redenius
Deacon: Dennis Day
Ushers : Irma Arnaman and Chris Day
Coffee: John and Susan McIntyre
Acolyte: Zach Nickle
Van Driver: Montie Redenius
Nursery Volunteer: Emily Moore
- 31^o Liturgist: Evelyn Freeman
Greeter: Dallas and Lola Sterk
Deacon: Suzanne Redenius
Ushers : Al and Donna Ricks
Coffee: Donna Winburn
Acolyte: Gillian Ferguson
Van Driver: Carey Krull
Nursery Volunteer: Jill Kaiser
Cake Baker: Krissy Hazlett/Donna Ricks

SEPTEMBER

- 7—Liturgist: Erik Simpson
Greeter: Mary Doty
Deacon: Jim Ahrens
Ushers : Sue Ahrens and Char Ewan
Coffee:
Acolyte: Pete Simpson
Van Driver: Norm Schroeder
Nursery Volunteer: Marta Miller
Communion servers: Erik Simpson,
Susan McIntyre, Tom Moore
Offering counter: John Martenson

BRING THE WORLD TO YOUR HOME

Host families are needed for international students who arrive a few days before the dorms open at Grinnell College. This can be a mutually rewarding experience. The Host Family Program matches families with newly arrived international students. While they encourage families to make arrangements for the student to stay in their home for a few days during orientation, they also welcome families who would like to make friends and provide support for a student during the year, but who are unable to host the student in their home. To volunteer or for more information, call the Office of International Student Services, 269-3703. Read about the program and complete the on-line *Family Participation Form* today!
<http://www.grinnell.edu/offices/studentaffairs/oiss/services/hostfamilyprogram/>



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 2^oSue Keenan
5^oSheryl Parmley, Emily Sortor
6^oMartin Stuhr-Rommereim
9^oSue Ahrens
22-Kris DeWild
24-Katie Hoisington
25-Dennis Day
29-Karen Phillips
30-Suzanne Nekola

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Return Service Requested