



The Grinnell Presbyterian

The monthly newsletter of First Presbyterian Church

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October 2014

Kirsten Klepfer, Pastor

GARDEN OF READIN'...

My grandfather was incredibly handy. He was one of those people. I know some of you are like him; in fact the church has often benefitted from the skilled handiwork of people in our congregation. My grandfather liked projects, and he always seemed to know just what to do. It was fascinating to me.

My dad? Well, not so much. That gene didn't get passed on. And sadly, it's apparently not the kind of gene that skips a generation either. I am woefully inept at all things handy.

My cellar doors needed painting. There was really no getting around it. And you just can't, if you want to maintain any sense of self worth, hire someone to paint two doors. So, finally, I decided to tackle the project.

I figured this was an easy one. In fact, I started to feel a little excited. It would be so fun, so satisfying, and really, pretty darn easy. I went and got paint and a brush (that's right, I did not own a paint brush). I figured I would squat by the doors and just paint away until they were white as the driven snow.

Of course, this is the problem for me. Every handy task has far more steps (and needs far more tools) than I originally think it will. Taking the doors off (that went well), scraping (new tool; tedious; don't like this), sanding (new tool; tedious; don't like this), one coat (now we're getting somewhere), two coats (seriously?), putting the doors back on (for some reason that's way harder than taking them off). This is one of the easiest jobs there is, and yet I am almost undone by how many steps there are before you get the satisfaction of a job well done (or done, in my case).

As I was putting on the second coat, I was thinking about how this is similar to the life of faith. It should be pretty easy, right? Just do the right thing as best you can as often as you can, and we all know what the right thing is. Well, like any project, there are more steps and tools required ó steps we don't always think about.

The Christian path is not always clear, in no small part because it is often counter-cultural. We do need to pay attention to the steps of our faith in order to be prepared to be faithful when we have to go against the tide. Prayer, worship, bible study, conversation, care for each other, volunteer work, and more are all part of the òworkö of the faith project. Sometimes these require tools we don't yet have. Some of these can be hard, some easy, some tedious, and some feel pointless at times. Yet without them, the project will suffer or fail altogether.

Of course the difference between the faith project and my cellar doors is that we rarely get that satisfaction of being done. The work of faith is never ending. At the same time I would suggest that there are moments along the way of incredible joy and profound connection to the Divine. We can savor these as moments like the newly white doors on my cellar. Something about our work of faith has come to fruition, and for that we can be grateful ó grateful for God's work in our lives, and grateful for a creation and community that fosters and nurtures the divine image in ourselves.

Enjoy your projectsí all of them. And I'll see you in church for all the little steps of faith along the way.

Peace,

PET BLESSING

In honor of St. Francis of Assisi day (he was a saint who was particularly connected to animals), we will be joining other Grinnell churches in a pet blessing on October 12th.

At 3:00 you are invited to gather in the gazebo in Central Park. Bring your pet ó and we have the widest definition of pet as you can imagine: Horses, sheep, dogs, lizards, ant farms, you name it. Pets are an important part of our lives. They provide companionship, unconditional love, and connect us to a part of creation that is not human-centric. They are, in short, wonderful gifts from God.

The blessing will include a short liturgy, and the pastors will then provide individual (brief) blessings for each animal.

In addition, P.A.L.S will be there with information about what they do, volunteer needs, and some animals for adoption. We are all invited to bring items to donate to support the work they do (specific list coming).

FALL ROADSIDE CLEAN-UP

Our Fall roadside clean-up sponsored by our church will be sometime in October. Details and times will be listed in the Sunday bulletin.

PEANUT BUTTER AND SHOES FOR HAITI

Susie Sontag is coordinating another collection of shoes and peanut butter for Haiti. The collection will begin in September and continue through the middle of October, with a collection box in the Fellowship Hall. Please buy peanut butter with at least one year to the expiration date. Thank you.

PRESBYTEMBERFEST THIS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Please be reminded of the Presbyterfest this **Sunday, September 28**. It will be a festive way to celebrate autumn with your church family. It is an all church picnic, sponsored by the Christian Education Committee. It is an afternoon and evening of joy, marked by food, fellowship, and fun! The event will take place at the Sugar Creek Preserve. If you need directions, contact the church office.

The picnic menu includes hamburgers, brats, veggie burgers, buns & condiments, sãmore, lemonade and iced tea (provided). You are invited to bring other picnic items to share. The evening will conclude by 6:30 p.m., with a campfire style worship, led by Pastor Kirsten. If you need a ride to Presbyterfest, please call the church office or Al Ricks (319)269-3475.

PEACEMAKING SUNDAY: OCTOBER 5TH

On October 5th, our congregation will celebrate Peacemaking. This is a celebration of Presbyterian Churches across the nation.

On that Sunday, we will collect the Peacemaking offering. Every year that offering is divided three ways: 50% goes to the national Peacemaking program of the Presbyterian Church; 25% goes to our Presbytery and Synod to support their missions; and 25% stays in our congregation for us to disperse in whatever way we believe best serves peace in our local community.



THANK YOU Karla Kriegel, Mary and Marv Doty, Norm and Jo Schroeder, Montie

Redenius, Gail and Stan Greenwald, Jim and Sue Ahrens for delivering Meals on Wheels.

Marv Doty for his time spent beautifying the north side of the church property. Marvin spent time weeding along highway 6 (risking life and limb, if you ask me).

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

	<u>August</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Pledge Income	\$ 10,925	\$86,406
Budgeted	\$ 10,000	\$80,000
Total Income	\$11,902	\$94,938
Budgeted	\$10,800	\$86,400
Expenses	\$10,848	\$93,383
Budgeted	\$11,330	\$90,644

WORSHIP IN OCTOBER

October 5—World Communion Sunday. Lectionary readings: Exodus 20:1-4,19-20; Psalm 19; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46.

October 12—Heifer Sunday. Lectionary readings: Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14.

October 19—Third Sunday Potluck, Food Pantry Sunday. Lectionary readings: Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22.

October 26—Birthday Sunday. Lectionary readings: Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46.

NEW ADDRESSES

Chris and Dennis Day: 734 16th Avenue #2
 Cell Phone: Chris 641-485-6180
 Dennis 641-485-6118

Ed and Karen Phillips: 603 High Street

GETTING TO KNOW US:

MARIE EISENMAN

Marie spends half of the year in Scottsdale and half in Grinnell. When she is in Grinnell, she worships with us almost every week.

Marie was born and raised in north east Iowa. Her father was a Norwegian immigrant. He came to Iowa to visit relatives and ended up staying due to the onset of World War I. Marie grew up on the family farm and attended a one room school until the 7th grade. Her last year, there were only 4 students and Marie was the only 7th grader. Marie remembers her father farming with horses. She learned at an early age to care for the horses and help harness them to the farm equipment.

Marie graduated from Upper Iowa and taught school in northeast Iowa, Missouri, and Coralville. Marie moved to Grinnell in 1958 when her then husband accepted a job at Grinnell College. She worked for Ramsey Weeks Real Estate for many years. Marie was active in the community, serving on the Grinnell City Council for several years. She joined First Pres in 1983.

Marie married Al Eisenman in 1989. Al was a member of the UCC church so they alternated between First Presbyterian and the UCC church. Marie and Al spent 6 months of the year in Scottsdale, Arizona, where she still goes each fall. Al died in 2011. Marie has two daughters, one of whom lives in Scottsdale. She has 4 granddaughters and 2 great granddaughters. She also has one great grandson. In addition she has several step children one of whom lives in Grinnell. She also has 2 step sons, 7 step grandchildren, and 3 step great grandchildren.

October 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 12:00 Food Recovery Network	2 12:00 Food Recovery Network	3	4
5 9:15 Choir, Sunday School 10:30 Worship Holy Communion 2:00 Turlach Ur 5:00 Democrat Soup Supper	6	7 12:00 Food Recovery Network 4:30 Prayer Time	8 12:00 Food Recovery Network 6:30 Session	9 12:00 Food Recovery Network	10 12:00 Lectionary Bible Study	11
12 9:15 Choir, Sunday School 10:30 Worship Heifer Sunday 12:00 College Student Lunch at Phillips 2:00 Turlach Ur	13	14 12:00 Food Recovery Network 4:30 Prayer Time 5:30 Second Mile	15 12:00 Food Recovery Network 6:30 Deacons	16 12:00 Food Recovery Network 5:30 Food Recovery Network Task Force	17 12:00 Lectionary Bible Study	18
19 9:15 Choir, Sunday School 10:30 Worship 2:00 Turlach Ur Third Sunday Potluck/Food Pantry Sunday 7:00 Book Group	20 Newsletter deadline	21 12:00 Food Recovery Network 4:30 Prayer Time	22 12:00 Food Recovery Network	23 10:30 Newsletter Mailing 12:00 Food Recovery Network	24 12:00 Lectionary Bible Study	25
26 9:15 Choir, Sunday School 10:30 Worship Birthday Sunday 2:00 Turlach Ur	27	28 12:00 Food Recovery Network 4:30 Prayer Time	29 12:00 Food Recovery Network	30 12:00 Food Recovery Network	31 12:00 Lectionary Bible Study	

SUNDAY SERVANTS

OCTOBER

- 5^o Liturgist: Donna Ricks
Greeter: Chrissy Hazlett
Deacon: Linda Stoll
Ushers: Phil McCune, Tom Moore
Coffee: Karla Kriegel
Acolyte: Damien Nickle
Van Driver: Carey Krull
Nursery Volunteer: Deb Martenson
Communion Servers: Donna Ricks,
Karen Phillips, Marta Miller
Offering Counter: Karen Phillips
- 12^o Liturgist: Darwin Kinne
Greeter: Ramona McCaw
Deacon: Carey Krull
Ushers: Joy Krull, Rich Thorson
Coffee: Doty and Russ Stoker
Acolyte: Julio Parmley
Van Driver: Montie Redenius
Nursery Volunteer: Emily Moore
- 19^o Liturgist: Jim Ahrens
Greeter: Irma Arnaman
Deacon: Janice Logan
Ushers: Al and Donna Ricks
Coffee/Potluck: Jim and Sue Ahrens;
Chris and Dennis Day; Marlene and Ray
Peak
Acolyte: Pete Simpson
Van Driver: Norm Schroeder
Nursery Volunteer: Marta Miller
- 26^o Liturgist: Ed Phillips
Greeters: Janet and Jim Ferguson
Deacon: Linda Stoll
Ushers: Phil McCune, Art Heimann
Coffee: Evelyn Freeman
Acolyte: Lydia Klepfer
Van Driver: Carey Krull
Nursery Volunteer: Jill Kaiser
Cake Baker: Redenius

NOVEMBER

- 2^o Liturgist: John Martenson
Greeter: Saunia Powell
Deacon: Carey Krull
Ushers: Mary and Marv Doty
Coffee: Char Ewan
Acolyte: Zach Nickle
Van Driver: Montie Redenius
Nursery Volunteer: Sue Ahrens
Communion Servers: John Martenson,
Marta Miller, Linda Cranston
Offering Counter: Marta Miller

SPIRITUAL ECOLOGY READING GROUP

The spiritual ecology reading group will meet on **October 19** at 7 pm at the church. We will discuss the last four essays. At that time we will also discuss the future of the group and if we want to keep going to discuss other books.

Everyone is invited even if you have not read the book. We welcome all who wish to discuss our relationship to the earth as spiritual people.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



- 1-Jeremy McIlrath
4^oKirsten Klepfer, Helen Stuhr-Rommereim
5^oRay Peak, Paul Parmley, Brenda McIlrath
12^oSuzanne Redenius
15^oMarie Allbee, Joyce Shook, Roger Bortell
16-Graeme McCue
17-Bill Bennett
24-Russ Stoker
27-Mary Doty
29-Gail Greenwald
31-Bonnie rutherford

SUMMARY OF SEPTEMBER SESSION MEETING

Midyear Check-in

After discussion, the current Session members along with Pastor Kirsten decided that the January retreat for new Session members should be a celebration of accomplishments and an opportunity to provide information to new session members. Further planning will be held at the October meeting.

Reports from working groups

Personnel ó Tom Moore shared the committee will begin its work on staff evaluations and salary increases in October.

Finance ó Erik Simpson indicated the committee is starting the 2015 budget process.

Facilities ó Donna Ricks reported the new kitchen countertops are a gift from the Bob Baumann memorial funds as well as other memorial funds. A look at other work to be done in the kitchen and library will be on a Facilities Committee agenda.

Education ó Susan McIntyre and Marta Miller shared Sunday School started on September 7 with many thanks to Marta for her work in organizing. The Presbyter Fest will be held on Sunday, September 28, at the Sugar Creek Nature Center. Phil McCune will provide nature walks followed by a potluck dinner.

Formal confirmation class will begin in January and continue through Easter.

Mission ó Susan McIntyre told us additional volunteers are needed for the FRN.

Communications ó Donna Ricks announced the Picture Directory would be available in October.

New Business

Food Network Recovery ó Representatives from MICA, the college, and our church will meet to look at the past of FRN and plan for the future.

Communion to Homebound Members – Elders Donna Ricks and Tom Moore assisted Pastor Kirsten with communion during August and September.

Memorial Funds ó Session voted to allocate additional memorial money for the new kitchen counter tops.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Kirsten is interim moderator for the Sigourney Presbyterian Church which only meets a few times each year.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Jill Kaiser, Mary Anne Nickle, and Janet Carl for making the coffee/lemonade and cleaning up. Thank you, too, to Marlene and Ray Peak, Chris and Dennis Day, and Jim and Sue Ahrens for taking care of the third Sunday potluck and to Janice Logan for the birthday cake.

GRINNELL COLLEGE STUDENTS

Grinnell College students are invited for lunch and conversation, Sunday, October 12 immediately following the morning worship service. The lunch will be held at the home of Ed and Karen Phillips, 603 High Street. Rides will be available. Feel free to invite a friend. Students will receive more information by email the week before the event.



CROP WALK OCTOBER 5TH

Through Church World Service's annual Crop Walk, local communities all over the United States get involved in God's program of passion and compassion.

Join the annual Grinnell Crop Walk on Sunday, October 5th. There will be a walking contingent from our congregation ó and the bigger the better! You can also participate by pledging money to support one of our walkers. See the signup sheet in fellowship hall. **Registration is at 1:30p.m.; the walk starts at 2:00.**

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

Sunday, October 12, we will dedicate our pledges for 2015. If you did not receive a stewardship letter with a pledge card to fill out, please contact the office at 236-6059 and we will get one to you. Please bring the pledge cards to worship October 12 for the dedication.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS

The Heart and Hands Health Center of Des Moines is the organization that we are helping this Fall. They are a Health Care Center located at Highland Park Presbyterian Church in Des Moines. The health center provides access to health care services óparticularly for pregnant women and small children.

They are in need of baby items such as: diapers, small baby sleepers, undershirts and socks, and health items such as lotions, diaper rash ointment and baby and children's Tylenol.

The items will be collected in September and October and taken to Des Moines at the end of October.

Let us make this a whole church project and help the Heart and Hands Health Center.

SOMETHING NEW IS COMING TO THE CHURCH KITCHEN

Within the next few weeks new counter tops will be installed in the church kitchen. These are given from the memorials for Bob Baumann and the memorial fund account. Miriam said Bob always enjoyed the kitchen, so this was a fitting gift to the church. Thank you to Miriam and her family.

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Return Service Requested