

The Grinnell Presbyterian



The monthly newsletter of First Presbyterian Church

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November 2014

Kirsten Klepfer, Pastor

GARDEN OF READIN'...

ØI have so much to be thankful for!º How many times have you, or someone you know, said this? I certainly have. I can easily put together a long, long list of things I am thankful for: family, church, food on my table, roof over my head, living in a great community, friends, security, and on, and on, and on. But whom am I thanking?

Surely the ørightº answer is God. God has provided this amazing creation, blessed us with bounty, and given us minds, souls, and hearts that we might enjoy it. Thank you God!

Butº I always feel a little bit uneasy thanking God for the good things in my life. It feels as if I'm saying, øThank you for giving *me* a good family, violence free living, and enough food.º Me. Does God give me these things? Or, the corollary (and the real problem) is: Does God give me these things but not others? How can I be thankful to God for giving me enough food when so many starve? What does that say about God?

My thankfulness for Godºs generosity in creation should probably convict as well as comfort. God is generous, but I have so much because I am privileged and live on the backs of those who suffer. Godºs generosity is not matched by mine, which is, at least in part, why I have so much. And why others have so little.

I'm oversimplifying, of course. But I still think I should be cautious about what I am thanking God for.

I am a fan of Thanksgiving. I truly am. Reflecting on, and sharing, the things in our lives that bring us joy, wholeness, health, hope, peace is goodº .maybe even essential for a healthy spiritual life. Giving thanks does, I think, orient us toward what God has given us in creation. Look around, we say, and see all that is good. Yes!

But this Thanksgiving, as we gather to give thanks with those we love, maybe we can hold the paradox of thankfulness for what God has given all of creation and awareness that our thanksgiving for what God has given *me* is born of having more by virtue of privilege.

As people born to privilege, our thanksgiving should probably be laced with a touch of lament. What we can be grateful for are those times when our generosity reflects, at least a little bit, Godºs generosity so that those who get the short end of the stick can enjoy what we do. Thanks be to God.

Peace,

Pastor Kirsten

SAVE THE DATE ó CHURCH NEW YEARöS EVE PARTY



Plans are being made for a shared celebration of the new Christian year that begins on Sunday, November 30, the first Sunday in Advent. Last year's celebration of a óNew Yearö party shared by St. Johnös Lutheran, St. Paulös Episcopal, and First Presbyterian Churches was enjoyed by a good number of people. Planning for a similar event is now underway. More details will be announced at worship and in next monthös newsletter. But, be sure to mark your calendar now for **Saturday, November 29**, so that you can enjoy the festivity and fellowship of New (Church) Yearös Eve!

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE OCTOBER SESSION MEETING

Committee Reflections

Pastor Kirsten asked what is important for the session to know about the committees as we move forward into next year. Committee chairs shared that information.

Reports from Working Groups

Personnel óThe committee has begun the staff evaluation process.

Facilities óS & S Electric will be replacing various sanctuary lights. As reported in last monthös newsletter, new counter tops in memory of Bob Baumann will be installed by L and L from Newton.

Worship óAll Saints Day will incorporate the basket with ribbons and a new idea of tea lights to be lit by individuals or families in memory of a ósaintö in their lives. Samples of the contents of the childrenös worship bags were displayed. A \$300 anonymous donation designated for use with youth or children will be used to replenish the bags.

Education óPresbytember Fest was a success. The middle and upper groups of Sunday school have been merged into one group with Marta as the teacher. We have joined with the UCC church in a youth group for grades 5-8. The group meets on Wednesday nights from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Dinner and an activity are included.

Mission ó We will be called upon for a Community Meal either in January or February.

Communications ó The picture directory is being proofed. Production will follow.

Finance óCurrently we pledge \$10,000 to missions -- \$4,000 goes to GA Mission, \$1,900 to Synod Mission and \$4,100 to Presbytery mission. \$10,000 was again approved to mission giving for 2015 as currently allocated.

Unfinished Business

A request has been for the use of Fellowship Hall on the third Tuesday of the months November-April and the first and third Tuesday of the months May-October to distribute products to Local Food Source customers. Session approved this request on a trial basis of six months.

New Business

Approvals made by Session:

*Harvest Dinner will be held November 23 hosted by the Deacons. This will replace the third Sunday potluck meal.

*A wedding for non-members will be held on March 28, 2015.

*Peacemaking Offering will go to MICA for milk vouchers.

*Elder Susan McIntyre will be commissioner to represent First Presbyterian Church at the November 11 Presbytery meeting in Clive, IA.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Kirsten gave an update on the Cottage Grove Mission Center. The Covenant Council was formed in late August and has recently begun to meet. At this time there is no approved funding. The Covenant Council for the Mission Center has submitted a budget request for 2015 to the Presbytery Budget and Finance Committee for approval. This report was troubling to the session as there hasnöt been any communication since the special Presbytery meeting in June. Session is firm in not releasing mission giving funds until more information about Presbyteryös 2015 budget is known.

WHAT IS CHURCH? A (MINI!) STUDY OF DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

For the four weeks of Advent, Pastor Kirsten will be teaching a class that draws on the theology, ethics, and ecclesiology (study of church) of Dietrich Bonhoeffer to begin a conversation about First Presbyterian Church. How do we understand ourselves as a church? What does it mean to be church in our particular world today? Where might God be calling us, and what would it take to respond?

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a pastor in Germany during the rise of Hitler, was frustrated with the institutional church of his day. It was so easily coopted by the Nazi party, and for him that was due, at least in part, to a lack of robust and rigorous theology. We live in a very different time, but that doesn't let us off the hook in terms of looking at what we believe and what that means for who we are in the world.

The class will meet every Monday evening during Advent at 7 p.m. That is Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22.

OCTOBER THANK YOUS TO ...

- í Karla Kriegel, Evelyn Freeman, and Jim Ahrens for being fellowship time coffee hosts and doing the clean-up
- í Marlene and Ray Peak for hosting third Sunday pot-luck with Emily and Tom Moore and Janice Logan helping with clean up
- í Karla Kriegel for providing birthday cake.
- í ..all those who helped with the pews before and after the funeral.

Kids Against Hunger

The next packaging event for Kids Against Hunger will be November 2. Sign-up sheets will be in fellowship hall in early November. If you cannot package but wish to support by making a donation, make out a check to First Presbyterian and put "Kids Against Hunger" in the memo line. Contributions can also be made to the Greater Poweshiek Community Foundation, again using "Kids Against Hunger" in the memo line. Thank you.

PICTURE DIRECTORY UPDATE

Thank you to each who posed for a picture, helped on a Sunday morning with bookkeeping tasks, offered office support, or moral support. The picture directory is getting closer and closer to be delivered into your hands! When you receive your directory, if you wish to make a donation to defray costs of the notebook, printing, and paper, you may do so.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS

Our Thank Offering will be collected on Sunday, November 30. The Thank Offering helps provide clean water, alleviate homelessness, provides educational opportunities, promotes health and relieves pain, plus improves the lives of women and children throughout the world.

Thanks to all who donated baby items for the clinic in Des Moines. We will be delivering them soon.

November 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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						1
2 9:15 Choir, Sunday School 10:30 Worship Holy Communion 2:00 Turlach Ur	3	4 12:00 Food Recovery Network 4:30 Prayer Time	5 12:00 Food Recovery Network	6 12:00 Food Recovery Network	7 12:00 Lectionary Bible Study	8
9 9:15 Choir, Sunday School 10:30 Worship Heifer Sunday 12:00 College Student Lunch 2:00 Turlach Ur	10	11 12:00 Food Recovery Network 4:30 Prayer Time 5:30 Second Mile	12 12:00 Food Recovery Network 6:30 Session	13 12:00 Food Recovery Network	14 12:00 Lectionary Bible Study	15 Turlach Ur All Day Concert in evening.
16 9:15 Choir, Sunday School 10:30 Worship 2:00 Turlach Ur	17	18 12:00 Food Recovery Network 4:30 Prayer Time	19 12:00 Food Recovery Network 6:30 Deacons	20 12:00 Food Recovery Network	21 12:00 Lectionary Bible Study	22
23 9:15 Choir, Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12:00 Harvest Dinner 2:00 Turlach Ur	24 Newsletter Deadline	25 12:00 Food Recovery Network 4:30 Prayer Time	26 10:30 Newsletter Mailing 12:00 Food Recovery Network	27 Thanksgiving	28 12:00 Lectionary Bible Study	29 New Year's Eve Party
30 9:15 Choir, Sunday School 10:30 Worship 2:00 Turlach Ur						

SUNDAY SERVANTS

November

- 26 Liturgist: Jim Ahrens
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: Jim Ahrens
Marta Miller, Linda Cranston
Offering Counter: Marta Miller
- 96 Liturgist: Char Ewan
Greeters: Denise and Richard Creps
Deacon: Dennis Day
Ushers: Tom and Emily Moore
Coffee: Debbie Schade
Acolyte: Alana Ferguson
Van Driver: Carey Krull
Nursery Volunteer: Marta Miller
- 166 Liturgist: Donna Winburn
Greeters: Dallas and Lola Sterk
Deacon: Kendall Nickle
Ushers: Ed and Karen Phillips
Coffee: Janice Logan
Acolyte: Pete Simpson
Van Driver: Norm Schroeder
Nursery Volunteer: Jill Kaiser
- 236 Liturgist: Tom Moore
Greeter: Chrissy Hazlett
Deacon: Dennis Day
Ushers: Mary and Marv Doty
Coffee: Deacons
Acolyte: Lydia Klepfer
Van Driver: Montie Redenius
Nursery Volunteer: Emily Moore
- 306 Liturgist: Linda Stoll
Greeters: Bob ad Carol Weisskopf
Deacon: Sara McCue
Ushers: Janet and Jim Ferguson
Coffee: Kendall Nickle
Acolyte: Julio Parmley
Van Driver: Carey Krull
Nursery Volunteer: Evelyn Freeman
Cake Baker: Redenius

December

- 76 Liturgist: Karen Phillips
Greeter: Ramona McCaw
Deacon: Jim Ahrens
Ushers: Gail and Stan Greenwald
Coffee: Phillips
Acolyte: Damien Nickle
Van Driver: Norm Schroeder
Nursery Volunteer: Sue Ahrens
Communion Servers: Karen Phillips,
Marta Miller, Linda Cranston
Offering Counter: Linda Cranston



HARVEST DINNER

NOVEMBER 23RD

Celebrate the bounty of God on November 23 by sharing in our harvest dinner meal sponsored by the Deacons after worship. Turkey and gravy will be provided. Sign up sheets will be available for potatoes, vegetables, salads and desserts. There will be more than enough food so bring a friend who might need to see evidence of the goodness and generosity of God and God's people. (**Please note, there will be no Third Sunday Potluck in November. This event will take its place.**)

STEWARSHIP UPDATE

	<u>September</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Pledge Income	\$ 8,900	\$95,306
Budgeted	\$10,000	\$90,000
Total Income	\$ 9,618	\$104,556
Budgeted	\$10,800	\$ 97,200
Expenses	\$ 9,370	\$102,753
Budgeted	\$11,330	\$101,974

HELP NEEDED!

As the Presbytery moves forward with its plans to create the Cottage Grove Mission Center, there are things we all can do to help that along.

If you remember, the Presbytery voted to take the Cottage Grove church and turn it into a locus for many mission programs in the Des Moines area. The Presbytery will be moving their offices there, and then other groups will set up shop in the building.

In order to get the building ready for that, volunteers are needed for a number of different things:

First, there is a general (interior) clean up day on November 22. It will be all day; folks can come when they can. In the words of the people in charge of this, they need östrong and persevering folks.ö

They also have some more specific needs. They have a lot of work to do around the building which entails cutting all of the bushes back to 2öhigh, cutting the two big trees down in front of the church, and applying Round-Up to the weeds. They also need to remove several volunteer ötreesö that are really overgrown weeds that are mixed in with the bushes. They need people who might have access to the equipment necessary for all this, though they will also probably bring in a landscaping company at some point. All of this could be done on an as-scheduled basis.

If you have any questions or would be interested in helping in any way, let Pastor Kirsten know.



Al Ricks and Phil McCune
for organizing our second annual Presbyterfest.
Thanks as well to **all those who helped out and brought food**. What a glorious evening!

Miriam Baumann for spearheading the kitchen counters project. They are lovely. Thanks also to **Al and Donna Ricks, Gail Greenwald, Roger Bortell, and Session members** for their time cleaning out, cleaning up, and putting back when the counters were installed. I know there were others who helped, but I donöt have names, but thanks to them too.

All those who walked for CROP this year: **Marta Miller, Chrissy Hazlette, Slane and Dan McCue, Karla Kriegel, Lydia Klepfer**. Our church raised \$1,030, and the Grinnell community raised a total of \$5,557.

Gail Greenwald and Janice Logan for heading up the team that offered refreshments and hospitality for Dan Ogataös family after his memorial service.

WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER

November 2—Communion Sunday. Lectionary readings: Joshua 3:7-17; Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37; 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12.

November 9—Heifer Sunday. Lectionary readings: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78:1-7; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13.

November 16—Lectionary readings: Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30.

November 23—Harvest Sunday Dinner. Lectionary readings: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46.

November 30—Birthday Sunday. Lectionary readings: Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 89:1-7, 17-19, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:24-37.

Food Pantry Sunday

Our local food pantry, MICA, is running short of food these days. Donöt forget that we collect canned and boxed food on the third Sunday of every month. Just bring what you have to the church and weöll get it to MICA.

Another idea: When you are headed to the grocery store, give MICA a call to see what they currently need. Just drop the food by the MICA office on your way home.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



3-Ryan Creps
6-Norm Schroeder
8-Sara Day-Brewer
13-Bob Weisskopf
21-Ashlyn Imhoff
26-Erik Simpson
28-Barbare Erquist
29-Lowell McClure

TIPS FOR LITURGISTS – Using the Microphone

After discussion at the October Session meeting about our church's sound system and if it was working properly, those who serve as liturgists thought it would be a good idea to do a microphone sound check on the Sunday we are scheduled to speak. This sound check would determine vocal volume and placement of the microphone for each individual liturgist and it would assure that it was plugged in and turned on.

Sometimes the microphone is quite intimidating for a speaker, so a few simple guidelines might help all of us as we approach the lectern to lead worship.

Point the microphone at your mouth or move the microphone if needed.

Position yourself about 6-10 inches away from the microphone whenever speaking.

Keep your head angled toward the microphone if you move around as you speak.

Because members of the choir are usually present as liturgists arrive at the church, Chris Day, Karen Phillips, or Donna Ricks have volunteered to be your listener for the sound check prior to worship.

Thank you for saying "YES" when you have been asked to be a liturgist, and thank you for volunteering to do so as well.



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Return Service Requested