



The Grinnell Presbyterian

The monthly newsletter of First Presbyterian Church

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May 2015

Kirsten Klepfer, Pastor

GARDEN OF READIN'...

I just returned from my week of continuing ed. These weeks are always helpful to me both in having time to delve deep into my faith, my beliefs, and my life, and thinking in concrete ways about how to take what I learn and apply it to my work and life. It was a great week, and I look forward to sharing more with those who are interested.

As life would have it, I drove to the retreat in St. Louis it's about a five hour drive. I'm the type of person that loves long drives. It's like time suspended & I feel lifted out of the "regular" world into a cosmic "pause."

One of the things I do when I drive alone long distances is indulge in things that no one else in my life would enjoy (don't get me wrong; I love the soundtrack to Annie as much as the next guy, but I get it already after today comes "Tomorrow"). On this trip I listened to part of the Modern Scholar series on cd. This particular series covered Louis XIV, Voltaire, Hume, Kant, Rousseau, The Federalist Papers. It actually covered more, but that was enough to get me there and back.

I learned two things listening to these lectures: First, I can never again do formal schooling (I returned on Friday, it is Monday, and what I can remember would fit in a ladle). Second, I was reminded of something I so often forget; the ideas and beliefs of people really matter. That looks so silly when I see it on the paper & of course they do. But when I look around at our culture, I see an emphasis on utilitarianism, and education that can be put to practical use, and overly simplistic thinking.

Many of these folks I heard about were "only" academics or writers or philosophers. Sometimes we think those folks are off somewhere reading and writing and what they do doesn't affect the rest of us.

Yet these were people who died for what they believed, people who changed the course of human history because of their thoughts and ideas & for good or for bad. I heard about people who thought human beings were blank slates when we are born, and then about people who believed we come as a mix of good and bad. Perhaps not a big distinction, we think. But the implications of those ideas affected how governments ruled, how people saw themselves, even how our country was founded.

What we believe matters & not just figuring out if we're "right" or not. What we believe affects how we see ourselves, others, our purpose. The people the lectures talked about were debating the "big" ideas & the biggest, really. That's part of what we're about as well & people of faith. We need to be asking the biggest questions & we need to take seriously that we live in a complex world that has no easy answers, but that desperately needs voices of wisdom and compassion. We need to remember thoughts have power & not always for the good.

There is no minimum intelligence required. There is no special training. The requirements are earnestness and honesty & community (in my humble opinion). We learn from each other, and we are inspired by one another's commitment to seeking truth.

Who or what is God? What is the nature of human beings? How should we relate to one another in all our brokenness? These are not just academic questions; they are the questions that can affect the course of human history. They affect how we live, love, vote, act.

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I truly hope that our church is a place where all feel invited to explore some of the most complicated, important questions that face us as human beings. And I pray that the spirit moves among us as we do, bringing us to ever greater understanding and compassion for our neighbors, our enemies, and our creation.

Peace,
Pastor Kirsten

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS

A **BIG THANK YOU** to all who furnished muffins and made a donation for the ðM&Mö Sunday. We have \$589 to send in for the medical kits.

RUMMAGE SALE JULY 11



As you are doing your spring cleaning, consider items to donate to the rummage sale. After Sunday School is done for the spring, you can start bringing items for the sale to the large Sunday School room. More details later.
Thank you, Linda Cranston.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Summer VBS Nights!

Our Summer Vacation Bible School is looking a lot different this year, and it's going to be AWESOME! Every Wednesday throughout the month of July, we will gather for VBS Nights. All ages are welcome and encouraged to come.

July 1st: Crafty-Crafty

July 8th: Performing Arts

July 15th: Playing with Food

July 22nd: Experiments of the Bible

July 29th: Family Game Night & Cookout

Each night will have a special theme, Bible verse, and activities. There will be fun for all ages!

Spring
Cleaning



LET'S HAVE A CLEANING PARTY, SO . . . WEAR WORK CLOTHES TO WORSHIP!

Yes, that's right! **On Sunday, May 3**, please wear work clothes to worship as a church cleaning day is planned. We will do some outdoor work (if the weather permits) and clean inside. The church's kitchen will be cleaned on another day. (See Irma for this date).

A sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Room to indicate your preference of what to clean so you can bring the equipment needed. There will be jobs for all ages!

If you wish, bring a sack lunch to enjoy before we work. Beverage will be provided. Questions? See Irma Arnaman or Russ Stoker.

Would you like a **commemorative church plate?** While cleaning the church kitchen several plates were discovered. They are from the 75th anniversary of the church, 1902-1977, and feature a picture of the old church. They are now on one of the tables in Fellowship Hall for you to see. If you would like to have one of these, please see Janice Logan.



[HTTP://FPCGRINNELL.YOLASITE.COM/](http://fpcgrinnell.yolasite.com/)

If you have a computer with internet access, please check out the church's website. Updated weekly the site carries information about Worship, Christian Education, Presbyterian Women, Missions, Staff, and our College Group. Additionally, there is a picture gallery with new pictures frequently added. Comments or suggestions can be shared with Donna Ricks, web master.

Give it a try. Here's the address:

<http://fpcgrinnell.yolasite.com/>

SUNDAY SERVANTS

May

3ô Liturgist: Karen Phillips
Greeter: Art Heimann
Deacon: Tom Moore
Ushers: Emily Moore, Rich Thorson
Coffee: Al and Donna Ricks
Acolyte: Miles McIntyre
Van Driver: Carey Krull
Nursery Volunteer: Linda Cranston
Communion Servers: Karen Phillips,
Susan McIntyre, Mary Anne Nickle
Offering counter: Karen Phillips

10ô Liturgist: Char Ewan
Greeter: Dallas and Lola Sterk
Deacon: Suzanne Redenius
Ushers: Gail and Stan Greenwald
Coffee:
Acolyte: Alana Ferguson
Van Driver: Montie Redenius
Nursery Volunteer: Jill Kaiser

17ô Liturgist: David Cranston
Greeter: Montie and Suzanne Redenius
Deacon: Phil McCune
Ushers: Linda Stoll, Karla Kriegel
Coffee: Nickle Family
Acolyte: Pete Simpson
Van Driver: Norm Schroeder
Nursery Volunteer: Emily Moore

24ô Liturgist: Al Ricks
Greeter: Marie Eisenman
Deacon: Kendall Nickle
Ushers: Damien and Mary Anne Nickle
Coffee:
Acolyte: Julio Parmley
Van Driver: Montie Redenius
Nursery Volunteer: Marta Miller

31ô Liturgist: Ed Phillips
Greeter: Chrissy Hazlett
Deacon: Jim Ahrens
Ushers: Chris and Dennis Day
Coffee:
Acolyte: Zach Nickle
Van Driver: Carey Krull
Nursery Volunteer: Evelyn Freeman
Cake Baker: Ed and Karen Phillips

June

7ô Liturgist: Susan McIntyre
Greeter: Ramona McCaw
Deacon: Janice Logan
Ushers: David and Linda Cranston
Coffee:
Acolyte: Lydia Klepfer
Van Driver: Montie Redenius
Nursery Volunteer: Sue Ahrens
Communion Servers: Susan McIntyre,

Offering Counter: Irma Arnaman

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

	<u>March</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Pledge Income	\$ 9,670	\$34,667
Budgeted	\$10,214	\$30,643
Total Income	\$12,228	\$38,947
Budgeted	\$11,152	\$33,455
Expenses	\$11,537	\$37,569
Budgeted	\$11,434	\$34,303

WORSHIP IN MAY

May 3—Holy Communion. Lectionary readings: Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8.

May 10—Heifer Sunday. Lectionary readings: Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17.

May 17—Third Sunday Potluck, Food Pantry Sunday. Lectionary readings: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19.

May 24—Lectionary readings: Acts 2:1-21; or Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15.

May 31—Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE APRIL SESSION MEETING

Under Pastor Kirsten's direction, Session members continued to share in small groups about their faith. This month focused on *what do I know about the character of God?*

Reports from Working Groups

Personnel ó Karen and Mary Anne have begun the process of preparing for Montie's retirement. They are putting together a job description and discussing the time frame for posting the position, interviewing applicants, hiring and training

Facilities - May 3rd is all church cleanup day. A signup sheet will be available to indicate a job of preference. Bring a sack lunch, if desired.

Worship ó Karen has asked the Committee and session members for feedback on Holy Week.

Education ó The Committee has discussed the curriculum, number of teachers and class size for next year. Vacation Bible School will meet every Wednesday night from 6 p.m. ó 8 p.m. during July. May 17th is the last day of Sunday school with the youth involved in an extended children's time. The next all church event will be in July. The "Listening to God" class continues to meet on Sunday evenings during April. The Wednesday night youth group is performing "The Play of Esther" on April 29th at 6:30 p.m. There will be a freewill donation. Gillian Ferguson has written this play. Proceeds will go to PALS and youth activities.

Mission ó Kids Against Hunger packaging will take place on April 26th. The rummage sale will be on July 11th.

Communications ó Susan continues to update our Facebook page, and Donna is monitoring the church website.

Memorial ó Donna announced the members of the committee are Dennis Day, Miriam Baumann, Stan Greenwald, and Montie Redenius. The committee will meet again the end of April to discuss guidelines for memorials. Donna is working on creating a memorial book.

New Business

With Montie's retirement in the near future, this is a good time to re-assess the responsibilities of the Church Administrator. A Finance Task Force was established to review financial checks and balances. Members of the committee are MaryAnne (Finance), Karen (Personnel), Donna (Memorial), Char (recording secretary) and Emily Moore (Finance Committee member). Pastor Kirsten will serve as an ex-officio member.

Pastor's Report ó Pastor Kirsten thanked members of the session for their help on Easter Sunday morning.

COFFEE POT

Many thanks to an anonymous donor for the new CucinaPro double coffee pot for our church's use on so many occasions, including Sunday morning fellowship. It is so attractive and works well.

The first Sunday this coffee pot was used was April 12 which happened to coincide with *M & M* Sunday. Janice Logan shared in her "Minute for Mission" this was the seventeenth year for this event. Coincidentally, our donor of this coffee pot specified this gift is in honor of Janice Logan who wears so many hats in our church, but specifically for keeping the United Presbyterian Women alive here at First Presbyterian.

Thank you to Janice and to our donor for your generosity!

KITCHEN FAUCETS

Check out the new Kohler faucets in the church kitchen which have recently been installed by German's Plumbing. One of the highlights is a filtered water beverage faucet to be used for coffee and cold drinks. It has a flow rate of 1.8 gallons per minute which will certainly aid in filling coffee pots quickly. Memorial money was used for this purchase.

MAY BIRTHDAYS



- 10th Denise Creps
Janet Ferguson
Stan Greenwald
- 9th Dylan McIlrath
Gillian Ferguson
- 14th Jim Ferguson
- 16th Jim Ahrens
- 19th Dorothy Peak
- 21st Ty McIntyre
- 22nd Susan McIntyre
- 24th Lyn Howerzyl
- 29th John Martenson

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Selva Lehman and Debbie Schade, who joined on March 22nd. They are both integral parts of our church, and bring their gifts and blessings to our worship and ministries. Thank you!

CONFIRMATION CLASS GRADUATES

Congratulations to our young people who took part in a journey of exploration of faith and discernment about membership. **Gillian Ferguson, Amber Martenson, Damien Nickle, Stiven Parmley.**



COLLEGE GRADUATES

Congratulations to our college graduates: **Beth Gillig and Julie Thompson.** What a joy to have them with us! We will miss them. There will be a time in worship on May 10th for us to offer our blessing and support as they move on to the next phase of their journey.

THANK YOU



Donna Ricks for overseeing the new sink/faucet kitchen project. **Marta Miller** for painting the library and **David Isch** for painting the inside of the closet in the library.

Selva Lehman for preaching so that Pastor Kirsten could do some continuing education.

Char Ewan, Stan Greenwald, Gail Greenwald, Ed Phillips, Karen Phillips, Montie Redenius, Al Ricks for being readers at the Maundy Thursday worship service. Thanks also to **the choir** for going above and beyond with an anthem for the service.

So many people helped to make our Easter a wonderful morning of worship and fellowship: To start with, the **Worship Committee** did a wonderful job of planning everything. **Mary Anne and Sara McCue** organized our breakfast. **Ed Phillips** did an amazing job with the sanctuary, providing and arranging flowers for the chancel area. **The choir** offered not one, not two, but three beautiful pieces of music, and I saw **many people** moving about quickly doing things I am sure I wasn't even aware of.

Dennis Day, Chrissy Hazlett, Carolyn Jacobson, Donna Ricks for being our confirmation mentors this year. They were intentional, caring, and generous with time and talents as they walked with the confirmands this year. Thanks also to **Marta Miller** for her help designing, planning and implementing our program.

You all! For offering me time to pursue continuing education. I had an enriching time in St. Louis.

Abby Griffith for filling in in the nursery while Amber attended confirmation classes.

The McCue's for hosting the college lunch this month.

TIME TO RECYCLE

Do you have any cell phones you are no longer using? If so, please place them in the plastic RECYCLE BOX in Fellowship Hall. Thanks to Jim Ahrens for recycling these for us.

May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 12:00 Lectionary Bible Study	2
3 9:15 Choir, Sunday School 10:30 Worship Holy Communion Clean-up Day 2:00 Turlach Ur	4 3:00 Financial Task Force	5 12:00 Food Recovery Network 2:30-6:30 Food Distribution 4:30 Prayer Time 5:00 Scouts	6 12:00 Food Recovery Network 4:15 Christian Ed Committee	7 12:00 Food Recovery Network 6:30 Seed Group	8 12:00 Lectionary Bible Study	9
10 9:15 Choir, Sunday School 10:30 Worship Heifer Sunday College Group 2:00 Turlach Ur	11 6:00 KAH Potluck 6:00 Worship Committee	12 12:00 Food Recovery Network 4:30 Prayer Time 5:00 Scouts	13 12:00 Food Recovery Network 6:30 Session	14 12:00 Food Recovery Network	15 12:00 Lectionary Bible Study	16 1:00-5:00 Graduation Party
17 9:15 Choir, Sunday School 10:30 Worship Third Sunday Potluck/Food Pantry Sunday 2:00 Turlach Ur	18	19 12:00 Food Recovery Network 4:30 Prayer Time 5:00 Scouts	20 6:30 Deacons	21	22 12:00 Lectionary Bible Study	23
24 9:15 Choir 10:30 Worship 2:00 Turlach Ur	25 Newsletter Deadline	26 10:00-11:00 Hospice Care Givers 12:00 Food Recovery Network 4:30 Prayer Time 5:00 Scouts	27	28 10:30 Newsletter Mailing	29 12:00 Lectionary Bible Study	30 7:00-10:00 Food Share
31 10:30 Worship Birthday Sunday 2:00 Turlach Ur						

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Return Service Requested