



The Grinnell Presbyterian

The monthly newsletter of First Presbyterian Church

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February 2016

Kirsten Klepfer, Pastor

GARDEN OF READIN'...

In the first chapter of Colossians, the author writes about Jesus as the, image of the invisible God. Jesus, the letter argues, makes visible to us those things about God that would otherwise be invisible. I love this idea. Jesus, through his actions and words, pulls back veils, opens doors to unexplored rooms, shines light on long forgotten places in our world.

One way to see Jesus' life is him grabbing, at birth, the edge of a massive piece of gauze that blankets creation, then as he walks through his life holding the piece of fabric, he is peeling that gauze away, showing us the true nature of creation, humans, and the divine.

There are so many things that are invisible to us ó so many things we cover with gauze so we don't have to look at them too hard or too long. Many of them bear striking resemblance to the things Jesus revealed in his lifetime, some of them have their own, unique 21st century flavor.

During Lent, we are going to see how Jesus ó as well as the whole of our scriptures ó makes visible those things in life that we don't see. Ignorance, fear, selfishness, pain, all act as the gauze that covers so many things in our world that God wants us to see.

During the Sundays of Lent we will look at the plight of immigrants, privilege, the difficulty of seeing good in others, and our hidden intentions. In each case we'll look at why seeing and understanding God is dependent on seeing these things that are generally invisible to us.

We will also be looking at two issues outside of Sunday worship that fit well into this theme. Race and mental illness remain invisible in our society ó a reality that carries enormous human cost. During Lent we will be doing a book read with other churches in town that deals with race (see article on the Lenten Book Discussion in this newsletter). In addition, our ministerial association Lenten services will focus on the issue of mental illness each Wednesday noon (see the article on Lenten Services in this newsletter).

Lent is traditionally a time to strip away the things that distract us and keep us from seeing our lives and the world from God's point of view. As we watch Jesus walk toward the cross, we will be pulling back the gauze we use to obscure those things we would rather not see, and hopefully in the process we will get a better look at ourselves, our world, and the nature and will of God.

Let's join together in the journey of Lent and see what we can see.

Peace,
Pastor Kirsten



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

On Sunday February 7, our youth will be taking a special offering for Souper Bowl Sunday. This is a national organization that has been spearheading an annual drive for food and money for food banks across the country since 1990. We normally **collect food on the first Sunday**, so we hope this will be an especially large collection. The youth will have a kettle to collect money. **Everyone is asked to put \$1 in the soup kettle. Of course you can put more if you prefer. All money collected will go directly to MICA.** The only way we involve the national organization is by reporting our donation to them for their statistics and publicity.

The Souper Bowl Sunday movement to help those who are hurting and hungry started with a simple prayer, by Brad Smith, a seminary intern at a Presbyterian church in South Carolina: "Lord even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are with a bowl of soup to eat."

For more information contact Susan McIntyre.

MEET YOUR OFFICERS: WHAT DO THEY "DO"?

This is the time of the year when we nominate new officers, approve new officers, examine new officers, ordain and install new officers. The congregation, at its annual meeting on January 17th, approved a new slate of officers. The session, at its January 11th meeting, worked through business items required by the Book of Order.

In the Presbyterian church, we ordain people to two different offices in addition to the minister of the congregation. Together they make up the leadership of the congregation. Each office is specifically charged with leading the congregation in carrying out the ministry of the church. It is helpful to know what those offices are and who you have elected to fill them.

Elder: Together with ministers of Word and Sacrament, elders exercise leadership and have responsibilities for the life of the church. It is the duty of elders, individually and jointly, to strengthen and nurture the faith and life of the congregation committed to their charge. Together with the pastor they should encourage the people in the worship and service of God, equip and renew them for their tasks within the church and for their mission in the world, visit and comfort and care for the people. (Book of Order)

Deacon: It is the responsibility of the deacons to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress both within and beyond the community of faith. (Book of Order)

Your Elders: **Irma Arnaman, Linda Cranston, Dennis Day, Jim Ferguson, Karla Kriegel, Susan McIntyre, Marta Miller, Mary Anne Nickle, and Russ Stoker.**

Your Deacons: **Jim Ahrens, Denise and Richard Creps, Chrissy Hazlett, Carey Krull, Phil McCune, Tom Moore, Paul Parmley, Ed Phillips, and Suzanne Redenius.**

Nominating Committee for 2016: **Mary Lou Doty, Katie Hoisington, and Montie Redenius.**

Clerk of Session records the minutes of the session, keeps roll of membership and attendance of the session and preserves the records of the session. Your Clerk of Session: **Char Ewan.**

Treasurer: **Ed Phillips.**

WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY

February 7, Transfiguration of the Lord. Holy Communion, Food Pantry Sunday. Lectionary Readings: Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36 (37-43).

February 14: 1st Sunday in Lent. Heifer Sunday. Lectionary Readings: Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16, Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13.

February 21: 2nd Sunday in Lent. Third Sunday Potluck. Lectionary readings: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27, Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35.

February 22: 3rd Sunday in Lent. Birthday Sunday. Lectionary readings: Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

	<u>December</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Pledge Income	\$16,144	\$131,258
Budgeted	\$10,214	\$122,571
Total Income	\$16,822	\$144,463
Budgeted	\$11,047	\$132,571
Expenses	\$12,017	\$136,851
Budgeted	\$11,434	\$137,211

HIGHLIGHTS OF JANUARY SESSION MEETING

Appreciation

Pastor Kirsten thanked Donna Ricks, John Martenson and Karen Phillips for their dedicated hard work over the past three years. Pastor Kirsten also thanked the session on behalf of the church staff members for their bonuses.

Reports from Working Groups

Personnel ó Job descriptions for all staff members will be reviewed early in the year.

Facilities ó Our church will serve the Lenten lunch on February 24th with Gail Greenwald and Janice Logan's committee in charge. An updated Building Use Policy brochure and form were approved. (See article elsewhere in this newsletter)

Education ó Adult education reading for the winter will be *The New Jim Crow—Mass Incarceration in the Age of Color-blindness* by Michelle Alexander. During the summer the reading will be *Not in God's Name* by Jonathan Sacks.

Mission ó Souper Bowl Sunday fundraiser for MICA and Bed and Breakfast for Grinnell College graduation weekend are being planned.

Communications ó The web site is being updated, and a new tab for deacons has been added.

Memorials ó A projector and replacement bulb in memory of Jerry Doonan have arrived.

New Business

Session approved the following:

Fund-raiser for MICA on Super Bowl Sunday.

Statement of Support: A statement from First Presbyterian Church of Grinnell in support of Grinnell's Muslim community is being sent to various publications. When the college is back in session, there will be a dinner hosted by Relish.

Elections were held as follows: Char Ewan as clerk of the session; Ed Phillips as treasurer with Char Ewan as back up; and Marta Miller, President; Susan McIntyre, Vice-President; Char Ewan, Secretary; and Mary Anne Nickle, Treasurer as officers of the corporation.

Communion dates: The first Sunday of each month communion will be served.

Presbytery Delegate: Marta Miller was elected commissioner for the Presbytery meeting on Saturday, February 13th.

December 31, 2016 Wedding: Toshia Crepsø wedding will be held in the sanctuary.

Communion to Homebound Members ó Deacons Tom Moore, Janice Logan and Suzanne Redenius assisted Pastor Kirsten with communion during the month of January.

Review of Membership Rolls ó Fourteen persons had been moved to the inactive list during 2015. Therefore, there will be no review of the membership rolls in 2016.

Counting and Recording of offerings by two individuals ó Each Sunday a session member and a member from the congregation will count the number of envelopes and cash, which are then taken to the bank night depository.

Examination of new officers was held on Jan. 11.

A financial review of 2015 will be performed.

Property and Liability Insurance ó Session reviewed the current policy declarations.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Kirsten announced that her hours for the spring semester will change somewhat.



February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 12:00 Food Recovery Network 4:30: Prayer 6:30 Meeting of Small Groups	3 12:00 Food Recovery Network	4 12:00 Food Recovery Network	5 12:00 Lectionary Bible Study	6 9:00 League of Women Voters Legislative Coffee
7 9:15 Choir, Sunday School 10:30 Worship, Communion, Food Pantry, Souper Bowl of Caring, KAH	8 5:00 Bell Choir	9 10:00 Hospice Grief Group 12:00 Food Recovery Network 4:30 Prayer	10 12:00 Food Recovery Network 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service	11 12:00 Food Recovery Network 6:30 Deacons	12 12:00 Lectionary Bible Study	13
14 9:15 Choir, Sunday School 10:30 Worship Heifer Sunday 2:00 Turlach Ur 6:00 Taize	15 5:00 Bell Choir	16 12:00 Food Recovery Network 3:00 Food Distribution 4:30 Prayer 5:30 CARES	17 12:00 Food Recovery Network, Lenten Service at First Baptist Church 6:30 Session	18 12:00 Food Recovery Network	19 12:00 Lectionary Bible Study	20 7:00 Food Share
21 9:15 Choir, Sunday School 10:30 Worship Third Sunday Potluck 2:00 Turlach Ur 6:30 Book Study	22 Newsletter Deadline 5:00 Bell Choir	23 10:00 Hospice Grief Group 12:00 Food Recovery Network 4:30 Prayer	24 12:00 Lenten Service at First Presbyterian Church, Food Recovery Network at St. Paul's	25 10:30 Newsletter Mailing 12:00 Food Recovery Network	26 12:00 Lectionary Bible Study	27
28 9:15 Choir, Sunday School 10:30 Worship Birthday Sunday 2:00 Turlach Ur	29 11:00 Meals on Wheels					

SUNDAY SERVANTS

February

- 7th Liturgist: Char Ewan
Greeter: Barb Erquist
Deacon: Carey Krull
Ushers: Phil McCune, Russ Stoker
Coffee: Linda Stoll
Acolyte: Lydia Klepfer
Van Driver: Paul Parmley
Nursery Volunteer: Sheryl Parmley
Communion Servers: Linda Cranston, Marta Miller
Offering Counter: Linda Cranston, 2nd Person Assigned by Finance Committee
- 14th Liturgist: Janice Logan
Greeter: Donna Winburn
Deacon: Ed Phillips
Ushers: Irma Arnaman, Erik Simpson
Coffee: Irma Arnaman
Acolyte: Damien Nickle
Van Driver: Carey Krull
Nursery Volunteer: Marta Miller
- 21st Liturgist: John Martenson
Greeters: Chris and Dennis Day
Deacon: Denise and Richard Creps
Ushers: Janet and Jim Ahrens
Coffee/Potluck: Janice Logan
Acolyte: Julio Parmley
Van Driver: Karla Kriegel
Nursery Volunteer: Greyson Bourgeois
- 28th Liturgist: Donna Winburn
Greeter: Ramona McCaw
Deacon: Paul Parmley
Ushers: David and Linda Cranston
Coffee: Suzanne Nekola
Acolyte: Peter Simpson
Van Driver: Montie Redenius
Nursery Volunteer: Evelyn Freeman
Cake Baker: Katie Hoisington

March

- 6- Liturgist: TBA
Greeter: Art Heimann
Deacon: Jim Ahrens
Ushers: Elizabeth Trimmer, John Martenson
Coffee: Debbie Schade
Acolyte: Miles McIntyre
Van Driver: Paul Parmley
Nursery Volunteer: Sue Ahrens
Communion Servers: Irma Arnaman, Mary Anne Nickle
Offering Counters: Marta Miller, 2nd Person Assigned by Finance Committee
- 13- Liturgist: TBA
Greeter: Miriam Baumann
Deacon: Suzanne Redenius
Ushers: Ray and Marlene Peak
Coffee: Karen and Ed Phillips
Acolyte: Slane McCue
Van Driver: Karla Kriegel
Nursery Volunteer: Sheryl Parmley
- 20- Liturgist: TBA
Greeters: Janet and Gillian Ferguson
Deacon: Denise and Richard Creps
Ushers: Stan Greenwald, Stiven Parmley
Potluck: David and Linda Cranston
Acolyte: Alana Ferguson
Van Driver: Carey Krull
Nursery Volunteer: Emily Moore
- 27- Liturgist: TBA
Greeter: Chrissy Hazlett
Deacon: Carey Krull
Ushers: Marv and Mary Doty
Coffee: Donna and Al Ricks
Acolyte: Ty McIntyre
Van Driver: Montie Redenius
Nursery Volunteer: Deb Martenson
Cake Baker: Irma Arnaman

CHECK IT OUT

Have you visited First Presbyterian Church's website? It is www.fpcgrinnell.volasite.com. Be sure to visit it before it gets a makeover. Watch the newsletter for additional details!

GRINNELL COLLEGE GRADUATION WEEKEND B&B

Several years ago, **Tom Moore** started a Bed and Breakfast program with some members of our congregation as a fundraiser for missions. We would like to continue the program if there is enough interest among members to do so. **If you would be willing to host one or more people for 2-3 nights, and offer them a continental breakfast in the mornings for graduation weekend May 21-23, please let Linda or Dave Cranston know at phone number 641-260-8071.** We will have more information available next newsletter, but feel free to call if you want more details sooner.

FEBRUARY DEACONS MEETING

Due to Ash Wednesday, the February Deacons meeting has been changed. We will meet on **Thursday, February 11 at 6:30 p.m.** Thanks for your flexibility!



BELL CHOIR

Bell choir practice will begin at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 8, and will continue each Monday throughout the month of February. If you would like to join the Bell choir please contact Chris Day.

RUMMAGE SALE ALERT

Our annual **rummage sale** will be in July as usual. Starting June 1, you can leave clean and working items in the far southwest Sunday School room. So, while doing your spring cleaning, keep this in mind. Thank you. Call Linda Cranston if you have any questions: 641-990-1610.



LENTEN SERVICES

Wednesdays during Lent the Grinnell area churches come together for worship and fellowship. This year the Ministerial Association decided to explore the theme of **“Hope For All Our Mental Challenges.”**

Each week is at a different location, and a different pastor gives the message. Worship begins at 12:10 and is followed by a light lunch. The worship service lasts about 20 minutes. The last week of Lent, instead of worshipping on **Wednesday**, we worship on **Good Friday**. This is an extended service, and there is no lunch after.

Following is the schedule:

February 17th	First Baptist Church	Rev. Kirsten Klepfer
February 24th	First Presbyterian	Rev. David Crowe
March 2nd	United Methodist Church	Rev. Harley Schull
March 9th	St. John's Lutheran	Rev. Dondrea Walker
March 16th	St. Mary's	Rev. Wendy Abrahamson
Good Friday		
March 25th	United Church of Christ	Rev. Cameron Barr

ANTHEM TITLE

Each Sunday the anthem title will be listed in the bulletin. Many thanks to **Lyn Howerzyl and Karen Phillips** for providing that information for us each Sunday.



COPY OF THE SERMON

If you are interested in receiving a copy of Pastor Kirsten's sermon by email, please contact Sheryl in the office. She will add you to the email list. The email for the church is firstpresgrinnell@gmail.com. Printed copies will be still available for Sunday worship.

THANK YOU



MANY THANKS!

Ed Phillips and Char Ewan for another year serving as our treasurers & coming in every week to help Montie and now Sheryl count the money.

Our newsletter folders this past year: **Gail Greenwald, Stan Greenwald, Maggie Hoffstatter, Janice Logan and Suzanne Redenius.**

Thank you to **Janet Carl, Mary Lou Doty, and Emily Moore**, for being coffee hosts during January, **Al and Donna Ricks** for hosting the potluck, and **Ed and Karen Phillips** for preparing the birthday cake for January. **Russ Stoker** for all of the many things he has done for our facilities. He is often at the church working behind the scenes, making sure our building and grounds are in good shape.

Char Ewan, Ed Phillips, Al Ricks and Donna Ricks for taking over last minute for worship when Pastor Kirsten was sick. It was so nice to not have to worry for even a second about how worship would go.

Tom Moore for stepping in last minute to lead the officer's retreat. It was a lot to take on, and he did so with grace and ease.



ASH WEDNESDAY: FEBRUARY 10TH, 7 P.M. AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. Attending the non-Sunday worship services throughout the year helps us all better understand the whole of the Christian story. In this case, Ash Wednesday sets the stage for the Lenten journey.

Worship will include communion and the imposition of ashes.

GRINNELL COLLEGE STUDENTS

Grinnell College Students are invited for lunch and conversation on **Sunday, February 14** immediately following the morning worship service. The lunch will be held at the home of **Elizabeth Trimmer and Dan Whiteside**. Rides will be available. Feel free to invite a friend. Students will receive more information by email the week before the event.

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

MICA (Mid-Iowa Community Action, Inc.), the Poweshiek County Emergency Food Pantry provided food boxes to 200 families throughout Poweshiek County during the month of December. First Presbyterian Church's contribution was 40 pounds of food, along with bread and milk vouchers. During the months of November and December 2015, the food pantry was able to give out eighty Holiday Boxes to eligible families. Generous donors brought holiday themed foods, desserts, and of course, hams, turkeys and ribs. The 2015 total for food donations from the Grinnell community for the food pantry was 65,454 pounds!

2015 GIVING STATEMENTS

If you would like a 2015 giving statement, please contact Sheryl at the office. She will either email or print one out for you. The giving statements are being done by request only.

2016 UPDATE OF CHURCH BUILDING USE POLICY

The Building Use Policy has recently been updated and approved by session. Many thanks to the task force of **Carey Krull, David Isch, and Donna Ricks** of the Facilities Committee who worked with Pastor Kirsten to rework the policy.

If you desire to have a copy of the total policy, there are some in the brochure rack in fellowship hall. When anyone schedules the use of the fellowship hall or other areas of the church, our office manager will give them a copy of the policy and discuss it with them. There is also a building use application to fill out. You may notice that a new category has been added to the policy which discusses fees and donations. Please see below for the entirety of the new entry.

Here are some of the highlights:

Alcohol and smoking are not permitted anywhere on the grounds, which includes the parking lot and lawn. (The facilities committee has been asked to provide appropriate signs).

Any group or committee who uses the facility is asked to be responsible for returning all furniture or equipment as they were found. This includes checking restrooms.

Outside groups/organizations: Church property such as audio/visual equipment, tables, chairs, dishes, coffee pots, roasters, cooking utensils, silver, or table cloths will not be loaned for use beyond the church without the written permission of the office manager or pastor. If loaned, all items must be returned as soon as finished with them in the condition in which they were borrowed, informing the office manager of its/their return.

Church members in need of equipment and furnishings may check out items through the church office with the office manager; they should be returned as soon as possible. The office manager should be informed of its/their return. A list of checked out items will be maintained in the office.

Occasionally a group may ask to use the sanctuary; these requests will be taken under consideration by the pastor and perhaps the Session. Moving of the church pews is not permitted.

Fees and Donations

Because we see our building as a part of our mission to the community, our church does not charge a set fee for use of our building.

We do, however, ask that organizations who use our church give a donation in whatever amount they think fair to cover the cost of use (utilities, janitorial costs, maintenance, etc.). We understand this donation will reflect both the cost of use and the ability of an organization to pay.

We do not expect donations from our partner organizations: Second Mile, Hospice, and other nonprofit organizations that our church works with in some way.

If you have any questions or want to consult about an appropriate donation, please contact the office manager or pastor.

KIDS AGAINST HUNGER PACKAGING EVENT FEBRUARY 7

We are planning on having both an adult and a Sunday School packaging team for the next KAH packaging on **February 7th at 1:00 at St. Mary's Education Center**. Sign up sheets are on the table in Fellowship Hall. If you are not able to package, financial donations are always welcome.

LENTEN BOOK DISCUSSION

In light of some of the events that took place in 2015, the Christian Ed committee decided it would be good to discuss a book about racism in the 21st century United States.

The book is:

The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander.

"The New Jim Crow" highlights the racial dimensions of the War on Drugs. It argues that federal drug policy unfairly targets communities of color, keeping millions of young, black men in a cycle of poverty and behind bars.

The discussion will take place on three Sunday evenings at 6:30 pm.

February 21 Chapters 1 and 2 and the introductory material. We will host the first meeting at our church with members of First Baptist and the United Church of Christ as our guests.

March 6 Chapters 3 and 4. The group will gather at the First Baptist Church and they will be the hosts.

March 20 Chapters 5 and 6. Hosted by the United Church of Christ.

The books are available in paperback, e-book and audio. I will place an order for our church very soon. Feel free to obtain your own book or if you would like me to order a copy for you, there will be a sign up sheet available this Sunday. Or you can call me at 236-1498 or email me at omabluebird@gmail.com to let me know you want a book. They are around \$10. If you want to participate and cannot afford to buy a book, we can make the book available to you. For more information, contact the church, or Susan McIntyre at the above number or email. Susan McIntyre for the Christian Ed committee.

MEALS ON WHEELS

Our church and the Episcopal church will be sharing the Meals on Wheels duty beginning **February 29 through March 25**. There will be a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall in February so you can pick your route and the days you can do the delivery. Delivery starts at 11:00 and usually takes about a half hour.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 3ô Margaret McCulley
- 4ô Jackie Jaynes
- 5ô Meredith Breiting
- 14ô Donna Ricks
Debbie Schade
- 15ô Al Ricks
- 24ô Janet Carl
- 26ô John Peak
- 28ô Velda Boss



DIRECTORY CHANGES

Roger Bortell
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Art Heimann
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2016 DEACON OFFICERS

Chairô Suzanne Redenius
Vice Chairô Jim Ahrens
Treasurerô Ed Phillips
Secretaryô Carey Krull

PRAYER CHAIN

Know someone in need of prayer, or have a prayer concern? Please contact Sheryl at the office, or email deaconsfirstpres@gmail.com and it will get put on the prayer chain.

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Return Service Requested

Count your rainbows, not your thunderstorms.