



The Grinnell Presbyterian

The monthly newsletter of First Presbyterian Church

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July 2016

Kirsten Klepfer, Pastor

GARDEN OF READIN'....

Some of you were in church last Sunday when I mentioned a loan our congregation made to Capstone Behavioral Healthcare, the mental health center that serves a number of counties in our area, including ours. I promised more details about that, so here they are!

Capstone, on whose board I serve, serves 2,500 clients, 80% of whom are on Medicaid. Our state privatized Medicaid earlier this year, turning over responsibility to three Managed Care Organizations (MCOs); this means they process reimbursements for healthcare services provided to Medicaid clients. Unfortunately, the MCOs were not prepared to process all of the claims and they fell behind ó significantly.

Capstone is financially stable ó their revenue easily covers their expenses ó but, like many nonprofit organizations, does not have a lot of margin when it comes to cash flow. When the MCOs got behind, Capstone's cash flow got behind as well. They had a couple of big expenses coming up ó for example, payroll and an insurance premium ó that they were in danger of not being able to pay. The board of directors decided we needed to reach out to community businesses to see if they could loan Capstone money until they got reimbursed by the MCOs.

I began calling companies both in our county and a couple of other counties that Capstone serves. As I was in conversation with those businesses, it occurred to me that our church might be in a position to help as well.

I called the chair of our finance committee, who then discussed the possibility of a loan with the rest of the committee. They looked at our current financial picture, and looked at our upcoming needs and projected income for the rest of the year. In addition, even though we have budgeted deficits for the last few years, we have actually ended up in surplus. This means our general fund bank account has a healthy balance ó more than enough to cover any current expenses as well as unexpected (non-catastrophic) things that might come up. Therefore, the committee concluded that we could, indeed, make a loan without jeopardizing First Pres's financial commitments.

The finance committee made a recommendation to our Session to make a \$20,000 loan at no interest to Capstone, and the Session approved the motion. Obviously, this was a big decision, and normally the Session would communicate with the congregation about such things. However, the timing was urgent and we needed to act as quickly as possible. The agreement we signed with Capstone was to pay back the loan within 90 days, but we did so knowing they are not in control of the MCOs and it may take longer than that. The bottom line is that this is a very low-risk loan, because the MCOs are legally obligated to reimburse Capstone, but the length of the loan is admittedly unpredictable.

Having said all that, I received an email Monday from the Executive Director of Capstone saying the state is finally beginning to put pressure on the MCOs, and more payments are coming in. This is very good news, and bodes well for many people, not least for the 2,500 people who depend on Capstone for services.

Mental health services are inadequate in our state (and our country, for that matter). Things are always fragile because rarely are there enough resources ó including both financial and human resources. The folks who struggle with mental illness are vulnerable to all kinds of suffering, and that vulnerability is compounded when they have no access to good, quality mental healthcare.

If I might take a moment of personal privilege, I am very inspired to be a part of a congregation that follows the example set by Jesus to notice, reach out to, and care for the people in our world that need it most. We can always do more, we can always do better, but I think in this case, we were pretty good disciples.

Peace,
Pastor Kirsten



RUMMAGE SALE FRIDAY AND SATURDAY JULY 8 AND 9!

Our First Presbyterian Rummage Sale will be held on Friday, July 8 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, July 9 from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Donations can be brought to the church and put in the large Sunday School room. Please bring your items no later than 4:00 pm Thursday, July 7th. There will be sign-up sheets in the fellowship hall for volunteers to help with the set up and the sale. Please do not bring TVs or microwaves as they usually do not sell and cost us to dispose of them. Proceeds will go to **Heifer International** and the **Presbyterian Disaster Relief Fund**. If you have questions, please contact Linda Cranston at 260-8071.



VBS SUMMER NIGHTS – SUNDAYS—JULY 10th, 17th, 24th AND 31st.

Exploring Egypt will be held at the Grinnell United Methodist Church. Each **Sunday night** will begin with dinner from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. and then the **whole family** is invited to stay for skits, exploring Egypt, through story time, music and more. Volunteers are needed for each night so if you can help, please let **Pastor Kirsten** or **Marta Miller** know.



SAVE THE DATE – AUGUST 4

It's time to dust off your dirndl and work some conditioner into your lederhosen! It's time to dream of the Bavarian Alps and the Blue Danube! It's time to mark your calendar for August 4 and the next All-Church event of an evening of German foods and good old polka music! Building on the Grinnell Arts Council's Music in the Park event, we've reserved a shelter at Ahrens Park and will be serving a light supper of German treats, while enjoying the music of **Barefoot Becky & the Ivanhoe Dutchmen!**

Here's what the Grinnell Arts Council says about the program: "Shoes optional, dancing and smiles mandatory. Those are the rules when **Barefoot Becky & the Ivanhoe Dutchmen** come to town. The shoe-less polka queen and gang of balladeers are a Grinnell favorite, so be sure to get there early for this one." Supper will be served, starting at 5:00 p.m., with the music to get underway at 6:00. Watch for more details in church and in next month's newsletter, but do plan to attend! Auf geht's!



WANT A COPY?

Pastor Kirsten's sermons are available to you by email. If you would like to sign up for a copy, please contact Sheryl in the office.

CONTINUING EDUCATION DATES

Pastor Kirsten will be on continuing education leave from July 25 to July 29. She will not miss a Sunday, but there will be a guest preacher on the 31st. **Pastor Kirsten, Lydia, Selva Lehman, Janice Logan and Marta Miller** are going to **Synod School** at Buena Vista College in Storm Lake.

LECTIONARY IN JULY

July 3—7th Sunday after Pentecost. 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Lectionary readings: 2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30; Galatians 6:(1-6) 7-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20.

July 10—8th Sunday after Pentecost. 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Lectionary readings: Amos 7:7-17; Psalm 82; Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37.

July 17— 9th Sunday after Pentecost. 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Lectionary readings: Amos 8:1-12; Psalm 52; Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42.

July 24—10th Sunday after Pentecost. 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Lectionary readings: Hosea 1:2-10; Psalm 85; Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19); Luke 11:1-13.

July 31—11th Sunday after Pentecost. 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Lectionary readings: Hosea 11:1-11; Psalm 107:1-9, 43; Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21.

FOOD RECOVERY NETWORK

Do you know of someone who would benefit from an additional food resource or more nutritious meals? The **Food Recovery Network** can help supplement food at no cost. The **Food Recovery Network** provides nutritious, pre-cooked, high quality meals, and much of the food may be frozen for later use. **Food Recovery Network** is happening each Tuesday from **12:00 to 1:00** at First Presbyterian Church.



THANK YOU **Ed Phillips** for the flowers in the planter outside by the church sign and for watering them during the hot summer months.

Janice Logan for the flowers on the north side of the building planted in memory of Diane Fowler.

Lots of folks who have been doing random church work to keep our building healthy and in functioning condition: **Russ Stoker, David Isch, Carey Krull, Roger Bortell.**

Thank you to **those who donated stickers and note pads** for the Kidsø Worship Bags. Both of these are well-used by our children.

Donna Ricks who sewed a new Kidsø Worship Bag and continues to keep them up so our kids can enjoy them.

A JUNE THANK YOU!

Thank you to our June coffee and lemonade makers: **Marie Eisenman, Marta Miller, Mary Anne and Kendall Nickle** and cake baker **Karla Kriegel.**



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Presbyterian Women are planning a fall fundraiser. More details to follow in future newsletters.

SUNDAY SERVANTS

Scheduling of Sunday Servants for September through December has been completed and will be posted on the kiosk in its entirety. It will also be included in the church's newsletter this month. We have scheduled using a list of names generated through the "Getting to Know You" from late 2013, a 2015 update, and by word of mouth. However, if you don't see your name on the Sunday Servants and want to be included, please let the church office know and Sheryl will pass that word along to those doing the scheduling. Please know you are not being intentionally excluded.



KIDS AGAINST HUNGER

Kids Against Hunger is an organization that gives healthy food to families in need, both in the United States and around the world. Many organizations around the Grinnell community support this ministry by coming together four times a year to package the food that is sent out. First Presbyterian Church has been actively involved in Kids Against Hunger since its inception here in Grinnell in 2006. This includes supporting our packaging teams with financial resources that cover the cost of the food. Each time our two church teams participate we have to donate \$720. Thank you to all who help make this ministry possible with money and time.

HIGHLIGHTS OF JUNE SESSION MEETING

For several meetings the session has discussed Church with a capital C. As we move forward in the 21st century what are we moving toward in our theology, what values we believe etc? The more we talk about our faith, the stronger it is and becomes.

Facilities: The committee has been very busy. The landscaping project, funded by a memorial contribution, is underway. A new light for the parking lot will be funded by a memorial. Members of the committee see to lawn care and building repairs as needed.

Education: an end of Sunday school celebration and teacher appreciation was held on May 22. A book study is planned for the summer and fall. A summer all church gathering is being planned for August in conjunction with Music in the park.

Worship: committee met and planned for Pentecost. Several committee members participated in various ways.

Mission: Summer food recovery is going on only on Tuesday. Rummage sale on July 8 and 9, proceeds to be divided between Heifer and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Memorials: Several purchases have been made and dedicated, including rhythm instruments. Dedication was held on May 29, in conjunction with the federal Memorial Day.

Presbytery: Marta Miller has attended many meetings with Pastor Kirsten and keeps the rest of us up to date. They report monthly on the many changes taking place. The Presbytery has sold Cottage Grove church. Pastor Kirsten serves on a committee to recommend how to disperse funds from the sale of the Cottage Grove building and is a representative of the Des Moines Presbytery to conversations with other Iowa Presbyteries. Dennis Day is now on the property Presbytery committee.

Pastor Kirsten will be on a mini sabbatical from June 27 to July 10.

The session will not meet in July so the next meeting will be in August.

SUMMER JOY OFFERING!

During the month July, we will receive our Summer Joy Offering. This is an important special offering of the PCUSA that goes to support important ministries in our denomination:

The Board of Pensions Receives 50 percent of the Offering

Through the Board of PensionsøFinancial Assistance Programs, the Joy Offering recognizes the faithfulness of retired church workers by providing funds to help them through difficult times.

To help retired church workers and their surviving spouses, the board offers *Income Supplements* to raise incomes to a level where retirees can live modestly and continue to maintain their independence. If these individualsøincome does not support their housing needs, the board provides them *Housing Supplements*.

Presbyterian Racial Ethnic Schools and Colleges Receive 50 Percent of the Offering

The Presbyterian Church has long promoted education through establishing and supporting racial ethnic schools. Joy Offering funds help with basic operating costs in addition to providing scholarships to deserving students. These institutions develop leaders in the church and in society, and they enable students to pursue their professional goals. All Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)-related schools and colleges are open to any qualified student regardless of race. For a list of schools supported by the Joy Offering, go to <http://www.pcusa.org/cjoffering/about.htm>.

FAITHFUL FAMILIES

Practical ideas for living out faith at home:

Be an example, have meaningful conversations, eat together, pray together, volunteer together, have daily devotions, always be willing to say that you are sorry, be willing to forgive, talk about Godø's grace and celebrate milestones. Taken from øPresbyterian's Today.ö



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THANK YOU TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY

This congregation's response to the unexpected death of Wes Phillips was so kind and generous. There were many here on May 28th helping in numerous ways: donating food, bars and cookies, setting up and moving tables, ushering, cleaning up, recording the service, documenting the flowers, the list of helpers goes on and on. We are so appreciative of your love and support for us at this difficult time and for Wes as he returned to the church of his childhood and youth and reconnected in ways that were so gratifying to him and to us. We have all felt surrounded with your love, and we know Wes felt it too.

Thank you, **Ed, Karen, and Tim Phillips**



About one in five Americans attends a worship service every week. Far more consider themselves religious or spiritual. Taken from "These Days".



JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1-Ryan Peak
- 5-Dallas Sterk
- 9-Sara McCue
Lydia Klepfer
- 10-Cristy Peak
- 14-Marv Doty
- 15-Montie Redenius
- 16-Rich Thorson
- 22-Adalyn Scheffert
- 25-Miriam Baumann
Jonna German
- 29-Joyce Doonan
- 31-Saunia Powell

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

First Presbyterian Church donated 29.8 pounds of food plus milk and bread vouchers to the Mid-Iowa Community Action (MICA) Poweshiek County Emergency Food Pantry. With our support and assistance they were able to provide food boxes to 226 families throughout Poweshiek County during the month of May. Something new and exciting is happening at the Food Pantry! They have created a self-serve approach. Clients can now pick the fruit of the choice as well as cereal, soups, vegetables, etc.. They also are now offering freezer items and fresh produce in addition to the bread which is donated by Hy-



CHURCH DIRECTORY CHANGES

This is a reminder to please notify the church office of any changes to your Church Directory information. Also, remember to update your directory with new information listed in the newsletter. As we receive new members we will make a new page to include them in the Church Directory.

Address change:

Roger Bortell - PO Box 607



IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL

A brief history of the hymn

In 1873, Horatio Spafford wrote the words to the hymn "*It is Well with My Soul*" after the tragic death of his four daughters. He wrote it on the ocean while sailing near the spot where his daughters died. For more than a century, the tragic story of one man has given hope to countless thousands who have lifted their voice to sing the hymn. Taken from "ShareFaith.com"

July 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 12:00 Lectionary Bible Study	2
3 Holy Communion Food Pantry 2:00 Turlach Ur	4 Office Closed 7:00 Alanon Step Meeting	5 12:00 Food Recovery Network Set up for Rummage Sale 4:30 Prayer	6 Set up for Rummage Sale	7 Set up for Rummage Sale	8 12:00 Lectionary Bible Study Rummage Sale	9 Rummage Sale
10 Heifer Sunday 2:00 Turlach Ur 5:30 Vacation Bible School	11 7:00 Alanon Step Meeting	12 10:00 Hospice Grief Group 12:00 Food Recovery Network 4:30 Prayer 5:30 Second Mile	13 6:30 Deacons	14 10:00 Small Group Leaders	15 12:00 Lectionary Bible Study 4:00 SEG	16
17 2:00 Turlach Ur 5:30 Vacation Bible School	18 7:00 Alanon Step Meeting	19 12:00 Food Recovery Network 3:00 Food Distribution 4:30 Prayer	20	21	22 12:00 Lectionary Bible Study	23
24 2:00 Turlach Ur 5:30 Vacation Bible School	25 Newsletter Deadline 7:00 Alanon Step Meeting	26 10:00 Hospice Grief Group 12:00 Food Recovery Network 4:30 Prayer	27	28 10:30 Newsletter Mailing	29 12:00 Lectionary Bible Study	30
31 Birthday Sunday 2:00 Turlach Ur 5:30 Vacation Bible School						

SUNDAY SERVANTS

JULY

3- Liturgist: Karla Kriegel
 Greeters: Gail and Stan Greenwald
 Deacon: Chrissy Hazlett and Phil McCune
 Ushers: Russ Stoker and Rich Thorson
 Coffee: Donna Winburn
 Acolyte: Peter Simpson
 Van Driver: Carey Krull
 Nursery Volunteer: Deb Martenson
 Communion Servers: Linda Cranston, Dennis Day
 Offering Counters: Russ Stoker, 2nd Person Assigned by Finance Committee

10- Liturgist: Rich Thorson
 Greeter: Carolyn Jacobson
 Deacon: Suzanne Redenius
 Ushers: Sue and Jim Ahrens
 Coffee: Paul and Sheryl Parmley
 Acolyte: Miles McIntyre
 Van Driver: Montie Redenius
 Nursery Volunteer: Evelyn Freeman

17- Liturgist: Debbie Schade
 Greeters: Tom and Emily Moore
 Deacon: Carey Krull
 Ushers: Char Ewan and Marie Eisenman
 Coffee: Paul and Sheryl Parmley
 Acolyte: Julio Parmley
 Van Driver: Al Ricks
 Nursery Volunteer: Marta Miller

24- Liturgist: Linda Stoll
 Greeter: Ramona McCaw
 Deacon: Denise and Richard Creps
 Ushers: Karla Kriegel and Janice Logan
 Coffee: Janice Logan
 Acolyte: Alana Ferguson
 Van Driver: David Cranston
 Nursery Volunteer: Selva Lehman

31- Liturgist: Joy Krull
 Greeter: Linda Stoll
 Deacon: Carey Krull
 Ushers: Damien Nickle and Ray Peak
 Coffee: Selva Lehman
 Acolyte: Zach Nickle
 Van Driver: Paul Parmley
 Nursery Volunteer: Linda Cranston
 Cake baker: Sheryl Parmley

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The **222nd General Assembly** of the **Presbyterian Church** met in June in Portland, Oregon. The General Assembly is responsible for matters of common concern for the whole church and serves as a symbol of unity for the denomination.

AUGUST

7- Liturgist: Mary Anne Nickle
 Greeters: Dallas and Lola Sterk
 Deacon: Jim Ahrens
 Ushers: John Martenson and Al Ricks
 Coffee: Stan and Gail Greenwald
 Acolyte: Ty McIntyre
 Van Driver: John Martenson
 Nursery Volunteer: Emily Moore
 Communion Servers: Linda Cranston, Russ Stoker
 Offering Counters: Jim Ferguson, 2nd Person Assigned by Finance Committee

14- Liturgist: TBA
 Greeter: Donna Winburn
 Deacon: Suzanne Redenius
 Ushers: Elizabeth Trimmer and Irma Arnaman
 Coffee: Carey Krull
 Acolyte: Zach Nickle
 Van Driver: Karla Kriegel
 Nursery Volunteer: Gail Greenwald

21- Liturgist: TBA
 Greeter: Elizabeth Trimmer
 Deacon: Denise and Richard Creps
 Ushers: David and Linda Cranston
 Coffee: Marlene and Ray Peak
 Acolyte: Lydia Klepfer
 Van Driver: Al Ricks
 Nursery Volunteer: Sue Ahrens

28- Liturgist: TBA
 Greeters: Chris and Dennis Day
 Deacon: Phil McCune
 Ushers: Richard Creps and Char Ewan
 Coffee: Tom and Emily Moore
 Acolyte: Damien Nickle
 Van Driver: David Cranston
 Nursery Volunteer: Jill Kaiser

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

	<u>May</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Pledge Income	\$11,000	\$62,468
Budgeted	\$10,583	\$52,916
Total Income	\$13,256	\$67,509
Budgeted	\$11,412	\$57,062
Expenses	\$11,463	\$63,707
Budgeted	\$11,829	\$59,148

First Presbyterian Church
1025 Fifth Avenue
Grinnell IA 50112

Return Requested

CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE
July 8—1 to 5 p.m.
and
July 9—7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.