

THE GRINNELL PRESBYTERIAN

The monthly newsletter of First Presbyterian Church

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April 2014

Kirsten Klepfer, Pastor

GARDEN OF READIN'...

I have to believe we are coming out of winter. This morning (19 degrees!) notwithstanding, I can feel spring in the air. I know it's trite to talk about the weather, but I really have had some winter doldrums this year. Nothing serious, but enough to be unusually excited for the warmer weather and greener grasses.

Theologians often talk about the problem of Easter without the cross. In general, what they mean is we run the risk of celebrating the resurrection without having thought about the days and weeks leading up to it. When we go from Palm Sunday to Easter without hearing all the stuff in between, it can seem like Jesus rode triumphantly into Jerusalem, and then was gloriously resurrected, with some vague notion that he died in there somewhere.

Without the story in between, we might see it as a fairy tale with a happy ending. Jesus died for my sins, and in the resurrection I know everything will turn out okay. What this misses is the acknowledgment of the ongoing brokenness of the world. It didn't all turn out okay, at least in the sense of suffering and sin ending.

What Jesus shows in the resurrection is not that everything will be okay, but rather that the world, the brokenness, what he went through, has meaning. Stanley Hauerwas put it this way: "[The cross] gives us the resources to have even our suffering be a service to God and God's kingdom."

After the season of Lent, *that's* the good news I need. And it's not just about coming and feeling good on Easter, it's about recognizing that winter is not just to be endured, it is necessary to the work of spring.

Every Palm Sunday we read the story of Jesus riding into Jerusalem to shouts of Hosanna. Then, for many of us, the next story we hear is the empty tomb. This year, we will be reading the whole story on Palm Sunday. We will start with the entrance into Jerusalem and go all the way through the stories of Holy Week.

My hope is not to bum anyone out. My hope is that if we walk through the stories of Holy Week, Easter will mean much more to us this year.

Peace,
Pastor Kirsten



NOTES FROM MARCH SESSION MEETING

Balance among Care of Congregation, Care of Community and Care of World

At the annual elders/deacons retreat held on February 3, 2013, a list of the "Marks of a Faithful Church" were created. These marks are:

- Sense of community and inclusiveness
- Culture of awareness of, and responsibility to, the needs of congregation, community and world
- Letting people take risks, be innovative, and fail
- Balance of concern for congregation, community and world
- Transparency regarding what the church does with money

Discussion was held on what does balance of *concern for congregation, community and world* mean? Each requires resources: time, money, buildings, staff, paying attention and skills. How do we know we're doing enough or doing too much, causing burnout? Since there are no boundaries, we need to begin to draw them. An important focus has been to help the people who can't get all the help they need from MICA. Our ability to care for our congregation and community changes as we age in life and our circumstances change as children are grown; we're no longer working full time. What is the next step for the session? We will begin to establish boundaries and thus create space. The first thing the session will do is have a sign-up sheet for the responsibilities of session members on Sunday mornings. Montie will create a sign-up sheet for Session members to sign up for being liturgist, serving communion and counting money

Reports from Working Groups

Facilities ó John Martenson and Donna Ricks ó see article elsewhere in newsletter

Worship ó Rich Thorson and Karen Phillips

A "readers theater" will be used to present the scriptures during Lenten worship.

A banner has been created for the Lenten season which hangs at the front of the sanctuary.

First Presbyterian and St. Paul's will join together as Palm Sunday begins; then, each congregation will process to their own church. These two churches will also join together on Maundy Thursday for an agape service followed by foot washing. First Presbyterians will then go to their church for the stripping of the sanctuary.

On Easter Sunday there will be two worship services: early, potluck brunch, 10:30 worship. There is no Church School.

Bell choir will play April 27.

One hundred candle holders (no drip) have arrived. These holders with new candles will be used during Christmas Eve service.

Education ó Marta Miller and Susan McIntyre

David Isch's class, "The Face of One Who Has Made a Long Journey" is, has begun.

The potato bar event held on February 26th was well attended.

Feedback from parents of children attending Church School is being obtained as a mid-year check.

A Sunday School play will be performed on Sunday, May 18th during worship.

Mission ó Tom Moore and Linda Cranston

There were two drives provided by the Driving Ministry during February with five scheduled for March and two in April.

College lunches are going well the second Sunday of each month.

Information has been received from the Presbyterian Disaster Relief Assistance program which is posted in Fellowship Hall. The Sudanese Community will be highlighted in the future.

The food recovery program is going well with St. Paul's offering space twice when our church was busy.

During the college's spring break Pizza Ranch, HyVee and GRMC will donate food. The program will continue for part of the summer.

Communications ó Donna Ricks and Susan McIntyre

Picture directory -- pictures will begin on Sunday, May 4th between 11:30-12:30. Personal information (address, phone, etc.) can be updated when the pictures are taken.

Newletter ó a new masthead will be used beginning with the next issue. All activities will be included on the newsletter calendar.

Various members, new and long standing, of the congregation and our youth will be highlighted in future newsletters.

(Continued on back side)

THE CHOIR ROBES ARE GONE!

In an earlier newsletter, Karen Phillips outlined the history of the robes. Here is what has happened since that report.

Cheryl Neubert, Karen Phillips, Gail Greenwald, and Donna Ricks laundered 28 robes and 66 scapulars. After packing the donation, Al and Donna Ricks delivered the boxes to the large sea-worthy container in Des Moines to be immediately taken to the ship sailing for Nigeria. An anonymous donation was made to defray the shipping costs. The robes are part of an on-going ministry in Nigeria called the Iowa Nigeria Project.

Begun in 1989 the Iowa and Nigeria Annual Conferences of the United Methodist Church established a partnership where in 2013 laptops, dental equipment, boxes of knives to perform eye surgeries, mosquito nets, graduation supplies, books, robes/stoles, and a variety of seeds for agricultural programs were provided. Thanks to the generosity and forward-thinking First Presbyterian Church members, the choir robes and scapulars were donated to the Iowa Nigeria Partnership for those graduating from high schools, colleges, and seminaries to wear for their ceremonies!

Thanks to Cheryl, Karen, Gail, and Donna for washing and packing the robes, and to Al and Donna for transporting them to Des Moines for transport to Nigeria. The Worship Committee is pleased that this donation can further the work of Christianity in Africa.

POTATO BAR ENJOYED BY MANY

More than fifty members and friends of First Presbyterian Church enjoyed the All-Church Baked Potato Bar on February 27. A delicious and entertaining evening was planned and coordinated by Chris and Dennis Day, with the help of a number of others. Special thanks to Susan McIntyre for the potato-stamped placemat activity, and to Linda Stoll, Meredith Breiting, Janice Logan, Kendall Nickle and Donna Ricks for assisting Chris in the kitchen. Thank you to those who provided special toppings for the potatoes and to those who offered salads and desserts. What a delicious meal! And, congratulations to all who were winners at Potato Jeopardy!

With the spring being an exceptionally busy season in the church's life, the next anticipated all-church event will be an ice cream social following the Sunday matinee performance of the Community Theatre's summer musical. Be watching for more information as summer approaches.

Al Ricks

All-Church Events coordinator

WANTED: LICENSE PLATES

Al Ricks is needing old license plates to use in making bird houses. If you have any or know of anyone who does, let Al know. 319-269-3475

THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE WILL BE PUBLISHING PROFILES OF THE CONGREGATION EACH MONTH IN AN EFFORT TO HELP US GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER. HERE IS OUR FIRST PROFILE.

David Isch and Nancy Gorsuch

David grew up in upstate New York while Nancy grew up in Montezuma, Iowa. They moved to Grinnell when they retired in order to be near Nancy's family. Nancy and David have been married for 33 years and have 2 sons, 2 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

During leisure time Nancy and David enjoy watching wildlife and caring for their yard. Their biggest concerns are issues of social justice.

Nancy received a B.A. from the University of Iowa; Master of Divinity and Ph.D. degrees from Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey. Nancy served as a pastor of Presbyterian congregations for 15 years. For 20 years prior to retirement in May 2012, Nancy taught Pastoral Theology and Counseling as Associate Professor at Brite Divinity School, Fort Worth, Texas.

David has studied at many fine universities all over the world and holds masters degrees in Divinity and Bioethics. He holds a certificate in Human Research Ethics from The University of Washington. He is listed by The Division of Ethics of Science and Technology of UNESCO as an ethics expert in Who's Who in Ethics. Prior to retirement in November 2008, for fifteen years he served as Director and senior faculty member of Texas Health's Harris Methodist Fort Worth Hospital Healthcare Ethics Center. He has done extensive research on the subject of organ donation ethics. He continues to write on many aspects of heart-brain ethics.

April 2014

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

| | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|--|---|--|---|
| FRN is the Food Recovery Network | | 1 12:00 FRN | 2 12:00 FRN 12:10 Lenten Service at Methodist Church | 3 12:00 FRN 5:30 Adult Bell Choir Practice | 4 12:00 Lectionary Bible Study | 5 8:00 to 11:00 League of Women Voters |
| 6 9:15 Choir, Sunday School Worship 10:30 Holy Communion 2:00 Turlach Ur 6:30 Class | 7 | 8 12:00 FRN 1:45 Prayer time 6:30 Scouts | 9 12:00 FRN 12:10 Lenten Service at St. Paul's 6:30 Session | 10 12:00 FRN 5:30 Adult Bell Choir Practice | 11 12:00 Lectionary Bible Study | 12 10:00 TO 12:00 Donna Ricks |
| 13 9:15 Choir, Sunday School Worship 10:30 2:00 Turlach Ur | 14 9:30 Communications Committee | 15 12:00 FRN 1:45 Prayer time 6:30 Scouts | 16 12:00 FRN 6:30 Deacons | 17 12:00 FRN 5:30 Adult Bell Choir Practice 7:00 Maundy Thursday Worship | 18 12:00 Good Friday Service at UCC | 19 |
| 20 EASTER 8:00 Worship Choir Brunch 10:30 Worship 2:00 Turlach Ur | 21 Newsletter Deadline | 22 12:00 FRN 1:45 Prayer time | 23 12:00 FRN | 24 10:30 Newsletter Mailing 12:00 FRN 5:30 Adult Bell Choir Practice | 25 12:00 Lectionary Bible Study | 26 |
| 27 9:15 Choir, Sunday School Worship 10:30 Church Cleaning Party | 28 | 29 12:00 FRN 1:45 Prayer time 6:30 Scouts | 30 12:00 FRN | | | |



The communication committee is pleased to announce that we are creating a pictorial/contact directory for our church family. This directory will be an ideal way to connect with each other. We will also be capturing a brief history of our church plus include several fun pictures of current activities in which our church is participating.

Pictures will be taken beginning on May 4th directly after our worship service. These photos will not be taken by a professional photographer, thus there will be no sales pitch for the purchase of a photo or photo package. Pictures will be used in the directory, perhaps newsletter or other church publications, but never on our website, blog or Facebook pages without your permission. These photos will be available for your own personal use. This photo might be the one you use on your next Christmas card or newsletter!

For the next several weeks, we will be making appointments in 15 minute increments. Pictures will be taken until we complete our photo collection.

Whether you decide to dress formally or casually is up to you.

Would you like to help us with this project? Do you have any questions?

Please contact Donna Ricks or Chris Day.

djrteach@msn.com

cday7127@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing everyone in the new directory. Our new Pictorial directory just won't be complete without you!

Thanks from your Communications Committee: Donna Ricks, Linda Cranston, Susan McIntyre, Karen Phillips and Chris Day

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 4th Randy German
- 5th Char Ewan
- 6th Patty McKay
- 11th Lorrie Shiver
- 14th Deb Martenson
- 22th Cole German
- 26th Elizabeth Trimmer
- 28th Carey Krull
- 29th Stiven Parmley



FACILITIES COMMITTEE UP-DATE

A walk through of the building and grounds will be conducted on March 26, 12:30 p.m., including, but not limited to, insulation, smoke detectors, radon detector, carbon monoxide sensor, acolyte candle lighting equipment, weather stripping, library closet, individual classrooms, etc. We will create a checklist for the future as we work on this task.

Fire Chief, Dan Sicard, will also do a walk through with us at a later time.

To help with future decision making, with Montie's assistance, a ledger will be created by the committee with the dates of major purchases.

Discussion was held about lawn mowing, trimming, fertilizing, weed control, flower planting, etc. The committee is recommending the use of herbicides for weed control.

John Martenson will attach the TV kept in the library to the cart as the whole apparatus is not stable and could easily fall.

April 27 has been set as a church cleanup day. Members will be asked to come in work clothes to worship, share a light lunch at some point, and clean inside and out. A cleaning list will be organized so people will know what equipment to bring. In case of rain, we will clean inside and do the outside at a later time.

The kitchen will be cleaned on another date with members of the Hospitality Committee in charge.



Donna Ricks for creating the reader's theater used during Lent. Thanks also to **all those who read.** It was a great way to experience scripture!
Chris and Dennis Day for organizing the potato bar ó SO fun.

Linda and David Cranston and Church Women United for putting on the pancake breakfast to benefit Mica and Kids Against Hunger.

Doty Stocker and Marlene Peak for organizing the Lenten lunch. Thanks to **all those who helped set up, serve, provide food, and clean up.**

Al Ricks for playing organ at the Lenten service .

Elizabeth Trimmer and Dan Whiteside for hosting the college lunch this month

Thanks to **the Bette Kersey memorial funds** for helping us purchase a wireless microphone.

David Cranston for running out in the middle of Ash Wednesday worship to get the grape juice that Pastor Kirsten forgot!

KIDS AGAINST HUNGER

The next packaging event for Kids Against Hunger will be held Sunday April 6. A sign-up sheet will be in fellowship hall. We especially welcome new people to this worthy project. The team shifts are 45 minutes. The time slot will be 1:00. Thanks to all who have participated, and an invitation to those of you who would like to give it a try. It is an hour of fun teamwork. Financial support if you cannot package is always welcome.

BIBLE STUDY



Sunday, April 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the church library. We will be reading the Gospel of Judas (just in time for Maundy Thursday)

FINANCIAL UPDATE

| | <u>February</u> | <u>Year-to-Date</u> |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Pledge Income | \$ 7,694 | \$19,612 |
| Budgeted | \$10,000 | \$20,000 |
| | | |
| Total Income | \$ 8,096 | \$21,639 |
| Budgeted | \$11,048 | \$22,096 |
| | | |
| Expenses | \$10,466 | \$27,126 |
| Budgeted | \$11,330 | \$22,660 |

THANK YOU TO OUR COFFEE MAKERS/CLEANUP, CAKE BAKERS. . .

í in March Donna and Al Ricks, Linda and Dave Cranston, Emily Moore and Janice Logan (potluck), Char Ewan, and Suzanne Nekola.
 . . . birthday cake baker: Marlene Peak

WORSHIP IN APRIL

April 6—5th Sunday in Lent. Holy Communion. Lectionary readings: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-1; John 11:1-45.

April 13—Passion/Palm Sunday. Lectionary readings: Palms: Matthew 21:1-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29. Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philemon 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54.

April 20—Resurrection of the Lord/Easter. Lectionary reading: Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10.

April 27— Second Sunday of Easter. Lectionary readings: Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31.

MARCH 12 LENTEN LUNCH

March 12 our church hosted the first of the 2014 Lenten service and luncheon. About 80 were served with many thanks going to Hospitality Co-Chairs, Marlene Peak and Doty Stoker. Thank you, too, to all those who donated cakes for the event.



APRIL 27
CHURCH CLEANING PARTY

SPECIAL SERVICES DURING HOLY WEEK

This year we again have a number of services during Holy Week (the week leading up to Easter): Palm/Passion Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday.

The unique thing about this year is that we will be sharing most of these services, at least in part, with people outside our congregation.

Palm/Passion Sunday

As we celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, we will join the members of St. Paul's Episcopal church outside to do our parade of palms. Both churches will hear the story then take palm branches, waving them high as we circle both churches. Then we will process into our respective churches for worship.

Maundy Thursday

We will join back up with St. Paul's as Lent comes to a close for a meaningful worship experience. We will begin with an agape meal at St. Paul's, followed by communion and a foot washing (no one will be required to have their feet washed - entirely optional). After the foot washing we will go to our respective sanctuaries for the stripping of the sanctuary and the last words of Christ.

Good Friday

This is the last of the community-wide noon services, but it is on Friday instead of Wednesday. This year the service is at the UCC church.

Easter Sunday

This year we will have two worship services on Easter. Our first service is a "sunrise" service (in spirit only - we will be inside). This will be a simple, non-traditional service at 8 a.m.

After the first service there will be a brunch potluck, which will take the place of our third Sunday potluck. Brunch will include mostly breakfast foods. Look for signups in Fellowship hall.

Then we will have our traditional service at 10:30.

Each of these worship services is meant to bring us through the season of Lent in a way that will deepen the meaning of Easter when we get there. Come to as many as you can!

Schedule of services Holy Week

Palm/Passion Sunday: April 13 at 10:30 - Beginning outside

Maundy Thursday: April 17 at 7 p.m. - Beginning at St. Paul's

Good Friday: April 18 at noon - at United Church of Christ Congregational

Easter Sunday: Sunrise at 8:00 a.m.

Traditional at 10:30 a.m.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives, and work together to strengthen their families and communities. Recognizing that the hope we have in Christ is lived out in our hope for one another, we respond with gifts that help our sisters and brothers around the world find the hope for a brighter future.

We will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Palm Sunday during worship. For more information on OGHS, go to <http://pcusa.org/oghs/>.

CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?



First Presbyterian Church has a prayer chain. This group of folks is committed to pray for any person or event anyone might want to share with the chain. If you would like to participate please contact Sara McCue at deacons-firstpres@gmail.com or call (641)990-7597.

SUNDAY SERVANTS

April

6^o Liturgist: Donna Ricks
Greeter: Chrissy Hazlett
Deacon: Carey Krull
Ushers: Joy Krull and Rich Thorson
Coffee: Evelyn Freeman
Acolyte: Emma Geissinger Cutchins
Van Driver: Norm Schroeder
Nursery Volunteer: Linda Cranston
Communion Servers: Donna Ricks,
John Martenson, Rich Thorson
Offering Counter: Karen Phillips

13^o Liturgist: None needed
Greeter: Ramona McCaw
Deacon: Janice Logan
Ushers: Marv and Mary Doty
Coffee: Irma Arnaman
Acolyte: Alana Ferguson
Van Driver: Carey Krull
Nursery Volunteer: Jill Kaiser

20^o Liturgist: Ed Phillips
Greeter: Donna Winburn
Deacon: Sara McCue
Ushers: Irma Arnaman & John Martenso
Coffee: Worship Committee
Acolyte: Bea Geissinger Cutchins
Van Driver: Russ Stoker
Nursery Volunteer: Deb Martenson

27^o Liturgist: Montie Redenius
Greeter: Rich Thorson
Deacon: Suzanne Redenius
Ushers: Al and Donna Ricks
Coffee: Montie Redenius
Acolyte: Amber Martenson
Van Driver: Norm Schroeder
Nursery Volunteer: Emily Moore
Cake Baker: Irma Arnaman

May

4—Liturgist: Tom Moore
Greeter: Denise and Richard Creps
Deacon: Jim Ahrens
Ushers: Sue Ahrens and Art Heimann
Coffee:
Acolyte: Pete Simpson
Van Driver: Montie Redenius
Nursery Volunteer: Marta Miller
Communion Servers: Tom Moore,
Char Ewan, Erik Simpson
Offering Counter: Marta Miller

CWU PANCAKE BREAKFAST THANK YOU

Thank you to the church for allowing us to use the kitchen and fellowship hall to host the CWU pancake breakfast Saturday, March 15th. Also, a big thank you to all of you who came to have pancakes with us. The support from this congregation is very gratifying. We raised nearly \$900 which will be divided between Kids Against Hunger and MICA.

FOOD RECOVERY NETWORK

We have been partnering with MICA and a group from Grinnell College, taking food from the food service at the college that was prepared, but not served, and distributing it to families selected by MICA. It has been going well. We now also have arranged to obtain food from Hy-Vee, Pizza Ranch and Grinnell Regional Medical Center. We are trying to keep the program going even when the college is not in session and there is no food available from their cafeteria. Currently we are distributing only Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. We can still use some volunteers to help with the distribution. Sign-up sheets are in Fellowship Hall, or you can contact Linda or David Cranston at 236-1105 if you want more information.

FROM THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Do you have any wooden or metal stools, with or without backs, which could be borrowed for the Palm Sunday Passion Narrative? We would need them for a rehearsal on April 12 and for worship on April 13. Please contact Donna Ricks (djrteach@msn.com or 319-269-9626) or the church office.

Thank you.

Communion to Homebound Members

Elders John Martenson and Donna Ricks assisted Pastor Kirsten during the month of March.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Kirsten gave a report on people coming to our church for help. Generally, there are two persons per week that come in for gas vouchers. However, last month there was one day when there were five-persons that contacted the church for a variety of needs. In addition to gas vouchers, the needs revolve around rent and homelessness.



Let's Have a Cleaning Party, So . . .
Wear Your Work Clothes to Church!

Yes, that's right! On Sunday, April 27, please wear work clothes to worship. WHY? We are so glad you asked! A church cleaning day is being planned. We will do some outdoor work (if the weather permits) and clean inside. The church's kitchen will be cleaned on another day.

Lunch? Bring a sack lunch, if you like, to enjoy before we work. Since this is birthday Sunday too, a sandwich and piece of cake will go well together. Beverage will be provided.

In April information will be shared as to specific jobs so that you can bring the appropriate equipment whether it is for window cleaning or raking or everything in between. In case of rain, we will clean inside!

There will be jobs for all ages!

More details to come!!

**Your Facilities Committee,
John Martenson and Donna Ricks, Co-Chairs**

**CHECK US OUT at [http://
fpcgrinnell.yolasite.com/](http://fpcgrinnell.yolasite.com/)**

If you have not taken a look at the church's web site in a while, please do so. There's a new look to most pages and updates being added often. Headings include information about Missions (Linda Cranston's award from OxFam), Worship, Christian Education, Staff, College Group, Presbytery Honor (John and Dorothy Peak), and a Photo Gallery.

Please offer your feedback to djrteach@msn.com

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Return Service Requested