



The Grinnell Presbyterian

The monthly newsletter of First Presbyterian Church

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October 2016

Kirsten Klepfer, Pastor

GARDEN OF READIN'...

Our house has a new resident: Oreø the Cat. He's six years old, black and white (shocking, I know), and has been well fed his whole life.

Our household is a bit susceptible to acquiring new pets. This is partly because we're not altogether practical about the whole thing. The decision about taking in this cat was more about where it came from (my childhood best friend's mom whose dementia is progressing) than any careful thought about whether we should add a cat to our menagerie.

Oreo came to us last week. In a very bizarre coincidence Terry Gross's guest on Fresh Air that day was a cat behavior specialist. One of the questions Terry asked her had to do with introducing new cats to pets already in the household. So timely, I thought, as I imagined us doing everything she said.

I endeavored to follow her many suggestions to make life easier on Sunny (our cat), Sam (our dog), and, of course, Oreø. We kept Oreø separate at first. Our intention was to slowly introduce him to the others ó through a baby gate, through smell, seeing each other at a distanceí that sort of thing.

Well, life often intrudes on such intentions. First of all, Oreø kept getting out of the room he was in. Second of all, getting cats to abide by directions (like, "stay here by the baby gate and smell this other cat") is a fool's errand (herding cats, and all that). Third, we're all pretty impatient and lazy in my household.

With all that, we decided to just open the door and see what happened. Similar to experiences I have had with pets in the past, things started off rocky (hisses, moans, chases), but over a few daysøtime they worked things out all by themselves.

I know this doesn't always work. The approach of "do nothing and let things work themselves out" can be catastrophic. But I would dare say in our culture today it is an under-utilized strategy. We like to win. We like to get the outcomes we want in the way we want. We like to control others's behaviors. We want an end goal, and then we will do whatever we need to in order to reach it. This can be as true when it comes to pets in our houses, as when it comes to decisions about how to relate to other countries.

I had a class one time at Synod School (shameless plug) with a brilliant man who had been an American Foreign Service Officer. He compared American foreign policy to the foreign policies of countries throughout Europe and Asia. He said Americans always think there's a problem they can fix, and do whatever they can to fix it. Other countries understand most problems are complex, have no easy solution, and can only be managedí there is no fix, as much as they would like there to be one.

Learning to tell the difference seems to me of critical importance as we try to be people of faith and citizens embedded in a "control-it-fix-it" culture. Human relationships are messy. Even when we love someone, trying to fix them or make things perfect between us almost always results in hurt. Sometimes the most faithful thing to do is nothing. There's a time and a place for intervention. If my dog had tried to eat Oreø, I would have looked for another strategy very quickly. But for us folks who tend toward action, maybe sometimes we should just open the door, let the cat out, and see what happens.

Peace,
Pastor Kirsten

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY: OCTOBER 2

Every year, on the **first Sunday of October**, churches around the world from many denominations observe World Communion Sunday. This Sunday celebrates our oneness as the Body of Christ and reminds us that this unity transcends our differences. **The Presbyterians actually have a starring role in this celebration.** While it is now practiced by many denominations, it was **born in our denomination in 1936.** This year, at First Pres, we will have breads made in the tradition of different countries on our communion table as a reminder of people everywhere sharing communion on the same day.



CROP WALK—SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2

Through Church World Service's annual Crop Walk, local communities all over the United States and towns like Grinnell get involved in God's program of passion and compassion. **Join the annual Grinnell Crop Walk on Sunday, October 2nd.** There will be a walking contingent from our congregation and the bigger the better! You can also participate by pledging money to support one of our walkers. For additional information about walking or donating to the walk, contact Linda Cranston or Marta Miller. **Registration is at 1:00 p.m.; the walk starts at 1:30 p.m. with a brief "sending" service at Ahrens Park.** Three-fourths of the proceeds go to Church World Service, to fight hunger in the world and one-fourth is distributed to food pantries in Poweshiek County.

COMMUNITY MEAL: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4

First Presbyterian Church will be providing the **Community Meal at Davis School on Tuesday, October 4th.** Sign-up sheets will be available in the Fellowship Hall in late September. We need a few helpers to prepare the food, and several servers and help with clean up. Donations of bars, cookies and salads would be appreciated. Thank you.

PRESBYTOBERFEST: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9



An evening of fun for all is planned for Sunday, October 9. This fall's all-church fest will take place at Ahrens Park (shelter house # 2), with special events getting underway at 4:00 p.m., and the church picnic starting at 5:30 p.m. The evening will close with a devotional time led by Pastor Kirsten. Burgers, brats, veggie burgers and beverages will be provided. Tableware will also be provided. Those attending are invited to bring another dish to share. The festivities preceding the 5:30 picnic will feature an Olympics theme this year! The competitive events will include such things as spouse calling, nail pounding, bubblegum blowing, and rooster crowing. These are, obviously, highly specialized events that didn't quite make it into the Rio Olympics, but will find a perfect fit in our Presbyterfest fun! You will want to sign up for your events at church the next three Sundays! Invite friends to attend Presbyterfest with you! We'll look forward to seeing you there!

BELL CHOIR

Bells will begin on **Monday, October 10th at 5:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Practice will be held on Mondays and usually lasts about 45 minutes. If you are interested in ringing with our bell choir, please contact **Chris Day.**



FALL ROADSIDE CLEAN-UP

Our fall roadside clean-up sponsored by our church will be sometime in **October.** Details and time will be listed in the Sunday bulletin.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY—OCTOBER 16

Please remember to bring **your pledge cards to worship on October 16th.** We will dedicate the pledges during worship. If you are unable to be in worship that day (or just forget to bring your card) please get your pledge to the office as soon as possible. We rely on this information for our budgeting, which will begin in October.

BREAD FOR WORLD COMMUNION
SUNDAY—OCTOBER 2

Susan McIntyre is still looking for **bread from around the world** to use for communion Sunday. There is a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. But if you want to bring something and didn't get a chance to sign up call the church office and tell Sheryl or send Susan an email omablue-bird@gmail.com. If there is extra bread we can sample the different kinds during fellowship



STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

	<u>August</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Pledge Income	\$11,112	\$97,071
Budgeted	\$10,583	\$84,666
Total Income	\$11,549	\$103,180
Budgeted	\$11,412	\$ 91,300
Expenses	\$11,986	\$97,275
Budgeted	\$11,829	\$94,637

NARRATIVE LECTIONARY IN
OCTOBER

October 2—20th Sunday after Pentecost, 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Lectionary reading: Exodus 12:1-13, 13:1-8.

October 9—21st Sunday after Pentecost, 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Lectionary reading: Exodus 32:1-14.

October 16—22nd Sunday after Pentecost, 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Lectionary reading: 1 Samuel 1:9-11, 19-20, 2:1-10.

October 23—23rd Sunday after Pentecost, 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Lectionary reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-17.

October 30—24th Sunday after Pentecost, 32st Sunday in Ordinary Time. Lectionary readings: 1 Kings 5:1-5, 8:27-30, 41-43.

ON VACATION

Pastor Kirsten will be on vacation October 17-22.
Montie Redenius will be preaching on October 23rd. I promise you don't want to miss this!



OCTOBER
BIRTHDAYS

- 1-Jeremy McIlrath, Donna Winburn
- 2-Bev Miller
- 3-Donna Roche
- 4-Kirsten Klepfer, Helen Stuhr-Rommereim
- 5-Ray Peak, Paul Parmley, Brenda McIlrath, Jo Schroeder
- 11-Janice Logan
- 12-Suzanne Redenius
- 15-Marie Allbee, Joyce Shook, Roger Bortell
- 16-Graeme McCue
- 17-Bill Bennett
- 24-Russ Stoker
- 27-Mary Doty
- 29-Gail Greenwald
- 31-Bonnie Rutherford

PRAYER CHAIN

First Presbyterian has an active group of people who commit to pray for anyone who asks for that. This group is always open for new members, and of course all are invited to send a prayer request. You can send it by email: deaconsfirstpres@gmail.com, or call the office at (641)236-6059. Prayer request cards are also available in the pew racks.

Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.
 Albert Camus



THANKS FOR YOUR
GENEROSITY!

On Sunday, September 18th, our church collected \$561 for SEG. What a great gift to people in our community who don't have access to traditional financing options.

Read more...it's an exercise for the body and soul.
 Taken from "Guideposts"

October 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 5:00 Poweshiek County Extension Office
2 9:15 Choir, Sunday School World Communion Sunday Food Pantry Sunday 2:00 Turlach Ur 5:30 Small Group	3 6:30 Small Group 7:00 Alanon	4 12:00 Food Re- covery Network 4:30 Prayer	5 12:00 Food Re- covery Network 3:00 Small Group	6 10:00 Small Group 12:00 Food Recovery Net- work	7 12:00 Lection- ary Bible Study	8
9 9:15 Choir, Sunday School Heifer Sunday 12:00 College Lunch 2:00 Turlach Ur Presbytoberfest	10 5:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Alanon	11 10:00 Care Givers Group 12:00 Food Recov- ery Network 4:30 Prayer 5:30 Second Mile	12 12:00 Food Re- covery Network 6:30 Deacons	13 12:00 Food Recovery Net- work	14 12:00 Lection- ary Bible Study	15
16 9:15 Choir, Sunday School Third Sunday Pot- luck 2:00 Turlach Ur 5:30 Small Group	17 5:00 Bell Choir 6:30 Small Group 7:00 Alanon	18 12:00 Food Re- covery Network 3:00 Food Dis- tribution 4:30 Prayer	19 3:00 Small Group 6:30 Session	20 10:00 Small Group	21 12:00 Lection- ary Bible Study 4:00 SEG	22
23 9:15 Choir, Sunday School 2:00 Turlach Ur	24 Newsletter Deadline 5:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Alanon	25 10:00 Care Giv- ers Group 12:00 Food Re- covery Network 4:30 Prayer	26	27 10:00 Small Group Leaders 10:30 Newslet- ter Mailing	28 12:00 Lection- ary Bible Study	29
30 9:15 Choir, Sun- day School Birthday Sunday 2:00 Turlach Ur 5:30 Small Group	31 5:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Alanon					

SUNDAY SERVANTS

OCTOBER

2- Liturgist: Dennis Day
Greeter: Katie Hoisington
Deacon: Jim Ahrens
Ushers: Donna and Al Ricks
Coffee: Mary Lou and Marv Doty
Acolyte: Slane McCue
Van Driver: Carey Krull
Nursery Volunteer: Sue Ahrens
Communion Servers: Marta Miller, Karla Kriegel
Offering Counters: Marta Miller, 2nd person as assigned by Finance Committee

9- Liturgist: Gail Greenwald
Greeter: Ramona McCaw
Deacon: Suzanne Redenius
Ushers: Chris and Dennis Day
Coffee: Gail and Stan Greenwald
Acolyte: Ty McIntyre
Van Driver: Montie Redenius
Nursery Volunteer: Linda Cranston

16- Liturgist: Jim Ahrens
Greeters: Jim and Sue Ahrens
Deacon: Ed Phillips
Ushers: Linda Stoll, Phil McCune
Potluck: Marlene and Ray Peak
Acolyte: Miles McIntyre
Van Driver: John McIntyre
Nursery Volunteer: Evelyn Freeman

23- Liturgist: Ed Phillips
Greeters: Denise and Rich Creps
Deacon: Suzanne Redenius
Ushers: Russ Stoker, Rich Thorson
Coffee: Doty Stoker
Acolyte: Damian Nickle
Van Driver: Karla Kriegel
Nursery Volunteer: Jill Kaiser

30 - Liturgist: Karen Phillips
Greeters: Joy and Carey Krull
Deacon: Carey Krull
Ushers: Tom and Emily Moore
Coffee: Janice Logan
Acolyte: Zach Nickle
Van Driver: Montie Redenius
Nursery Volunteer: Hannah Lundberg
Cake bakers: Montie and Suzanne Redenius

NOVEMBER

6- Liturgist: Mary Anne Nickle
Greeter: Art Heimann
Deacon: Jim Ahrens
Ushers: Marv and Mary Doty
Coffee: Irma Arnaman
Acolyte: Peter Simpson
Van Driver: Carey Krull
Nursery Volunteer: Deb Martenson
Communion Servers: Irma Arnaman, Jim Ferguson
Offering Counters: Mary Anne Nickel, 2nd person as assigned by Finance Committee

13- Liturgist: TBA
Greeters: Chris and Dennis Day
Deacon: Suzanne Redenius
Ushers: Gail and Stan Greenwald
Coffee: Debbie Schade
Acolyte: Julio Parmley
Van Driver: Paul Parmley
Nursery Volunteer: Marta Miller

20- Liturgist: TBA
Greeters: Lola and Dallas Sterk
Deacon: Paul Parmley
Ushers: Ed and Karen Phillips
Deacons: Harvest Dinner Day
Acolyte: Lydia Klepfer
Van Driver: John McIntyre
Nursery Volunteer: Emily Moore

27- Liturgist: TBA
Greeter: TBA
Deacon: TBA
Ushers: Elizabeth Trimmer, Debbie Schade
Coffee: Linda Stoll
Acolyte: Slane McCue
Van Driver: Karla Kriegel
Nursery Volunteer: Evelyn Freeman
Cake baker: TBA



Pets are so much more than animals who share your home. They are companions, comforters and sources of unconditional love for all who know them. Taken from *Guideposts*.

THINGS THAT WILL MAKE YOU SMILE!

Laughing so hard your face hurts.



Don't count the days; make the days count.
Muhamad Ali

NEW NAME

Kids Against Hunger has changed its name to **Take Away Hunger**.



FORGIVENESS

The act of forgiveness is one of the most difficult things life asks of us. Yet it is one of the most necessary—mentally, spiritually, even physically. Forgiveness is a skill you can develop and practice like any other. One of the best ways to get into a forgiving frame of mind is through prayer.

An Autumn Day

Pumpkins in the cornfields,
Gold among the brown,
Leaves of rust and scarlet
Trembling slowly down;
Birds that travel south-
ward,
Lovely time to play;
Nothing is as pleasant
As an autumn day!



Author Unknown



NATIONAL ICE CREAM DAY!

September 22 is national ice cream day! The first ice cream cone was sold at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis. Before the cone took off, ice cream was served in a small glass called a "penny lick". From "Intelligence For Your Life".

GRINNELL COLLEGE LUNCH



Grinnell College students are invited for lunch and conversation, Sunday, October 9 immediately following the morning worship service. The lunch will be held at the home of **Emily and Tom Moore**, 1819 Prince Street. Rides will be available. Feel free to invite a friend. Students will receive more information by email the week before the event.



TO ALL THE FAITHFUL MEALS ON WHEELERS

Thank you **Mary Lou Doty, Gail and Stan Greenwald, Karla Kriegel, Montie Redenius, Jim and Sue Ahrens, Kendall Nickle and Janice Logan** for taking time out of your day to deliver Meals On Wheels. This is a great community program. Please consider signing up next spring when our turn comes again!

SESSION MINUTES

The Session Highlights will return in November. minutes



WHEN MORNING GILD THE SKIES

A brief history of the hymn

This worship hymn is by Edward Caswall, who was born in Yatley, England in 1814. He was very earnest in his duties as a minister and took a loving interest in the poor, the sick and little children. Taken from "tanbible.com".

SCHEDULING OF SUNDAY SERVANTS

Before too long a task force from the worship committee will be convening to schedule Sunday Servants for January ó April, 2017. Those volunteer jobs include greeting, ushering, making coffee and cleaning up after church, hosting third Sunday potlucks, lighting candles, van driving, and tending the nursery. We don't want to overlook anyone who would like to serve, so please let the church office know if you would like your name added to one of the lists. We also know lives change, so if you have been assigned to one of the jobs in the past and it no longer works for you to participate, please let Sheryl in the office know of this as well. Some of you have already contacted the office and we have that information on file. We have a great group of volunteers who host the third Sunday potlucks in January ó May, September, October and December. **THANK YOU!** (November is the Deacon-hosted Harvest Dinner and we take the summer months off). However, additional names for hosting the eight months of third Sunday potlucks would be helpful. If you do not want to take charge of this event but are willing to assist, we would like to know that, too. Again, please let Sheryl know, and she will pass the word along to the task force. Thank you to all who have given of your time as a Sunday Servant.

THANK YOU



Thank you to **every-one who worked at the KAH packaging event.** And a special thanks to

Karla Kriegel for excellent recruiting skills!

Miriam Baumann who donated the money to cover a KAH packaging cost, as a memorial for her sister Alice Mealy. The next packaging event will be November 13^h.

The **Deacons** for assisting with moving heavy items out of the Fellowship Hall for the carpet cleaning.

Angela Davis for cleaning the carpets in the library and the Fellowship Hall. They look great!

Paul Parmley for assisting with moving heavy items back into the Fellowship Hall after the carpets were cleaned.

Russ Stoker for projects large and small on our buildings and grounds.

David Isch for leading the study of our all church book read, "*Not in God's Name.*"

Carolyn Jacobson and **Erik Simpson** for hosting the September college lunch.

To **everyone** who donates food for the

Prayer is the subtlest feeling, a ripple that thrills your whole Being. Taken from *õThe Art of Living*".

BOOKS

On Sunday, August 21st, when **Kamal Hammouda** was our guest leading worship and preaching, we were honored to receive books on the Muslim faith and Islam. These books are now in the church library under Other Religions. Please take time to go and look at them. These books will share some insights about the God we all worship.

IT'S TIME TO PRAY: TUESDAYS AT 4:30 P.M.

Every Tuesday a small group of people gather in the church library for a time of silent prayer at 4:30 p.m. The prayers lasts about 15 minutes and there is a suggested structure for those who would like. **New people** are always welcome; it is a drop-in group.

DID YOU KNOW?

The **Grinnell Food Recovery Chapter** was the 22nd Chapter of 200 National Chapters! The Food Recovery Network unites students on college campuses to fight food waste from their campuses and communities and donates it to people in need. It is five years strong and growing!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS

Let us make this a **whole church project** and help the Heart and Hands Health Clinic. The fall mission project is once again under way! Baby items needed for the clinic in Des Moines, Iowa are **diapers, lotions and ointments, blankets, and baby Tylenol.** October is the last month that we will be collecting items for the clinic. A box is available in the Fellowship Hall marked baby items for the care clinic.

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Return Service Requested

Monday is when reality hits
Monday is when Sunday is tested
Monday is when faith has to work!