



The Grinnell Presbyterian

The monthly newsletter of First Presbyterian Church

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Office hours: 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Monday through Friday

November 2017

Kirsten Klepfer, Pastor

GARDEN OF READIN'...

In August I received a call from the person who coordinates the *SE*ED* program, a senior continuing education series run by the hospital. She asked if I would be willing to speak at their annual program on Thanksgiving this year. I honestly thought at first it was a joke of some kind. I kind of stammered out a question like, "öI'm confusedí why are you asking me?" She explained that every year they have a clergy-type person speak at this particular event and someone had suggested me.

"öI think someone might be putting you on," I said. "öI'm probably the only pastor out there that could somewhat legitimately be called anti-giving thanks." After some more questions and conversation, I said I would think about it and we hung up. I spent the next few days thinking about what I might say, then called her and agreed to speak. I don't know if she was relieved or regretful.

Now, let me be clear that I'm not anti-Thanksgiving, as in against the holiday of Thanksgiving. In fact it might be my favorite holiday. In our family, it's the big gathering ó 20-30 people at my sister's house for a huge meal and time of fellowship, love, and naps. It's warm, comforting, and we really do all feel thankful for what we have: an amazing family that, despite everyone's quirks and limitations, loves and supports each other.

But I do struggle with giving thanks as a concept. Or, more precisely, I struggle with the idea that giving thanks is inherently a good thing, and I know that puts me in the minority ó especially in my line of work. All you have to do is search online for books on thanksgiving, and you see that the assumption is it's the best thing in the world: it can do everything from cure depression to make you more successful in life.

I have grown weary of how giving thanks has been turned into a strategy that can be used to get what we want. Thanksgiving in the bible is not a means to some other end; thanksgiving is always an end in and of itself. In this difference lies the difference between secular thanksgiving and spiritual thanksgiving.

Secular thanksgiving really has the self at the center: I am thankful because I like what I have, or I am thankful because it's good for me to practice gratitude. Spiritual thanksgiving has something transcendent at the center. For Jews and Christians that is the God of the bible. Spiritual thanksgiving *de-centers* the self. We are not only encouraged to be thankful when good things are happening to us, we are encouraged to be thankful in spite of bad things happening to us. This is because thanksgiving reminds us that we are not the center of the universe. God is up to something much larger than the project of my one life, and the goodness of God is not determined by how good my one life is.

Thanksgiving in the Judeo-Christian is about humility, perspective, and awe, and it is meant to engender compassion, selflessness, and hope. The goal of the Christian life is not to be happy or successful, and so the goal of thanksgiving is not to make us happier or more successful.

Thanksgiving is a secular holiday, to be sure ó which does not diminish my love for the day. But I am aware that mostly what I celebrate on Thanksgiving is what I am thankful for in my own life, and that does, indeed, make me feel good. But it also makes it about me and my family. This year, I hope to find myself in a more spiritual place on thanksgiving, thinking not so much about what I'm thankful for in my own life, but about why I am thankful to God, the creator of the universe.

Peace,
Pastor Kirsten

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED—WORLD COMMUNITY DAY— FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Rabbi Rob Cabelli, associate chaplain and rabbi at Grinnell College, will speak at the annual World Community Day sponsored by Grinnell's Church Women United. The service will be held at **12 noon, Friday, November 3**, at St. John's Lutheran Church, 1224 East Street. "Making a Difference in a Bewildering World" is the theme of the service. The service will be followed by a light lunch in the church Fellowship Hall. Everyone in the community is welcome to attend. The church is handicapped accessible. Church Women United is a national ecumenical Christian women's movement that celebrates unity in diversity and works for a world of peace and justice.



HARVEST DINNER

NOVEMBER 19

The Deacons are ready for annual Harvest Dinner!!! After worship on the 19th, we will share a meal and give thanks for God's bounty. Turkeys and ham will be provided; watch for the sign-up sheet for bringing food and for ways you can help out. There will be more than enough food so bring a friend who might need to see evidence of the goodness and generosity of God and God's people. **Please bring your own table setting if possible.**

THANK YOU FROM THE COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

Over the past several weeks GETTING TO KNOW YOU FORMS have been distributed to obtain updated information for Sunday Servants (greeters, ushers, liturgists, acolytes, coffee makes, van drivers, and nursery volunteers), committee members for Worship, Communications, Facilities, Christian Education, Missions, and Memorial, and various other volunteer tasks in the church. Additionally, information was needed to organize email lists.

As of this writing, 71% of the 89 forms dispersed have been returned. Several church friends have indicated they have theirs ready and just forget to bring them to church. Lists have been compiled and are ready to give to the various committee chairs. If you would like to still be included, please contact **Donna Ricks** as we don't want to exclude anyone.

TAKE AWAY HUNGER

(Formerly Kids Against Hunger)

The first Take Away Hunger packaging event of the school year will take place on **Sunday, November 5** at 1:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Educational Center. We would like to have both a Sunday School team and an adult team. A sign up sheet is available on the table in the Fellowship Hall.

COMMUNITY MEAL TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

First Presbyterian Church will be providing the Community Meal at Davis School on **Tuesday, November 28th**. Sign-up sheets will be available the first Sunday in November. 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.

CROP REPORT

Thanks to all who walked and/or raised money for this year's CROP walk!!! **Marta Miller, Chrissy Hazlett, Linda Cranston, Karla Kriegel, Lydia Klepfer, Dan, Slane, Hanna, and Graeme McCue, Chris Day, Janet Carl, Damien Nickle.** And thanks to **everyone who contributed** to the walkers.

Walkers from First Presbyterian raised an astonishing **\$3514!** one of our best years in the past decade. Together with other churches and organizations in Grinnell, we raised about **\$7000**. Of course, this was accomplished with the generosity of so many in our congregation. Thanks to everyone who gave to this wonderful project!

WE GOOFED!

As the Getting to Know You Forms were organized and proofread, an important committee was left out of Memorials. This was certainly not intentional. If you wish to serve on this important committee, please contact the church office and your name will be shared with the committee chairs and immediately added to the committee roster.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3-Ryan Creps
6-Norm Schroeder
8-Sara Day-Brewer
13-Bob Weisskopf
21-Ashlyn Imhoff
26-Erik Simpson
28-Barbara Erquist



PLEDGE CARDS

If you have not turned in your **2018** pledge yet, please get that to Sheryl in the office as soon as possible. Feel free to email, call or bring in your pledge card.



FOOD RECOVERY NETWORK

The Food Recovery Network is seeking additional volunteers. If you are interested please contact David or Linda Cranston for additional information.

MICA FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

First Presbyterian Church donated 16.2 pounds of food plus milk and bread vouchers to the Food Pantry in September. MICA's Poweshiek Food Pantry was able to provide food to 274 families throughout Poweshiek County during the month of September. Since families are now eligible to obtain food twice a month, 340 food boxes were distributed.

Do you know of someone who could be helped through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program? LIHEAP is a federally-funded program helping those households meeting the income guidelines with home energy bills. This program offers a one-time payment to the heating bills of low-income families over the winter months. Additionally, families will qualify for a moratorium, a guarantee that their lights and heat won't be turned off, from November 1, 2017 to April 1, 2018. This will help all qualifying families to avoid a major source of financial stress during the winter and remain warm through the holidays. If you know of someone who is interested and might qualify encourage them to call MICA at 641-236-3923 to ask questions or make an appointment.



A HEIFER INTER- NATIONAL UPDATE

A generous gift of over \$7,000.00 was made to Heifer International by First Presbyterian Church. Families in countries where Heifer International works, like Bangladesh, Guatemala and Malawi, who once struggled with hunger and poverty, now have the livestock and training they need to improve their farms. With our commitment and their hard work, they are on their way to building lives of self-reliance and dignity, uplifting entire communities in the process. Heifer International is helping to make a better world, one family at a time.



GRINNELL COLLEGE STUDENTS

Grinnell College Students are invited for lunch and conversation on Sunday, November 12 immediately following the morning worship service. The lunch will be held at the home of **Sara and Dan McCue**. Rides will be available. Feel free to invite a friend. Students will receive more information by email the week before the event.

Peace begins with a smile. - Mother Teresa

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS

The Presbyterian Women annual thank-offering will be collected on Sunday, November 19. Fourteen of this year's projects serve people in need in the United States, and eight projects are international. More than 40 percent of the projects are health ministries. **All** are encouraged to help with this worthwhile project. Envelopes will be available.

Thank you to all who donated a large amount of baby items for the Heart and Hands Care Clinic in Des Moines, Iowa. They will be delivered in November.

November 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 12:00 Food Recovery Network 6 to 9 p.m. League of Women Voters	2 4:30 Bell Choir 5:15 Respite	3 12:00 Church Women United World Community Day at St. John's Lutheran Church	4
5 All Saints Day Holy Communion Food Pantry 9:15 Choir, Sunday School 10:30 Worship 1:00 Take Away Hunger 2:00 Turlach Ur 5:00 Poweshiek County Democrats Soup Supper	6 7:00 Alanon	7 12:00 Food Recovery Network 4:30 Prayer	8 12:00 Food Recovery Network 6:30 Deacons	9 4:30 Bell Choir	10 12:00 Lectionary Bible Study	11 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Iowa Art Quilters
12 Heifer College Lunch 9:15 Choir, Sunday School 10:30 Worship 2:00 Turlach Ur 7:00 Taize at St. Paul's Episcopal Church	13 7:00 Alanon	14 10:00 Care Givers Group 12:00 Food Recovery Network 4:30 Prayer	15 12:00 Food Recovery Network 6:30 Deacons	16 12:00 Food Recovery Network 4:30 Bell Choir	17 12:00 Lectionary Bible Study	18 7 to 11:00 a.m. Food Share and the Campbell Fund Harvest Dinner Set Up
19 Third Sunday Potluck/Harvest Dinner 9:15 Choir, Sunday School 10:30 Worship PW Thank Offering 2:00 Turlach Ur	20 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Food Distribution 7:00 Alanon	21 12:00 Food Recovery Network 3:00 Community Meal 4:30 Prayer	22 12:00 Food Recovery Network	23 Office closed	24 Office closed No Lectionary Bible Study	25
26 Birthday Sunday 9:15 Choir, Sunday School 10:30 Worship 2:00 Turlach Ur	27 Newsletter Deadline 7:00 Alanon	28 10:00 Care Givers Group 12:00 Food Recovery Network 4:30 Prayer	29 12:00 Food Recovery Network	30 10:30 Newsletter Mailing 12:00 Food Recovery Network 4:30 Bell Choir		

SUNDAY SERVANTS

November

5- Liturgist: Karla Kriegel
Greeter: Art Heimann
Deacon: Chrissy Hazlett
Ushers: Jim and Sue Ahrens
Coffee: Linda Stoll
Acolyte: Zach Nickle
Van Driver: Paul Parmley
Nursery Volunteer: Linda Cranston
Communion Servers: Dennis Day, Russ Stoker
Offering Counters: Char Ewan, 2nd person as assigned by Finance Committee
12- Liturgist: Tom Moore
Greeters: Stan and Gail Greenwald
Deacon: Ed Phillips
Ushers: Karen Phillips, Joy Krull
Coffee: Mary Anne Nickle
Acolyte: Damien Nickle
Van Driver: Karla Kriegel
Nursery Volunteer: Chrissy Hazlett
19- Liturgist: Joy Krull
Greeters: Bob and Carol Weisskopf
Deacon: Paul Parmley
Ushers: Chris and Dennis Day
Deacons Harvest Dinner
Acolyte: Lydia Klepfer
Van Driver: Carey Krull
Nursery Volunteer: Evelyn Freeman
26- Liturgist: Gail Greenwald
Greeter: Selva Lehman
Deacon: Phil McCune
Ushers: Kendall Nickle, Zach Nickle
Coffee: Donna and Al Ricks
Acolyte: Julio Parmley
Van Driver: Montie Redenius
Nursery Volunteer: Alana Ferguson
Cake Baker: Donna Ricks and Bev Miller



Prayer allows us to worship and praise God. It also allows us to offer confession of our sins, which should lead us to our genuine repentance. Moreover, prayer grants us the opportunity to present our requests to God.

All of the aspects of prayer involve communication with God. God is personal, cares for us and wants to commune with us through prayer. - Taken from www.focusonthefamily.com

December

3- Liturgist: Char Ewan
Greeter: Char Ewan
Deacon: Mary Lou Doty
Ushers: Carolyn Jacobson, Erik Simpson
Coffee: Donna Winburn
Acolyte: Peter Simpson
Van Driver: John and Susan McIntyre
Nursery Volunteer: Hannah Lundberg
Communion Servers: Dennis Day, Jim Ferguson
Offering Counters: Dan McCue, 2nd person as assigned by Finance Committee
10- Liturgist: TBA
Greeter: Elizabeth Trimmer
Deacon: Paul Parmley
Ushers: Marv Doty, Russ Stoker
Coffee: Doty Stoker
Acolyte: Hanna McCue
Van Driver: Karla Kriegel
Nursery Volunteer: Emily Moore
17- Liturgist: TBA
Greeter: Miriam Baumann
Deacon: Ed Phillips
Ushers: Phil McCune, Rich Thorson
Potluck: Marlene and Ray Peak
Acolyte: Slane McCue
Van Driver: Paul Parmley
Nursery Volunteer: Jill Kaiser
24- Liturgist: TBA
Greeter: Montie and Suzanne Redenius
Deacon: Chrissy Hazlett
Ushers: Dan and Sara McCue
Coffee: Donna Ricks
Acolyte: Alana Ferguson
Van Driver: Al Ricks
Nursery Volunteer: Marta Miller
31- Liturgist: TBA
Greeters: McCue Family
Deacon: Marlene Peak
Ushers: Char Ewan, Janice Logan
Coffee: Mary Lou Doty
Acolyte: Zach Nickle
Van Driver: Carey Krull
Nursery Volunteer: Deb Martenson
Cake Baker: Karla Kriegel and Bev Miller

Nobody can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending. - Roseanne Cash

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

	<u>September</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Pledge Income	\$10,044	\$106,921
Budgeted	\$11,880	\$105,119
Total Income	\$10,554	\$111,346
Budgeted	\$12,371	\$109,627
Expenses	\$11,546	\$107,350
Budgeted	\$11,808	\$105,503

LET ALL THINGS NOW LIVING

A Brief Hymn History

This is the most popular hymn during the Thanksgiving season. It was first published in 1939 and was written by composer and pianist: Katherine Davis (1892-1980). Her best known composition is the Christmas favorite, The Little Drummer Boy (1941). Let All Things Now Living is the best known of her hymns. It is set to the traditional Welsh melody, Llwyn Onn, which is best known as the setting for the John Oxenford's The Ash Grove in the Liturgy of the Hours. Let all Things Now Living is used during Ordinary Time for Evening Prayer. - Taken from kpshaw.blogspot.com

THANKSGIVING

The year has turned its circle,
The seasons come and go.
The harvest is all gathered in
And chilly north winds blow.
Orchards have shared their treasures,
The fields, their yellow grain.
So open wide the doorway-
Thanksgiving comes again!

-Taken from www.coollestholidayparties.com



As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them. - John F. Kennedy

LECTIONARY IN NOVEMBER

November 5— 22nd Sunday after Pentecost. 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time. Joshua 3:7-17; Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37; 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12.

November 12— 23rd Sunday after Pentecost. 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time. Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78:1-7; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13.

November 19— 24th Sunday after Pentecost. 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time. Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30.

November 26—Christ the King/Reign of Christ. Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46.



Tom Moore and Paul Parmley for delivering Meals On Wheels at the last minute.

Char Ewan and Sheryl Parmley for assisting with the annual Session records review.

David Isch, Janice Logan and Pastor Kirsten for getting the October newsletter mailed.

David Isch for assisting with the installation of a pew cap.

Al Ricks for leading us in another great all-Church gathering: Presbyteremberfest. It was great fun, there was good food, and wonderful fellowship. Thanks also to **Susan and John McIntyre** for hosting our ðfestö at their farm.

Sara McCue for celebrating Graeme's birthday with a great blood drive. 17 pints of blood were donated in one morning at First Presbyterian Church.

Donna Ricks and David Isch for helping to host the Immigrant Allies of Marshalltown meeting at our church. David helped plan, lead, and set up for the meeting, and Donna provided refreshments and cookies for everyone.

John Mehlhaus for preaching while Pastor Kirsten is out of town.

Ed and Karen Phillips for hosting the college lunch in October.

Never underestimate the difference you can make in the lives of others. Step forward, reach out and help. Taken from www.goodreads.com.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE OCTOBER SESSION MEETING

Reports for Working Groups

Personnel ó the Committee is finishing up the staff evaluations. The next item is to discuss salary increases.

Facilities ó the water fountain has been repaired; the disposal in the kitchen sink has been removed; the bushes have been planted on the east side of the building. Items to be added to the Facilities list of things to do are: striping of the parking lot next Spring and having the windows in the sanctuary sealed.

Worship ó a committee meeting will be called to discuss Advent, Christmas Eve day worship and Christmas Eve service.

Mission ó David Isch is getting a good response to his Welcoming Community project.

Finance ó the Committee reviewed the 2018 budget this week.

Motion made by the Committee to allocate \$11,000 to Presbytery mission. The motion passed. This is a \$1,000 increase. \$4,000 (no change) goes to General Assembly; Synod \$2,500 (up from \$1,800) and \$4,500 (up from \$4,200) to Presbytery.

Memorials ó Stan brought forward several accessibility issues that could be funded through memorials. The most important items are an automatic door opener on the exterior door, easier access on the single door from the entry into fellowship hall and easier access on the single doors leading into the sanctuary. Stan will obtain quotes.

New Business

Session Records Review ó the session minutes, congregational meeting minutes and church register for the period October 2016 through August 2017 were reviewed without exception on October 5, 2017.

Presbytery Commissioner ó motion made by Dan to elect elder Dennis Day as commissioner during the Presbytery meeting on November 14, 2017 to be held at Central Presbyterian Church in Des Moines. MaryAnne seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Communion to Homebound Members ó Elder Ray Peak and deacons Suzanne Redenius and Tom Moore assisted Pastor Kirsten.

Host Presbytery Meeting on August 18, 2018 ó our church will host this presbytery meeting. Planning to include providing lunch for 100 persons.

Jim Koopman visit ó interim presbyter, Jim Koopman, will meet with the session and interested deacons on Sunday, November 5, 2017. Pastor Kirsten will also attend the meeting.

Jenny Peek Ordination ó Jenny is being ordained on October 21, 2017 in New Haven, Connecticut as Associate University Chaplain, Yale University. Motion made by Jim to approve \$250 to purchase a stole for Jenny as a gift from the session. Dan seconded the motion. The motion passed. Stan and Pastor Kirsten will make the selection. The Finance Committee will determine where within the budget the funds will be taken from.

Pastor's Report ó The All Iowa Presbytery Mental Health Initiative met at First Presbyterian Church on October 19, 2017. There was a good representation of church members attending the Welcoming Community meeting facilitated by David Isch on October 16, 2017.

THINGS THAT WILL MAKE YOU SMILE!

Hot towels fresh out of the dryer.



Give Thanks
for a little
and you will find a lot.
www.verybestquotes.com

First Presbyterian Church
1025 Fifth Avenue
Grinnell IA 50112

Return Service Requested



A REMINDER...

Daylight Savings Time ends on **Sunday, November 5**. Remember to fall back one hour before going to bed on Saturday night.