



# The Grinnell Presbyterian

*The monthly newsletter of First Presbyterian Church*

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May 2017

Kirsten Klepfer, Pastor

## GARDEN OF READIN'...

Compassion is threatening to the ego. We might think of it as something warm and soothing, but actually it's very raw. When we set out to support other beings, when we go so far as to stand in their shoes, when we aspire to never close down to anyone, we quickly find ourselves in the uncomfortable territory of life not on my terms. - Pema Chödrön

This quote from Pema Chödrön, Buddhist nun and author, hits home for me. The word "compassion" rolls easily off our Christian tongues, yet too often we really mean sympathy or charity or "niceness." Being nice is a disposition; compassion is like jumping off a cliff.

When we choose to practice compassion, we are choosing to let go of our assumptions, our needs, ourselves. If we are not feeling uncomfortable, terrified even, we are probably not practicing compassion.

I know this is true for me. I can tell when I am really engaging in compassion because I get anxious, uncomfortable, scared, and feel off balance. One day, someone will come into my office asking for help, and I will give them a gas card, a Walmart card, some food or a prayer. When they leave, I go back to my work and think little of it.

Other days, when someone comes to ask for assistance, I am able to give myself over to the experience. I feel compassion. I wonder what will happen when they leave my office. I think about what they will need to do because we can't give them exactly what they need. I think about how they got to where they are and feel a rush of conflicting emotions: judgment, anger, sadness, helplessness. I let myself feel those emotions, then let go of them one by one. I put myself, as Chödrön says, "in their shoes" and realize I would likely do exactly what they are doing given the same set of circumstances. I feel pain.

Compassion is uncomfortable. Compassion takes way more time and energy. Compassion is de-centering. Certainty disappears; right and wrong become less clear. But in its place you find connection; not blissful, cozy connection, *real* human connection that changes you. Raw is the word Chödrön uses, and I think she's right. It hurts, it affects every fiber of your being, it strips you of your defenses.

All of that makes compassion sound like kind of a drag. But all of us who have been on the receiving end of true compassion – not just niceness, pity, charity, or sympathy – understand it can be the difference between life and death, wholeness and brokenness, feeling human and not feeling human. We understand why compassion is essential to the human project, and why Jesus' life was defined by this basic disposition. May we all encounter compassion when we need it, and may we practice it every chance we get.

Peace,  
Pastor Kirsten



## LET'S HAVE A CLEANING PARTY, SO . . . WEAR WORK CLOTHES TO WORSHIP!

Yes, that's right! **On Sunday, May 7**, please wear work clothes to worship as a church cleaning day is planned. We will do some outdoor work (if the weather permits) and clean inside. The church's kitchen will be cleaned on another day. (Please see Donna Ricks for this date.) A sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Room to indicate your preference of what to clean so you can bring the equipment needed. There will be jobs for all ages! If you wish, bring a sack lunch to enjoy before we work. Beverage will be provided. If you have questions please see **Char Ewan or Russ Stoker** of the Facilities Committee.

### **SUNDAY SERVANTS—WILL YOU HELP?**

A task force from the Worship Committee will soon be starting the process of assigning Sunday Servants for this fall. We have tried to honor your requests given to us over the past four years about where you would best like to serve. However, is there something you would like to do that we have not assigned you to? The Sunday Servant jobs are as follows: liturgist, greeter, usher, acolyte, coffee maker and cleanup, nursery volunteer, and van driver. There is a brochure with job descriptions in one of the brochure display racks.

Please contact the church office with your requests. We *thank you* in advance.

### **PILLOWCASE DRESSES FOR MISSIONS**

Do you have any lightly used or new pillowcases that you would like to donate for Pillowcase Dresses for Mission? Or perhaps you have some odds 'n' ends of wide bias tape, rickrack, lace, or other embellishments that are just taking up space in your sewing box? After receiving information from **Janice Logan and Presbyterian Women**, I am beginning a project to make Pillowcase Dresses. Please contact **Donna Ricks** if you have anything to share. Thank you.

### **POTLUCK HOSTS ARE NEEDED—COULD YOU HELP?**

We would like to add your name to the roster of those willing to be a potluck host. Please contact the church office if you are willing to be in charge or assist. Extra people for setup and cleanup really makes the morning go faster, plus it is fun with more people!

What do you do? There is a complete job description at the church, but here are some highlights:

Prepare coffee, lemonade, and pitchers of ice water.

Make sure two serving tables are set up.

Preheat ovens.

Turn on the dishwasher.

Help set out food. Those who bring food also help.

Eat! Enjoy!

Clean up!

The Deacon of the day and the ushers are also asked to help in the clean-up. The Deacon will lock up the building.



Don't forget your dishes for potluck Sundays!

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS

**A BIG THANK YOU** to all who helped make our “**M & M Sunday**” a big success. Those of you who helped make muffins and all who enjoyed eating the many delicious muffins. A donation of \$454.00 will be sent in for the medical kits.



## FOOD RECOVERY NETWORK

Beginning **May 23** the Food Recovery Network will be only serving on Tuesday of each week through the summer.

## RUMMAGE SALE JUNE 16 AND 17

As you are doing your spring cleaning, consider items to donate to the rummage sale. After Sunday School is done for the spring, you can start bringing items for the sale to the large Sunday School room. If you have a large or special item we should advertise, please let **Linda Cranston** know. If it is heavy to move, a photo may be taken and a description put at the sale. We are accepting household goods, books, toys, videos and CD's. Please no TV's or microwaves as these rarely sell and cost us to dispose of them. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall for helpers at a later date. Thank you for your continued support.



## ALL CHURCH EVENTS TEAM CELEBRATES SPRING—LOOKS TOWARD SUMMER!

Your All-Church Events team had the pleasure of serving **Easter Breakfast** this year! Forty-seven individuals enjoyed breakfast between the two worship services Easter morning. A special thank you to those who prepared and served the breakfast, and to all who helped with a quick clean-up before the Easter Festival worship. This year's breakfast crew included **Rich** and **Denise Creps**, **Char Ewan**, **Phil McCune**, **Linda Stoll**, **Janice Logan**, and **Al Ricks**. Now, with summer approaching, we look ahead! Next up will be a “**Music Man**”- themed meal and attendance at the community theater production of that great musical. Watch for more information as we move toward the mid-July production dates.

## THANK YOU TO THE LENTEN SCRIPTURE READERS

Many, many thanks to so many who helped with the Readers Theatre presentations of the scripture lessons during Lent as the journey was made to Jerusalem. Each of you brought new insights to your character or narration, adding a new dimension to familiar scriptures. Each week you helped us answer the question: Do we continue on the Journey with Jesus?

Thank you to our readers **Janet Carl**, **Chris Day**, **Dennis Day**, **Alyssa DeBella**, **Mary Lou Doty**, **Char Ewan**, **Alana Ferguson**, **Gavin Gardon**, **Gail Greenwald**, **Stan Greenwald**, **Chrissy Hazlett**, **David Isch**, **Carolyn Jacobson**, **Karla Kriegel**, **Joy Krull**, **Selva Lehman**, **John Martenson**, **Jon Mehlhaus**, **Dan McCue**, **Sara McCue**, **Miles McIntyre**, **Susan McIntyre**, **Marta Miller**, **Julio Parmley**, **Stiven Parmley**, **Ray Peak**, **Ed Phillips**, **Karen Phillips**, **Montie Redenius**, **Sara Ruiz**, **Debbie Schade**, **Erik Simpson**, **Peter Simpson**, **Rich Thorson**, and **Donna Winburn**.

## TAKE AWAY HUNGER UPDATE

The Take Away Hunger program began 11 years ago, and more than **700,000** meals have been packaged by the Grinnell Community!

## THINGS THAT WILL MAKE YOU SMILE!

Knowing you've done the right thing, no matter what other people think.

## SUNDAY SERVANTS

### **May**

7- Liturgist: Mary Anne Nickle  
Greeter: Linda Stoll  
Deacon: Ed Phillips  
Ushers: Elizabeth Trimmer, Phil McCune  
Coffee: Montie Redenius  
Acolyte: Miles McIntyre  
Van Driver: Karla Kriegel  
Nursery Volunteer: Linda Cranston  
Communion Servers: Dennis Day, Char Ewan  
Offering Counters: Char Ewan and 2<sup>nd</sup> person as assigned by Finance Committee  
**14-** Liturgist: Evelyn Freeman  
Greeter: Donna Winburn  
Deacon: Gail Greenwald  
Ushers: John Martenson, Roger Bortell  
Coffee: Carey Krull  
Acolyte: Slane McCue  
Van Driver: Montie Redenius  
Nursery Volunteer: Chrissy Hazlett  
**21-** Liturgist: Debbie Schade  
Greeters: Tom and Emily Moore  
Deacon: Denise and Rich Creps  
Ushers: Marie Eisenman, Jill Kaiser  
Potluck: Donna Ricks, Rich Thorson  
Acolyte: Julio Parmley  
Van Driver: Carey Krull  
Nursery Volunteer: Evelyn Freeman  
**28-** Liturgist: Dennis Day  
Greeter: Char Ewan  
Deacon: Chrissy Hazlett  
Ushers: Karen Phillips, Paul Parmley  
Coffee: Janice Logan  
Acolyte: Zach Nickle  
Van Driver: Karla Kriegel  
Nursery Volunteer: Sheryl Parmley  
Cake Baker: Ed Phillips

### **June**

**4-** Liturgist: Dan McCue  
Greeter: Linda Cranston  
Deacon: Mary Lou Doty  
Ushers: Chris and Dennis Day  
Coffee: Phil McCune  
Acolyte: Lydia Klepfer  
Van Driver: Karen Phillips  
Nursery Volunteer: Emily Moore  
Communion Servers: TBA  
Offering Counters: TBA and 2<sup>nd</sup> person as assigned by Finance Committee  
**11-** Liturgist: TBA  
Greeters: Marv and Mary Lou Doty  
Deacon: Chrissy Hazlett  
Ushers: Al and Donna Ricks  
Coffee: Marta Miller  
Acolyte: Damien Nickle  
Van Driver: Carey Krull  
Nursery Volunteer: Jill Kaiser  
**18-** Liturgist: TBA  
Greeters: Jim and Sue Ahrens  
Deacon: Mary Lou Doty  
Ushers: Stan and Gail Greenwald  
Coffee: Mary Anne Nickle  
Acolyte: Zach Nickle  
Van Driver: Montie Redenius  
Nursery Volunteer: Marta Miller  
**25-** Liturgist: TBA  
Greeters: Jim and Alana Ferguson  
Deacon: Denise and Rich Creps  
Ushers: Debbie Schade, Rich Thorson  
Coffee: Chrissy Hazlett  
Acolyte: Julio Parmley  
Van Driver: Al Ricks  
Nursery Volunteer: Gail Greenwald  
Cake baker: Karla Kriegel

## MICA INFORMATION

What is Mid Iowa Community Action? A private, non-profit organization serving children and families throughout a five-county area. Poweshiek is one of these counties that works with those challenged by poverty. Its mission: "Helping People. Changing Lives. Building Communities." The staff at MICA are continually reaching out to those in this county in a variety of ways and can use volunteers in a variety of ways. Currently, several First Presbyterians volunteer time, but the need continues to grow. Could you offer some time? Here are some choices: Contact Christy Moore at christy.moore@micaonline.org or call 236-3923 to help with a once a month family activity for about an hour. You could also choose to be involved with the planning, too. The times vary, but usually are scheduled for mid-mornings or middle afternoon. Christy is also in need of people to prepare craft activities that she takes into the homes with young children. Christy has the ideas, but she needs help in preparing the instructional materials. Do you like to knit or crochet? Blankets, hats, and burp cloths are needed for newborns. Disposable newborn diapers are also needed. Please contact Donna Ricks if you have any questions.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE APRIL SESSION MEETING

### Reports from Working Groups

**Facilities** ó Clean Up Day is Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. Russ has provided Sheryl with a list of projects to be completed. Char offered to help Russ in organizing the event. Char will contact Marta Miller to see if there are any projects needed in the Sunday school rooms. Also, Char will ask Marta to identify age appropriate projects for the McCue children to perform. Char will provide Sheryl Parmley with a notice for the newsletter and worship bulletins. Char will also create the posters for persons to sign up. Char offered to step in for the rest of the year in overseeing the hospitality component of the Facilities Committee.

**Worship** -- the Committee met on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Holy Week and Easter plans were finalized. This year the theme for Easter People will be conversion. On May 28<sup>th</sup> Ed Phillips will lead worship including his conversion story. Pentecost is June 4<sup>th</sup>. The tongues of fire banner will be used. During worship members will be thanked for their contributions. May 28<sup>th</sup> will be the last day for the choir. May 21<sup>st</sup> will be the last day of Sunday school. Dedication of memorials is tabled until the fall. October 1<sup>st</sup> is World Communion Sunday.

There was positive feedback on the two Easter services as well as the brunch between services which served 45 persons.

**Communication** ó suggestions were made for the committee to review the ñorange Sunday servant cardsó and to review the Memorial Committee forms.

### New Business

**Communion to Homebound Members** ó Deacons Tom Moore and Ed Phillips assisted Pastor Kirsten.

**Signs** ó motion made by Mary Anne to approve the two signs provided by Susan McIntyre to be placed outside the front door and by the lighted sign on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Jim seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Commissioner to Presbytery** ó motion made by Jim to elect elder Dennis Day as commissioner to Presbytery on June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Dan seconded the motion. The motion passed. All are invited to the all Iowa Presbytery Gathering at the Collegiate Presbyterian Church in Ames, IA. On Friday evening Stated Clerk, Dr. J. Herbert Nelson II, will lead worship. On Saturday Dr. Nelson will be the keynote speaker. Saturday afternoon following lunch the individual presbyteries will have their business meeting.

### **NARRATIVE LECTORY IN MAY**

**May 7—Fourth Sunday of Easter.** Lectionary reading: Acts 8:26-39.

**May 14—Fifth Sunday of Easter.** Lectionary reading: Acts 15:1-17.

**May 21—Sixth Sunday of Easter.** Lectionary readings: Galatians 1:13-17, 2:11-21.

**May 28—Seventh Sunday of Easter.** Lectionary readings: Galatians 3:1-9, 23-29.

### **STEWARDSHIP UPDATE**

	<u>March</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Pledge Income	\$15,408	\$40,638
Budgeted	\$11,880	\$35,641
Total Income	\$15,994	\$42,945
Budgeted	\$12,371	\$37,116
Expenses	\$11,765	\$37,556
Budgeted	\$11,808	\$35,582

### **IN MEMORIAM**

Irma Arnaman

March 10, 1929 ó April 20, 2017

### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

There will be no Vacation Bible School this year.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**



The last day of Sunday School will be on **May 21**. Sunday School will be on summer vacation until **September 10**.

### **BELL CHOIR**

**Bell Choir** practice for the season has concluded. You will be notified again when Bell Choir practice will resume in the fall.



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 16 Denise Creps  
Janet Ferguson  
Stan Greenwald
- 96 Dylan McIlrath  
Gillian Ferguson
- 146 Jim Ferguson
- 166 Jim Ahrens
- 196 Dorothy Peak
- 216 Ty McIntyre
- 226 Susan McIntyre
- 296 John Martenson



Sara, Dan, Graeme, Slane and Hannah McCue for hosting the college lunch in April.

Russ Stoker for doing a lot of behind the scenes work on the yard and the facility.

The Facilities Committee for developing a spring cleaning plan to help keep our building and grounds in tip top shape!

Roger Bortell for mowing the lawn each week.

Amber Martensen for keeping the busy little people entertained in nursery each week!

To all who brought food, served and helped with clean up at the Community Meal at Davis Elementary School.

Janice Logan, Tom Moore, Chrissy Hazlett, Selva Lehman Gail and Stan Greenwald for all their work on the Lenten Lunch, and to all who brought food.

Chris Day for directing our bell choir again, and thanks to the bell choir for providing the music in worship the Sunday after Easter.

Marlene Peak and Donna Ricks for organizing lunch following Irma Arnaman's funeral service, and thanks to all the people who help them with set-up, food, serving and cleaning up.

Susan Sanning for filling in for Pastor Kirsten while she was on continuing ed leave.

Al Ricks for filling in for Mary Fopma on April 2nd as guest music director.

You all! For offering me (Pastor Kirsten) time to pursue continuing education. I had an enriching time in Albuquerque.

## GRINNELL COLLEGE STUDENT LUNCH

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



## GRINNELL COLLEGE GRADUATE

Congratulations to Gavin Gardon as he graduates from Grinnell College. His presence with us has been such a blessing and we will miss him greatly. There will be a time in worship on May 14th for us to offer our blessing and support as he moves on to the next phase of his journey.

Life is 10% what happens to us and 90% how we react to it.

- Dennis P. Kimbro

## THANK YOU TO THIRD SUNDAY POTLUCK HOSTS!

Since January, 2016, we have been blessed with the following who have served as potluck hosts: **Jim and Sue Ahrens, David and Linda Cranston, Chris and Dennis Day, Gail and Stan Greenwald, Janice Logan, Mary Anne and Kendall Nickle, Marlene and Ray Peak, Donna and Al Ricks, and Rich Thorson**. Many of these have hosted more than once for the 12 times of good eating! Potlucks are held every month except the three summer months and November when the **Deacons** plan the bountiful Harvest Dinner. A thank you is also extended to **all those who assist the hosts with the cleanup**. Your support to these potluck hosts is appreciated and needed.

# May 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 5:00 Bell Choir  7:00 Alanon	2 12:00 Food Recovery Network  4:30 Prayer	3 12:00 Food Recovery Network	4 12:00 Food Recovery Network  5:15 Respite	5 12:00 Lectionary Bible Study	6
7 9:15 Choir, Sunday School Holy Communion Food Pantry Spring Clean-Up 2:00 Turlach Ur 3:00 Poweshiek County Democrats 7:00 Taizé at St. Paul's	8 7:00 Alanon	9 10:00 Care Givers Group 12:00 Food Recovery Network 4:30 Prayer	10 12:00 Food Recovery Network  6:30 Deacons	11 12:00 Food Recovery Network  5:15 Respite	12 12:00 Lectionary Bible Study	13 10:00 Iowa Art Quilters
14 9:15 Choir, Sunday School Heifer College Lunch 2:00 Turlach Ur	15 7:00 Alanon  7:00 Piano Recital Rehearsal	16 12:00 Food Recovery Network 3:00 Food Distribution 4:30 Prayer 7:00 Piano Recital	17 12:00 Food Recovery Network  6:30 Session	18 12:00 Food Recovery Network  5:15 Respite	19 12:00 Lectionary Bible Study  4:00 SEG	20
21 9:15 Choir, Sunday School Third Sunday Potluck 2:00 Turlach Ur	22 Newsletter Deadline  7:00 Alanon	23 10:00 Care Givers Group 12:00 Food Recovery Network 4:30 Prayer	24	25 10:30 Newsletter Mailing  5:15 Respite	26 12:00 Lectionary Bible Study	27 7:00 Food Share
28 9:15 Choir Birthday Sunday 2:00 Turlach Ur	29 Office closed  7:00 Alanon	30 12:00 Food Recovery Network  4:30 Prayer	31			

## PIPES!

As many of you know, our pipes have been running a little sluggishly from the bathrooms lately. We have learned that this is because there is a fair amount of debris building up in the pipes ó debris mostly from the pipe itself. The pipe is more than 40 years old, and it is flaking off, causing clogs and slow water movement.

After researching the situation and hearing a presentation from a pipes expert, the session has decided to hire someone to ólineó our pipes. Technology now exists that allows us to coat our pipes with material that will act as a sort of lining; no more flakes, and smooth sailing for the water. This is far easier than pulling up our floor and putting in new pipes, and far less disruptive.

The cost will be around \$15,000, which includes thoroughly cleaning the pipes out first and then putting in the lining. We have hired a local pipe expert named Jason Pollock (who came to session to describe the process and answer questions).

We are fortunate to be in a good financial position right now, so we have the money on hand. It is also well-timed with getting ½ of the loan paid back that we made to Capstone Behavioral Healthcare (see article in this issue). Even before this repayment, we have around \$65,000 cash on hand that is unrestricted.

Our building is well used ó and by that I mean not just used a lot, though it is; I mean used for things our church believes in. Our building is significant part of our ministry, and so session takes very seriously keeping our building in good shape for the short and long terms.

If you have any questions, donót hesitate to ask Russ Stoker, chair of our Facilities Committee, or me (Pastor Kirsten).



### First Presbyterian Church Website

If you have a computer or smart phone with internet access, please check out the church's website. Updated weekly, the site carries information about Worship, Christian Education, Presbyterian Women, Missions, Staff, and our College Group. Additionally, there is a picture gallery with new pictures frequently added. Thank you to **Donna Ricks** for being the web master. Also, comments or suggestions can be shared with Donna. Be sure to check it out!

## AN EASTER THANK YOU!

So many people helped to make our **Easter** a wonderful morning of worship and fellowship: The **Worship Committee** did a wonderful job of planning everything. Al Ricks organized our breakfast between services, and **many folks** helped him pull it off. **Ed Phillips** did an amazing job with the sanctuary, providing and arranging flowers for the chancel area. **Ed Phillips** and **Donna Ricks** lent their beautiful voices to reading poems at the first service. **Mary Fopma, Al Ricks** and **the choir** offered beautiful music. And thanks to God for the resurrectionó the occasion for it all!



## CAPSTONE LOAN

Our church was able to help out our community mental health center when its operations were threatened by poor state management of the Medicaid privatization last year. Capstone is a financially solid organization, but was not getting the reimbursements from the Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) the state hired to do the Medicaid program (and Capstone was not alone!).

In order to help them with cash flow, First Presbyterian loaned Capstone \$20,000 in June of last year. As things have begun to stabilize at the state, and as the MCOs have been pressured to step up and do a better job, things have started to improve for Capstone, as well as other health care providers in Iowa.

Sadly, things are by no means fixed; the state and the MCOs have more work to do. But, because it's getting better, Capstone is in a position to pay back ½ of our loan this month, and looks to repay the rest in the near future.

I don't think it can be overstated how important this loan was for mental health care in both Jasper and Poweshiek Counties. Capstone could not have kept its doors open at least not without some breaks. Once organizations have to start closing their doors, even for very short periods of time, they start to lose good staff, clients, and momentum. So, a HUGE thanks to our church for its willingness to do this. It was creative, effective, and a sign of our commitment to mental health.

### **A MAUNDY THURSDAY THANK YOU**

**Char Ewan** for coordinating details for the Maundy Thursday service. And thanks to **Gail Greenwald, Montie Redenius, Donna Ricks, Karla Kriegal, Ed Phillips, Karen Phillips, Susan McIntyre** for being readers of Jesus' Seven Last Words. Thanks to **Sara McCue** for playing flute at Maundy Thursday.

The grass is greener where you water it.  
-Unknown

### **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**

To date we have received \$1182 for One Great Hour of Sharing. It is not too late to give to this great mission!

When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left and could say, I used everything you gave me.  
-Erma Bombeck

When I let go of what I am, I become what I might be.  
- Lao Tzu



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Return Service Requested

