



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

May 2018

Kirsten Klepfer, Pastor

GARDEN OF READIN'...

If April showers bring May flowers, what does April snow bring? May glow?

Well, we're about to find out as we move into the month of May and its attendant (hopefully) Springy-ness. But it has been a long winter, and I suspect most of you, like me, are ready for some green grass and fresh vegetables.

The other thing May brings is graduations and transitions and next steps and new beginnings and all that great, sometimes scary, stuff. For our little local church, that stays in one place, that means saying goodbye to people we have come to love and whose presence we have come to treasure.

This year, we say goodbye to a number of people graduating from their respective institutions. **Amber Martenson** graduates from East Marshall High, and leaves in August to start her next adventure at Wartburg College.

When I came to First Pres, Amber was about five years old. She has been such a huge part of this church these past 18 years, most recently as our nursery person on Sunday mornings. She is a remarkable person with so many gifts, it's almost mind-boggling to think about the possibilities ahead of her. But I will really miss her and can't help but feel a sense of loss as she moves away (I'm sure Deb and John don't feel that way at all!). Our prayers go with you, Amber! .know that you always have a place of love and welcome here.

We also say farewell to our Grinnell College students, class of 2018. **Hannah Lundburg, Sara Ruiz, and Nathan Zaroban** graduate this month. Sara will volunteer in Sacramento, CA for the Episcopal Service Corps, and Nathan heads back to his old stomping grounds in Nebraska to start medical school. I don't have to tell you all how blessed we have been to have them in our midst these past four years.

Hannah's next step, however, still involves us in a formal way. Most of you know that Jenny Peek was ordained this past fall in New Haven, CT. Jenny was a college student at Grinnell, graduating in 2013. During her time in Grinnell, she began to feel a pull toward ministry, and began the process for ordination in the PC(USA). That meant our church had the privilege of affirming her call, recommending her to the denomination, and walking with her on her journey.

It was so much fun, we're doing it again! Hannah has now begun this process, and our church, again, gets to be an integral part of it. In our denomination, individuals do not just hear a "call" to ministry and then go for it. We believe call is discerned in communities of faith, and someone must be supported by their congregation if they want to be considered for ordination.

Hannah has been an important and faithful part of our church life for the past four years, and Session was thrilled to vote to affirm her and recommend her to the Presbytery to start the ordination process. A couple weeks ago, Hannah, Char Ewan (Hannah's Session-appointed liaison to the process), and I went to Des Moines to meet with the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

It won't surprise you to know that the committee was delighted to approve Hannah and will recommend her to the whole Presbytery at their meeting in Oskaloosa in May. The delight will spread, no doubt.

Hannah's next step is to head to New York this fall to begin seminary at Union Theological. This seminary has a long, impressive history of being a place where people who care about the role of church in social justice and social change come to study, teach, lecture, and visit. Hannah will fit right in!

Our church offers a wonderful community, space, and spirit of for those of us who come and stay for the long haul, as well as for those who are only here for a small part of life's journey (and everything in between). It's bitter sweet to see all the implications of that as we watch new people come and wipe our tears as those we have come to love move on. Thanks to this amazing church community for being a loving, welcoming place where people can grow in faith no matter where they are on their journey.

Peace,
Pastor Kirsten



EASTER CANTATA IN WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, MAY 6TH

The **First Presbyterian Church Choir** will perform an Easter Cantata *õl Know My Redeemer Lives* created by Sue C. Smith and Russell Mauldin, and directed by **Mary Fopma**. The cantata presents the events of Holy Week, Easter, and the Resurrection of Christ with a special emphasis on the impact the story has on each person's life and faith. The cantata will be the focus of worship that morning, along with Holy Communion. Please come and be part of this beautiful event in the life of our church.

This Sunday will also be a celebration of some of our young people, **Slane McCue** and **Lydia Klepfer** who will receive their bibles. Our church will celebrate and bless **Amber Martenson** as she nears graduation from high school. Come enjoy a lively, joy-filled worship service!



MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP— SATURDAY, MAY 12

The next men's fellowship breakfast will be at **7:00 a.m. on**

Saturday, May 12. What better way to start the day and the weekend than with good food and good friends? **Kendall and Damien Nickle** will be preparing the breakfast and devotion. A sign-up sheet will be posted in Fellowship Hall to help them with a count for the meal. Invite a friend to attend with you!



EVERYONE IS INVITED!

Everyone is invited to a graduation party for **Amber Martenson** on **Saturday, May 19, 2018 from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m.** at the East Marshall High School

Commons, located at 201 North Franklin Street in LeGrand, Iowa.

Congratulations Amber! Your new adventure awaits!

TAKE A HIKE FOR HEALTH (AND FOR THE ENVIRONMENT)!

The spring-time roadside cleanup project will take place the first week of May! **Phil McCune** is organizing the effort again this spring, with the date and time to be determined by the weather and by people's availability. YOU are invited to participate! What does it mean? Working with a team from the church for a couple of hours, two miles of the Highway 6 roadside, east of Grinnell, will be walked for trash pick-up. With a good group of volunteers, the work is easily accomplished. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a pair of gloves. Reflective vests and trash bags will be provided.

A sign-up sheet, with some possible times, will be on the table in Fellowship Hall. We'll be looking for the time that best fits people's schedules, within the fickle contingencies of weather!



IN MISSION TO ETHIOPIA!

Early in May, donations in excess of \$ 3,000 will be heading from Grinnell to the University of Mekelle (MU), Ethiopia, where the money will be used to purchase equipment for new veterinary graduates from MU's College of Veterinary Science. Through the technological magic of an electronic funds transfer, 100 % of the donations channeled through the church will go directly to the College's project account. Graduation, in Ethiopia, will occur in mid-June. The sixty new veterinarians will each receive pieces of basic equipment for their practice from friends in Iowa. We'll look forward to an exact accounting and some photos of the presentation at the graduation ceremony. Thank you to members and friends of the church, and to others in the community and area who have supported this year's venture! How exciting for our church to be in ministry and mission in this future-impacting way! - Al Ricks

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS

A **BIG THANK YOU** to all who helped make our “**M & M Sunday**” a big success. Thank you to all who furnished muffins, donated and helped with it.



MEMORIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Memorial Committee with the support of the Session is pleased to offer stipends to any of our church's youth and children who wish to attend a church, sports, or scout camp or Synod school this summer. Not only do we want to uphold our youth in prayer, but we want to help with some of the expenses of this opportunity. The money will come from the memorial fund of **Karen Choate**. Karen was a firm believer in the importance of Christian Education in our church and loved the Sunday School students she taught, so this is a fitting gift in her name.

Our church's youth and children have already been contacted, and several are going to a summer event. It is never too late, however. Contact the church office for more details.

SPECIAL OFFERING THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who gave to our special offering in April to support folks in our community with their utility bills. We raised about \$2,000 in one morning, and that has gone a long way to helping people keep their utilities on during the unusually cold weeks of

One kind word can change someone's day! - From Two women and a hoe

FOOD RECOVERY NETWORK

Beginning **May 22** the Food Recovery Network will be only serving on Tuesday of each week through the summer.

PRAYER: COME SPIRIT

Our God^o we, your people, stand ready and open
to receive the flame of your Spirit.
Give us the ability to speak your truth so that others may hear.
Come, Spirit of Truth, fill our hearts.
May that which was of stone be now transformed into life.
Come, Spirit of Life, change our hearts.
May we who receive your light dwell together in Your love.
Come, Spirit of Love, soften our hearts.
Bestow your compassion on those who suffer in mind, spirit, and body.
Come, Spirit of Hope, heal our hearts.
Make us bold to bring light to the dark places,
warmth to the cold places, and love to the empty places.
Come, Spirit of Faith, strengthen our hearts.
Spirit of the Living God, fill our hearts, minds, and souls to overflowing.
Come, Spirit of God, move in our hearts.
Our God^o we, your people,
celebrate the mystery of your never-ending love.
Amen.

THINGS THAT WILL MAKE YOU SMILE!

Running into an old friend and realizing that some things (good or bad) never change.

SUNDAY SERVANTS

May

6- Liturgist: Char Ewan
Greeter: Janet Carl
Deacon: Mary Lou Doty
Ushers: Miriam Baumann, Char Ewan
Coffee: Jim Ahrens
Acolyte: Hannah McCue
Van Driver: Montie Redenius
Nursery Volunteer: Marlene Peak
Communion Servers: Jim Ferguson, Dan McCue
Offering Counters: Char Ewan, Emily Moore
13- Liturgist: Montie Redenius
Greeter:: Miriam Baumann
Deacon: Karen Phillips
Ushers: Alana Ferguson, Evelyn Freeman
Coffee: Chris Day
Acolyte: Slane McCue
Van Driver: Al Ricks
Nursery Volunteer: Pete Simpson
20- Liturgist: Karen Phillips
Greeters: Denise and Rich Creps
Deacon: Marlene Peak
Ushers: Stan Greenwald, Chrissy Hazlett
Potluck: David Cranston
Acolyte: Alana Ferguson
Van Driver: Marv Doty
Nursery Volunteer: Meredith Breiting
27- Liturgist: Tom Moore
Greeter: David Cranston
Deacon: Ed Phillips
Ushers: Carolyn Jacobson, Jill Kaiser
Coffee: Dennis Day
Acolyte: Lydia Klepfer
Van Driver: Carey Krull
Nursery Volunteer: Linda Cranston
Cake baker: Karla Kriegel

June

3 - Liturgist: Karla Kriegel
Greeter: Linda Cranston
Deacon: Mary Lou Doty
Ushers: David Isch, Karen Phillips
Coffee: Marv Doty
Acolyte: Damien Nickle
Van Driver: John Martenson
Nursery Volunteer: Evelyn Freeman
Communion Servers: Chris Day, Dan McCue
Offering Counters: Dennis Day, Marta Miller
10- Liturgist: TBA
Greeter: Dennis Day
Deacon: Paul Parmley
Ushers: Carey and Joy Krull
Coffee: Chrissy Hazlett
Acolyte: Julio Parmley
Van Driver: Susan McIntyre
Nursery Volunteer: Karen Phillips
17- Liturgist: TBA
Greeter: Marie Eisenman
Deacon: Chrissy Hazlett
Ushers: Selva Lehman, Janice Logan
Coffee: Carolyn Jacobson
Acolyte: Pete Simpson
Van Driver: Marta Miller
Nursery Volunteer: Deb Martenson
24- Liturgist: TBA
Greeter: Stan Greenwald
Deacon: Janice Logan
Ushers: Sara and Slane McCue
Coffee: Karla Kriegel
Acolyte: Hannah McCue
Van Driver: Montie Redenius
Nursery Volunteer: Emily Moore
Cake baker: Marlene Peak



SUNDAY SCHOOL

The last day of Sunday School will be on **May 20**. Sunday School will be on summer vacation until **September 9**.

FROM THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

PRAYER SPACES

First of all, thanks to all of you who have used our prayer spaces so far. You will notice that we have added spaces to the prayer quilt and have changed the focus of the prayer space in the fellowship hall.

Maybe you've seen stacked stones on wilderness hiking paths, amongst decorative landscaping, in ancient cemeteries or as part of interior design. As children we used stones for towers, walls and, as any parent can relate to, just so we could knock them down. Stacked stones can have many meanings. The Christian Education committee is encouraging you to try the practice of stone stacking for prayer.

Many ancient and modern peoples, including Europeans, native Americans and far eastern religions, use the practice of stone stacking as a form of prayer. When you visit the prayer space in the fellowship hall, we hope you will participate and mentally assign meaning to each stone as you stack it. This can be a plea for help with some type of struggle, prayer of thanks for gifts from God, or expression of hope. Or you may just want to view the stacks made by others and pray for the meaning those stones had for them.

Of course you can stack *your* prayer stones in other locations as well. Places like your yard or desk or somewhere in your home. If people ask, you can tell them the story of your personal stone stack. Reflecting your relationship with God.

Stacking is a tangible prayer: A different way to express gratitude, hopes or struggles in life.

It can be an inspiring and potent tool to expand the Spirit. Please try this ancient prayer practice here at church. Hopefully it will expand and enrich your personal prayer experience.

LECTIONARY IN MAY

May 6—Sixth Sunday of Easter. Lectionary readings: Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17.

May 13—Seventh Sunday of Easter. Lectionary readings: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19.

May 20—Day of Pentecost. Lectionary readings: Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15.

May 27—Trinity Sunday. Lectionary readings: Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

	<u>March</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Pledge Income	\$15,527	\$40,749
Budgeted	\$11,750	\$35,250
Total Income	\$16,492	\$43,184
Budgeted	\$12,241	\$36,725
Expenses	\$12,406	\$41,240
Budgeted	\$12,155	\$36,807

I Believeó that you have the
power to make a difference,
starting now...

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



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.



CONGRATULATIONS GRINNELL COLLEGE GRADUATES!

Hannah Lundburg, Sara Ruiz, and Nathan Zaroban! Oh the places you will go!

COMING SOON!

Outside spring clean up day!
Details to follow soon!



Ray Peak for all the work done on pipes, toilets, light bulbs and clock.

Al Ricks for filling in for Mary on April

15th.

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

Janet Carl and Tom Moore for preaching their "Easter People," Maya Angelou and Emily Dickinson. We look forward to hearing from **Montie Redenius** and **Susan McIntyre** in the coming weeks!

Janice Logan for another great year of introducing our young bible recipients to the wonders and treasures of reading the bible. She spent four weeks with **Slane** and **Lydia**, preparing them to receiving their bibles.

To **all** who helped with the inside church spring clean up day on Sunday, April 15.

Jim Ahrens, David Isch, Carey Krull, Kendall Nickle, Ray Peak, Al Ricks, and Russ Stoker for cleaning up the loose gravel in the parking lot.

Janet Carl, David Cranston, Alana Ferguson, Chrissy Hazlett, Kristen Klepfer, Lydia Klepfer, Karla Kriegel, Phil McCune, Maggie Nickle, Damien Nickle and **Linda Stoll** for packaging meals at the Take Away Hunger event.

Kendall Nickle for assisting a person who is part of the extended community of First Presbyterian Church.

To **all** who drive people to medical appointments and a special thank you to **Tom Moore** for coordinating the driving.



May 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 12:00 Food Recovery Network 4:00 Prayer 5:15 Respite	2 12:00 Food Recovery Network	3 12:00 Food Recovery Network 5:15 Respite	4 12:00 Lectionary Bible Study	5
6 Holy Communion Food Pantry 9:15 Choir, Sunday School 10:30 Worship and Choir Cantata 2:00 Turlach Ur	7 7:00 Alanon	8 10:00 Care Givers Group 12:00 Food Recovery Network 4:00 Prayer	9 12:00 Food Recovery Network 6:30 Deacons	10 12:00 Food Recovery Network 5:15 Respite	11 12:00 Lectionary Bible Study	12 7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast 10:00 to 3:00 p.m. Iowa Art Quilters
13 Heifer College Lunch 9:15 Choir, Sunday School 10:30 Worship 2:00 Turlach Ur	14 7:00 Alanon	15 12:00 Food Recovery Network 4:00 Prayer Presbytery in Oskaloosa	16 12:00 Food Recovery Network 6:30 Session	17 12:00 Food Recovery Network 5:15 Respite	18 12:00 Lectionary Bible Study	19 7:00 to 9:00 a.m. Food Share 9 to 11:30 a.m. Amber Martenson's Graduation Party in LeGrand
20 Pentecost Third Sunday Potluck 9:15 Choir, Sunday School 10:30 Worship 2:00 Turlach Ur	21 Newsletter Deadline 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Grinnell Local Food Source 7:00 Alanon	22 12:00 Food Recovery Network 4:00 Prayer 5:15 Respite	23	24 10:30 Newsletter Mailing 5:15 Respite	25 12:00 Lectionary Bible Study	26
27 Birthday Sunday 2:00 Turlach Ur	28 Office Closed for the Holiday 7:00 Alanon	29 12:00 Food Recovery Network 4:00 Prayer	30	31 5:15 Respite		



[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!

We must be ready to allow
ourselves to be interrupted by
God.
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

To date we have received \$1435 for One Great Hour of Sharing. It is not too late to give to this great mission!

Bethlehem was God with us,
The cross was God for us, and
Pentecost is God in us.
- Robert Baer

A HOLY WEEK THANK YOU!

So many people gave of their time, talents, and treasures to make Holy Week a rich and meaningful experience. Thanks to **Mary Fopma** for her thoughtful attention to the music for each service, so perfectly selected and offered. Thanks to **the choir** for sharing their gifts on Maundy Thursday and Easter morning. Thanks to **the Bells** for ringing in the Easter morning at the early service. Thanks to **Rich Thorson** who is always so willing to share his musical gifts with us to set the tone, so to speak, so well. **The Worship Committee** did a great job planning and making sure everything ran smoothly at each service. **Char Ewan** was master of logistics. **Al Ricks** and his merry crew made sure we had a lovely brunch and fellowship time between services on Easter. **Susan McIntyre** saw the children's sermons through to a perfect ending with her creative boxes and broken hearts. **Many liturgists, readers, congregational hymn singers**, and so much more helped us all to worship in meaningful ways during this incredible time of the church year.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MARCH SESSION MEETING

Reports from Working Groups

Facilities ó the striping of the parking lot will cost \$795. This expense will come from the general fund. There will be 8 generous sized handicapped spaces. On Monday, April 23, 2018 volunteers were needed to help move loose rock in the parking lot. The west exterior door has been painted. The sign at the main entrance still needs attention. Ray is working on getting quotes from vendors for the sewer line repair. Clean up day was April 15, 2018. Due to weather only the inside projects could be completed. The soap dispensers have been installed.

Education ó the Committee will meet on April 22, 2018 to recap expectations, Easter Brunch, men's Saturday Brunches, 3rd grade bible class, and to identify the reading for summer. There has been some feedback on the prayer site in Fellowship Hall; it might not be private enough.

Mission ó the Committee met on March 26, 2018 to review and to evaluate current mission projects. David Isch represented First Presbyterian Church on April 11, 2018 when the Grinnell Ministerial Association sent a group to Pella, IA to look at a one stop shop for things. The next Committee meeting will be on April 23, 2018.

Finance ó the Committee met on April 17, 2018. First quarter financials were reviewed. Pledges are running ahead of budget, gas/electric over budget by \$1,400, noted the \$770 Mental Health Fund loan has been satisfied. Recommended the line item "Pastor Tuition Fund" be changed to "Staff Tuition Fund."

Motion made by Dennis to increase Sheryl Parmley's salary by \$1,000 effective retroactively to January 1, 2018. \$720 from child care budget and \$350 from Pastor's mileage allowance budget will accommodate this increase in salary and increase in fica. Chris seconded the motion. Motion passed. January 2018 through April 2018 will be in a lump sum amount, and the rest of the year as an increase on regular "pay days." Karla will notify Sheryl of this change.

Sunday Collection Counters from the Finance Committee are:

May	Emily Moore	September	Mary Anne Nickle
June	Dennis Day	October	Mary Anne Nickle
July	Emily Moore	November	Gail Greenwald
August	Dennis Day	December	Gail Greenwald

Char will include these names on the Session Worship Responsibilities sheet submitted to Sheryl for inclusion in the Newsletter.

Memorials ó Memorial Committee met on April 9, 2018. Motion made by the Committee to offer a stipend using Choate memorial money to those children/youth attending a church-related summer camp or synod school up to \$100 per camper. After discussion the motion was amended to state "youth camps." This will allow our youth who attend non-church related camps to be eligible for the stipend. Motion passed. Pastor Kristen will make contacts with potential campers and communicate with Donna Ricks about letters to accompany the checks.

Session members made the following suggestions for use of memorial funds

- Better lighting behind the stained glass above the sacristy
- Ceiling fans in the sanctuary
- Additional bell music
- Tcoil in the sanctuary and fellowship hall to accommodate outside groups
- Microphone for persons performing special music
- Music stands
- Funds to pay for music for special events (e.g. cantata)
- Adequate shelving in the sacristy
- Awning over the front entrance

September 16, 2018 is the date for dedicating memorials.

Unfinished Business

Hosting Presbytery ó Char will attend the May 15, 2018 Presbytery meeting in Oskaloosa to understand our responsibilities when we host the August 18, 2018 Presbytery meeting.

Update on Task Force ó Pastor Kirsten reported she is in the process of contacting persons to serve on the Task Force.

New Business

Special Offering ó by email on April 4, 2018 motion made by Char to approve a special offering to be taken on Sunday, April 8, 2018 to provide funds to persons in need to help avoid shutting off notices from Alliant Energy. Chris seconded the motion. Motion passed. The special offering brought in approximately \$2,000.

Communion to Homebound Members ó Deacons Marlene Peak, Karen Phillips and Ed Phillips assisted Pastor Kirsten.

Active Membership Roll Review ó Char reviewed the roll. Motion made by Char to move Austin Ratcliff Scheffert and Brian Scheffert from the active membership roll to the inactive membership roll. Joy seconded the motion. The motion passed. Letters will be sent to five others asking if they wish to remain on the active membership roll.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Kirsten has been accepted into the University of Iowa Social Work Program beginning this fall. She will be in Des Moines on Mondays during the fall semester.

Pastor Kirsten and Char accompanied Hannah Lundberg to her meeting with the Committee on Preparation for Ministry. The Committee will recommend Hannah become an inquirer at the May 15, 2018 Presbytery meeting.

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Return Service Requested

