



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

February 2019

Kirsten Klepfer, Pastor

GARDEN OF READIN'...

I learned a new term recently: Alloparent. As my housemates were in the hospital giving birth to their first child, I found myself reflecting on who my housemates have been to Lydia and wondering what their child would think of me...the strange third adult in the house.

A friend of ours sent us a link to an article about alloparents: kids who grow up with alloparents. Alloparenting is a term generally used to describe things that happen with non-human animals – basically any time a child is parented by someone not related through biology. This is known to happen naturally in 120 mammal and 150 avian species, and is seen as a positive thing for survival and evolution.

The article our friend sent described research showing human children who have an alloparent around fare better than those who don't. As a single parent, I am extremely aware of how important Lydia's alloparents (my housemates) have been to her health, psychological development, and overall wellbeing. And now I get to return the allo-ing to Oscar Leonard Guenther, the brand new baby in our household. I'm also aware we need a new term – allosibling – because Lydia is going to have a great time being a big allosister to Oscar.

Of course, alloparent is a technical term. Lots of people know what this is without ever having heard the term. "Aunties" and "Uncles" and "Grammies" have long been around, even when they share no DNA with the child. These are people who are so close to someone, when a child is born there's no way to not see it as family.

Truth is, I'm not sure we need research to tell us how important it is to have multiple adults in a child's life who care for that child with all the love, support, and grace they have. Seems like common sense to me. Community is everything when it comes to our wellbeing.

In case you all don't know where I'm going with this...this is a long lead in to saying, "Thank you!" Thank you for the fact that my child has a slew of alloparents in her life, many of them gathered in one place on Sunday morning. I hope and pray that I can be half as great to Oscar as you all have been to Lydia. I figure I'm well on my way with such good role models to follow.

Stay warm, and blessings on your February!

Peace,
Pastor Kirsten

LECTIONARY IN FEBRUARY

February 3: 4th Sunday after Epiphany. 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Lectionary readings: Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30.

February 10: 5th Sunday after Epiphany. 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Lectionary readings: Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13); Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11.

February 17: 6th Sunday after Epiphany. 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26.

February 24: 7th Sunday after Epiphany. 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Genesis 45:3-11, 15; Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27-38.

MEN'S BREAKFAST FEBRUARY 9

All men of the church are invited to attend the Men's Breakfast on **Saturday, February 9**. Breakfast will be served at 7:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. **Dennis Day** will be the chef, and **Al Ricks** will lead the devotional time. A sign-up sheet is on the table in Fellowship Hall to help get a meal count for the breakfast.

Thank you to **Damien** and **Kendall Nickle** for planning and preparing the January breakfast. A delicious breakfast of baked eggs and blueberry pancakes was enjoyed by the dozen who attended. **Damien** also offered the table grace and **Kendall** led the devotions.

Breakfasts are scheduled for the 2nd Saturday of each month in 2019. Men, mark your calendars accordingly!



BELL CHOIR

The bell choir will begin practice on **February 7** at 4:30 p.m.. If anyone has an interest in playing, please come and join us in ringing bells and chimes! We will practice every Thursday at 4:30 p.m. in February. If you have questions about the Bell Choir please contact **Mary Fopma**.

TAKE AWAY HUNGER PACKAGING EVENT— FEBRUARY 10

The next packaging event will be on **February 10th, at 1:00 p.m. at the Elks Lodge**. Sign-up sheets will be in Fellowship Hall. Donations to support the cost of the food and shipping are welcomed. Make checks payable to First Presbyterian, with "Take Away Hunger" on the memo line. Thank you.



ASH WEDNESDAY: MARCH 6TH AT 7 P.M.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. Attending the non-Sunday worship services throughout the year helps us all understand better the whole of the Christian story. In this case, Ash Wednesday sets the stage for the Lenten journey.

The worship service will include communion and the imposition of ashes, an ancient rite signifying contrition, confession, and mortality. If you need a ride, please call the church office at 641-236-6059.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

	<u>December</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Pledge Income	\$17,015	\$146,844
Budgeted	\$11,750	\$141,000
Total Income	\$17,536	\$156,363
Budgeted	\$12,308	\$147,700
Expenses	\$13,484	\$149,409
Budgeted	\$12,172	\$146,406



PRAYER CHAIN

Know someone in need of prayer, or have a prayer concern? Please contact Sheryl at the office, and it will get put on the prayer chain.

MEET YOUR OFFICERS: WHAT DO THEY “DO”?

This is the time of year when we nominate, approve, examine, ordain, and install new officers. The congregation, at its annual meeting on January 20, approved a new slate of officers. The session, at its January 16 meeting, worked through business items required by the Book of Order.

In the Presbyterian church, we ordain people to two different “offices” in addition to the minister of the congregation. Together they make up the leadership of the congregation. Each office is specifically charged with leading the congregation in carrying out the ministry of the church. It is helpful to know what those offices are and whom you have elected to fill them.

Elder: “Together with ministers of Word and Sacrament, elders exercise leadership and have responsibilities for the life of the church. It is the duty of elders, individually and jointly, to strengthen and nurture the faith and life of the congregation committed to their charge. Together with the pastor they should encourage the people in the worship and service of God, equip and renew them for their tasks within the church and for their mission in the world, visit and comfort and care for the people.” (Book of Order)

Deacon: “It is the responsibility of the deacons to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress both within and beyond the community of faith.” (Book of Order)

Your Elders: **Chris Day, Char Ewan, Stan Greenwald, Carey Krull, Joy Krull, Dan McCue, Kendall Nickle, Ray Peak, and Montie Redenius.**

Your Deacons: **Miriam Baumann/Karen Phillips** (shared position), **Mary Lou Doty, Gail Greenwald, Chrissy Hazlett, Selva Lehman, Janice Logan, John Martenson, and Marlene Peak.**

Nominating Committee for 2019: **David Cranston, Donna Ricks and Suzanne Redenius.**

Clerk of Session records the minutes of the session, keeps roll of membership and attendance of the session and preserves the records of the session. Your Clerk of Session: **Char Ewan.**

Treasurer: **Ed Phillips**, substitute: **Char Ewan.**

February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 12:00 Lectionary Bible Study	2 9 to 11 a.m. League of Women Voters Legislative Coffee
3 Holy Communion Food Pantry 9:15 Choir, Sunday School 10:30 Worship 2:00 Turlach Ur	4 7:00 Alanon	5 12:00 Food Recovery Network 4:00 Prayer 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 COSI Steering Committee	6 12:00 Food Recovery Network	7 4:30 Bell Choir 4:30 Yoni Chats 5:15 Respite 7:00 COSI Diplomatic Liaison Committee	8 12:00 Lectionary Bible Study	9 7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast
10 Heifer College Lunch 9:15 Choir, Sunday School 10:30 Worship 1:00 TAH 2:00 Turlach Ur 7:00 Taize at First Presbyterian Church	11 1:30 Mission Committee 7:00 Alanon	12 10:00 Care Givers Group 12:00 Food Recovery Network 4:00 Prayer 6:00 COSI Education Committee 6:30 Cub Scouts	13 12:00 Food Recovery Network 6:30 Deacons	14 4:30 Bell Choir 4:30 Yoni Chats 5:15 Respite 7:00 COSI Media and Community Relations Committee	15 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Dental Coalition 12:00 Lectionary Bible Study	16
17 Third Sunday Potluck, All Church Event Planning 9:15 Choir, Sunday School 10:30 Worship 2:00 Turlach Ur	18 Newsletter Deadline 3:00 Grinnell Farm to Table 7:00 Alanon	19 12:00 Food Recovery Network 4:00 Prayer 7:00 COSI Legal Services Committee	20 6:30 Session	21 10:30 Newsletter Mailing 4:30 Bell Choir 4:30 Yoni Chats 5:15 Respite 5:30 Task Force	22 12:00 Lectionary Bible Study	23
24 Birthday Sunday 9:15 Choir, Sunday School 10:30 Worship 2:00 Turlach Ur	25 7:00 Alanon	26 12:00 Food Recovery Network 4:00 Prayer 6:30 Cub Scouts	27 12:00 Food Recovery Network 7:00 COSI Financial Management and Fundraising Committee	28 12:00 Food Recovery Network 4:30 Bell Choir 4:30 Yoni Chats 5:15 Respite		

SUNDAY SERVANTS

February

3- Liturgist: Dan McCue
Greeter: Ed Phillips
Deacon: Karen Phillips
Ushers: Stiven Parmley and Ray Peak
Coffee: Chrissy Hazlett
Acolyte: Peter Simpson
Van Driver: Paul Parmley
Nursery Volunteer(s): Sheryl Parmley
Communion Servers: Joy Krull, Montie Redenius
Offering Counters: Emily Moore, Kendall Nickle
10- Liturgist: Donna Winburn
Greeters: Deb and John Martenson
Deacon: Mary Lou Doty
Ushers: Alyssa DeBella, Sheryl Parmley
Coffee: Carey Krull
Acolyte: Hanna McCue
Van Driver: Paul Parmley
Nursery Volunteer(s): Alana Ferguson
17- Liturgist: Tom Moore
Greeter: Donna Ricks
Deacon: Janice Logan
Ushers: Jon Mehlhaus, Ed Phillips
Potluck: Gail and Stan Greenwald
Acolyte: Graeme McCue
Van Driver: Al Ricks
Nursery Volunteer(s): Evelyn Freeman
24- Liturgist: Donna Ricks
Greeter: Erik Simpson
Deacon: Gail Greenwald
Ushers: Rich Thorson, Elizabeth Trimmer
Coffee: Selva Lehman
Acolyte: Slane McCue
Van Driver: Linda Stoll
Nursery Volunteer(s): Chrissy Hazlett
Cake baker: Sheryl Parmley



The above photo is from Mackinac Island.

March

3- Liturgist: Ray Peak
Greeters: Dallas and Lola Sterk
Deacon: Marlene Peak
Ushers: Donna Winburn, Miriam Baumann
Coffee: Janice Logan
Acolyte: Alana Ferguson
Van Driver: Marv Doty
Nursery Volunteer(s): Jill Kaiser, Peter Simpson
Communion Servers: Karla Kriegel, Dan McCue
Offering Counters: Char Ewan, 2nd Person as assigned by the Finance Committee
10- Liturgist: TBA
Greeters: Doty and Russ Stoker
Deacon: Mary Doty
Ushers: Janet Carl, Char Ewan
Coffee: Phil McCune
Acolyte: Sydney Cox
Van Driver: Carey Krull
Nursery Volunteer(s): Deb Martenson
Offering Counters: TBA
17- Liturgist: TBA
Greeter: Rich Thorson
Deacon: Miriam Baumann
Ushers: Alana Ferguson, Evelyn Freeman
Potluck: Denise and Rich Creps
Acolyte: Lydia Klepfer
Van Driver: Paul Parmley
Nursery Volunteer(s): Emily Moore
Offering Counters: TBA
24- Liturgist: TBA
Greeter: Janet Carl
Deacon: Selva Lehman
Ushers: Karen Phillips, Linda Stoll
Coffee: Marlene and Ray Peak
Acolyte: Damien Nickle
Van Driver: Montie Redenius
Nursery Volunteer(s): Kendall and Zach Nickle
Offering Counters: TBA
31- Liturgist: TBA
Greeter: David and Linda Cranston
Deacon: Karen Phillips
Ushers: Stan Greenwald, Chrissy Hazlett
Coffee: Emily Moore
Acolyte: Julio Parmley
Van Driver: Al Ricks
Nursery Volunteer(s): Sheryl Parmley
Offering Counters: TBA
Cake bakers: Mary Lou Doty and Doty Stoker

2018 GIVING STATEMENTS

If you would like a 2018 giving statement, please contact Sheryl at the office. She will either email or print one out for you. The giving statements are being done by request only.



THANK YOU...

Thank you to **Linda Stoll** for providing cake after the worship service when Shults and Company was here on Sunday, January 13, 2019.

IN MEMORIAM

Jackie Jaynes
February 4, 1932—January 15, 2019

SESSION MINUTES

Session minutes will return in March.

DID YOU KNOW?

First Presbyterian Church has drivers available to take people to medical appointments. If you know of someone who could benefit from this service, please have them contact the church office at least two weeks in advance of the appointment. If you would be interested in volunteering to drive, please call the church office at 641-236-6059.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone for everything during our time of need.
-William and Arlene Bennett



GRINNELL COLLEGE STUDENTS

Grinnell College Students are invited for lunch and conversation on **Sunday, February 10** at the home of **Emily and Tom Moore** immediately following the morning worship service. The lunch will be served. Rides will be available. Feel free to invite a friend. Students will receive more information by email the week before the event.

MEALS ON WHEELS

Our church and the Episcopal church will be sharing the **Meals on Wheels** duty beginning **March 4 through March 28, Tuesday through Thursday**. There will be a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall in February so you can pick your route and the days you can do the delivery. Delivery starts at 11:00 and usually takes about a half hour.

2019 DEACON OFFICERS

Moderator— Marlene Peak
Vice Moderator— Karen Phillips
Secretary— Gail Greenwald
Treasurer—Mary Lou Doty

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Confirmation classes will begin on Sunday, February 10th at 9:15 a.m. in the library. Call Pastor Kirsten if you have any questions.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

A special thank you to **Rich Thorson** for organizing the brass quintet that played for the Christmas Eve service. The members were: Carolyn Brickley, Rod Carlson, Levi Dressler, Paul Nelson, and Rich Thorson. Thank you for sharing your talents with us and blessing us with your wonderful music!





EPIPHANY PARTY - A GREAT EVENT!

A BIG shout out to **Karen and Ed Phillips** for opening their home for this year's Epiphany Party on Sunday, January 6. A "warmer weather" version of Epiphany was celebrated by 35 members and friends (in contrast to last year's frigid temperature and biting wind)! The sandwich, salad, and dessert buffet offered bounteous food before the special epiphany cake was served. The cake, prepared by **Slane McCue and her family**, had several symbolic items hidden inside. **Selva Lehman** was "lucky" to find the penny, meaning she will be next year's cake baker, just as **Slane** was chosen for this

year.

Ed Phillips read the traditional Italian story of La Befana, the old woman who was too preoccupied with her sweeping to join the Epiphany procession, as a reminder for us to take time in the busyness of life to honor the Christ. The Sunday evening party closed with many comments of hopefulness for doing it again for Epiphany,

MANY THANKS!

Julio Parmley for sharpening a bunch of pencils.

Ray Peak for working on the door in the Fellowship Hall, the front door, assistance with a drain and keeping the facility in great shape over these cold few weeks.

To **all** who prepared food over the winter break for a family.

Ed Phillips and Char Ewan for volunteering as our church treasurers. Ed comes in every Monday to count money and sign checks with our office manager, and when he insists on leaving us in the summer, Char takes over. This is one of those jobs that is necessary to the proper functioning of our church, yet goes unnoticed by most because it happens in background. Both Ed and Char have done this for years.

Char Ewan for helping with Christmas Eve worship logistics, and to all who ushered, sang, lit candles and played bells!

Ed and Karen Phillips for hosting a wonderful Epiphany party at their home. Great food, fun, and surprises!

Gail Greenwald for help arranging the gathering to celebrate the life of Jackie Jaynes.

Thank you to all who gave to support the employees of the Mexican Restaurant who experienced a fire. \$3556 was given by First Presbyterian Church. A community total of \$11,740 was divided among ten employees who were very grateful for the donation.

THANK YOU

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

5— Meredith Breiting

14—Donna Ricks

Debbie Schade

15—Al Ricks

23—Mary Fopma

24—Janet Carl



Thank you to all who have donated containers for food. Currently, we do not need additional containers.

Do you know of someone in need of food? Please tell them about the **Food Recovery Network**.

COPY OF THE SERMON

If you are interested in receiving a copy of Pastor Kirsten's sermon by email, please contact Sheryl in the office. She will add you to the email list. The email for the church is firstpresgrinnell@gmail.com. Printed copies will be still available for Sunday worship.

First Presbyterian Church
1025 Fifth Avenue
Grinnell IA 50112

Return Service Requested



GET INVOLVED!

At the beginning of every year, our session meets and decides how to organize itself to best accomplish its work that year. In part that includes looking at the committees of our church and figuring out who will lead them. But the session members are only the leaders – we need people to be on the committees in order to have our church function well and fulfill its mission. Below are our committees, a brief description of what that committee does, and the session member(s) who leads it. If you are interested in any of these areas, please contact the session member and let them know.

The mission of the **Facilities Committee** is to ensure the building is in safe condition and the grounds are in acceptable appearance, and to coordinate use of our space to serve our mission. The facilities committee meets semi-regularly to plan and monitor progress on projects. **(Ray Peak and Carey Krull)**

The **Christian Education Committee** is responsible for the Christian Education program for all ages. This includes, but is not limited to: Sunday School for all, Teacher recruitment and training, events planning, confirmation class, Bible introduction for third graders and Bible Studies for various groups. The Christian education committee meets regularly to plan programs and discuss the educational needs of our congregation. **(Kendall Nickle)**

The **Mission Committee** works to extend the reach of our congregation into our community and the greater world community, guided by the principles taught us by Jesus to feed the hungry, clothe the poor, and treat others as we want to be treated. The mission committee meets on a semi-regular basis. **(Chris Day)**

The **Worship Committee** creates worship settings in which the community comes together to praise and glorify our Creator God, and creates meaningful worship that reflects the mission of First Presbyterian Church. The worship committee meets approximately four times a year to plan. **(Joy Krull)**

The **Finance Committee** is charged with responsibility to monitor all financial matters of the church, including the preparation of a budget, which supports the church's vision and mission statement. The finance committee's work is concentrated in the fall when the budget is being prepared. **(Dan McCue and Montie Redenius)**

The **Communications Committee** facilitates the understanding within the congregation about the activities of and in the church, who we are, and what opportunities there are for people to be involved. This committee also helps tell the story of who we are to the greater Grinnell community. The communications committee meets semi-regularly to assess the communication needs of the church and to plan for projects. **(Dan McCue)**

The **Memorials Committee** is responsible for celebrating past memorials, documenting all of our memorial gifts, caring for the undesignated memorial monies, and planning for memorial giving in the future. **(Stan Greenwald)**



NOTES FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR!

Thank you to everyone who played bells for all of the services during the last four months. Your willingness to help out and be part of this group has been a wonderful way to enhance worship. Looking forward to starting up again in February! A special thank you to all the **young people** who played bells for the Christmas Eve service. You all did a great job!

Thank you to **Karen Philips** for sending out emails for choir and bell choir and for putting the anthem words in the bulletin.

Thank you **to all** who have shared their musical talents by singing and playing for worship services.

As of the end of January I will no longer have a land line and my email address will be changed to: mlfopma@gmail.com. My cell phone number is: 641-990-5595.

-Mary Fopma

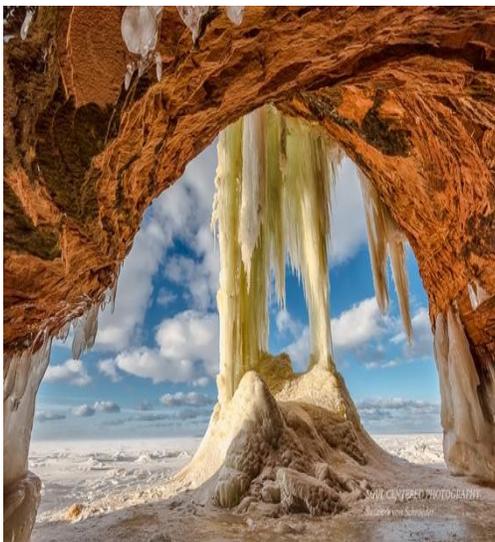


KIDS' WORSHIP BAGS

Thank you to all who have made recent donations for the Kids' Worship Bags.

You would be surprised how many stickers we go through!

- Donna Ricks



The above photo is from the Apostle Islands.



A LITTLE BIT ABOUT A BIG PROJECT

From the Mission Committee

Are you wondering about an organization called Friends for International Harmony? What exactly is this organization?

Friends for International Harmony is the inspiration of **David Isch**. It is a an organization which focuses on support for international people needing assistance maneuvering the often complicated workings of life here in the United States. CoSI (Community Support for Immigrants) is a social justice outreach of this organization which is preparing and planning in the event of an immigration enforcement activity in and around the greater Grinnell area. CoSI has a steering committee and seven service committees. (These committees meet at our church and their meeting times appear in weekly announcements.) Each committee is developing a plan of action to be put into place if an event such as this would occur. Currently there are 80 Grinnell citizens who are actively involved in this intense planning.

First Presbyterian Mission Committee and **First Presbyterian Session** support this important work. We encourage each of you to ask questions and consider becoming involved in CoSI.

Several members of the CoSI steering committee are here at First Presbyterian to answer your questions: **David Isch, Chris Day, Susan McIntyre, Montie Redenius and Pastor Kirsten**.