



## ***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

January 2019

Kirsten Klepfer, Pastor

### **GARDEN OF READIN'...**

Enjoy. Appreciate. Love. Learn. Be with. All of us need some periods of our life that are slower than the break-neck pace we usually proceed at, and in the church, that's what Advent is for. Like so many others, Lydia and I had a perfect start to the Advent season when we went to the Grinnell Choir Festival the first Sunday of Advent. As we sat there, all I felt was appreciation, enjoyment, and presence ó presence of people I love, and presence of God.

More than anything, though, I was struck by the sheer gift of it all. I was reminded what it feels like to receive gifts ó gifts like the ones we should all try to give on Christmas. I knew that the people there from all the churches were singing for us, not because they were getting anything in return. I knew how much work went into organizing it all, and that it all started as a pure òlabor of love.ö In other words, I knew it was all done completely out of a love for God, music, and the community. As I sat there, I had nothing to offer, and could only take it all in ó receive the gift.

I also found myself enormously grateful to be the pastor of First Presbyterian ó watching how much the people of our congregation put into this. Al Ricks and Sara McCue were on the planning committee, we had one of the largest choir members/church members ratio, a bunch of people stepped up and filled in around the edges for things like ushering (thanks Dennis) and finding the perfect readings (thanks Sara). And, of course, Mary Fopma pulled it all together ó not just for our choir, which she always does, but for the whole event. Mary was the inspiration, the main organizer, the recruiter, and the backbone of the whole thing. I'm sure people were amazed at her talent and her commitment, just like we are every single week. Gift ó true gift.

So often, I hear people talk about the òtrue meaning of Christmas,ö and I often talk about how Advent is a way to not just rush into Christmas without reflecting on its meaning. How ironic that my first, and likely my best, Christmas present this year came on the First Sunday of Advent. Thanks to all of you who made that happen!

Peace,  
Pastor Kirsten





## CHOIR

There will be choir on **Sunday, December 30.**

**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
There will be **no Sunday School** on **Sunday, December 30.**



## EPIPHANY PARTY—JANUARY 6

Sunday, January 6, marks the traditional end of the Christmas season with the story of the visit of the Magi, and the reminder that the good news of Christ is meant for all the world. One of the outstanding ways First Presbyterian has marked the day is with an "Epiphany Party," that includes some special foods, the reading of an Epiphany folk tale, and a very festive "Epiphany Cake!"

The Epiphany Party will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 6. It will be at the home of **Ed and Karen Phillips**, at 603 High Street. The Phillips want to mention that there is no parking permitted along 1st Avenue in front of their house. Those coming are encouraged to car pool and also invited to pull into the driveway or park on High Street to the east or State Street to the west. Those who are able are invited to bring a plate of sandwiches or holiday snacks to share. Beverages and the traditional Epiphany cake will be provided. Invite a friend to attend with you!

## EPIPHANY OF THE LORD JANUARY 6



## 2019 ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 20TH IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP

The **2019** annual meeting for our congregation will be held on **January 20**. The agenda for this meeting is to elect officers, receive the 2019 budget, and approve the pastor's terms of call. Annual reports will be available for you to review by **Sunday, January 13**.



## MEN'S BREAKFAST JANUARY 12

All men of the church are invited to breakfast on **Saturday, January 12**. The breakfast will be in Fellowship Hall, starting at 7:30 a.m. The cooks for January will be **Kendall** and **Damien Nickle**. They will also lead the morning devotions.

Thank you to **Ed Phillips** for cooking at the December breakfast, and to **Al Ricks** for the devotional moment.

Let peace begin  
with you.

## SESSION AND DEACONS RETREAT - JANUARY 27TH

This year's retreat will be Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup> after worship. Lunch will be served and we will meet until about 3 p.m. We will have time for joint conversation, visioning and planning.

NOTE: There will no deacon's meeting on January 9<sup>th</sup>. The deacons will meet as a part of the officer's retreat on the 27<sup>th</sup>. There *will* be a session meeting on January 16<sup>th</sup> with both the continuing and outgoing session members.

## SUNDAY SERVANTS

### January

**6-** Liturgist: TBA  
Greeter: TBA  
Deacon: Janice Logan  
Ushers: Janet Carl, John Martenson  
Coffee: Doty Stoker  
Acolyte: Sydney Cox  
Van Driver: Marv Doty  
Nursery Volunteer(s): Emily Moore  
Communion Servers: TBA  
Offering Counters: Dan McCue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Person as assigned by the Finance Committee

**13-** Liturgist: Al Ricks  
Greeter: Joy and Carey Krull  
Deacon: Mary Doty  
Ushers: Sara McCue and Marv Doty  
Coffee: Donna Winburn  
Acolyte: Lydia Klepfer  
Van Driver: Carey Krull  
Nursery Volunteer(s): Sheryl and Julio Parmley  
Offering Counters: Dan McCue

**20-** Liturgist: Joy Krull  
Greeter: Deb and John Martenson  
Deacon: Gail Greenwald  
Ushers: Phil McCune, Stan Greenwald  
Potluck: Mary Anne Nickle  
Acolyte: Damien Nickle  
Van Driver: Marv Doty  
Nursery Volunteer(s): Kendall and Zach Nickle  
Offering Counters: Dennis Day

**27-** Liturgist: Susan McIntrye  
Greeter: Marlene and Ray Peak  
Deacon: Karen Phillips  
Ushers: Emily Moore, Kendall Nickle  
Coffee: Chris and Dennis Day  
Acolyte: Julio Parmley  
Van Driver: Carey Krull  
Nursery Volunteer(s): Meredith Breiting  
Offering Counters: Dennis Day  
Cake baker: Marlene Peak

### February

**3-** Liturgist: TBA  
Greeter: Karen Phillips  
Deacon: Marlene Peak  
Ushers: Stiven Parmley and Ray Peak  
Coffee: Chrissy Hazlett  
Acolyte: Peter Simpson  
Van Driver: Paul Parmley  
Nursery Volunteer(s): Sue Ahrens  
Communion Servers: TBA  
Offering Counters: Emily Moore, 2<sup>nd</sup> Person as assigned by the Finance Committee

**10-** Liturgist: TBA  
Greeter: Suzanne Redenius  
Deacon: Mary Doty  
Ushers: Alyssa DeBella, Sheryl Parmley  
Coffee: Carey Krull  
Acolyte: Hanna McCue  
Van Driver: Paul Parmley  
Nursery Volunteer(s): Alana Ferguson  
Offering Counters: TBA

**17-** Liturgist: TBA  
Greeter: Donna Ricks  
Deacon: Gail Greenwald  
Ushers: Jon Mehlhaus, Ed Phillips  
Potluck: Gail and Stan Greenwald  
Acolyte: Graeme McCue  
Van Driver: Al Ricks  
Nursery Volunteer(s): Evelyn Freeman  
Offering Counters: TBA

**24-** Liturgist: TBA  
Greeter: Erik Simpson  
Deacon: Janice Logan  
Ushers: Rich Thorson, Elizabeth Trimmer  
Coffee: Selva Lehman  
Acolyte: Slane McCue  
Van Driver: Linda Stoll  
Nursery Volunteer(s): Chrissy Hazlett  
Offering Counters: TBA  
Cake baker: TBA

**FOOD**

RECOVERY  
NETWORK

FIGHTING WASTE. FEEDING PEOPLE.

## FOOD RECOVERY NETWORK

### THANK YOU

Thank you to **Roger Bortell, David and Linda Cranston, David Isch, Carey Krull, and Al Ricks**, who have assisted with the Grinnell Food Recovery Network in 2018 from First Presbyterian Church.

## LECTIONARY IN JANUARY

**January 6: Epiphany of the Lord.** Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12.

**January 13: Baptism of the Lord.** Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22.

**January 20: 2nd Sunday after Epiphany. 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time.** Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11.

**January 27: 3rd Sunday after Epiphany. 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time.** Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21.

## PER CAPITA

Every Presbyterian congregation is asked to pay a per-member assessment (per capita). What is Per Capita? Per Capita is not membership dues. Neither is it a tax. About twelve years ago, the General Assembly approved the following definition of Per Capita: Per Capita is an opportunity for all communicant members of the Presbyterian Church through the governing bodies to participate equally, responsibly, and independently by sharing the cost of coordination and evaluation of mission; of performing ecclesiastical, legislative, and judicial functions that identify a reformed church, while at the same time strengthening the sense of community among all Presbyterians. In short, per capita is the way churches share in the work of the larger church. Assessing based on membership makes it equitable across churches, and some of each member's assessment goes to each level of governance: Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly.

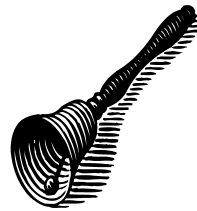
The assessment this year is **\$45.00** per member. Part of your regular pledge already goes to pay our per capita. Each year we also ask those who are able and feel moved to do so to help with this annual payment.

*Happy  
New Year*

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

	<u>November</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Pledge Income	\$ 8,953	\$129,829
Budgeted	\$11,750	\$129,250
Total Income	\$ 9,375	\$138,827
Budgeted	\$12,308	\$135,391
Expenses	\$12,707	\$136,034
Budgeted	\$12,172	\$134,234

If you have not turned in your **pledge card for the year 2019** we hope you will do so soon. You can send it to the church office or bring it in during regular office hours (Monday through Friday; 8:30 to noon). If you need a new form, let Sheryl Parmley know and we will get one to you.



## ADULT BELL CHOIR

There will be **no** Adult Bell Choir practice in January. If you would like to join the Bell Choir, please contact **Mary Fopma**.



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

13<sup>th</sup> Joy Krull  
15<sup>th</sup> Kendall Nickle  
16<sup>th</sup> Emily Moore  
17<sup>th</sup> Toshia Sharp  
20<sup>th</sup> Mary Anne Nickle  
Peter Simpson  
22<sup>nd</sup> Angela Davis



# January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> <b>Happy New Year!</b>  <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>2</b> <b>Committee Annual Reports Deadline</b>	<b>3</b> <b>5:15 Respite</b>  <b>7:00 CoSI Diplomatic Liaison Committee</b>	<b>4</b> <b>12:00 Lectionary Bible Study</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> <b>Holy Communion</b> <b>Food Pantry</b> <b>9:15 Choir,</b> <b>Sunday School</b> <b>10:30 Worship</b>	<b>7</b> <b>7:00 Alanon</b>  <b>7:00 CoSI Steering Committee</b>	<b>8</b> <b>10:00 Care Givers Group</b> <b>12:00 Food Recovery Network</b> <b>4:00 Prayer</b> <b>6:30 Cub Scouts</b>	<b>9</b> <b>1:00 Grinnell Ministerial Association</b>	<b>10</b> <b>5:15 Respite</b>  <b>7:00 CoSI Media and Community Relations Committee</b>	<b>11</b> <b>12:00 Lectionary Bible Study</b>	<b>12</b> <b>7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast</b>  <b>10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Iowa Art Quilters</b>
<b>13</b> <b>Heifer</b> <b>9:15 Choir,</b> <b>Sunday School</b> <b>10:30 Worship</b>	<b>14</b> <b>1:30 Mission Committee</b>  <b>7:00 Alanon</b>	<b>15</b> <b>12:00 Food Recovery Network</b>  <b>4:00 Prayer</b>  <b>6:30 Cub Scouts</b>	<b>16</b> <b>6:30 Session</b>	<b>17</b> <b>5:15 Respite</b>  <b>5:30 Task Force</b>	<b>18</b> <b>12:00 Lectionary Bible Study</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> <b>Third Sunday Potluck</b> <b>9:15 Choir,</b> <b>Sunday School</b> <b>10:30 Worship</b> <b>Annual Meeting</b>	<b>21</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>  <b>7:00 Alanon</b>	<b>22</b> <b>12:00 Food Recovery Network</b> <b>4:00 Prayer</b> <b>7:00 CoSI Social and Humanitarian Services Committee</b>	<b>23</b> <b>7:00 CoSI Finance and Fundraising Committee</b>	<b>24</b> <b>10:30 Newsletter Mailing</b>  <b>5:15 Respite</b>  <b>7:00 Yoni Chats</b>	<b>25</b> <b>12:00 Lectionary Bible Study</b>	<b>26</b> <b>9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Respite</b>
<b>27</b> <b>Birthday</b> <b>9:15 Choir,</b> <b>Sunday School</b> <b>10:30 Worship</b> <b>Ordination and Installation of Officers</b> <b>Session Retreat</b>	<b>28</b> <b>7:00 Alanon</b>	<b>29</b> <b>12:00 Food Recovery Network</b>  <b>4:00 Prayer</b>  <b>6:30 Cub Scouts</b>	<b>30</b> <b>12:00 Food Recovery Network</b>	<b>31</b> <b>12:00 Food Recovery Network</b>		

## THANK YOU TO ALL THE CAKE BAKERS IN 2018!

Thank you to all those who baked cakes for the birthday Sundays in 2018! The people who helped with this delicious responsibility were: **Chris Day, Mary Lou Doty, Gail and Stan Greenwald, Chrissy Hazlett, Karla Kriegel, Janice Logan, Marlene Peak, Karen and Ed Phillips, Suzanne and Montie Redenius, Donna and Al Ricks, and Doty Stoker.**



### MICA FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

Here are few ways you can help:

**Donate** to the food pantry either in the actual product or financially. If a financial donation is made please indicate that it goes to the food pantry.

**Donate** your plastic bags you obtain when shopping. MICA goes through many, many each week.

Smoke free and clean bags are appreciated.

**Donate** your time. MICA is always in need of volunteers, especially in the food pantry. If you are interested stop in for an application or call them at 641-236-3923.



### CAROLING PARTY THANK YOU

Fourteen First Presbyterian carolers made seven stops on Sunday, December 16, taking the joyful sounds of Christmas to members and friends of the church. Thank you to all who participated. A special shout out to the children of our Sunday School who made beautiful tree ornament gifts, a card, and also a plate of cookies for each one.

Thank you to all who shared the expectant hope of Advent so beautifully through song!



### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS

Thanks to all for the Thank Offering taken in November. \$776.73 as sent in for our 2018 offering.

On December 8 ten ladies and the three **McCue** children enjoyed our Advent service and cookie exchange. Music was provided by **Hanna, Slane** and **Sara** after which we all enjoyed many delicious cookies. Thanks to all who attended.

Also, thank you for your support in 2018. - Janice Logan



### THANK YOU!

Thank you to **Barb Erquist, Gail and Stan Greenwald**, and **Janice Logan** for coming each month to prepare the Grinnell Presbyterian newsletter for mailing.

### THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SHARED NATIVITIES

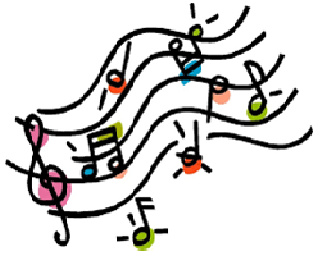


A special thank you to those who shared their nativity sets as part of this year's "No Room at the Inn" event. The observance, held on Friday, December 7, was a meaningful prelude to Christmas, as the Grinnell community was reminded that Jesus' birth was most humble. Seeing that event,

portrayed through the eyes of many different artists, is a highlight of the year.

At the community event, a total of 237 nativities were shared. First Presbyterian friends also graciously shared their displays with our congregation on Sunday, December 9, with three, eight-foot tables being filled.

We have not received the final report on attendance at the community event or the dollars raised, but we know both will be significant numbers, as the event was very well received this year.



### MUSIC FILLED THE AIR!

Music filled the air of Herrick Chapel on the Grinnell College campus on the afternoon of Sunday, December 2, as Grinnell's Choir Festival, 2018, was held to usher in the Advent season. The Chapel was well-filled as

choirs from eight churches and an additional community group offered musical praise. The First Presbyterian Choir presented two numbers, "Gloria Deo," and "African Noel," accompanied by **Mary Fopma**, and **Sara** and **Dan McCue**.

Our choir also joined the other ensembles in creating a massed choir, directed by Roger Henderson. The massed choir sang two Advent anthems, and then closed the concert with Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus." Nearly 100 choral musicians sang in the massed choir.

A particular thank you to **Mary Fopma** for her leadership and coordination of this wonderful community event. **Sara McCue** and **Al Ricks** served on the general planning committee. **Dan McCue** served as narrator, and **Dennis Day** served as head usher for the event. **Alana Ferguson** and **Pete Simpson** played handbells for the "Hallelujah Chorus," and **Rich Thorson** was trombonist in the accompanying brass ensemble. Thank you to all members of the choir for their extra rehearsals and their sharing the deepest meaning of Advent through song!



**Carolyn Jacobson, Peter and Erik Simpson** for hosting the last college lunch of the semester.

**Ed Phillips** for arranging the poinsettias and flowers in the sanctuary.

**Paul Parmley** for getting the beautiful Christmas tree for the sanctuary this year. And thanks to **Paul and Sheryl Parmley** for helping put it up.

**Al Ricks** for heading up the "No Room at the Inn" effort for our congregation.

**Church Women United** for hosting a wonderful lunch and program for church staff at the Grinnell churches.

**Janice Logan** for organizing the annual Presbyterian Women Cookie Exchange.

**Al Ricks** for organizing our Christmas Caroling party. And thanks to **everyone who sang** to all our shut ins, and to **Slane McCue, Lydia Klepfer, and Hannah McCue (and their amazing Sunday School teacher, Tom Moore)** for making gifts and cards for everyone we visited.

**Ray Peak** for keeping the facility in tip top shape during these cold winter months.

Thank you to all the **Sunday Servants** for your willingness to serve each Sunday.



### THANK YOU FIRST PRES!

Please take a moment and look at the wreath on the South wall in fellowship hall. This is a "thank you" from Respite Connection to our congregation for opening our space to them every week. Respite Connection is an agency that provides programming for people with intellectual disabilities in our community. The participants in that program (including our very own **Lydia Klepfer!**) hand-made this wreath to express how appreciative they are of us and our space.



### PRESBYTERIAN MISSION YEARBOOK

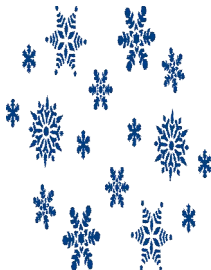
The 2019 Presbyterian Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study is only available electronically. Please let **Sheryl** know if you would like to sign up for the electronic version.



First Presbyterian Church  
1025 Fifth Avenue  
Grinnell IA 50112

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Return Service Requested



### **INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTICES**

In case of inclement weather, listen to KGRN for Sunday School and/or choir cancellations. **Sunday worship will not be cancelled.** We trust everyone to make good decisions about their own safety when deciding whether or not to come.

Additionally, this information will be placed on the church's web site and Facebook page as soon as the information is received.