

PRAYER LIST

Each month we remember First Pres families in prayer, this month please pray for:

Keith & April Heitritter, Jake, Olivia & Ben, 2606 Center Lake Dr., Spirit Lake
Mark, Marcy & Carter Toews, 1301 31st St., Spirit Lake
Marcia Hill, 24560 140th St., Spirit Lake
Norlan & Rose Top, 219 Emerald Meadows Dr., Arnolds Park

Please pray for our members and friends of this church family who are facing various health concerns: Maddie DeWitt, Chris Koehler, Jody Ferguson, Lori Johnson, Pat Kelly, Mike Wiley, Kathy Huitink, Denice Wiersma, Bart Duncan, Rod Johnson, Dietrich Knabe, Macy Jennings, Elaine DenHerder, Kristen Martin, Marty Jenkins, Bill Cramer, Connie Rohlk, Sherry Fuhrman, Brent Kasson, Bob & Martha Graham, Colin Jensen, Denise Beimer, John, Jacinda & Braylynn Tracy, Joan Sterner, Mary Larsen, Todd Livingood, Ellie Smith, Kyle Johnson, Ashlyn Clark, Terry Cother, Dave Ashlock, David Render, Norma Thompson, Curtis Stover, Ron Harris, Paul DenHerder, Travis Caskey, Phyllis Johnson, Niles Swancutt, Jack Burrell, Eulyn Riemersma's sister, Ruth, Tom Fuhrman, Ned Stockdale, Bev Cother, Lois Holtgrewe, Sue Bartels mom, Sandy, Laurel Webber, JoAnn Asa, Lee & Marj Struthers, Ken Westergard, Wanda Huffman, Betty VanderZwaag, Barry Holtgrewe, Thea Ennema

Please pray for our members and friends who serve in the Armed Forces: Staff SGT Jamie Lewis, 1st LT Whitney Lewis, 7017 Arnold Ave., Unit A, JBER, AK 99506; SFC Frederick, Jesse; SSG Amy Frederick, 134 Newburg St., Ft. Leonardwood, MO 65473; 1st Class PO Billy Joe Travis, 8583 Aero Drive, Apt 2043, San Diego, CA 92123; PFC; Colton Petersen, 1st LT James Fliss, PSC 41 Box 6588, APO, AE 09464-0066, United States; SGT Kenten Murray, Unit 4090, Box 2011, DPO, AP 96521-2011; Dillon VanderWilt, PSC 201, Box 6240, APO AE 09522-9998

Each month we pray for Missionaries that we support:

AARON AND DEB GROFF, MARIJAS IELA 25/7, RIGA LV IOIH LATVIA

Aaron is working as the Operational Director for the student ministry of Agape (Campus Crusade in Western Europe). He also works part time with the local campus ministry in Riga, Latvia. Aaron helps provide leadership to 17 countries and works on expanding their ministry to 5 other countries where they have no ministry. First Presbyterain has supported Aaron and Deb since 1996.

EROL AND GULSEREN KARA, RAFETPASA MAH. 5158 SOKAK NO. 14 KIDİ, CAMDBI-BORNOVA/İZMİR TURKEY

Erol is the Leader Led Movement Aegean Region Director with Campus Crusade for Christ International. In Leader Led Movement ministry, Erol and Seren are reaching out to Young Professionals and effective leaders in the city to develop leaders who will build ministry teams to disciple and evangelize in their ministry. Erol and Seren have 3 children. Seren was on the CCC OLC(5) intercessory prayer team with Dave Butterworth in Izmir, Turkey in 2012. FPC has supported Erol and Gulseren since 2013.

First Presbyterian Church of Spirit Lake

OCTOBER 2019

FROM YOUR PASTOR

GOD'S ODDEST DUCK?

The Old Testament is full of strange characters and (mostly) men who occasionally fall off the deep end and act in some bizarre ways. Many, not all but most, of them are prophets, and as a rule, an Old Testament prophet has a way of standing outside the norm. They bury new clothes, they buy fields as nations get overrun, they walk around naked, they shout a lot, and say weird things. They are an odd bunch. As Frederick Buechner once put it, "No one invites a prophet to dinner twice."

If you were going to name the strangest of the prophets, it might be a tough choice. Hosea absolutely has to be near the top of the list, but Elisha and Ezekiel would be in the running too. Then there is Jonah, who for my money, might actually be the clear winner. At least the crazy things most of the other prophets did were because God told them to. Jonah's crazy happened while he was trying his best not to do what God instructed.

I've been thinking about Jonah lately. He is an odd duck and his story is a strange one. It's a short book at only four chapters, but it's packed with human nature, human questions, and perhaps the single best "worst prophet" in all the Bible. Jonah is one of only a few books of the Bible considered by many to be a literary masterpiece, and is also a favorite of many Christians. I count myself among the fans, of the book that is, not the prophet.

During the four Sundays of October, we are going to work through the book of Jonah. This short series will cover a chapter a week, and hopefully shed some new light on an old story that we all think we already know. I hope you'll join us as we look at this strange man and his strange story. You might be surprised what we find. Hope to see you in worship.

The schedule is as follows...

October 6 – The word of the Lord

October 13 – The prayer you mean at the time

October 20 – New possibilities and old resentment

October 27 – Compassion and Complaint

Clint

GROWING IN FAITH

“Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.”

-- Hebrews 13:2 (NIV)

There may be an endless number of reasons why people choose to attend one church over another. Some may be drawn to a particular church’s worship or preaching style, others come for the youth or music programs, and others may attend out of denominational or family loyalties. But even with all of the differences for their coming, I suspect that most people who stay in a church share strikingly similar reasons. In a recent meeting with the leaders of the congregation, a high school student was sharing about his faith journey. He came to Session after finishing a season of mentoring in order to profess his faith and become a full member of the congregation. When he was asked why he wanted to be a member of our church, he said simply, “I felt welcomed and part of the family.” One after one, the adult church leaders around the table shared how each of them experienced the same welcome that inspired them to invest as members of the church family.

Thanks be to God that welcoming and hospitality is something that our church family has done well! We have a long history of enthusiastically welcoming others and making them feel like they have a place in our church family. But like any fundamental skill, we must actively practice our hospitality to ensure that we continue our legacy of welcoming. Truth be told, it takes intentionality and effort to go out of our way to make others feel welcome. It often means making ourselves uncomfortable so that others can be comfortable. It may mean asking someone their name only to find out that they have been a member for a long time. It may mean giving up a seat to a visitor or taking time on a busy Sunday to attend a Sunday School class so that you can meet attendees of the “other” worship service.

Let us remember that every single one of us has found a place in our church family because someone else went out of their way to make us feel welcome. Let’s each commit to pass on that same gift to others so that generations of Christians to come will find this as a place to grow in faith and fellowship.

In Christ,

Michael



OCTOBER CALENDAR

1	WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY - 1:30PM	17	LADIES COFFEE - 8:30AM
2	MEMORY CARE MTC - 10AM		MEN’S BIBLE - 9:00AM
	RECHARGE - 5:30PM		ACT II - 11:53AM
	HANDBELL CHOIR PRACTICE - 7PM	19	FPC SERVES AT THE BANQUET
	HS YOUTH GROUP - 7:15PM	20	REFORMED SERVICE - 8:50AM
	CHANCEL CHOIR PRACTICE - 8PM		COFFEE TIME - 10:00AM
3	LADIES COFFEE - 8:30AM		CONFIRMATION - 10:15AM
	MEN’S BIBLE STUDY - 9AM		SUNDAY SCHOOL - 10:15AM
	ACT II - 11:53AM		ADULT ED - 10:30AM
	PW COORDINATING TEAM MTC - 4:30PM		REFORMING SERVICE - 11:15AM
6	REFORMED SERVICE - 8:50AM	22	WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY - 1:30PM
	COFFEE TIME - 10:00AM	23	MEMORY CARE MTC - 10:00AM
	SUNDAY SCHOOL - 10:15AM		RECHARGE - 5:30PM
	CONFIRMATION - 10:15AM		HANDBELL CHOIR PRACTICE - 7:00PM
	ADULT ED - 10:30AM		HS YOUTH GROUP - 7:15PM
	REFORMING SERVICE - 11:15AM		CHANCEL CHOIR PRACTICE - 8:00PM
8	WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY - 1:30PM	24	LADIES COFFEE - 8:30AM
9	MEMORY CARE MTC - 10:00AM		MEN’S BIBLE STUDY - 9:00AM
	FPC SOUP SUPPPER - 4:30PM		ACT II - 11:53AM
	NO RECHARGE	27	REFORMED WORSHIP SERVICE - 8:50AM
	HANDBELL CHOIR PRACTICE - 7:00PM		COFFEE TIME - 10:00AM
	NO HS YOUTH GROUP		CONFIRMATION - 10:15AM
	CHANCEL CHOIR PRACTICE - 8:00PM		SUNDAY SCHOOL - 10:15AM
10	LADIES COFFEE - 8:30AM		ADULT ED - 10:30AM
	MEN’S BIBLE STUDY - 9:00AM		REFORMING WORSHIP SERVICE - 11:15AM
	ACT II - 11:53AM	29	WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY - 1:30PM
13	REFORMED SERVICE - 8:50AM	30	MEMORY CARE MTC - 10:00AM
	COFFEE TIME - 10:00AM		RECHARGE - 5:30PM
	CONFIRMATION - 10:15AM		HANDBELL CHOIR PRACTICE - 7:00PM
	SUNDAY SCHOOL - 10:15AM		HS YOUTH GROUP - 7:15PM
	ADULT ED - 10:30AM		CHANCEL CHOIR PRACTICE - 8:00PM
	REFORMING SERVICE - 11:15AM	31	LADIES COFFEE - 8:30AM
	WORSHIP @ WEL-LIFE - 2:45PM		MEN’S BIBLE STUDY - 9:00AM
14	PW SEWING - 9:00AM		ACT II - 11:53AM
	STEWARDSHIP MTC - 5:15PM		
	DEACONS MTC - 6:00PM		
15	WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY - 1:30PM		
	SESSION MTC - 7:00PM		
16	MEMORY CARE MTC - 10:00AM		
	RECAHRCE - 5:30PM		
	HANDBELL CHOIR PRACTICE - 7:00PM		
	HS YOUTH GROUP - 7:15PM		
	CHANCEL CHOIR PRACTICE - 8:00PM		

FPC SERVING AT THE BANQUET

Mark your calendars for our annual mission trip to The Banquet in Sioux Falls, scheduled for Saturday, October 19th. Details and signup will be available soon. You can always call the church office @ 336-1649 with questions, or check out the website, www.thebanquetsf.org.



MAJOR EVENTS

HIGH SCHOOL SOUP & PIE DELIVERY

As in past years, our high school students are invited to deliver soup and pie meals to church members in assisted living and to those who struggle to leave their homes. Interested students should arrive at church on Wednesday the 9th at 4:30pm. Shortly after, we will depart to deliver meals and then return to the church to eat together as a group.

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

The annual 8th grade Confirmation retreat will begin at 5pm on Saturday, October 26th at the Lakeshore Center. The retreat will end after the students attend the 8:50 worship service on Sunday the 27th (students will be free to return home immediately following the service). Parents with questions or concerns can contact Pastor Michael for more information.

HIGH SCHOOL NOTIFICATIONS:

If you want to hear the latest updates on all of our high school offerings, you can easily subscribe by texting @pastorm to the number 81010! If anyone has trouble with 81010, you can try texting @pastorm to 319-774-3068.

THE MONTH OF OCTOBER IS "PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH"

Sunday, October 27, 2019 a reception will be held, hosted by our session members, to honor Pastor Clint and Pastor Michael. Immediately following our Reformed Service (1st), everyone is welcome to bring cards, notes, or just show up to express your appreciation.

90 DAYS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Join us as FPC commits to read the New Testament daily for the next 90 days! Pick up your 90 Day New Testament Brochure from the table in the Narthex. A full reading schedule, study group opportunities, weekly podcast, message board and online resources can be found on our website. www.fpcspiritlake.org/90days

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WORSHIP LEADER POSITION

After years of wonderful service, Rachele Gewecke has decided to step down from the Worship Leader position of our second service. With many thanks we express our deep gratitude for helping us get that service up and running. Rachele will conclude her duties on October 1, which leaves us with a position to fill. If you or someone you know might be interested in conversation about the job, please let us know. Duties include selecting music, scheduling musicians and singers, running rehearsals, and communicating weekly songs with the church office. For any additional details please contact us.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SOUP AND DESSERT SUPPER

First Presbyterian Church will be hosting our Soup & Dessert Supper on Wednesday, October 9th from 4:30-7:00pm. This is an all church event and we need many helping hands to make this a success. Sign up sheets and posters are in the Narthex.

NEW MEMBER RECOGNITION

We have set our "New Member Recognition for Sunday, November 3rd. For those of you still in the decision making process, the Membership Committee wants you to know that there is still time to join. If you are interested, please stop in at the church office and we will provide you with a Personal Information Sheet to complete and return. We also ask you to provide us with a picture of your family, either by email or photograph, to post on our bulletin board. Thank you for considering membership at First Presbyterian. We look forward to having you become a part of our church family.

BIRTHDAYS

2	Nadine Hough Kirk Jensen	10	RuthAnn Kelly Timothy Ennema	19	John Harmelink Brent Kasson
3	Katelyn Brockmeyer Sharee DenHerder Leo Kofoot Barb Mendenhall Steve Richards	11	Lauri Carlson Mike Fliss Eldon Haas Connery Sweeney	20	Cindy Shipley Charlotte Baldwin Beryl Marra Deb KcKeever Dani Winkel
4	Marilyn Lippon Mike Reekers Jacob Vos	12	Bennett Larson	23	Scott Chambers Mandy Fine
5	Ruth DeJong Matthew Jennings	13	Madyson Bergendahl Don McCulloch Norlan Top	24	Walker Radcliffe
7	Sara Balm Rachele Gewecke	14	Wes Farmer Diane Jennings Jill Stensland	25	Maxine Butler
8	Cleo Kruger Nancy Moser	15	Marge May	27	Mikayla Farmer Cliff Larson
9	Dennis Colton Gloria Ditsworth Sheila Robinson	16	Bill Willemsen	28	Linda Getman Olivia Gewecke Kraig Kruger
		17	Marilyn Rees	29	Warren Jager
		18	Bart Duncan Larry Webber	30	Sharon Caskey
		19	Alaina Bruinsma	31	Kollin Johnson

ANNIVERSARIES

1	Doug and Amy Kueper	13	Jack and Nadine Hough
3	Alan and Mary Beth Bush Brett and Nancy Thacker		Kelly and Deb McKeever
4	Matt and Amber Lippon Darrell and Becky Welch	15	Roger and Laureen Andersen Terry and Susie Bartels Eugene and Renae Rosenberg
6	John and Julie Calsbeek	24	Ron and Jackie Jenkins
7	Todd and Mandy Fine		

DEACON HOSPITAL/RIDE

10-6	Todd Fine	10-13	Lori Vicker
10-20	Joyce Colton	10-27	Todd Fine

NURSING HOME MINISTRY

Oct. 13--Wel-Life @2:45	Nov. 10--Accura @ 2:00
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SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School Treats

Oct 6 -- Natasha Nelson

Oct 20 -- Edna VanderWolde

Oct 13 -- Rachelle Gewecke

Oct 27 -- Megan Donnerwerth

Adult Ed Classes

90 Days in the New Testament -- Jan Bolluyt Presbyterian Beliefs and Practice -- Clint Lovell



Recharge is a multi-generational gathering of families, youth and adults. All church members and guests are invited to partipate in the weekly evening of rejuvenation, including a family style meal, educational programming, and fellowship.

Meals: Oct 2 -- Tatertot Casserole Oct 23 -- Chicken and Biscuits
Oct 16 -- Sloppy Joes Oct 30 -- Baked Potato Bar

Adult Education

Women's Bible Study -- Rachelle Gewecke Ray VanderLaan Video Series -- Art & Phyllis Attema
Ninety Days Through the New Testament -- Clint Lovell

LIBRARY

The Memory Care group has been meeting regularly at First Pres at 10 a.m. on Wednesday mornings. They have donated several books to the church library. You can find these books in the "Memory Care" section of the library. Dr. Pauline Boss has written two of the books in this section. "Loving Someone Who has Dementia" has advice for people who care for someone with dementia. It is for caregivers, family members, friends, and neighbors – anyone touched by someone with memory loss. Her second book "Ambiguous Loss" features the heartening narratives of those who cope with this loss that fluctuates between hope and hopelessness.

"The 36-hour Day" is written by Nancy L. Mace and Peter V. Rabbins. This sixth edition is completely revised and updated. It is a top resource for those caring for people with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. "Grace for the Unexpected Journey" by Deborah Barr and Gary Chapman offers a daily devotion for the caregiver which is short, features a relatable caregiving story and offers a key scripture for meditation.

Two books already in our library and added to this section are the "Mayo Clinic on Alzheimer's Disease" and "I've Been Thinking" by Maria Shriver, the founder of the Women's Alzheimer's Movement.

I'll be looking for you in the library.

UPPER DES MOINES FOOD PANTRY

The congregations of our county take turns supporting the Upper Des Moines Opportunity Food Pantry. Long ago it was decided by the churches that the county would be best served by having this pantry. Our congregation has the opportunity to provide to the pantry for the months of April and October. Please consider donating your items during the month of October. Items may be placed in the wagon in the Narthex. Monetary gifts are welcome as well.

IT'S OFFICER NOMINATING TIME

Once again, we are starting our annual quest to find a few good men and women who feel called by God to serve as leaders in this congregation. Nominations are being taken for 2020's new class of Elders and Deacons. Nominated persons should be people of obvious faith, vision, sound judgment, good leadership, compassion and personal integrity. Nominated persons will be prayerfully considered during the nominating committee process and those felt to be called at this particular time will be recommended to the congregation for election in January. As you consider persons who you think would serve this church well, please keep in mind the following guidelines...

- 1) Church officers should be active members/regular participants in the church's life.
- 2) Church officers should be people who exhibit a genuine faith in Jesus Christ.
- 3) Church officers should be willing to serve and be people who can be counted on.
- 4) Church officers should be people who embody the joy and love of Jesus Christ.
- 5) Church officers should be servant leaders who lead by example.

Also keep in mind that God gives each of us a unique blend of gifts and talents and no one can do everything equally well. Different tasks demand various gifts, and the offices of Elder and Deacon are no exception.

The office of Elder in the Presbyterian Church is one of decision making and "governing". Elders are asked to seek discernment and make decisions on behalf of the congregation that affect the church's life regarding, staff, budget, worship, programs, planning, etc. The authority of the office is granted by the church and is to be used in faithful dedication to the work and purpose of Jesus Christ.

The office of Deacon is one of ministering care and compassion to the congregation. Deacons are called to empathize, minister, serve, and pay particular attention to those among us who are hurting, lonely, or in need of special care. Deacons must be people of mercy and compassion who have a heart for all in need.

In both cases, serving as an officer in the Presbyterian church is a high calling and one that should not be taken lightly. All of the church's officers should be dedicated to serving Christ through their particular calling and using their particular gifts. It is our belief that God is already calling individuals within our church to serve in these offices – the nominating process is simply the way that we seek to discern God's intentions. Please give prayerful consideration to nominating someone that you feel would serve faithfully and effectively.

Nominations should be turned into the church office by October 13th and include the name of the person being nominated and whether you feel they should serve as an Elder or a Deacon. Both terms are three years in length. Nominations will be considered by the Nominating Committee and the election will be held at a congregational meeting which has been called for November 17th following the Reformed Service (1st).

Thank you for your time and your support of First Presbyterian Church.

Officer Nominating Committee 2019:

-Sherryl Jones -Keith Marra -Jen Watts -Karrey Lindeberg -Norm Meinking

NOMINATION BALLOT

I nominate _____ to the office of Elder/Deacon (circle one.)