

PRAYER LIST

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

Rick Hayes PO Box 1007 Okoboji IA

Neil & Pat Heiser 612 41st St Spirit Lake, IA

Robert Thorbrogger 24376 140th St Spirit Lake, IA

Craig & Milly Tillotson 1203 28th St Spirit Lake, IA

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, Denise 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, Ruth DeJong, Terry Cother, Dave Ashlock, David Render, Norma Thompson, Curtis Stover, Becky, Brian & Ann going through cancer treatments, Ron Harris, Paul DenHerder, Kaylee Hallegan, Travis Caskey, Teresa Paulson, Phyllis Johnson, Niles Swancutt, Jack Burrell, Eulyn Riemersma's sister, Ruth, Tom Fuhrman, Ned Stockdale, Bev Cother, Donna Rieck, Lois Holtgrewe, Sue Bartels mom, Sandy, Laurel Webber, Neil Heiser, Justin Theisen, JoAnn Asa

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:

Dennis and Lisa Brockman

14142 Deljean Cir, Orlando, FL

Dennis is the Marketing and Communication Director with Campus Crusade. His responsibilities are: build and lead a marketing and communications (MarCom) team that supports Global Advancement in its mission to build capacity globally and to affirm and inspire ministry partners. He also gives strategic, creative, and innovative direction to global brand promise.

Dennis and Lisa have 5 children. Dennis is the son of Jeannette Brockman. First Presbyterian Church has supported Dennis and Lisa since 1998,

Bob and Sally Dontje

179 37th Ave., East Moline, IL 6124

Bob is an Aviation Recruiter with Wycliffe/JAARS. Bob's ministry in JAARS is to make sure that the translator's transportation needs once they are on the field are met. Also find and nurture towards aviation ministry those pilots and mechanics who are called to serve using their skills and gifts to facilitate Bible translation. First Presbyterian Church and individuals in the church have supported Bob since 1984.

First Presbyterian Church of Spirit Lake

SEPTEMBER 2019

FROM YOUR PASTOR

Ninety Days in the New Testament... A spiritual experiment at FPC

"The Holy Scriptures are our letters from home." - Augustine of Hippo

"The Bible is the cradle wherein Christ is laid." - Martin Luther

"A Bible that's falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn't." - Charles H. Spurgeon

One of my early members as an ordained pastor was watching a serving Elder looking for the book of Ephesians in the Old Testament during a Bible study. [Ephesians is a New Testament book.] It dawned on me then that even very active and faithful Christians often don't know the Bible as well as we should. That was many years ago, but I don't think that reality has changed all that much. Statistics and surveys consistently show that far more people report "believing" the Bible than reading it regularly.

This fall, FPC will be trying to change that. We are embarking on a 90 day journey through the New Testament. We invite everyone to join us as we commit to spend daily time reading and reflecting together as a church family. We will be publishing the schedule widely and offering multiple opportunities to join with others to discuss and study the weekly readings. Our hope is to have a very large percentage of the members of the congregation participating as we cover the New Testament together.

Our reading plan will cover approximately 3 chapters per day and will take us through the fall semester. Discussion groups will be added to our Recharge and Sunday School programs, but we encourage you to form other groups as needed. We also suggest seeking ways to involve kids and young people, perhaps as family devotions or with age-friendly Bibles (contact us for suggestions). We hope this communal effort will provide opportunities for all of us to engage Scripture each day, discuss it with friends and family, and offer some resources for interpreting and understanding what it means for us as we seek to follow Christ together.

I hope you will join us in this effort to spend some time with what our tradition calls "the word of God." Whether you can make it to a discussion group or not, it would be awesome if most or even all of our congregation would do the readings. As we do, hopefully we will all learn more of our sacred book, but more importantly come to know more of the one who gave it to us. Be on the lookout for the schedule and discussion opportunities.

Blessings,

Clint

PS - we chose only the New Testament at this point because it is shorter, generally easier to read, includes the stories of Jesus, and breaks into a schedule a little better. You are welcome to add Old Testament readings to your plan and we will be glad to help you schedule them.

GROWING IN FAITH

Is there anything of which one can say, "Look! This is something new"? It was here already, long ago; it was here before our time.
Ecclesiastes 1:10 (NIV)

In a world obsessed with the new and different, it can sometimes be difficult to ascertain the difference between change and growth. Change can be as simple as that time not too long ago when I had to go searching for my favorite bottle of ketchup because they had changed the design on the labeling. After I finally found it, the label proudly proclaimed in bright colors that it had a "New look, same great taste!" I am not certain if a changed label on my ketchup was either good or bad, but I doubt I would have felt the same way if they had changed the flavor of the ketchup itself.

Anyone who has lived for a few years knows that change is an intrinsic part of life. Seasons come and go, children grow, organizations expand and contract, and there are always new joys and challenges around the corner. Of course, the same is true in churches. Every part of church from our membership, to our buildings, worship, communications, fellowship activities, and Christian Education changes slowly over time. But like the ketchup bottle, change in the church isn't necessarily good or bad. For sure, we might like or dislike one change over another but that doesn't make it good or bad. The truth is that we should be far less attuned to where things have changed and far more interested in finding the places where we have experienced real growth.

Of course, we have numerical metrics of growth in church like attendance and giving. But we also have far more nuanced metrics like spiritual growth and commitment to mission. Looking for growth can be a far more helpful guide for a church than simply reflecting on what has changed. Take this very newsletter for example, it is significantly smaller than our previous publications. Is that change good or bad? Probably neither. On the other hand, what about the thirty-four youth and adults that served and learned on the mission trip in New York City this July? Or what about the 80 students close to home who were ministered to by our congregation's VBS this August? Each of these represent real moments where we as a church family have made a lasting difference in the lives of students and their families.

This Fall will mark the beginning of Sunday School, Recharge, Bible Studies, and fellowship opportunities of all kinds. Some of them have been going on for years, others will be new or different. What matters, however, isn't what changes or stays the same but how we continue to grow into the people that God has called us to be. Let us all commit to digging into the work and life of what God is doing here so that we can all grow together in our faith and service. This, after all, is the only change that truly matters now and forever.

In Christ,

Michael



LIBRARY

A new series called "Heart of Alaska" has been given to the church library in memory of Mary Cornell. The Presbyterian Women and another donor have provided these books in her memory. Set in Curry, Alaska near the foot of Mt. McKinley (Denali), the characters bring the history of Alaska to life in the early 1900's. Tracie Peterson and Kimberley Woodhouse have combined forces to bring us these stories of forgiveness and God's love.

Perhaps you've read or seen on television the story of Chris and Emily Norton. Each overcame great obstacles to marry and adopt five foster children while fostering 17 others. This Iowa couple and Mark Tabb have written "The Seven Longest Yards", their love story of pushing the limits while leaning on each other.

The fourth book in Lauraine Snelling's series, "Under Northern Skies", features Nilda Carlson in Minnesota in 1911. "Song of Joy" continues to follow the daily lives of Norwegian immigrants as they adjust to life in their new country.

I'll be looking for you in the library.



RECHARGE KICKOFF DATE: Wednesday, September 18th

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School Kickoff:

Everyone in our congregation is invited to join us at 10:00am on Sunday September 15th for our annual Sunday School kickoff and a "continental breakfast potluck." Whether you attend the first or second service, we are asking church members to bring your favorite cold finger food breakfast items to share (muffins, scones, bagels, fruit, donuts, cinnamon rolls, etc) and we will combine our breakfast favorites for a new twist of an old fashioned church potluck!

Please join us for a scrumptious breakfast, a great time of fellowship, and an opportunity to hear about the many opportunities available for you to plug into the life of our congregation in the coming year. We will share about our upcoming Recharge and Sunday School adult classes and Bible studies, the different programs available for our students, as well as learn of the variety of ministry groups that serve within the congregation.



MAJOR EVENTS

BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Ryan Davelaar | 11 Jim Avery | 18 Daryl Doorenbos |
| 2 John Peterson | Martha Graham | Lynn Peterson |
| 3 Chris Dreeszen | Ben Heitritter | 22 Bennett Lewis |
| Beth Kinney-Stapp | 13 Tim Bengs | 23 Ruth Nolting |
| Ed Leners | Sloane | 24 Emily DeCook |
| 4 Jay Anderson | Donnenwerth | Rick Reinking |
| 5 Craig Tillotson | 14 Barb Altena | Phyllis Walburg |
| 6 Derek Nelson | Max Bartels | 28 Norm Meinking |
| 7 Kathy Krueger | 15 Larry Jansen | 29 Shirley Kempers |
| 8 Hannah Brumley | 16 Phyllis Attema | 30 Chuck Ditsworth |
| Brandon | Morgan Fine | Emily Gewecke |
| Steinkuehler | Evan Fisher | |
| 9 Owen Primavera | Allen Grothen | |
| 10 Michael Gewecke | Linda Hill | |
| Maralee Langholz | 17 Gary Hansen | |

ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 3 Keith and Beryl Marra | 17 Gary and Ruth Ann Kelly |
| 4 Joel and Sara Fisher | 18 Blaine and Sheryl Strampe |
| 11 Bob and Lynn Peterson | 24 Brett and Kim Johnson |
| 12 Mark and Marcy Toews | 26 Cassidy and Stacy Howard |
| 14 Pat and Maxine Butler | 27 Ryan and Erin Davelaar |

DEACON HOSPITAL/RIDE

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 9/1 - Joyce Colton | 9/8 - Merlin Stover | 9/29 - Pat Thomson |
| 9/15 - Jerry Erickson | 9/22 - Rick Reinking | |

NURSING HOME MINISTRY

September 8 - Accura Care Center

WORSHIP LEADER POSITION

After 2 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 SUPPER

Wednesday, October 9th

4:30 - 7:00pm

Serving Delicious Soups & Assorted Desserts

SOUP SUPPER NEEDS

The ladies are looking to borrow a heavy duty gadget to dice potatoes and carrots for the soup supper. Please contact Cheri at 336-1649, if you have one they could borrow.

HIGH SCHOOL PARENT MEETING

All 9th-12th grade students and their parents are invited to join Pastor Michael and the E5 planning team on September 4th starting at 7:00pm in the Fireside room for a short meeting and to learn more about the variety of youth ministries available in our congregation from the Act II bible study, to our regular Wednesday youth group, to our summer mission trip, and fellowship activities. Regardless of how your interests, there are plenty of ways for students to plug into the ministry life of our congregation.

PW COORDINATING TEAM MEETING AND BOOK ASSEMBLY

All ladies are encouraged to attend the PW Booklet assembly on Thursday, September 5th at 3pm and their meeting will follow at 4:30pm here at FPC. Please stop by and help out if you can!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN FALL GATHERING

This year's PW Fall Gathering will be held at Memorial Presyterian Church in Cherokee. Coffee and registration begin at 8:45am. The fee for the event is \$8.00 which includes lunch. If you are interested in carpooling, please contact the church at 336-1649.

FPC SERVES AT THE BANQUET ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19TH

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:50 am Reformed Worship Service 10:00 am Coffee and fellowship 11:15 am Reforming Worship Service	2 Office Closed	3	4 10:00 am Memory Care Support Group 6:00 pm High School Parent Meeting	5 8:30 am Ladies Coffee Break 11:53 am ACT II Kickoff 3:30 pm PW Coordinating Team Mtg & Assemble PW Booklets	6	7
8 8:50 am Reformed Worship Service 10:00 am Coffee and fellowship 11:15 am Reforming Worship Service 2:00 pm Worship Service at Accura	9 9:00 am PW Sewing 6:00 pm Deacons Meeting	10	11 10:00 am Memory Care Support Group 5:30 pm Teacher Orientation / Welcome	12 8:30 am Ladies Coffee Break	13	14
15 8:50 am Reformed Worship Service 10:00 am Coffee and fellowship 10:15 am Sunday School Kickoff 11:15 am Reforming Worship Service	16 5:15 pm Stewardship Committee Meeting	17 7:00 pm Session Meeting	18 10:00 am Memory Care Support Group 5:30 pm Recharge Kickoff 7:00 pm Handbell Choir Practice Begins 7:15 pm High School Youth Group Kickoff 8:00 pm Choir Practice	19 8:30 am Ladies Coffee Break	20	21
22 8:50 am Reformed Worship Service 10:00 am Coffee and fellowship 10:15 am Confirmation Parent Meeting 10:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Adult Education Kickoff 11:15 am Reforming Worship Service	23	24	25 10:00 am Memory Care Support Group 5:30 pm Recharge 7:00 pm Handbell Choir Practice Begins 7:15 pm High School Youth Group 8:00 pm Choir Practice	26 8:30 am Ladies Coffee Break	27	28
29 8:50 am Reformed Worship Service 10:00 am Coffee and fellowship 10:15 am Confirmation Kickoff 10:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Adult Education 11:15 am Reforming Worship Service	30					