

January Connections 2017



Joyous Christmas



Glimpses of Grace....

In 1971, Leonard Bernstein was commissioned by Jackie Kennedy to produce a piece for the opening of the Kennedy Center of Performing Arts. *Mass* was the result. In one movement, Bernstein reflected on John 1 and this is what he wrote:

“Smother hope before it’s risen.

Watch it wizen like a gourd,

But you cannot imprison

The Word of the Lord ...

For **the Word** was at the birth of the beginning

It made the heavens and the earth and set them spinning,

And for several million years

It’s endured all our forums and fine ideas

It’s been rough

It’s been rough but it appears to be winning! ...

For **the Word**

For **the Word** created mud and got it going

It filled our empty brains with blood and set it flowing

And for thousands of regimes

It’s endured all our follies and fancy schemes.

It’s been tough,

It’s been tough, and yet it seems to be growing!

O you people of power,

O you people of power, your hour is now.

You may seem to rule forever, but you never do somehow.

So we wait in silent treason until reason is restored

And we wait for the season of **the Word of the Lord**.

We await the season of **the Word of the Lord**

We wait ... we wait for **the Word of the Lord ...**”

The good news for us as we enter into another new year is that **the Word Who is the Lord** has arrived and **the Word Who is the Lord** will arrive again in all fullness. **The Word Who is the Lord** is also with us right now! How amazingly wonderful is that?!

Do you need to experience more of **God’s Word**, also known as **Jesus the Christ**, in your life in 2017? In some ways we are in the ‘season of the Lord’ and have been for the past 2,000+ years. Together we are waiting for the fulfillment in all its wonderful goodness. As we wait, we can also experience because Jesus is Emmanuel, the With-Us-God. He joyously desires to be involved in the details of our lives every minute of every day this coming year. So, where do you need Jesus Christ to be more fully present these next 12 months? And what is keeping you from allowing that to happen? All you have to do is ask!

It has been said if we spend time praying for all that we are worrying about, we’d have fewer things to worry about. Why not give it a try?

In His service,
Deb

Trustee Report

Statement of Income & Expense November 30, 2016

	Budget	Actual	Variance	Percent of Budget
Income				
Pledge	179,254.00	150,761.00	28,493.00	84.1%
Non Pledge	21,028.00	23,169.55	-2,141.55	110.2%
Investment In- come	17,700.00	19,367.78	-1,667.78	109.4%
Misc Income		1020.26		
Total Income	217,982.00	194,318.59	23,663.41	89.1%
Expenses				
Personnel	145,147.00	131,033.01	14,113.99	90.3%
Youth Minis- tries	3,580.00	2,431.03	1,148.97	67.9%
Radical Hospi- tality	2,235.00	735.62	1,499.38	32.9%
Deacons	760.00	410.52	349.48	54.0%
Property	62,210.00	45,831.31	16,378.69	73.7%
Worship	4,050.00	1,646.95	2,403.05	40.7%
Total Expens- es	217,982.00	182,088.44	35,893.56	83.5%
Differential		12,230.15		
Estimated Income Hanna	\$29,000.00	\$27,187.45	1,812.55	93.7%
Mission Budget	\$30,580.00	21,383.34	9,196.66	69.9%
Differential		5,804.11		

**Per Capita
Apportionment
for 2016 is \$36.00**

Upcoming Worship Schedule

We are doing something a little different with the preaching schedule from January through May in our effort to be more holistic with what everyone is learning and more intergenerational in our worship experience. We will be tying the Sunday school lesson, memory verse and Scripture that the children and youth will be learning into my preaching. And yes, you read correctly! We are hoping the adults will join the children in memorizing a different Scripture each week!

Because Jan. 1 is the first Sunday and we are not having Sunday school that day, we begin with January 8; the Sundays the children are doing puppets, there will not be a memory verse.

Jan. 8: Communion, Baptism of Lord from Matthew 3.

Jan. 15: John the Baptist from Matt. 3:1-14; Memory verse: *He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth.* Luke 1:14

Jan. 22: Fishers of Men from Matt 4, 9, 10; Memory verse: *'Come, follow Me,' Jesus said, 'and I will send you out to fish for people.'* Matt. 4:19

Jan. 29: Jesus calms the storm from Matt 8:23-27; Memory verse: *'When I'm afraid, I will trust in You.'* Psalm 56:3

Reflections from Randy....

Living into our baptismal vocation

On Sunday, January 8, the first Sunday after Epiphany (January 6) the church hears again the story of Jesus' baptism in which God calls Jesus "My beloved child," and by our own baptism into Jesus, God calls each of us beloved as well. In baptism, we are claimed as an adopted son and daughter of God, and given the promise of everlasting life.

BUT that baptism comes with a vocation, a divine call to God's service. Our call is the same one that Jesus received, a call that is three-fold. The three calls are to be a prophet, a priest, and a king. You might say that Jesus, as a priest is life, as a prophet is the truth, and, as a king, is the way. Baptism makes the baptized another Christ, the means by which we are incorporated into Christ, becoming a member of his mystical body.

So, what does this look like in daily practice? How does it show itself in the lives of ordinary believers?

The calling of a prophet is to speak for God's causes, to speak and embody divine truth, to be on the watch for injustice in society, and to speak out against it. Sometimes it's easy to confuse our own interests with those of God. If we take this calling seriously we will find ourselves at odds with the secular world around us. In an increasingly secular society, when we fail to act out our role as a prophet of God we "hide our lamps under a bushel."

The calling of a priest is to be an icon for God, to reestablish the lost link between divinity and humanity. A priest fosters holiness, precisely in the measure that we serve as a bridge-builder between God and human beings. The reconciliation of divinity and humanity produces in human beings a wholeness or integration, a coming together of often warring elements within the self. The same dynamic happens on a grander scale as well: when cities, societies, or cultures rediscover a link to God, they find an inner peace. So, we are meant to embody that harmony that God wishes between God and those made in God's image and likeness. When we cultivate a real friendship with the living Christ we act out our identity and purpose, and when we are sent out to families, communities, places of work, the political or cultural arena, we become the "salt of the earth."

Calvin himself taught about the priesthood of all believers. The Bible passage considered to be the basis of this belief is I Peter 2:9:

"But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light."

The calling to be a king is to lead God's children on the right path, giving guidance to the human project. A king is someone who helps to order the gifts of a community, directing it toward God. We become like the general of an army or the conductor of an orchestra, helping us to a common purpose. We are called to be a "city built on a hill."

As this season of Epiphany begins it challenges each one of us to reexamine what Christmas (God taking on human flesh) means to us in light of our baptism, and how we are challenged to live out the vocation of prophet, priest and king every day of our lives.

Faithfully,
Randy+

Staff Reports

Pastor's Report Rev. Deb Kinney

Worship

- 3 worship services
- 2 memorial services/interments

Education

- 6 Bible study groups

Connections

- 30 Drop-ins/appointments/calls
- 5 home/hospital visits
- 15 cards/letters sent

Church Meetings

- Trustees
- Session

Worship

Missions

Church Activities/Events Attended

Veterans Potluck

Knitwits

Highway cleanup

Other

Connections work

Advent/Christmas planning

Spiritual direction session

Separate meetings with staff (9)

Vacation

- 1 Sunday, 5 days

Minister of Faith and Worship, and Organist Randy Webster

Sunday Worship services (4), including a Hymn Festival: In Paradisum

Preaching (1)

Vacation coverage of pastoral care

Childrens' sermon

Staff meetings

Mission Committee meeting

Worship planning and consultation with the Pastor

Preparing the sanctuary for Thanksgiving and Advent

Planning for Advent and Christmas programming

Soloist and choir rehearsals

Burlington Organist Network meeting (hosted)

Private practice

Interim CE Coordinator, Kelle Haller

Young Disciples

- 2 Services

Adult Bible Study

- 2 Sundays

- 1 Wednesday

Meetings

- 2 Christian Education

Activities

Fellowship Hour

Kid Zone

Heifer International

Operation Christmas Child

Christmas Pageant

Bulletin Board

Thankfulness

The New Year's Day Reception

A Celebration of the New Year

Sunday, January 1, 2017

Worship in Fellowship Hall at 10 a.m.

Lunch to follow.

Minutes of the Stated Meeting of Session November 21, 2016

A Stated Meeting of the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Burlington, Iowa, was held in the Chapel on November 21, 2016.

Present: Rev. Debra Kinney; Elders, Mike Elmer, Jim French, Steve Hemphill, Pauline Johnson, Jill Mehaffey-Nalley, Cheryl Lotz, Ed Whitmore, and JoAnn Williams, Clerk.

A quorum was present.

Rev. Debra Kinney opened the meeting with prayer at 7:03 p.m.

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda with one addition, seconded and approved by voice vote.

A motion was made to approve minutes of the last meeting and staff reports of Debra Kinney, Randy Webster and Kelle Haller, motion seconded and approved by voice vote.

After a brief review and discussion of the financial report, a motion to approve same was made, seconded and approved by voice vote.

Report of the Clerk

Communion was served on November 6 to 67 recipients, and home communion was taken to 6 additional recipients by our Pastor and Deacons.

A motion was made to re-affirm the electronic vote to allow Hope Haven to use our facilities for a meeting for parents with autistic children on November 3 from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

A motion was made to accept the resignation of Elder Camille Reynen as she is moving out of state. Motion was seconded and approved by voice vote

Kelle and Damian Haller have requested to have their children, Logan and Barrett, baptized during worship on Christmas Eve. A motion was made to approve this request which was seconded and approved by voice vote.

Worshipful Work

Jill Mehaffey-Nalley provided an update on Christian Education. Everyone agreed that Kelle has been doing a very good job as interim Christian Education Director. They have been looking into program for next year but have not yet decided whether or not to purchase a program or try something different.

After some discussion Ed Whitmore indicated he would be willing to serve as Nominating Committee moderator for 2017. Two names of elders not currently serving on Session were suggested to serve on the Nominating Committee for 2017, and it was decided Ed would ask first one and then the other in order to hopefully get one or the other to serve on the committee.

After some discussion the date for our annual congregational meeting was set for January 29, 2017, following 10:00 a.m. worship.

It was reported that the Trustees are reviewing pledges and proposed budgets for each committee in order to formulate a budget for 2017. Calls will be made to those members who have not yet made a pledge for the year, and they should have a recommended budget for our consideration by our next meeting.

A motion was made to cancel the Session Meeting in December and plan for our next meeting on January 16, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. Motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

Some discussion was had concerning the note left on the windshield of Randy Webster's car and the publicity that had arose because of it, as well as a letter concerning it from the Peace Making Task Force of the Presbytery. Fourteen written notes of support for Randy have been received. The consensus was that Randy was not interested in additional publicity and that we were not interested in making a political issue of the matter. It was decided that the notes should be given to Randy, and that expressions of support could be made directly to Randy, but that the Session would make no formal statement in hopes the matter will not be publicized further.

Ed Whitmore reported that he attended the Presbytery meeting last month.

After asking for any prayer requests, Rev. Debra Kinney closed the meeting with prayer at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JoAnn Williams
Clerk of Session

Reverend Debra Kinney
Moderator

FPC Newsworthy

Wow, we Presbyterians have been super busy blessing people! Just look at all of these thank you notes. Look for them on a bulletin board in hallway.



Chief of Police
Burlington Police Department
424 North 3rd Street
Burlington, IA 52601
Phone Number: (319) 753-8366
Fax Number: (319) 753-5187

To: First Presbyterian Church Knoxville,

Because you're all so wonderful,
so kind and thoughtful, too--
It wouldn't do
the chance

October 31, 2016

Firs
321
Burl

Dear

It is r
alone
we pr
impact

The me
chance
droppec

Thank you for your generosity. On behalf of the entire department and especially your support, was very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Tim Mangum
Allie

Laureen
Zach Todd

Thank You
Thank You

MCA Domestic Violence Shelter,
especially fitting to pause and say thank you for the support
Domestic Violence Shelter during the past year. We are proud
for women and children in need and have our many donors to



constant over the past 30 years - to ensure a safe haven
who need protection from violence. Our goal is to continue
support in a safe shelter as we have become known for.
to arrive at our Shelter have needs as varied as their
a warm bed, food, comfort and security as well as
become survivors of domestic violence. Your generosity
us meet our mission by providing shelter to 36 women
ember 28, 2016.
ation in 2014 we lost the Burlington
nts which was our main
bare minimum h
Even though the

★ HAPPY BIRTHDAY! ★





Poinsettia listing for 2016



Donor

In Honor

In Memory

Sandy Allgood

Marjorie, Merle & Elba Allgood, Don Allgood

Carol Brotherson

The Hallelujah Handbell Ringers,
& Church Musicians

Sue & Bill Carter

Fremont Ruschill & Claire & Maxine Carter

Jim & Eva Ann Elmer

Our Parents, Barbara Redington

Mark & Deb Kunz

Judy & John Kunz, Melissa, Harold & Glora Kunz
Joyce King-Dawson

Paul Morgan

Our Military

Bruce & Sandy Morrison

Our Mothers

Our Fathers

Debbie & Andy Opiekun

Andy & Anne Opiekun, Alice Naylor

Gary & LaDonna Putnam

Fern & Bob Brandau, Virginia & Lee Putnam

Tom & Sandy Russell

Mabel Russell

Pat Saldeen

Jerry Saldeen, Our parents

Sue Sattler

Carol French, Florence Sattler, Bob Sattler

David & Marcia Stiefel

Loved Ones

Richard Wells & Carolyn Brown

Sharon Wells, Staff Sgt. Michael S. Wells

Richard Wells & Carolyn Brown

Charlie & Mildred Kennedy and Charlie Kennedy Jr.

Bonnie White

Tom White & Our Parents



Santa
took some
time from
Hope Haven
to say hi to a
few of our
Presbyterians.



Hope Haven Christmas



Church Happenings

Happy Birthday

January 3.....Carl Boley
Ken Velharticky
 January 4.....Jim Hugg
 January 6.....Deb Kunz
 January 8.....LaDonna Putnam
 January 15.....Josi Clayton
 January 16..... Vi Ernst
 January 20.....Jeanine Anderson
 January 21..... Vickie Carhoff
 January 23.....Jolene Schafer
 January 25..... Randy Webster
 January 27.....Pauline Johnson
 January 29.....Anita Erickson
Brenda Frederick



**Office will be closed on
 January 2 in observation
 of New Year's Day.**



Please join us on January 15
 after worship to celebrate
 Sandy's Morrison's retirement.

Yum Yum's

The January Yum Yum's will be meeting at Gator's Restaurant on the third Thursday in January, which is January 19th at 6:00. It is located near the corner of Agency and Roosevelt Street. We invite everyone to come and enjoy a night of fellowship and good food. Please sign the sign-up sheet or call Bonnie White at 319-752-1244 or Sue Carter at 319-753-0683 to make a reservation.

Our future plans is to go to Duck Brewery in February and the new Pizza Ranch in March. Be sure to put it on your calendar.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Closed for Lunch 12-p.m.-1:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Friday Closed



After worship
 on Jan 29 will
 be the 2017
 Congregational
 Meeting.....

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP TEAM: Mike Elmer, Jim French, Steve Hemphill, Pauline Johnson, Cheryl Lotz, Jill Mehaffy-Nalley, Ed Whitmore, JoAnn Williams (Clerk of Session), ruling elders.

SERVANT LEADERSHIP TEAM: Bill Carter & Sue Carter, (Moderator), Adele Coulter, (secretary), Vicki Elmer, Ruth Francis, (Vice moderator) Craig Gilchrist, Carey King, Pat Saldeen, Jay Schafer, Jolene Schafer, Bob Snider, Pat Whitmore.

GOD'S STEWARDS TEAM: Wilma Hemphill, Larry Lazenby (Co-President), Francis McAllister, (Treasurer/Co-President), LaDonna Putnam, Chuck Rucker.

January 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM New Year's luncheon	2 OFFICE CLOSED	3	4 Annual Reports Due 7:15 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study	5	6	7
8 8:30 AM Choir 9:00 AM Sunday school 10:00 AM Worship	9	10	11 7:15 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM Knitwits	12	13	14
15 8:30 AM Choir 9:00 AM Sunday school 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Sandy's Retirement Reception	16 Connections Deadline 7:00 PM Session Meeting	17	18 7:15 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study	19 1:30 PM Hope Haven Birthday Party 6:00 PM Yum Yum Group	20	21
22 8:30 AM Choir 9:00 AM Sunday school 10:00 AM Worship	23 7:00 PM Mission Meeting	24	25 7:15 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM Organ Concert	26	27	28
29 8:30 AM Choir 9:00 AM Sunday school 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Congregational Meeting	30	31	1 7:15 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study			