

The Chimes

PASTOR

Rev. Dr. Stephen Price-Gibson

SESSION

Clerk: Georgia Byrn

ELDERS

2018

Richard Elliott

Sandy McKirahan

Ingrid Orsted

Julia Tye

2019

Ben Nonhof

Judy Rothenberger

Tiffany Tarvestad

2020

Kit Alff

Bryan Allen

Jill Hurt

Matt Miller

DEACONS

2018

Sally Bryson

Fred Krause

Jill Sage

Ruth Smith

Annabelle Wells

2019

Barb Friskopp

Barb Icenogle

Cindy Krause

Barb Meyer

Larry Meyer

2020

Charlene Allen

Robin Bowers

Beth Miller

Dirk Shultz

Emily State

COMMITTEE MODERATORS

Christian Education –

Finance –

In-Reach (Congregational Life/Memorial) –

Nominating –

Out-Reach (Evangelism/Mission) –

Personnel –

Property & Grounds –

Worship & Music –

TRAINING, ORDINATION, AND INSTALLATION OF NEW ELDERS/DEACONS JANUARY 7 – TRAINING JANUARY 14 – ORDINATION/INSTALLATION

Following the worship service on Sunday, January 7th there will be an Officer Training Class for new officers and any returning Elders and Deacons who wish to refresh their understanding of the duties and responsibilities of their office. A light lunch will be provided.

Officer training is of vital importance, and all newly elected Elders or Deacons are strongly encouraged to attend. Newly elected Elders and Deacons will be ordained and installed on Sunday, January 14th, during the 10:30 am worship service.

**CHIMES
DEADLINE**
15th of each month



A NOTE FROM STEPHEN: TWO THINGS

Life is full of surprises. At least that has been my experience. I did not grow up planning to be a Presbyterian minister. It came as a shock to my family when, while in college, I discovered theology and chose to go to Seminary rather than to Law School. In Seminary I planned to go into teaching or chaplaincy work, but found myself drawn to the life of a congregational pastor. Having grown up, gone to college and done an internship in big cities, I felt prepared for service in an urban church, so I did not foresee my first pastorate in a village with a population of 350 people in a dairy farming community. I didn't anticipate meeting my wife at a continuing education event, or that our lives as pastors would lead us from upstate New York to Iowa, then Pittsburgh and Richmond, Virginia, and then to Nebraska, first Edgar than then Kearney. None of it was my plan! It was God's plan.

God has surprised us again. In recent years Caroline and I have thought about several locations to which we might retire, but never the place in Maryland to which we are moving; but an unforeseen realignment which we could not predict a short year ago —our sons both unexpectedly moving, proximity to Caroline's mother—made it happen.

Of course it isn't the places that matter so much—it is the people. The great blessing of my life is the wonderful people I have come to know in my forty years of serving churches.

I am a planner. The plans I have implemented, for myself and for the churches, are a big part of whatever worthwhile contribution I have made in my ministry. But beyond my plans is God's plan, and every time God's plan differed from my plans, it has been better. I saw some *good* things happen in the churches I have served because of my plans, but the truly *great* things I have witnessed have the results of God's plan, which always includes unpredicted people and places and purposes.

I guess I am trying to say two things. The first is that I am more grateful to God than I can say for the immense privilege of having come to First Presbyterian Church. You have graced my life in countless ways. It is hard for me to say good-bye. But I am also saying that I am absolutely certain that God has great plans, for me and Caroline in retirement, but especially for this church. The church is already amazing, but even more amazing are the things that God will do in and through this church in the future. What a great time to be part of the First Presbyterian Church family. You have a front-row seat for the show God is about to put on; better yet, God is inviting each of you to come up on stage and steal the show.

With much love and gratitude, I will you a happy, blessed, and surprising New Year!

Stephen

WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY

The Weather Cancellation Policy for First Presbyterian Church follows this procedure in the event of inclement weather.

1. In the event of inclement weather, the Chair of the Worship and Music Committee and the Chair of the Property and Grounds Committee will confer and decide whether to hold church events. Advice of the Teaching Elder will be sought.
2. If a decision is made to cancel an event, all events for that day will be canceled.
3. If it is a school day, the church will cancel events if school and school events are canceled.
4. If church events are canceled, the One Call Now system will be activated to notify church members of the cancellation.

ALL IN THE CHURCH FAMILY

Congratulations to:

Cole Johnson who received a Woodruff Memorial Scholarship. Cole is attending dental school at University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The Worship and Music Committee has chosen **Ruth Smith** to honor as Person of the Winter 2018. Ruth has been an active member of our congregation for about 4 years and we are so pleased that she chose First Presbyterian Church for her "church family"! This past summer, Ruth shared her vision of an "all church showcase" with the Deacons. With their support, she encouraged Session committees and other church groups to become involved in organizing a Fall Open House on October 22, 2017. Ruth did many things to make this event a success: activities included a door to door neighborhood canvas to invite folks to come to the Open House; the design and printing of church yard signs and banners; pumpkin painting; food to share and a cake walk. Ruth was "the force" that brought so many church members together to make this event a wonderful multigenerational success. During the 4 years that Ruth has been a member of First Presbyterian, she has become a member of Deacons, a member of choir, a member of the Worship and Music Committee and a member of the Sisters in Spirit Bible study group. She also serves on the Presbytery Presbyterian Women Nominating Committee. During 2018, Ruth is looking forward to becoming involved as a Faith Friend Mentor. We thank Ruth for her commitment, dedication and leadership to First Presbyterian Church, Kearney!

Thank You's:

My Dear Church Family, Thank you so much for the beautiful poinsettia that I received this week. It was delivered by Barb Friskopp and thanks so much Barb - I just love it. And I also want to thank Jill Sage for visiting me several times in the last few weeks. I always enjoy her visits so much. We have a very caring church family and I'm so blessed to be a part of it. Thanks again, **Vi Pimper**

Presbyterian Church Family, Thank you so much for the cards, memorials, and expressions of sympathy we received following the death of my brother in November. It is very comforting to have such a supportive church family. Sincerely, **Steve and Rose Miller**

Dear First Presbyterian Church, Thank you for your donation to The S.A.F.E. Center. Your generous donation give hope to families and individuals affected by sexual and domestic violence. Your contribution is greatly appreciated. Sincerely, **The S.A.F.E. Center staff, volunteers and Board of Directors**

Teen Topics:

Ethan K. continues to be busy with competitive swimming, and has advanced to the rank of Life Scout in Boy Scouts. He is enjoying the school year at KCHS.

Kili D. is busy with dance and tumbling, and played on a soccer team that placed 2nd in the championship game on December 9th. She is a good student, and has been working on their school musical which is on December 11th. Big sister Kaiya is also a very good student and is swimming for the KHS Swim team. She will be in the choir concert on December 12th. Kaiya will turn 15 on December 23rd, and I know I'm really dating myself by admitting this, but I remember when she was born. Enjoy your birthday, Kaiya!

Kennedy C. has joined FFA and really enjoys being part of that group. She's looking forward to skiing in Colorado over Christmas break. Have fun, and be careful!

Thanks to the youth who participated in and helped with the Christmas Program on December 10th. You did a great job and were lots of help.

Please send me news about your teens so we can "show off" what a talented and smart group they are. Thanks, Lorraine Feind (glfeind@charter.net)



Carter Cobb	1/3	Tyler Allen	1/12
Beth Miller	1/4	George Wence	1/16
Justin Diestler	1/5	Kili Diestler	1/17
Thelma Dunlap	1/7	Barbara Icenogle	1/20
Barrett Jones	1/7	Eldin Wells	1/24
Kitty Leibhart	1/8	Lynette Cobb	1/27
Amanda Miller	1/8	Jordan Nelson	1/28
LuAnn Badgley	1/9	Angela Vollmer	1/29
Ben Dillon	1/10	Nathan Badgley	1/31
Gary Feind	1/10	Derrick Nonhof	1/31
Dylan Nicol	1/10	Judy Rothenberger	1/31
Mary Fegter	1/11	Emily State	1/31

If your birthday is not on our list, please contact the church office. Thanks!

BECOME A CASA VOLUNTEER!

“Many times, after reading the newspaper or watching our local news, I would wonder what I could do to help abused and neglected children in our town. I learned of CASA on KGFW’s Talk of the Town, about how they are the eyes and ears of the court and speak up on behalf of the child in court hearings. I decided to volunteer so that I could be a voice for a child. With over three dozen children waiting for a CASA in the Kearney/Buffalo County area, we still need more volunteers. Won’t you consider joining us?” --~Jean Kolbo

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) volunteers donate their time to act as the independent eyes and ears of the court, investigate in the field, and speak solely in the interest of the child. **We have two volunteer trainings coming up. January 2018 in Holdrege and April 2018 in Kearney!** The training consists of 30 hours in class training. CASA programs in Nebraska operate in compliance with the Nebraska Court Appointed Special Advocate Act (Nebraska Revised Statutes §43-3701 et seq). The CASA training will be held in Kearney during the evenings to get to the 30 in class hours required. In surveys, Judges find CASA volunteers to be very effective in a wide range of activities that support the court process. They find volunteers most effective in considering the best interests of the child and in monitoring the case. Volunteer input is most highly valued on issues related to placement, stability, permanence and safety of the children while in care. To volunteer call 308-865-5675.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING UPDATE

Meet our new Ruling Elders, Deacons, and Nominating Committee members elected at our Congregational Meeting on November 5th.

CLASS OF 2020 CLASS OF 2020

ELDERS

Kit Alff
Bryan Allen
Jill Hurt
Matt Miller

DEACONS

Robin Bowers
Beth Miller
Emily State

2018 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Doug Giles
Dwayne Hibbs
Jack Hild
Alan Rees

JANUARY MINISTRY OF COMPASSION

The Ministry of Compassion for January 2018 is the Crossroads Center Rescue Mission. Their needs are paper products, diapers, canned tuna, any non-perishable food item, laundry soap. Please bring items all during January and place them in the container in the hallway. Thank you for your generosity. Let us also remember clients and staff in our prayers.

Annabelle Wells, Martha Circle Moderator

2018 PER CAPITA

Our per capita is \$32.00 per member for 2018. This money goes to offset the administrative cost for the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly which supports Presbyterian programs, missions, and ministries.

SEMINARY TALK

Sunday, January 21 – 9:15 AM

The third year of seminary has reached the half-way point! Come and find out what the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary is teaching when Sharon gives a talk on Sunday, January 21 at 9:15 am. She will discuss the texts and classes that she took this fall – Introduction to Biblical Hebrew and New Testament Interpretation. Come join Sharon on her ministry journey!

BRIGHTEN THE NEW YEAR FOR CASA KIDS

The Deacons are launching a January drive for items for children in out of home placement who are served by CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates). January brings after Christmas sales and the children would enjoy small children's books, coloring books for all ages, gel pens, glitter pens, colored pencils and crayons. These should be new. There are about 98 children served by CASA volunteers and your donations will make a positive difference. Thank you for your generosity.

MISSION OF CHANGE

The Ministry Work of Susie Frerichs-Hernandez is the recipient of the Mission of Change for January and February. Remember to include your name with the coin total.

COMMITTEE/GROUP ANNUAL REPORTS

Due Monday, January 8th

MARTHA CIRCLE BIBLE STUDY

Greetings,

Thanks to all who helped make our Christmas Tea a festive and delicious occasion. Your help and generosity were deeply appreciated. Thank you.

Thank you for your generosity in remembering Crossroads Rescue Mission. Certainly we are God's messengers as we assist those who are in a rough spot in their life. May God bless the giver and the receiver.

In January we are remembering the Kearney Public School and their needs for students. They can use socks (youth and adult sizes), plain t-shirts (no picture or logo), long pants (sweat pants and others with stretchy waists-kindergarten through high school sizes), toiletry items and feminine hygiene products, and money. Jesus said, "As you did it to one of the least...of these my family, you did it to me." Matthew 25:40

January dates:

10 Lesson 5 preview with Pastor Stephen in the church classroom at 10:00 am

17 Martha Circle meets at 2:00 pm in the church classroom

"We savor those moments, when we are conscious of love's presence, these holy moments of gratitude. And that is grace."

-Anne Lamott in Guidepost

Blessings in Christ,
Annabelle Wells, Moderator



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Join the Men's Bible Study. The group meets each Wednesday morning at 7:30 am and finishes by 8:30 am. A light breakfast is served before the lesson. We always close with a round of prayer.

SISTERS IN SPIRIT (SIS) STUDY GROUP

Sisters In Spirit (SIS) meets every Monday night at 7:00 pm at the church. Please join us, as your schedule allows.

FAITH FRIENDS PROGRAM

Do you remember that special person who took you under their wing when you were growing up in the church? Now is your chance to pass on that wonderful experience to a young person at First Presbyterian Church. The Faith Friends program will launch on January 10, 2018 at 6:00 pm. We would like to match up as many youth and adults in the church as possible. Faith friend pairs will meet together to love, learn, and serve in the church – many ideas will be provided, or create your own memories! If you would like to mentor a youth or if you have children that would like a mentor, please contact Orlena Moyer at orlenamoyer@hotmail.com or 308-289-3867; or Sharon Rees at 308-293-6279 or sharonrees64@gmail.com.

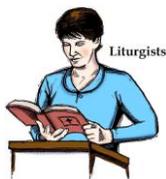
FLOWER CHART

January 2018 flower signups are available on the current 2017 flower chart. Please take a few moments to sign up to contribute flowers to glorify God's house on Sunday and to honor or remember your loved ones! A \$30 donation to help offset the cost of the 2 flower bouquets for each Sunday is greatly appreciated. January 28th is still available.

JANUARY VOLUNTEER LIST

LITURGISTS

January 7 – Richard Elliott
 January 14 – Jean Johnson
 January 21 – Earl Rademacher
 January 28 –



ACOLYTES

January 7 –
 January 14 –
 January 21 –
 January 28 –



COFFEE HOSTS

January 7 –
 January 14 – Charlie & Bev Pickens
 January 21 –
 January 28 – All Church Potluck



FLOWERS

January 7 – Steve & Rose Miller
 January 14 – Emily State
 January 21 – Lissa Woodruff
 January 28 –



HOSPITAL CALLERS

January 1-7 – Kathy Morrow
 January 8-14 – Mark Nelson
 January 15-21 – Jordan Nelson
 January 22-28 –
 Jan. 29-Feb. 4 – Pat Hild



USHERS/GREETERS

January 7 – Team 8
 Jon & Leslie Abegglen
 Robin Bowers
 Doug Giles
 Joan Giles
 January 14 – Team 9
 Mike Bryson
 Rodger & Kay Payne
 Ken Slominski
 Carol & Cecil Smith
 January 21 – Team 1
 Steve Case
 Dean Gaeth
 Betty Lewis-Fisher
 Charlie & Bev Pickens
 Janet Pickens
 January 28 – Team 2
 KC & Karen Diestler
 Kelly Koch
 Kent & JoAnn Lilly
 Dirk Shultz
 Barbara Stevenson



COMMUNION SERVERS

January 7 – Jean Johnson
 Kay Payne
 Rodger Payne
 Bev Pickens
 Charlie Pickens
 Barbara Stevenson



REMINDER

If your schedule does not permit you to be here on your assigned Sunday, please trade with someone else and notify the church office at 234-4543.



KID'S PAGE



NEW YEAR'S NOISE-MAKERS

Ring in the New Year with these fun noisemakers!



What you need:

- Wooden craft sticks
- Metallic paint (gold and silver)
- Paint brushes
- Jingle bells (gold and silver)
- Hot glue gun
- Metallic ribbon
- Scissors
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Paint half the sticks gold and half silver. Let dry.
2. Glue three bells to each stick.
3. Cut a six-inch piece of ribbon for each stick. Tie a bow and glue it to the noisemaker. Celebrate!



A NEW CREATION



The apostle Paul says everyone who believes in Jesus becomes brand new.



Directions: Cross out every third letter. Then write the remaining letters in the blanks to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.

T H I E R O E F Q O R X E I D F A M N Y A O N
 S E I L S I T N C V H R K I S D T T B H E W N E
 Q W C D R E Y A T M I O C N H F A S W C O R
 M E G T H W E O F L D X H A S S G Z O N L
 E T J H E W N E Q W I D S H R E R O E

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Answer: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV

First Presbyterian Church
4511 6th Avenue
Kearney, NE 68845

PRAYING FOR JOUMAN IRAQ

Earlier this year a call went out for Presbyterian churches to pray for cities in Iraq at the invitation from the pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Baghdad, the Rev. Dr. Joanne Sizoo. The call went out in the form of an article in the PCUSA's Mission Yearbook, and the whole article may be read at <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/will-pray-iraq/>.

The goal is to have at least one church praying for the people in every city in Iraq. Our church has the privilege of praying for the people of the City of Jouman (also spelled Choman), the capital of the Choman District, in the Erbil Governorate, within the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. This is a town about the same size as Kearney in the mountainous northern part of the country. You can see it marked with a star on the map.

We are asking you to pray for all the people of Jouman no matter their religion or ethnicity. Please spare a few extra minutes during your prayers for these people in this war torn country.

