



The Epistle

October 2014

Volume 2014-10

Upcoming Events

- 10/5—Sunday School
- 10/5— CROP Walk
- 10/5— Sunday Evening Meal Program at 1st Pres in CR
- 10/9—TLC
- 10/12—Sunday School
- 10/13—Bunko
- 10/14 Cancer Support Group
- 10/20—Session
- 10/22—Children Visit to Abbe Hills Farm
- 10/26— Sunday School
- 10/27—Knitting Group

“Re-Story” Ourselves

Like most of us, typos happen to me. A lot. Some words I don’t know how to spell, but usually there is a communication problem between my brain and my fingers.

Recently, I made a typo that actually made me stop and think.

While working on a summary of where we’ve been so far with the stories in the Narrative Lectionary, instead of spelling “destroy” (as in, *God decided to destroy the world by sending the great flood*), my fingers instead typed “destory.”

Destory. De-story.

And it got me thinking. Maybe there is a connection between “destroy” and “de-story?”

There is much destroying going on in our world today—wars and conflicts, the threat of violence woven into daily life, a message of fear and scarcity used to sell us everything from toothpaste to political candidates, the fear and suspicion of anything and anyone that is different, not to mention the stresses and pressures of daily life that wear us down, fray us around the edges, pull us away from what is most important to us, and disconnect us from our true selves, our true centers.

I can’t help thinking that at the heart of this destruction is a tendency to “de-story,” to cut ourselves off from others who are different than us or share different views, to even deny that another person or group’s story is even valid or true. Or we listen to the wrong story, the drumbeat to do more and be more, to turn to products for the solution to what we think ails us. Between social media and the variety of news sources available to us, it is so easy to be “siloed,” selecting only those things that reinforce the viewpoints we already hold.

Part of the reason I am so drawn to the Narrative Lectionary is it helps put us back in communication with God’s Story, the story not just of life “back then” but life now. God’s Story tells us over and over again that

We are loved, and we are created for good.

God blesses us not just for ourselves alone but for the benefit of all the world.

We need God, and we need one another.

I am convinced that what we are called to do as people of faith is to “re-story” ourselves by doing two things:

Immersing ourselves in God’s story so that it becomes the framework through which we make sense of our world and our lives

Deliberately listening to others tell their stories, particularly those whose story is very different than our own, so that we can grow in understanding, love, and compassion.

I am convinced that this is what God is calling me to do in such a time as this. If you are interested in joining me in figuring out ways we can do this as a congregation and into the wider community, let me know!

Pastor Lori

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Music Director:
Damon Cole



Financial Update...

Building Loan Update

As of September 30, 2014, the amount due on our building loan is \$89,055.66! We have just under \$21,000 in the New Building Account and anticipate another \$41,000 will be received in pledges in the next two years. After that, the payment will become part of our general budget.

Over the summer, we signed a new loan agreement with Mount Vernon Bank and Trust at 3.90% interest rate and a monthly payment of \$2748.00. We are on schedule to have *our building loan (originally \$350,000) PAID OFF on July 25, 2017!* **Thank you all for your continued generosity and faithfulness!**

General Fund

The news here continues to be very mixed. We knew from the beginning that we were looking at a deficit budget for 2014 and we have already loaned ourselves \$8000 this year.

The good news is, we have reserves that we can dip into to keep the bills paid. We are very, very grateful for the generosity of generations past that keep us afloat today!

The bad news is, relying on those reserves cannot go on forever. And the truth is, we could use those reserves in other ways—to fund a new ministry project or support an organization already doing good things in the world.

During the last few months, ***we have received \$4000 in financial gifts above and beyond pledges to go toward the budget deficit.*** *We are so grateful to the individuals who were able and willing to support our mission and ministry in this way!*

Might you be able to join them? Please prayerfully consider if you are in a position to make an additional gift this year.

Know, too, that we are not alone in this. Churches in our area and across the country are facing ever tightening budgets. Considering we are also paying off a building loan, we are actually in better situation than many. This is entirely due to all of YOU!

Thank you for making what we do possible!

SESSION MEMBERS

Sue Deibner
 Paul Jerabek
 Amy Weber
 Stephanie West (2nd term)

James Cannon (youth elder)
 Lyz Erlandson (youth elder)

Those continuing their service are:

Becky Ahrens
 Pam Mott (2nd term)
 Rozanne Petrick (2nd term)
 Beth Simon
 Nate Willems

SERVING OUR CHURCH:

Clerk of Session: Rozanne Petrick

Christian Education: Amy Weber & Sue Deibner

Adult Forum: Roger Johanson

Fellowship: (Pam Mott is a member of this committee)

Finance/Stewardship: Becky Ahrens

Member Care: Beth Simon, Nate Willems, & Sue Deibner

Memorial: Rozanne Petrick

Outreach:

Personnel: Pam Mott

Building & Property: Paul Jerabek

Social Concerns: Beth Simon and Nate Willems

Worship:

Watch Us on YouTube!



Did you miss a service or want to watch one again?

Carl Riechers continues to record our Sunday services and now uploads them to our very own channel (FirstPresMV) on YouTube!

Find it any of these three ways:

- Click on the link on our Facebook page (First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon)
- Search "FirstPresMV" at youtube.com
- Go to www.youtube.com/user/FirstPresMV

Hey, Facebook Users!

Want another way to find out what's going on at church? Be sure to 'Like' *First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon* on Facebook! We use this page to promote events, post photos, and the occasional encouragement or interesting link.



October Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1—James Minor | 18—Tex Clay |
| 1—Eljah Recalde | 21—Doug Hanson |
| 4—Alexander Crawford | 22—Joe Mulinix |
| 7—Scott Weber | 23—Jim Bonewald |
| 8—Will Bennett | 23—Logan Mozingo |
| 8—Elaine Bishop | 23—Michael Taylor |
| 10—Payson Burge | 27—Emery Willems |
| 11—Fran Bray | 28—Craig Engel |
| 13—Sage Boettcher | 29—Lynde Boettcher |
| 14—Katy McCollum | 30—Jay Gunn |
| 15—Bill Hodina | 31—Bob Gaines |
| 15—Russell Riechers | 31—Becky Whitman |

Please contact the church office if we missed your birthday.

NEWS & Notes



TLC—Thursday, October 9th, 6:30 PM, CE Area



Bunko— Monday, October 13th, Fellowship Hall, 6:00 pm



Cancer Support Group — Tuesday, October 14th, Fellowship Hall, 6:30 pm. Healing Touch Spiritual Ministry
Come and learn more about a healing ministry that has benefited so many patients. Speaker: Lori Erickson, Deacon and Healing Touch Practitioner



Session Meeting— October 20th, Community Room, 6:30 pm



Knitting Group—Monday, October 27th, at the home of Becky Ahrens, 2:00 pm



The kingdom of God is not something in the far future that is going suddenly to come down from heaven and settle on you and magically turn everything right. You yourselves are It. It's in you and among you; you have to do It or It will never come.

Source: [Beatrice Bruteau](#)
[The Holy Thursday Revolution](#)

"Living Into Our Vision"

YOU are Invited. YOU are Needed!

Sunday Morning, October 26th

How Do We Live Into Our Vision?

***An All-Congregation Conversation
following Worship***



Last spring, our Visioning Task Force presented a visioning statement and cultural characteristics intended to guide our congregation into the future:

***Striving to live as Jesus lived: confronting injustice with love, compassion, service.
Creative. Progressive. Serving. Accepting.***

Over the summer, we dipped a toe into those waters on three Sundays, hearing from Kory May about three courageous young men who risked their lives to stand up against racial injustice, Joe Jennison about his experience as a gay man feeling excluded from the church, and Catherine Quehl-Engel about the necessity of centering ourselves in God through prayer and meditation. We had wonderful attendance and enthusiastic response—both from congregation and community—to each of these worship services.

Now we want to hear from you. What would it look like for us to live out our vision and these cultural characteristics, both inwardly and outwardly?

Craig Engel will lead us through this process. Our morning will begin with an abbreviated worship service in the style of Taizé (including prayer, readings, silence, and singing), then we will move into our time of conversation and brainstorming.

We hope as many of you as possible will participate. If you are unable to be there and have ideas, please send them to the church office (mvfirstpres@q.com) prior to October 26. Thank you!

THESE DAYS
Daily Devotions for Living by Faith

Copies of "These Days" devotional for October, November and December are available in both regular and large-print versions at the back of the sanctuary. Feel free to take one while the supply lasts.

Christian Education for Children and Youth

Sunday, October 5 - The Ten Commandments

11 am - Preschool, Kindergarten, 1st grade: Teacher Lynde Boettcher

2nd - 6th grade: Instead of Sunday School after church, we will be participating in the CROP walk - Registration is from 1 - 2 so **please be at the church by 1:30 pm** ****Need parent volunteers to walk with us for the CROP Walk and driving to CR to feed the homeless.**

3:30 pm - 6:30 pm: **2nd - 6th Grade Students** - Following the CROP Walk we will travel to First Presbyterian Church in CR to serve the free evening meal.

****If you are planning to attend the evening meal, please respond to me so we have enough cars and drivers.**

SENIOR HIGHS: Meet at Rehanna's home at 5:30 pm for pasta dinner and first Sunday School class of the fall.

Sunday, October 12 - Telling Our Story

Preschool, Kindergarten, 1st grade: *Teacher needed*

2nd - 4th grade: *Teacher needed*

5th - 7th grade: *Teacher needed*

Sunday, October 19 - No CE for PreK-Youth (except Confirmation)

Wednesday, October 22 - Abbe Hills Farm Visit

5:30-7:30 pm (or so)

Meet at the church, wear work clothes and bring gloves. We will help out at the farm first, then roast hot dogs and marshmallows around the fire

****Parent/Adult volunteers needed to drive and help manage the group**

Sunday, October 26 - Theme TBA

Preschool, Kindergarten, 1st grade: Stephanie West

2nd - 4th grade:

5th - 7th grade:

Sunday, November 1 - Host Fellowship time after the service - Sundaes Sunday!

****We will have age groups to help serve and clean up for fellowship time.**

**** If you would like to volunteer to bring a topping or some vanilla ice cream, please let me know.**

Sunday, November 9 - Sunday, December 14 - Christmas Practice

October—Worship Assistants

Sunday, October 5 - 9:30 am – Worship and Communion

Liturgist: Sue Deibner
Greeters: Lynn & Shelly Woodley
Ushers: Al & Becky Ahrens Bell ringer: Usher Select
Candle lighter: Chris Cannon
Communion: Fran Bray, Stephanie & Greg West and Nate Willems,
Nursery: **Need Volunteer**

Sunday, October 12 - 9:30 am – Worship and Birthday Blessing

Liturgist: Beth Simon
Greeters: Laura Werkman & Becky Scheetz
Ushers: Rozanne & Larry Petrick Bell ringer: Usher Select
Candle lighter: Uwen Boettcher
Nursery: **Need Volunteer**

Sunday, October 19 - 9:30 am – Worship

Liturgist: Charles Halsey
Greeters: Beth Simon & Nate Willems
Ushers: Barb & Ed Bjork Bell ringer: Usher Selects
Candle lighter: Joey Recalde
Nursery: Hannah Garvey

Sunday, October 26 - 9:30 am – Worship

Liturgist: Marianne Taylor
Greeters: Stephanie & Greg West
Ushers: Kevin & Becky Whitman Bell ringer: Usher Select
Candle lighter: Jaidyn Burge
Nursery: Hannah Garvey





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 9:30 am Worship Communion 11:00 am Sunday School CROP WALK— 2:00 pm Sunday Evening Meal Program CR 1st Pres 3:30—6:30	6 Office Closed	7 7:00-9:00 pm Art Class, Community Room	8	9 6:30 pm TLC, CE Area	10	11
12 9:30 am Worship Birthday Blessing 11:00 am Sunday School	13 Office Closed 6:00 Bunko Fellowship Hall	14 6:30 Cancer Support Group Fellowship Hall 7:00-9:00 pm Art Class, Community Room	15 10:00-4:00 Connie Boettcher Quilting Group, Fellowship Hall	16	17	18
19 9:30 am Worship	20 Office Closed 6:30 pm Session, Community Room	21 7:00-9:00 pm Art Class, Community Room	22 6:30-7:30 pm Children visit to Abbe Hills Farm	23	24	25
26 9:30 am Worship 11:00 am Sunday School	27 Office Closed 2:00 pm Knitting Group, at home of Becky Ahrens	28 7:00-9:00 pm Art Class, Community Room	29	30	31	

Worship in October

Back to the Story: Narrative Lectionary

This year, we are once again using the Narrative Lectionary, a weekly walk through the big stories of the Bible in order.

During the first six weeks (September 7 through October 12), we have read parts of six pivotal stories about God continually seeking to be relationship with humankind by making covenants. We began with God's covenant with every breathing thing after the flood, then moved to God's covenant to Abraham and Sarah to bless them to be a blessing, and then watched that covenant fulfilled in God's faithfulness to their descendents through Joseph, and when God delivering the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.

This Colors of the Covenant series concludes the first two Sundays in October:

October 5 – Covenant and Commandments

Exodus 19:3-7; 20:1-17

Through Moses, God and Israel renew the covenant and gives the ten commandments.

October 12 – Joshua Renews the Covenant

Joshua 24:1-15

After the people have settled into the Promised Land, Joshua leads the people in renewing the covenant.

In our next series, we explore stories that show us what the covenant looks like from the perspective of the people. What does it mean to be God's people? What does it look like? How then shall we live?

Series 2: How Then Shall We Live?

October 19-November 23

October 19 – Nathan and David and Bethsheba and Uriah

2 Samuel 12:1-9, Psalm 51:1-9

After David's "indiscretion" with Bathsheba, the prophet Nathan tells a parable that moves David to repentance.

October 26 – Solomon's Wisdom

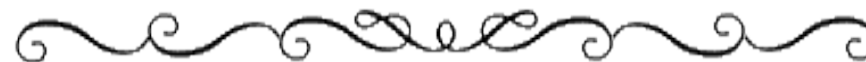
1 Kings 3:4-15

Given the chance to ask the Lord for anything he wishes, Solomon asks for wisdom in order to lead the people well.

Note: Worship will be in the style of Taizé

Includes scripture readings, prayers, singing, and times of silent reflection

Following worship, all are invited to participate in a congregation-wide brainstorm about ways we can live into our vision (see page X).





Save the Date!

Fall Auction on Sunday, November 16 at 11:00 am

It's never too early to plan ahead! Mark your calendars and invite your family and friends to this year's Annual Fall Auction. It is not only a fun event, it is an important fundraiser for the budget.

Please consider what YOU can donate for the auction:

- **Meals—BBQ rib dinner, shrimp boil, other specialties**
- **Homemade Food—pies, breads, fudge, spaghetti sauce, jam**
- **Sharing a Skill—yard work, painting a room, alterations, woodworking**
- **Other—vacation home, plane or boat ride, quilts, furniture, artwork**

We need your help to make the auction a success! Please contact Rita Swales, Laura Werkman, or Pam Mott with questions or ideas.

SPREAD THE WORD . . . of a great community support group for patients & families who have cancer. Mark your calendar for upcoming General Cancer Support Group meetings.

All meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm at the First Presbyterian Church – 301 1st Street NW, Mount Vernon, IA.

For more information about specifics of the group – call Kris Sargent, Oncology Nurse Navigator, Hall Perrine Cancer Center at 398-6452

We are always looking for ideas on how to better serve patients & their families. - So if you have a topic or speaker of interest – please let me know. Thank you to those who helped with coming up with ideas for the group, I truly appreciate it. Thanks! Kris Sargent, RN, OCN

November 11, 2014 - Advances in Radiation Oncology

Radiation is one of the treatment options of cancer and the Hall Radiation Center has been serving patients from Eastern Iowa for over 60 years. They have continued to be in the forefront in offering the most advanced treatment available for patients in Eastern Iowa, with most recently adding the True Beam technology.

Check it out at <http://www.hallperrinecancercenter.org/cancer/treatment-options/radiation-therapy/truebeam/>

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Each Sunday, "Weekly Announcements" containing the most current information of dates.