

PRESBYTERY CONNECTION

A Bi-Weekly Newsletter of the Presbyteries of North Central Iowa and Prospect Hill
December 27, 2018

The Presbytery Connection is a bi-weekly joint newsletter for the Presbyteries of North Central Iowa and Prospect Hill. If you would like to contribute to the Presbytery Connection, please contact Jeannie Stolee in the Presbytery office at 319-233-1747 or northiowapresby@gmail.com

If you know of someone who would enjoy receiving this communication, please email or call Jeannie.

Please consider making copies of this newsletter for your Session and running several copies to make available to your congregation.

www.presbynciowa.org

www.prospecthillpresby.org

To see North Central Iowa's calendar of events, please click [here](#).

To see Prospect Hill's calendar of events, please click [here](#).



Prayers of the Presbytery of North Central Iowa

Week of December 16 Grand Ji Vante (formerly The Presbyterian Village) – CP Diane Martin, Chaplain

Week of December 23 For those Elders and Pastors who have gone before us in 2018

Week of December 30 Pray for the Presbytery Staff: Rev. David Feltman, Pastor to the Presbytery
Rev. Dr. S. Glenn Wilson, Stated Clerk
Jeannie Stolee, Administrative Assistant
Karen Kaiser, Finance Director

Prayers of the Presbytery of Prospect Hill

Week of December 2 Pray for the Presbytery Staff: Rev. Richard Francis, Stated Clerk
Jeannie Stolee, Administrative Assistant
Karen Kaiser, Finance Director

Week of December 9 For those Elders and Pastors who have gone before us in 2018

Additional Prayer Concerns

Please continue to keep Doug O'Bannon, son of CP Shari O'Bannon, in your prayers. Doug has a very rare genetic Alpha One liver disease and it is hoped he is getting ever closer to a liver transplant. Please include Doug's daughter, Chloe, and Shari in your prayers as well.

Please pray for the clergy and congregations of all churches in both Presbyteries as we enter a new year.

Churches and Pastors in Transition

The following churches and pastors are in transition:

Presbytery of Prospect Hill

Wheatland Presbyterian Church, Breda
Elliott Creek Presbyterian Church, Bronson
First Presbyterian Church, Cleghorn
First Presbyterian Church, Glidden
Community Presbyterian Church, Lawton
Lakeside Presbyterian Church, Storm Lake
First Presbyterian Church, South Sioux City

Presbytery Office Holiday Schedule

The Presbytery Office will be closed Tuesday, January 1, 2019.

*Please join us in saying farewell to
 Pastor Loren and Becky Shellabarger
 Sunday, December 30
 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
 Algona and Irvington
 First Presbyterian Churches
 at 101 North Main Street
 in Algona
 515-295-2226*

2019 Per Capita

<u>North Central Iowa</u>		<u>Prospect Hill</u>	
\$ 8.95	General Assembly	\$ 8.95	General Assembly
5.40	Synod	5.40	Synod
<u>22.50</u>	Presbytery	<u>26.31</u>	Presbytery
\$36.85	Total	\$40.66	Total

2019 PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNIUM

Prospect Hill & North Central Iowa Presbyteries Delegation

Get Ready for the 2019 Presbyterian Youth Triennium—a gathering held every three years for high school students in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Thousands of youth from around the world come together for this life-changing, life-giving, faith-growing gathering! Five days that help form a younger generation of active Presbyterians. Five days that shape the leadership gifts and deepen the discipleship awareness for a generation who are already achieving a strong presence in this church and this world!

Event Essentials:

Dates: Tuesday, July 16th—Saturday, July 20th, 2019
(With transportation on July 15th and late July 20th)
& Pre-event retreat at Lakeshore Center in Spring of 2019

Location: Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

Participants: High School Aged youth and accompanying adult advisors
(Entering freshmen through graduated seniors; adult advisors must be 21+)

Theme: "Here's My Heart"

Registration: December 10th, 2018– February 4th, 2019

Registration Fee: Youth: \$555.00 / Adults 18yrs & Older: \$575
(Registration fee includes all programming, food, & lodging.)

Event Website: www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org

All participants attend Triennium as a member of a delegation. This year, Prospect Hill and North Central Iowa Presbyteries are forming a joint PYT delegation. **Lakeshore Center at Okoboji** is the registrar and organizer for all participants from these presbyteries.

Participants may register with their home churches or as individuals. If registering with your church, your church will communicate with Lakeshore. If registering as an individual, please communicate with Lakeshore directly at
info@lakeshorecenteratokoboji.org or call 712-337-3313.

**All Prospect Hill and North Central Iowa Congregations MUST have a staff member fill out the estimate survey before any participants register for the event. To complete this survey, please visit:
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/P9VSYZ>**

Ruling Elders and Clergy in Partnership

The Presbytery of North Central Iowa invites all Clergy and Ruling Elders to a one-day training on Clergy and Ruling Elders in Partnership to be held on Saturday, January 26, 2019. Dr. Joe Small will begin the conversation for a cohesive, spiritually growing and active session for your work in 2019. Dr. Small will also offer guides to begin each session meeting for 2019. Registrations must be received by January 16, 2019. Click [here](#) for more information and for the registration form.

Donations of Lowe's Gift Cards are Being Collected for Hurricane Florence Recovery Efforts in New Bern, North Carolina

Churches and individuals have an opportunity to make a difference in the Hurricane Florence recovery efforts in the New Bern, North Carolina area. Lowe's gift cards are being collected and will be delivered and donated to the recovery efforts when North Central Iowa's mission trip team visits the area the first week of February, 2019.

Please send gift cards by January 25, 2019, to:

Rev. David Feltman
9206 Hess Rd.
Waterloo, IA 50701



A Word from Your Moderator

Whew! On the Thursday morning after Christmas . . . with the Moderator's Message due in the Presbytery office by noon . . . I am in post-Christmas exhaustion mode. It is a wonderful exhaustion! Especially now that I am retired and can actually put my feet up, read a book, watch mindless TV, and feel free to leave the messy after-effects for one more day.

Like all of you, our family has many Christmas traditions. They may change through the years with the family needs, locations, and even the cast of characters. One thing that has been a constant for me throughout my life is church on Christmas Eve. That has taken place in many different churches. For the last 13 years I have not been in my home church. My daughter is a pastor in Grinnell, Iowa (one hour and 15 minutes from Cedar Falls) and that is where we spend Christmas Eve. We have Christmas Eve dinner with some Grinnell friends in a lovely restaurant named Relish. It is on the lower floor of an old house and it feels like you are in a home (except someone else is cooking!). It is owned by Kamal and Laura (a Muslim man and his Christian wife). The food is wonderful, and they welcome us warmly. Our son and family come from Minneapolis as well. I love Christmas Eve at First Presbyterian Church in Grinnell! It is a great second church family.

After church we drive to Cedar Falls. Sometimes the weather is challenging, but we have always made it. We then pretend we are Danish and have Ebelskiver with our Cedar Falls daughter and family. (Our son-in-law is on staff at Orchard Hill Church in Cedar Falls.) We stay up way too late, but the good news is that all our grandchildren are now teenagers or older, so Christmas morning no longer starts at 6:00 a.m.! Sleeping late is more important to them than opening gifts.

I love the traditions we have now, but I know that in the future things will change just as they have throughout my life. Our grandchildren will move away and have families of their own. New traditions will be formed. How, when, where, and the cast of characters will change. I pray I will welcome and celebrate the changes.

I think about all the ways the church has changed and will continue to change through the years. The traditions, music, words, places, and cast of characters are different now than in the past . . . and will be different in the future. I see God's presence in "the good old days" and I know that God will be present in the exciting new days. "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." (Matthew 18:20).

I am looking forward to the new year as your Moderator. I am excited to install Sara Sutter in Goldfield on January 6th as my first official duty. In all of family life and church life, God is present. I strive to remember that it is about the "common good" . . . it is not about me. Love is an "I" that looks for a "you" to form an "us."

Wishing you all peace, hope and joy in 2019.

Judy Klepfer
Moderator, Presbytery of North Central Iowa

SAVE THE DATE

2018-2019 Events at Lakeshore Center at Okoboji

9.27.18 — 9.30.18

Annual Hobby and Crafting Retreat

10.11.18

Congregational Vitality 101 With Rev. Dr. Chip Hardwick

10.13.18

Fall Cleanup Day

10.27.18

Fall Festival

12.15.18

Lakeshore Christmas Open House

1.1.19

Summer Camp Online Registration Opens

1.25.19 — 1.27.19

Confirmation Retreat

2.8.19 — 2.10.18

Youth Snow Camp

2.15.19 — 2.17.19

Annual Men's Retreat

More information is on the way.
Email program@lakeshorecenteratokobi.org for details.

Meet the Missionaries



Rev. Dr. Michael Parker –
Egypt

Mike teaches church history at the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo (ETSC) through a joint appointment with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. “My job is to teach students and be a mentor for them,” he says. “ETSC provides leaders for the Egyptian church as well as for other churches in the region.

Home presbytery: National Capital
E200485, D506907



Chenoa Stock –
Bolivia

As network facilitator with UMAVIDA, the Joining Hands network in Bolivia, three questions guide Chenoa’s ministry: What does it mean to live as a child of God? To be part of a connected, world community? To love my neighbors down the street and across the ocean? UMAVIDA works on human rights, on mining and environmental justice in Bolivia, and with Bolivia’s poor to help them improve their own lives. “I am a witness to the truth that we are many parts of one body of God,” Chenoa says.

Home presbytery: Pittsburgh
E200335, D507547

Please click [here](#) for information on The Academy.