

PRESBYTERY CONNECTION

A Bi-Weekly Newsletter of the Presbyteries of North Central Iowa and Prospect Hill
September 20, 2019

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](#).

Presbytery Office Closed

The Presbytery Office will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, September 23 and 24, while Jeannie accompanies her dad for a medical procedure.

2020 Per Capita News

The General Assembly voted to keep its 2020 per capita at \$8.95, which is the same as it was for 2019.

The Synod voted to raise its 2020 per capita by \$.10.

At its September 19 meeting, the Council of the Presbytery of North Central Iowa voted to keep its 2020 per capita at \$22.50, which is the same as it was for 2019. Total 2020 per capita for North Central Iowa is as follows:

General Assembly:	\$ 8.95
Synod:	5.50
Presbytery:	<u>22.50</u>
Total:	\$36.95

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The Presbytery of Prospect Hill will set its per capita at the October 26, 2019 Presbytery meeting.

Prayers of the Presbytery of North Central Iowa

Week of September 22 Greater Greene County Presbyterian Ministries – Rev. Mark Rabideau
(First Grand Junction, First Jefferson, First Paton) CRE Wendy Pittman

Week of September 29 First Presbyterian Church, Reinbeck – Rev. Dr. David Kivett, Moderator
First Presbyterian Church, Grundy Center – Rev. Dr. David Kivett, Moderator

Week of October 6 Bethany Presbyterian Church, Grundy Center – Rev. Al Polito

Prayers of the Presbytery of Prospect Hill

Week of September 22 First Presbyterian Church, South Sioux City – Rev. Dr. Tom Murray, Moderator

Week of September 29 Community Presbyterian Church, Lawton – Rev. Dale Lint, Moderator

Week of October 6 The Synod of Lakes and Prairies Staff

Additional Prayer Concerns

Please remember Rev. Missy Brown in your prayers as she recovers from back surgery.

Please remember Rev. Kevin Freese and pray for his relief from a herniated disc.

Please send prayers of thanks that Cathy Sydnor, wife of Rev. Michael Sydnor, avoided abdominal surgery and pray for her recovery from breathing and mobility issues.

Please keep Rev. Erica MacCreaigh's father, Earl, in your prayers as he underwent spinal surgery on September 19.

Please keep Rev. Paul Collier's father, Rev. Jack Collier, in your prayers as he is under hospice care in Prineville, Oregon.

Please keep Administrative Assistant Jeannie Stolee's father, Arvin Schumann, in your prayers as he will undergo a lung biopsy on September 23.

Please remember Rev. David and Sue Feltman and family as they grieve the loss of Sue's mother, Nancy Douglas.

Please remember the family of Rev. Alfred Schlorholtz in your prayers. Rev. Schlorholtz, who was born and raised in the Wheatland Presbyterian Church in Breda, Iowa, passed away on March 31, 2019.

Churches in Transition

Please pray for the following churches that are in transition:

Presbytery of North Central Iowa

First Presbyterian Church, Algona/Irvington
First Presbyterian Church, Grundy Center
First Presbyterian Church, Kamrar
First Presbyterian Church, Reinbeck

Presbytery of Prospect Hill

Wheatland Presbyterian Church, Breda
Elliott Creek Presbyterian Church, Bronson
First Presbyterian Church, Glidden
First Presbyterian Church, Lake Park
Community Presbyterian Church, Lawton
First Presbyterian Church, Manning
First Presbyterian Church, Paullina
Lakeside Presbyterian Church, Storm Lake
Westlawn Presbyterian Church, Sioux City
First Presbyterian Church, South Sioux City

Sympathy Announcements

Deepest sympathy is extended to Rev. David and Sue Feltman on the death of Sue's mother, Nancy Douglas, who died at MercyOne Medical Center on September 9, 2019, at the age of 92.

A recent resident of Windhaven Assisted Living in Cedar Falls, she lived at the Reserve on Walnut Creek in Urbandale from 2003-2019, and was formerly of Arlington, TX.

Nancy donated her body to science through the University of Iowa.

A memorial service was held on September 13 at First Presbyterian Church in Waterloo.

Those who grieve include her daughter Sue Feltman and husband Dave of Waterloo; sons Bill Douglas of Des Moines and Andy of Iowa City; grandchildren Peter Feltman of Oakland, CA, Sara (Trey) Hegar of Mt. Pleasant, IA, and Rachel (Jeremy) Murray of Waconia, MN; and great-grandson Hudson Hegar.

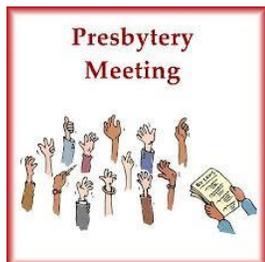
Condolences may be sent to: Rev. David and Sue Feltman
 9206 Hess Rd.
 Waterloo, IA 50701

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Condolences are extended to the family of Rev. Alfred Schlorholtz, who died on March 31, 2019. A celebration of life was held in Dunedin, FL, on March 31. A graveside service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on September 28 at the Wheatland Cemetery, Wheatland Presbyterian Church, Breda, Iowa. A lunch will follow the service.

Rev. Schlorholtz and his wife, Peggy, were born and raised in the Wheatland church, and devoted their life ministry as PC(USA) missionaries to Pakistan and Nepal. They were widely known and highly regarded and supported not only by the Wheatland church, but by many other churches in the area and throughout the world. Please click [here](#) to read Rev. Schlorholtz's obituary. A video of his life may be seen [here](#).

Fall Presbytery Meetings



Both presbyteries have their fall Presbytery Meetings coming up.

Prospect Hill: Saturday, October 26, 2019
Lakeshore Center at Okoboji
1864 Hwy. 86
Milford, Iowa
Registration/coffee 8:30 a.m. / Call to Meeting 9:30 a.m.

North Central Iowa: Sunday, November 3, 2019
Cedar Heights Community Presbyterian Church
2015 Rainbow Circle
Cedar Falls, Iowa
Registration 1:30 p.m. / Call to Meeting 2:30 p.m.



North Central Iowa Presbyterian Women

The next meeting of the Presbyterian Women of North Central Iowa will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 13, 2019, at First Presbyterian Church, 801 8th St., Grundy Center, Iowa.

Prospect Hill Seeking General Assembly Delegates

The Prospect Hill nominating committee is seeking people within our presbytery to serve as commissioners and young adult advisory delegates to the General Assembly of the PC(USA) this coming June in Baltimore, MD. To assist in this process, we are encouraging all to prayerfully consider who might represent our presbytery well. If you are interested in serving in one of these roles: ruling elder commissioner, teaching elder commissioner, or as a YAAD (Young Adult Advisory Delegate), or if you have someone in mind to serve, please fill out [this application](#), or make the application available to those you would like to see apply. Questions may be referred to Rev. Ian McMullen (presbyter@prospecthillpresby.org) or to Rev. Jan Chrisensen (puccpastor@premieronline.net). Please note, applications are due October 1st.

Poor Richard's Almanac
by Richard Francis, Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Prospect Hill



One of the most challenging statements I've read recently was in a book by Alan Roxburgh and M. Scott Boren, *Introducing the Missional Church*. Actually, the whole book was challenging, but what stuck in my mind was this (and I'm quoting from memory, so the language isn't exact): *as churches, we need to be willing to be in ministry with people who will never become part of us.*

In other words, sometimes we aren't called to create new ministries. Sometimes we're called by God to find out what God is already doing in our community and then join with the people who are doing it. And the people who are doing it might not be part of any faith community.

Mind. Blown.

Is that even biblical? I think it is, because the Bible has several stories of people who aren't part of the faith community but who act more faithfully than some of those who are. Jesus' story of The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) springs to mind. In that story, it's not the religious people, the priest and the Levite (the preacher and the elder?) who do the right thing. It's the heretical Samaritan (Muslim?) who helps the wounded man. "Which of these," Jesus says, "was neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" And when the lawyer who had questioned Jesus replied, "The one who showed him mercy," Jesus said, "Go and do likewise."

I thought of that while reading *Travels in Alaska* by John Muir. Muir, possibly more than any other individual, is responsible for the preservation of wild places in this country, and for the idea that wild places should be preserved. He was a tireless and skilled explorer, and that characteristic comes through clearly in the accounts found in *Travels in Alaska* which finds Muir trekking across glaciers and canoeing into remote areas.

On one of his trips into Alaska Muir fell in with a group of missionaries who were taking the gospel to the native peoples of Alaska. Their steamer had tied up for the night about 3:00 pm, and even though it was late in the day, Muir decided he had time to climb a mountain that was only about 7,000 feet, "because of the advantageous position it occupied for general view of the peaks and glaciers of the east side of the great range." One of the missionaries, a man named Young, asked to go along, insisting that he was a strong and experienced climber and wouldn't hinder Muir in his activities.

Unfortunately, as they were making their way up the mountain, Young fell and managed to dislocate both of his shoulders. Muir was able to get one shoulder back in place, but the other proved intractable, so he helped the unfortunate man back to the steamer. The miserable walk took all night. Muir writes,

When at last we reached the ship and stood at the foot of the narrow single plank without side rails that reached from the bank to the deck at a considerable angle, I briefly explained to Mr. Young's companions, who stood looking down at us, that he had been hurt in an accident, and requested one of them to assist me in getting him aboard. But strange to say, instead of coming down to help, they made haste to reproach him for having gone on a "wild-goose chase" with Muir.

"These foolish adventures are well enough for Mr. Muir," they said, "but you, Mr. Young, have work to do; you have a family; you have a church, and you have no right to risk your life on treacherous peaks and precipices."

The captain, Nat Lane, son of Senator Joseph Lane, had been swearing in angry impatience for being compelled to make so late a start and thus encounter a dangerous wind in a narrow gorge,

and was threatening to put the missionaries ashore to seek their lost companion, while he went on down the river about his business.

But when he heard my call for help, he hastened forward, and elbowed the divines away from the end of the gangplank, shouting in angry irreverence, "Oh, blank!¹ This is no time for preaching! Don't you see the man is hurt?"

He ran down to our help, and while I steadied my trembling companion from behind, the captain kindly led him up the plank into the saloon and made him drink a large glass of brandy. Then, with a man holding down his shoulders, we succeeded in getting the bone into its socket, notwithstanding the inflammation and contraction of the muscles and ligaments. Mr. Young was then put to bed, and he slept all the way back to Wrangell.

Who was neighbor to the man who fell off the mountain? Go and do likewise!

Blessings,



Moderator's Musings



Elaine and I attended one of the performances of the PRCA Dayton Rodeo held over Labor Day weekend. It has many, many steps to go down the side hill from the entrance to the seats nearest the bucking chutes, where we like to sit. We had gotten food before starting the trip down, so our hands were full. About two-thirds of the way down, a lady came from behind and asked if I knew that a shoelace was untied. I replied that I had not, and she asked me to move off to the side and that she would retie them. She knelt on her knees and proceeded to retie the one shoe with a double knot and made a double knot for the other. I thanked her and she made sure that I got down the stairs with no problem. Her kindness was very much appreciated.

It stuck me that this was something like that which we find in the 13th Chapter of John's gospel where Jesus washes his disciples' feet. There are two images. One of being a servant, taking care of others. The other is the humility that the receiver must have to accept the gift. We tend to be people that would rather do it ourselves, or maybe help someone else, but to need help and allow someone else to help us is not our usual behavior. For a gift to happen it takes both sides.

In case you were wondering if I could have taken care of the problem, I had a walking taco in one hand and a bag of popcorn in the other along with carrying a bottle of water. There was no place to easily set them down.

Last month I wrote about an "angel" coming to our rescue when we were stuck alongside Highway 30 following have a tire blowout. Now, another "angel" has come into my life. It is getting to be an interesting

¹ I don't know about you, but I would love to know what he really said.

phenomenon. Do we look at others serving as angels for us, and do we serve as angels for others? Interesting question.

God calls us to be a servant people. How does that call us to live?

Grace and Peace,

Bill Crawford
Moderator, Presbytery of Prospect Hill

PC(USA) Disability Concerns



Presbyterians for Disability Concerns has a mission to not only include all of God's people, but that we all provide a place of meaningful participation and a deep sense of belonging and connection. Please click [here](#) to go to the

website. You may also click [here](#) to see the PC(USA) Congregation Audit and [here](#) for Tips, Techniques, and Technologies.



2019 Racial Ethnic Student Scholarship

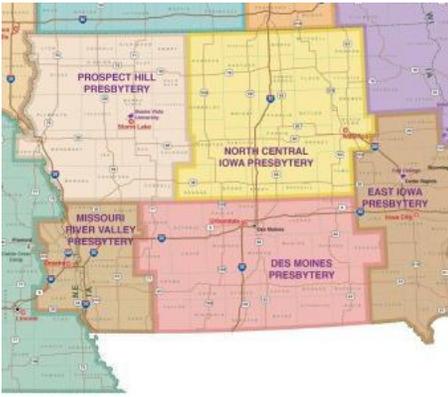
The Synod of Lakes and Prairies Student Scholarship is an educational assistance program designed to encourage indigenous and students of color in their preparation for academic success in higher education. Students must have a permanent residence within the Synod of Lakes and Prairies and be active members in a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregation. Completed

applications are due October 7, 2019, and must include an official transcript and financial aid statement. Please click [here](#) for the application.

North Central Iowa Session Records Reviews



Session Records Reviews have been scheduled for North Central Iowa. Please click [here](#) for the dates and locations. Please feel free to attend whichever of these meetings is most convenient for you either in terms of date or location or both.



The Presbyteries of North Central Iowa, Prospect Hill and Des Moines will be voting on a Joint Presbytery Staffing Plan at their respective fall Presbytery meetings. You may access that plan [here](#).

In addition, please click on [this link](#) to find videos that explain the proposal in more depth.

If you would like to ask a specific question about the proposed Joint Presbytery Staffing Plan, please plan to attend one of the following events:

- 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 20, at First Presbyterian Church, 1111 5th Avenue North, Fort Dodge, with Rev. Sara Hill
- 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 20, at First Presbyterian Church, 100 Church Street, Conrad, with Rev. Kerry Carson

Or join us on-line at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 20, from the comfort of your own home to ask a question. You can join this on-line discussion by clicking [this Zoom link](#).

If you have any questions before your presbytery takes a vote on this exciting plan, please ask them!



Schedule and Information for the Iowa Presbyterians Gathering!

The Iowa Presbyterians Gathering will be held Friday evening, November 1, and Saturday, November 2, at

Heartland Presbyterian Church in Clive. Please click [here](#) for more information, the schedule, and how to register.



The 2019-2020 Presbyterian Planning Calendar is now available to order! To order, you may call Presbyterian Distribution Service at 800-533-4371, send a fax to 502-569-8030, or go to [pcusastore.com](#). The cost is \$14.95 each;

\$12.50 each for 10-49; \$8.50 each for 50 or more; plus shipping. Ask for ISBN 978-0-9858964-4-7.



**Attention Church Administrative Assistants,
Treasurers and Clerks of Session of the Presbyteries
of North Central Iowa and Prospect Hill!**

- Do you need a short getaway?
- Would you like to meet other church personnel?
- Would you like to learn about the Presbytery Office and how we can help each other?
- Are you feeling overwhelmed?
- Would you just like a short retreat at beautiful Lake Okoboji?

If you answered yes to at least one of these questions, please join the Presbytery Office for a one-night retreat! Please click [here](#) for more information and find a registration form [here](#).



Do you have an AED in your church building? The Iowa Heart Foundation recommends that Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) be placed wherever people gather. AEDs have become so advanced that almost anyone can use them safely. Click [here](#) for more information.



If you feel as if you're at the end of your rope or the recent floods or low crop prices have left you feeling hopeless, please click [here](#) to find a group or network who may be able to help.



Iowa Religious Media Services will be closing its doors and clients and denominations will have an opportunity to purchase resources at approximately 50% of the cost of the resource. Please click [here](#) for more information.



The Board of Pensions is hosting a retirement planning seminar at University of Dubuque Theological Seminary on Wednesday and Thursday, October 2-3, 2019. Please see more information [here](#).



Lakeshore Center has several exciting events planned for this fall! Click on the event name to find out more.

- [Hobby Retreat](#): September 26-29
- [A Day with Tom Long](#): October 4
- [Fall Work Day](#) (think of it as a mission trip close to home!): October 12
- [Fall Fest](#): October 16

Click [here](#) to be directed to Lakeshore Center's website

Academy



Deepening faith and
encountering Christ in a
new way

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