

PRESBYTERY CONNECTION

A Bi-Weekly Newsletter of the Presbyteries of North Central Iowa and Prospect Hill
October 17, 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](#).

Fall Presbytery Meetings

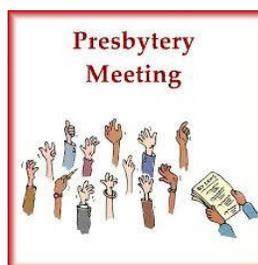
Both presbyteries have their fall Presbytery Meeting coming up.

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.



Prayers of the Presbytery of North Central Iowa

- Week of October 20 Barclay Presbyterian Church, Waterloo – Larry Fuson, CRE
- Week of October 27 Central Presbyterians Church, Nevada – Rev. John Molacek
- Week of November 3 McCallsburg Presbyterian Church, McCallsburg – Rev. Tom Poppe

Prayers of the Presbytery of Prospect Hill

- Week of October 20 Trinity Presbyterian Church, Wall Lake – Lue Baker, CRE
- Week of October 27 Pray for Our Ministry in the Nation
- Week of November 3 United Presbyterian Church, Westside – Rev. Robert Cook, Stated Supply

Additional Prayer Concerns

Please keep the Presbyteries of Prospect Hill, North Central Iowa and Des Moines in your prayers as each presbytery will vote on the proposed Joint Presbytery Staffing Plan at their respective fall Presbytery Meeting.

Please keep Rev. Suzanne Wobig in your prayers as she continues to recover from a fall.

Please keep Rich Belles, husband of Rev. Cathy Belles, in your prayers. Rich is recovering well after his heart attack and hopes to return to work soon. Rich and Cathy would like to thank everyone for their prayers as those prayers have been a great boost for this trying time.

Please keep Administrative Assistant Jeannie Stolee's father, Arvin Schumann, in your prayers as he has been diagnosed with lung cancer and may be undergoing tests concerning his stomach.

Please continue to remember Doug O'Bannon, son of CRE Shari O'Bannon, in your prayers as he continues to battle a liver disease and all the symptoms that come with it.

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

Churches in Transition

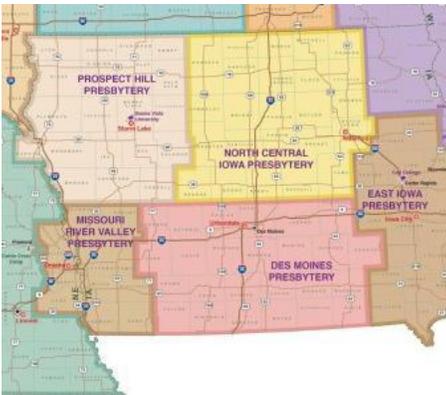
Please pray for the following churches that are in transition:

Presbytery of North Central Iowa

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



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!

You are Cordially Invited
to the
Ordination
for
Rebecca Dix

Date: *October 27, 2019*

Time: *4:00 p.m.*

Location: *First Presbyterian Church*
 1111 Fifth Avenue N
 Fort Dodge, Iowa

A reception will follow the ordination service



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH'S
PRODUCTION OF

THE **HUNCHBACK**
OF NOTRE DAME

© Disney

A NEW MUSICAL
BASED ON THE VICTOR HUGO NOVEL
AND SONGS FROM THE DISNEY FILM

Music by Lyrics by Book by
Alan Menken Stephen Schwartz Peter Parnell

Originally Developed by Disney Theatrical Productions

October 17-20, 2019

Show times:

7pm on Thursday, Friday, & Saturday
the 17th, 18th, & 19th

2pm on Saturday the 19th

6pm on Sunday the 20th

Westminster Presbyterian Church

1301 Kimball Ave. Waterloo, IA 50702

319.234.5501 | promisemusic.org

Directed by
Patrick Marchant

The Hunchback of Notre Dame is presented through special arrangement with
and all authorized materials are supplied by
Music Theatre International, New York, NY 212-541-4684. mtishows.com

Poor Richard's Almanac

by Richard Francis, Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Prospect Hill



I met a Presbyterian Bishop once.

He was a bishop in the Church of South India, which came into being in 1947 as the result of a merger of several previously-existing Christian denominations bringing together four different church traditions: Anglican (Episcopal), Congregational, Presbyterian, and Methodist. According to the Wikipedia article on the Church of South India.¹

The Church of South India Scheme was the first practical attempt of its kind towards a union, on the basis of the following points enunciated in the Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral:

- The Holy Scripture of the Old and the New Testaments as containing all things necessary to salvation and as being the rule and ultimate standard of faith.
- The Apostles' Creed as the Baptismal Symbol and the Nicene Creed as sufficient statement of the Christian faith.
- The two sacraments, ordained by Christ Himself — Baptism and the Supper of the Lord — ministered with the unfailing use of Christ's words of Institution and elements ordained by Him.
- The Historic Episcopate, locally adapted in the methods of its administration to the varying need of the nations and people called of God into the union of His Church.

As you may imagine, the sticking point for many was the Historic Episcopate, the belief held by Catholics, Anglicans, and some Lutherans, that ordination, to be authentic, must be traced back in unbroken succession to St Peter, the first Bishop of Rome. But many traditions, Presbyterians included, are congenitally allergic not just to the Historic Episcopate, but to the very idea of bishops. Not so very long ago the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) was involved in an ecumenical conversation that would have led to the creation of a consortium of denominations. One elder statesman in the Presbytery, who has since gone to join the Church Triumphant, had a very simple argument against our involvement: "I see one word in this document: bishops. I vote no."

Bishops, of course, show up in three places in the New Testament: Philippians 1:1, 1 Timothy 3:1 & 2, and Titus 1:7. The letter to the Philippians is addressed "To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons." The Timothy and Titus passages give the qualities and characteristics that a bishop should have. So why don't we have bishops?

The short answer is that we do: we call them Ministers of Word and Sacrament. The New Testament gives several titles for church leaders—elders, bishops, deacons, pastors, apostles, etc.—but two that are important for this discussion are elders (Greek *presbuteroi*) and bishops (Greek *episcopoi*). I included the Greek words that are behind the English so that you can see how they have survived in our terminology: *presbuteroi* gives us "Presbyterian," government by elders; *episcopoi* gives us "Episcopal," government by bishops.

But here's the irony: in the New Testament period the terms "elder" and "bishop" were almost certainly interchangeable. "Elder" was the preferred term in churches with a Jewish background, since elders were already part of Jewish leadership. "Bishop," on the other hand, was a word in common use in Gentile society with a sense something like "overseer." Rather than create new terminology for their leaders, the early church adapted words they already knew. You can see this at work in 1 Peter, where he encourages the elders in the churches "to tend the flock of God that is in your charge, exercising the oversight, not under compulsion but willingly, as God would have you do it." (1 Peter 5:2). The elders,

¹ https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Church_of_South_India

he says, are supposed to be pastors (“tend the flock”) and bishops (“exercising the oversight” is the verb form of *episcopoi*).

The bishop of the Church of South India that I met had been a Presbyterian minister before his election as bishop. You could argue that in biblical terms, he was already a “bishop” before he became a Bishop. It’s not the terminology that’s important, but the office, and how that office is carried out to the glory of God and the good of the world.

As Presbyterians, we like our system of government.² We like it because we believe that we are more likely to understand and follow the will of God when we seek God’s guidance together than relying on the authority of an individual, no matter how wise and godly that individual might be.

And it seems to me that other traditions agree with us in this respect: even those that have bishops don’t invest those bishops with ultimate authority, but see them as leaders who govern in a system best described as “democratic,” in which important decisions are made by a voting body. We Presbyterians like to put it this way: the presbytery is our bishop.

That means, of course, that we all have to participate, because, to paraphrase Pogo, we have met the presbytery, and it is us. We have no authority figure to save us when we get in trouble, or to blame for our problems.³ We do it together, or we don’t do it.

We do it together, because that’s the way Jesus told us to do it. “For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” (Matthew 18:20)

Blessings,



Moderator’s Musings



In major league baseball, a player with a .300 batting average is considered a top hitter. That means out of every 10 at bats, he fails to get a hit seven times. Even with that failure rate, he expects to get a hit the next time he is at bat. It is a metaphor for our lives. We fail at many things that we attempt to do. Many are not moral or ethical failures, just that we are human. It is said that Thomas Edison tried around 1,000 different items to work as a filament in a light bulb before discovering the right item. That is persistence. We have failures in our lives. Things just didn’t work out right or we were unsuccessful in what we were attempting to do.

I am involved in the Masonic fraternity and we use a lot of memorized ritual in our meetings. Seldom, if ever, is there a perfect night of ritual. Mistakes are made. We are human and we do our best, but it seldom is without errors. We attempt to correct our errors and do better the next time. The same could be said about many things that we are involved in. We learn from our errors. At the annual meeting of the Iowa Masons in September, I was honored as being elected to serve a year as the Grand Master of Masons in Iowa (like a president). My theme for the year is “Celebrate our Past, Embrace our Future.”

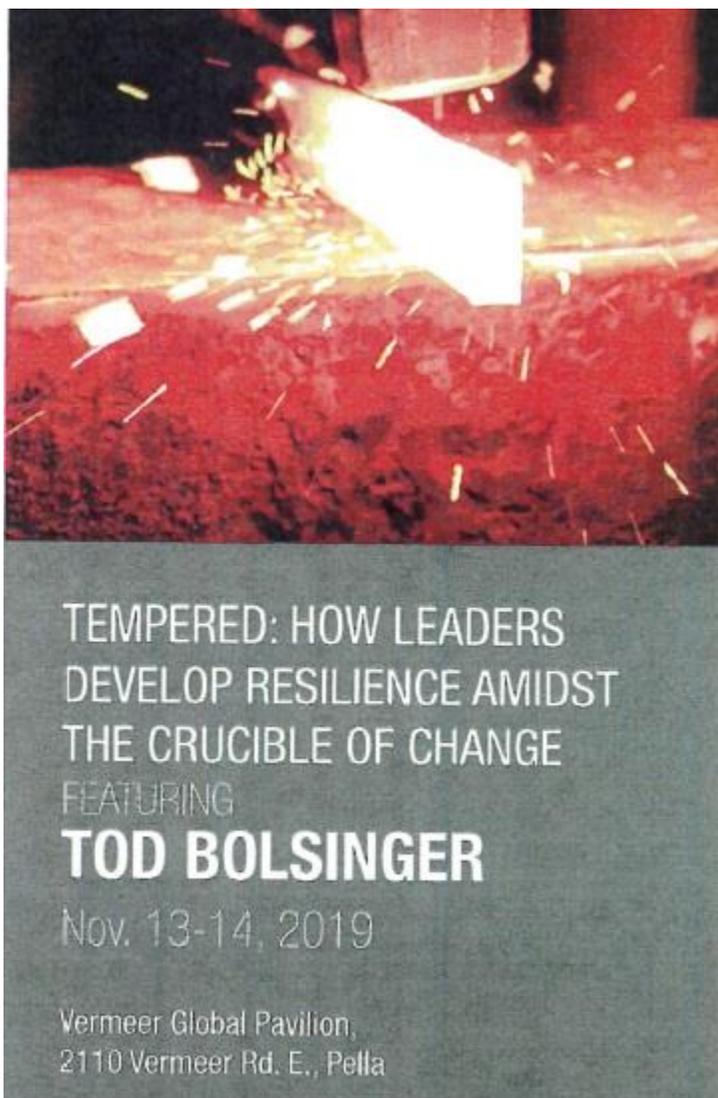
² Some would say, “We *love* our system of government.”

³ Not even Ian McMullen.

That theme could apply just as well to our churches and to our denomination (the PCUSA). As Presbyterians, we have a great past and there is much to be proud of. However, we cannot live in the past or even try to move back to yesterday. We can, however, learn from the past as we look ahead. We do know that the Spirit is at work leading us to an unknown future, knowing it will be where God wants us to move to. There will be joy in the journey, with a few bumps in the road, but God's love will see us through.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the October 26 Presbytery Meeting at the Lakeshore Center at Okoboji.

Grace and Peace,
Bill Crawford, Moderator of Prospect Hill



Tod Bolsinger, author of three books, one of which is *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory*, will be the featured speaker at a leadership event being sponsored by the Vermeer Charitable Foundation in Pella, Iowa, November 13-14, 2019.

Please click [here](#) for more information.

Online registration is available at www.vermeer.com > About Us > Community > Vermeer Charitable Foundation > Leadership Alliance Events

Educational Opportunity

“If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.” Romans 12:12 NIV

Join Rabbi Brian Stoller and clergy colleagues from across Omaha on Thursday, November 14, 2019, 11:30 – 1:30 p.m. at Temple Israel for the inaugural event of the Rabbi Sidney H. and Jane Brooks Institute for Clergy, featuring lunch and learning with renowned speaker and bestselling author Margaret Wheatley, Ed.D., on “Leading with Faith, Courage & Integrity in Troubled Times.”

The registration fee of \$20 includes lunch and a copy of one of Margaret’s deeply thoughtful books. Please also help spread the word by encouraging other clergy friends and colleagues to attend as well.

Rev. Ian McMullen, Interim General Presbyterian, says: “I think this is a unique opportunity for us to live into hope and expand our understanding of other faith traditions.”

Please click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Blessings & Promises Worship Night



Blessings & Promises worship event is a one-of-a-kind special music service, with 12 traditional hymns performed by unaccompanied violin and a Scripture reading that accompanies each hymn. Denzel Washington arranged the hymns and Bethany Washington performs them. The Washingtons offer their Blessings & Promises Worship Night free as a ministry to churches.

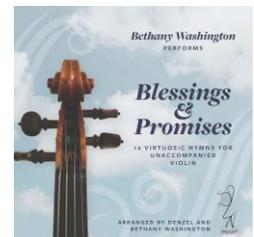
Hymns performed include: Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty; Come Thou Font of Every Blessing; Were You There; Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed (At The Cross); Blessed Assurance; I Know My Redeemer Lives; Jesus Loves the Little Children; It Is Well With My Soul; Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee; Great Is Thy Faithfulness; I Surrender All; and O Come All Ye Faithful. You may click on [this link](#) to the cd on Spotify.

Composer Denzel Washington earned his M.M. in Music Composition from University of Northern Iowa and a B.A. in Music from Mercer University and holds memberships in ASCAP and SCI. He studied under Dr. Jonathan Schwabe (UNI) and Dr. Christopher Schmitz (Mercer). He has participated in masterclasses with Drs. Zae Munn, Paul Salerni, and P. Q. Phan. His musical influences include Charles Ives, Edward Elgar, and Igor Stravinsky.

Bethany Washington holds Suzuki teacher training and taught as a Graduate Assistant while completing her Masters in Violin Performance at University of Northern Iowa. She received her Bachelor of Music in Violin Performance from the Robert McDuffie Center for Strings at Mercer University, where she also earned a composition certificate, graduating summa cum laude. Bethany performs with the Des Moines Symphony and Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony.

DLWMuse is a music composition company that provides newly composed sheet music, digital audio files, and presents special events. Together, Denzel and Bethany create music that stirs the soul. They work in all genres but are primarily focused on Sacred music and Concert music. They both are born again Christians who enjoy using the talents God has given them to share the joy of music with others.

For more information and to contact the Washingtons, please visit dlwmuse.com.



North Central Iowa Session Records Reviews



One chance remains for North Central Iowa Clerks of Session to have their session records reviewed. The last review is scheduled for Thursday, October 24, at United Presbyterian Church, 220 E. Oak St., Goldfield, Iowa.



Presbytery Office Fall Retreat for Church Administrative Assistants, Treasurers and Clerks of Session

The deadline to register for a one-night retreat at Lakeshore Center at Okoboji for church administrative assistants, treasurers and clerks of session has been extended to Tuesday, October 22!

In addition to getting to meet other church personnel who are doing the same job as you, you will learn about love offerings, records retention, what the Presbytery office does and how the Presbytery office can help you. There will also be time to relax, time for fun, and even a nice surprise or two.

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.

Academy



Deepening faith and
encountering Christ in a
new way

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