

PRESBYTERY CONNECTION

A Bi-Weekly Newsletter of the Presbyteries of North Central Iowa and Prospect Hill
December 26, 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](#).



The Presbytery office will be closed on January 1, 2020.



Prayers of the Presbytery of North Central Iowa

Week of December 29 Pray for The Synod of Lakes and Prairies Staff:
Elona Street-Stewart, Synod Executive
Rev. Dr. Deb DeMeester, Leadership Development Director
Rev. Pam Prouty, Stated Clerk
Jim Koon, Financial Services and Treasurer
Amy Hartman, Financial Services Associate
Gretchen Milloy, Office Coordinator

Week of January 5 Presbyterian Mission Agency – Deployed Mission Workers

Week of January 12 First Presbyterian Church, Maxwell – Adrian McMullen, CRE

Week of January 19 Salem Church of Lincoln – Rev. Barb Muhs

Prayers of the Presbytery of Prospect Hill

Week of January 5 Memorial Presbyterian Church, Cherokee – Rev. Eric Wright

Week of January 12 First Presbyterian Church, Carroll – Rev. Rikki Sorensen

Week of January 19 First Presbyterian Church, Schaller – Rev. Michael Sydnor

Additional Prayer Concerns

Please keep the family of Scott Krausman in your prayers. Scott is the son-in-law of Diane Martin, Commissioned Ruling Elder at First Presbyterian Church in Ackley. Scott battled a brain tumor and passed away the evening of December 25. Please keep his wife, and Diane's daughter, Dea, and the whole family in your prayers.

Please keep our nation, world leaders, church communities and members in your prayers as we enter a new year.

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.

Churches in Transition

Please pray for the following churches that are in transition:

Presbytery of North Central Iowa

First Presbyterian Church, Boone
First Presbyterian Church, Cedar Falls
First Presbyterian Church, Grundy Center
First Presbyterian Church, Jesup
First Presbyterian Church, Kamrar
First Presbyterian Church, Reinbeck

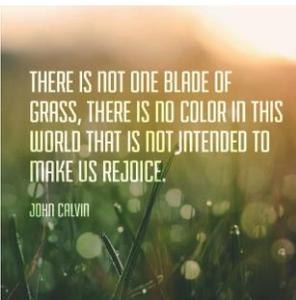
Presbytery of Prospect Hill

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

Pastoral Position - First Presbyterian Church, Cedar Falls



First Presbyterian Church, Cedar Falls, has started the process of looking for a pastor. Please click [here](#) for the Minister Information Form.



Calling worship committee members, church musicians, commissioned pastors, and anyone interested in learning more about what it means to be Presbyterian: Join The Academy for the Worship and Sacraments Class beginning the week of January 6, 2020. This online class offers the opportunity to learn why we do what we do, how theology informs practice and how pastors work “behind the scenes” with the sacraments and special worship services. Please click [here](#) for more information.

Poor Richard's Almanac

by Richard Francis, Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Prospect Hill



I had planned to write something Christmassy—after all, Christmas continues through Epiphany, January 6—but this came to my attention and I thought it was worth addressing, especially in this gift-giving season when we are receiving so many appeals for help:

A couple of my colleagues in other presbyteries report that people are using their names and what looks like their email addresses for attempted scams. One version of this scam, which goes back several years, works something like this:

“Hi, this is pastor _____. I’m, traveling and my wallet was stolen. Please send money.”

I’ve simplified the language, because the fake email often includes more plausible details and of course where and how to send the money, usually by wire transfer through Wal Mart or some easily-accessed source. Sometimes they will ask for a gift card.

A variation on this is to ask for the gift card, not for themselves, but for some worthy cause. You might even get such a request purporting to come from Ian McMullen or from me. Here’s a brief article from the Federal Trade Commission with more information on this scam: <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2019/07/worshippers-targeted-gift-card-scam>

There are several tip-offs that the email is bogus: lack of a personal greeting, multiple spelling and grammatical errors, something “off” about the email address like a series of numbers before the address. But the biggest tip-off of all should be this: *your pastor will not ask you for money this way*, and neither will any member of the Presbytery staff. If you have any doubts, call them.

We are generous people, always ready to help folks we know, and unfortunately those who are dishonest are all too ready to take advantage of that. I speak as one who has been scammed with a phone call, #learnedmylesson.

I hope that know that these scams are out there will not make us ungenerous, but instead will remind us to be “wise as serpents and harmless as doves” as Jesus said (Matthew 10:16), and give generously where we know it will do good.

Blessings,

Important Information from the Presbytery Office

2019 Remittances: To have your church's per capita, shared mission and designated mission giving applied to the 2019 year, please have all monies to the Presbytery office by January 6, 2020. The money needs to be received by January 6, 2020; having it postmarked by that date will not assure that it will get credited to 2019. Thank you for your cooperation.

2020 Per Capita:

North Central Iowa's 2020 Per Capita is as follows:

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

Prospect Hill's 2020 Per Capita is as follows:

General Assembly	\$ 8.95
Synod	5.50
Presbytery	<u>26.31</u>
	\$40.76



2020 Mileage Rate: The IRS has not yet publicized the reimbursement mileage rate for 2020.

2020 Annual Reports: The packets of annual reports for 2020 have not yet been sent out or made available. We are in the process of adding those documents to the websites as form-fillable, meaning you will be able to just click on the form on the website, complete it and email it back to the Presbytery office. An email will be sent when those forms are available. Please note that Remittance forms still need to be printed, completed and mailed with any checks that are sent to the Presbytery office. We realize that not everyone has access to a computer or is comfortable using it to fill out their forms. Please contact Jeannie in the Presbytery office if you would like the annual forms mailed to you.

Help Us Put Your Funds Where You Want Them to Go: When a check is sent to either the Presbytery office or to Lakeshore Center at Okoboji, please include a Remittance Form or a note to tell us where the funds should go. If checks come without any explanation of what the funds are for, there is the possibility they could be put into the incorrect fund. Including an explanation of what the funds are for will help us get them in the correct fund and save us the time of contacting you to find out where they go, or having to move them if we later find out for what those funds should have been designated. Thank you!

2020 Mission Trip: The 2020 Mission Trip will be February 2-7 to Chipley, Florida. ***Prospect Hill members are invited to be a part of the Mission Trip!*** We would like to receive applications by February 6, 2020, so that the mission agency in Florida can make appropriate arrangements. Additional information, along with a link to the application, is provided in this issue of the Presbytery Connection.

GODLY RISK



**2020 MEN'S RETREAT AT LAKESHORE CENTER
FEATURING REV. BEN JOHNSTON-KRASE
MARCH 13-15, 2020**

Presented in Partnership with
**the Omaha Presbyterian
Seminarian Foundation**

Is your faith "playing it safe?"

Join our group of faith-seeking men and guest speaker Rev. Ben Johnston-Krase for a weekend of relaxation, fellowship, and discussion to explore that question. We'll have great conversations, late night card games, and plenty of downtime to enjoy the weekend.

Who: The Rev. Ben Johnston-Krase is passionate about what motivates congregations to move outside of their comfort zones and seek God's heart for their ministry. He is a co-founder of Farm Church, a PC(USA) New Worshiping Community in Durham, NC. He conceived of Farm Church in a dream, and left his traditional pastoral role to start a church that meets on a farm and leverages all of the resources of that farm to address food insecurity. He blogs about life, risk, ministry, and living with stage IV cancer.



When: 7pm March 13—11am March 15

Where: Lakeshore Center at Okoboji—1864 Hwy 86, Milford, IA 51351

Cost: \$95 per person for communal bunk room, \$125 for a Double-Occupancy Lodge Room. Cost covers all lodging, snacks, meals, speaker, and programming for the weekend.

Register online at www.LakeshoreCenterAtOkoboji.org under the "Events" Tab.

Call 712-337-3313 or email harry@lakeshorecenteratokoboji.org for more information.

The link for on-line registration is:

<http://cwngui.campwise.com/customer/presokoboji/browser-check-reg.html>

The Presbytery of North Central Iowa invites the Presbytery of Prospect Hill to join the 2020 mission trip to Chipley, Florida. If you are interested, you may find the application [here](#). Please complete it and send it to Jeannie in the Presbytery Office.

**2020 MISSION TRIP
CHIPLEY, FLORIDA
FEBRUARY 3-7, 2020**

The Presbytery of North Central Iowa's 2020 Mission Trip will be to Chipley, Florida, to help rebuild after Hurricane Michael hit the area in October 2018. The Presbytery of North Central Iowa invites the Presbytery of Prospect Hill to be a part of this mission opportunity.

The cost will be \$175 per participant. Participants will also be responsible for their own lodging and travel to Florida and back.

Further details for the trip will be sent to participants. There will also be an orientation meeting and information on that will be provided to participants at a later time.

To receive a registration form, please contact Jeannie in the Presbytery Office at 319-233-1747 or northiowapresby@gmail.com.

Applications MUST be received in the Presbytery Office no later than January 6, 2020. Please note that a registration will not be considered complete without a \$75 deposit.

We will be staying at the Dogwood Acres Retreat Center, a Presbyterian camp. <http://www.dogwoodacres.org/> Housing will be in 2 bedroom cabins, four people per bedroom/bathroom. Bunk beds. Meals to be provided by the camp staff during the week. Catholic Charities will be the local agency we will be working through.





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.