

PRESBYTERY CONNECTION

A Bi-Weekly Newsletter of the Presbyteries of North Central Iowa and Prospect Hill
October 1, 2020

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](#).

Called Meeting of Presbyteries

A Called Meeting of the Presbyteries of North Central Iowa, Prospect Hill and Des Moines will be held concurrently on Saturday, October 10, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. The official call to the meeting was sent on September 21, 2020, which included the Zoom link. If you need that link again, please contact Jeannie Stolee (319-233-1747 or northiowapresby@gmail.com).

Prospect Hill Stated Presbytery Meeting October 24, 2020

Prospect Hill's October 24, 2002, Stated Presbytery Meeting will be held via Zoom. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and will conclude with Boundary Training.

Minister members and ruling elder commissioners will need to make reservations with Jeannie Stolee (northiowapresby@gmail.com) by noon on Friday, October 23 to receive the Zoom link for the meeting.

The official call to the meeting will be sent in the near future, but you may make your reservations now.

Prayers of the Presbytery of North Central Iowa

- Week of October 4 Bethany Presbyterian Church, Grundy Center – Rev. Al Polito
- Week of October 11 Lone Rock Presbyterian Church, Lone Rock – CRE Walt Reemtsma
- Week of October 18 Barclay Presbyterian Church, Waterloo – CRE Larry Fuson

Prayers of the Presbytery of Prospect Hill

- Week of October 4 Pray for the Synod of Lakes and Prairies Staff –
RE Elona Street-Stewart, Synod Executive
Rev. Dr. Deb DeMeester, Leadership Development
RE Jim Koon, Financial Services and Treasurer
Rev. Pam Prouty, Stated Clerk
Amy Hartman, Financial Services Associate
Gretchen Milloy, Office Coordinator
- Week of October 11 Plymouth Presbyterian Church, LeMars – Rev. David Koehler, Moderator
- Week of October 18 Trinity Presbyterian Church, Wall Lake – CRE Lue Baker

Additional Prayer Concerns

Please continue to pray for Rev. Dr. Rich King as he continues to have tests at Iowa Methodist Hospital. An MRI earlier this week confirmed another stroke, this time in the area of right-side vision. Pray that a bed will open very soon at Mayo so he can be treated there where many of his doctors are.

Please pray for Rev. Bob Cook, pastor at United Presbyterian Church in Vail and United Church of Westside. Bob's aortic valve replacement surgery has been postponed twice and is now projected to be done sometime in November.

Please pray for Rev. Clarence Beard, honorably retired, who is on hospice. Our prayers surround him and his family at this time of transition. Cards may be sent to: Rev. Clarence Beard, JA Wedum Residential Hospice, Room 8, 9350 Noble Parkway, Brooklyn Park, MN 55443.

Please continue to pray for Josh Ullom, son of Rev. Dr. Dave and Judy Ullom of First Presbyterian Church in Estherville. Josh continues with bi-weekly chemo. Please also pray for Josh's family and for Dave and Judy as they all deal with this and support Josh.

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, Ackley
First Presbyterian Church, Boone
First Presbyterian Church, Greene
First Presbyterian Church, Jesup
Eden Presbyterian Church, Rudd
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Waterloo

Presbytery of Prospect Hill

Elliott Creek Presbyterian Church, Bronson
Memorial Presbyterian Church, Cherokee
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Ida Grove
First Presbyterian Church, Lake Park
Community Presbyterian Church, Lawton
First Presbyterian Church, Odebolt
First Presbyterian Church, Paullina
First Presbyterian Church, Sioux City
Lakeside Presbyterian Church, Storm Lake
First Presbyterian Church, South Sioux City



Poor Richard's Almanac

by Richard Francis, Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Prospect Hill

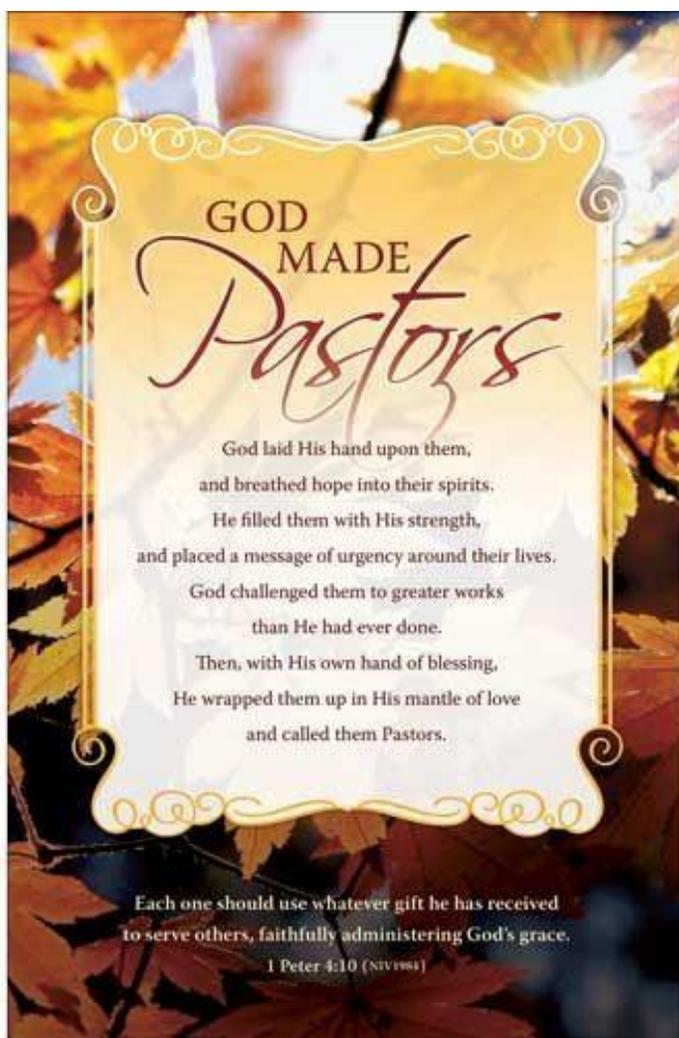
Richard Francis is on vacation this week. Look for Poor Richard's Almanac in the next edition of the Presbytery Connection.

October is Pastor Appreciation Month

October is a great time to show your pastor how much he or she is appreciated! Following are a few ideas, but be creative and come up with an idea that's personal to your pastor and your church.

- ❖ A handwritten letter or note. This also provides an opportunity for kids to participate.
- ❖ A gift card to their favorite restaurant, to a movie theater or for a massage; cook their favorite meal or order takeout on their behalf.
- ❖ Laminate bookmarks created by the children in your church, featuring their art and signatures. Allow kids to present the bookmarks to the pastor personally.
- ❖ Place an ad in your local newspaper, featuring a photo of your pastor and a declaration of your church's love and appreciation.
- ❖ Think of small things your pastor enjoys, such as M&Ms, fishing lures, coffee, etc. Ask each member to bring that item on a Sunday, i.e., one bag, any size, of M&Ms.
- ❖ Distribute stamped envelopes addressed to the pastor. An instruction note invites each church member to write and mail a personal note of encouragement and appreciation to the pastor.
- ❖ Prepare a beautifully framed photo of the church building or take a group photo of church members in front of the building. Use extra wide matting and ask every church member to sign the mat before adding glass.

Don't forget to include a sincere note with specific reasons you appreciate your pastor's spiritual leadership, dedication, time and commitment. Won't God be honored by your acts of love for his servant?



Advent Devotionals



Available today, these two new dated devotionals will make it easy to incorporate a simple Christian observance into the joyful seasons of Advent, Christmas through Epiphany. Quantity discounts available from the Augsburg Fortress website enable these to be purchased for your entire congregation, for families, or for small groups to encourage continued growth and reflection throughout what will likely be a different Advent and Christmas season than those we have observed in the past.

Our Hope and Expectation: Devotions for Advent & Christmas 2020-2021

Following in the same format of Devotions for Lent, Augsburg Fortress is excited to release a new devotion for Advent and Christmas this year. *Our Hope and Expectation* explores the Advent season and celebrates the joy of the twelve days of Christmas and the day of Epiphany. In addition to devotions, the book offers household blessings and prayers to enrich your preparations and celebrations. A free promotional pack will be available to help you best use *Our Hope and Expectation: Devotions for Advent & Christmas 2020-2021* in your congregation or small groups. [Please click here for more information and to order.](#)

Families Celebrate Advent & Christmas 2020-2021

The latest *Families Celebrate Advent & Christmas* annual devotion is a colorful deck of cards full of rituals, prayers and reflections. Endlessly flexible for busy schedules, you can create a new after-meal ritual, use them as decorations, or carry them on the go. A free promotional pack will be available to help you best use *Families Celebrate Advent & Christmas* in your congregation or small groups. [Click here for more information and to order.](#)

Finding Hope in a Divided Country: Election Edition

This election has the potential to be one of the most divisive ever. People are taking sides. As a leader in your ministry or congregation, are you prepared to respond faithfully? *Finding Hope in a Divided Country* is designed to help you have productive conversations in the midst of polarization without sacrificing the Gospel's clear call to mercy and justice.

Luther Seminary's Faith+Lead Team is offering an online course to give you the skills you need most to ride the political wave that's coming your way. [Please click here for more information and to register.](#)

The banner features a dark background with a pattern of red and white diamonds on the left side. The text is centered and reads: 'Finding Hope in a Divided Country: Election Edition', 'October 7, 14, 21, 28, 2020', '1 p.m. CDT', 'Via Webcast | LIVE ONLINE', and a red button with the text 'REGISTER NOW'.

Opportunities for Mission



- ❖ **Lakeshore Center Needs Your Time!** Have you been too cooped up since this spring? Are you and a small group of friends itching to get out and do some volunteer work? Would you like a free night's stay at beautiful Lakeshore Center at Okoboji for just a few hours of volunteer time? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, please see the [Fall Clean-Up at Lakeshore Center flyer](#).
- ❖ The Presbytery of Prospect Hill has created a task force to raise funds for scholarship assistance for refugees in South Sudan. This work began as a ministry of Stephen Chambang, a Deacon at Lakeside Presbyterian Church in Storm Lake. The goal is to provide \$450 per year in tuition to as many students as possible who will be studying health care at a college in the area. These students will then be able to work in the refugee camps in South Sudan, one of the poorest and most disrupted nations in the world. Donations in any amount may be sent by a check made payable to the Presbytery of Prospect Hill and mailed to the Presbytery Office, 1864 Hwy. 86, Milford, IA 51351. Please designate "So. Sudan Nurses Scholarship" in the memo portion of the check.
- ❖ Stephen Chambang (you can read about his work with the South Sudan Nurses Scholarship above) has a cousin in South Sudan who needs a hip replacement. The hospital in Storm Lake has graciously agreed to cover 80% of the cost of the surgery. An additional \$10,000 needs to be raised to cover travel expenses for Stephen's cousin and for the remainder of the cost of the surgery. **Any monetary gifts given through the Presbytery will be matched by the Presbytery of Prospect Hill.** Donations in any amount may be sent by a check made payable to the Presbytery of Prospect Hill and mailed to the Presbytery Office, 1864 Hwy. 86, Milford, IA 51351. Please designate "Chambang Medical" in the memo portion of the check.
- ❖ Pastors Bob and Tamara EnTin, along with Dr. Jon Ahrendson and Mrs. Becky Ahrendson, were the host parents of Lydia Odihambo from Kenya, who attended high school through the EF Exchange Program during the 2018-2019 school year. Lydia made many friends among the students as well as adults in the community. She attended both the Lutheran Church and the Presbyterian Church in Clarion. She volunteered often at the movie theater and helped with other projects in the community.

Lydia is home in Kenya now, and has been working to transform a neighborhood trash heap into a community garden.

As a result of the pandemic, Lydia's father has been unemployed since March. Unfortunately, the family can no longer afford the rent to live in their home in the city. The family wants to move to the country on land they inherited, but the recent rainy season flattened the mud hut they planned to live in.

Sukup Manufacturing in Sheffield, Iowa makes SafeTHomes that can be shipped to Kenya. You can click on this link to see what the homes look like: <http://www.safethome.com/>

The EnTins want to raise funds to get one of these Iowa made homes shipped to Kenya for Lydia and her family to live in. They are hoping to raise \$8,000, the cost of the building and shipping. To that end, they have started a GoFundMe page, which you may find at this link: https://www.gofundme.com/f/lydias-home?utm_source=customer&utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet&utm_medium=copy_link_all

2021 Board of Pensions



There are several Board of Pensions (BOP) benefits enrollment changes coming in 2021. A webinar was held on September 1, 2021, with Rev. Dr. Ken Green of the Board of Pensions. You may view that webinar [here](#).

Here are some more resources describing the 2021 Board of Pensions Benefits Plans:

- BOP Benefits [website](#) for 2021
- BOP [brief overview](#) of 2021 Benefits Plan
- BOP complete overview of 2021 Benefits Plan: [Your Church and the 2021 Benefits Plan Webinar](#)

Jesus Christ and the ‘Dividing Wall’: Race and God’s Mission



Please consider registering for this webinar series, which will offer an opportunity to explore issues of racial justice with world-class speakers, and to connect and learn with people from all over the country. The dates are October 7, 14, 21 and 28, starting at 6:30 p.m. (Central Time). Besides these four lectures, there will also be five pre-recorded workshops that can be accessed and used in the future by participating churches and individuals. You may click [here](#) for more information or go to this website to get registered: <https://www.pts.edu/wmi-conference>

Doctor of Ministry at UDTs – 2021 Cohort

The University of Dubuque Theological Seminary (UDTS) is offering an upcoming (2021) Doctor of Ministry cohort that will focus on Crisis and the Church: Ecclesiastical and Pastoral Responses. Led by Dr. Beth McCaw, Associate Professor of Ministry (UDTS) and Presbytery Leader, Glacier Presbytery (PCUSA), and Dr. Bradley Longfield, Professor of Church History (UDTS), this cohort will explore ways the church has addressed crises in the past to develop the theological perspectives and pastoral skills necessary to equip congregations and their members in the present to witness to the hope of the gospel in times of crisis.

The cohort begins online on Tuesday, January 21, 2021, while the first of three annual residencies will be held May 12-19, 2021. The deadline for applications is December 31, 2020. Please click [here](#) to apply for the DMin Program.

For more information, please see this [flyer](#).

If you have questions, please contact The Rev. Timothy Mathew Slemmons, Ph.D. (tslemmons@dbq.edu or 563-589-3578) or Kayla Schween (kschween@dbq.edu or 563-589-3115).

Events at Riverview Conference Center

The Riverview Conference Center in Cedar Falls has two events remaining this fall:

- [Soul'd Out](#). Saturday, October 17, 2020. This is a men's group of dynamic Christian singers. They encourage people of all ages with their smooth harmonies.
- [Susie Larson](#). Friday, November 6; Saturday, November 7. Susie is an author and Christian radio speaker. This is a women's event hosted by Riverview Conference Center at Bethany Bible Chapel in Cedar Falls, with the assistance of TJ's Christian Book Store in Cedar Falls. Women will be encouraged and inspired in the lessons Susie will be bringing from God's Word.

Presbyterian Foundation – Church Financial Leadership Grant Program



Grants are available to assist pastors to attend continuing education opportunities which will help them in leading their congregations toward financial and missional vitality. For more information please

click [here](#) or contact Rev. David Loleng, Director, Church Financial Literacy and Leadership, 800-858-6127 ext. 5901.

Transition-to-College Assistance



The Board of Pensions offers a grant program intended to help eligible families of freshmen entering college with transitional expenses, such as a computer purchase or dorm furnishings.

Applications for the 2020-2021 academic year will be accepted

from August 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. Please click [here](#) for more information.

Helpful Links

Academy



Deepening faith and
encountering Christ in a
new way

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



Rev. Shawn Harmon was ordained to service as a mission worker with The Antioch Partners, a mission sending agency that works in partnership with Presbyterian churches in the US. You can read more about them here: <https://www.theantiochpartners.org/>. You may contact Shawn directly at: harmonhusky@gmail.com. To support Shawn financially: www.theantiochpartners.org/giving. For online giving select "partner support for partners not listed for security reasons" and type "Harmon, Shawn."



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.



Your Iowa Life – if you or a loved one are facing a problem with alcohol, drugs, gambling, mental health or suicide thoughts, you're not alone. That is why the Iowa Department of Public Health has created YourLifeIowa.org so Iowans can chat live, text or call and get reliable treatment options and find nearby help. <https://yourlifeiowa.org/>



Farm Crisis Ministry Network - supporting farmers and those who love and care for them, sharing resources for farm families, congregations, and rural communities. <https://www.facebook.com/farmcrisisministry/>



Spectrum Spirituality Project – support resources for families with one or more children who have a sensory, emotional, and/or behavioral disorder; also equip congregations to welcome and serve these families. https://www.facebook.com/pg/spectrumspirit/about/?ref=page_internal



Iowa Faith Leadership Network – to provide a space for faith leaders to develop interfaith and ecumenical relationships, collegiality, and cooperation; to share resources, ask questions, and learn together; to improve our collective ability to minister to the faith communities we serve as well as to better the lives of people in the communities around us. <https://www.facebook.com/iowafaithleaders/>