

**Pastor: Rev. Trey Hegar**  
**Organist/Bell Choir Director: Marj Thimmesch**  
**Choir Director: Marlene DePriest**  
**Congregational Ministries Director: Rev. Sarah Hegar**  
**AV Technician & Web Coordinator: Leo Clark**  
**Office Assistant: Mariah Giberson**  
**Custodians: Robert Luth**

The mission of the First Presbyterian Church, Mt. Pleasant is to encourage and nurture diverse expressions of the love of Christ in our congregation and community, and to embrace Christ centered ministries around the world.

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**Financial Secretary: Ginnie Swarm**  
**Treasurer: Marvin Bricker**  
**Bookkeeper: Deborah Sinclair**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**902 SOUTH WALNUT**  
**MOUNT PLEASANT IA 52641**

**Non-Profit Org.**  
**U.S. Postage PAID**  
**Permit #90**  
**Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641**

**Highlights**

**9:45 AM Sundays**

**In-person and YouTube Live**

**Fellowship Time to follow**

**Recorded services online - see webpage**

**Address Service Requested**

**Easter Sunday**

**Sunday, April 9 at 9:45 AM**

**PW Spring Rummage Sale**

**Set-up on Thursday, April 13: 8 AM – 4 PM**

**Friday, April 14: 8 AM – 12 PM**

**Sale on Friday, April 14: 12 – 6 PM**

**Saturday, April 15: 8 AM - 1 PM**

**Matthew 25 Celebration & Mission Fair**

**Sunday, April 30 at 9:45 AM**



# ALERT

First Presbyterian Church 319-986-5851

Mount Pleasant, IA 52641 <http://www.firstpresbyonline.org>

Volume 54 No. 4 [firstpresbymtp@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresbymtp@gmail.com) April 2023



## Session Highlights

Session met on Monday, March 13 at 6 PM in Peter's Room. It was moved, seconded, and passed to begin the process to educate on forming a response team. Items to educate and consider would include defibrillator acquisition and training and obtaining up-to-date first aid kits.

In addition to updates from committees, discussion at Session also included the upcoming Matthew 25 Celebration on April 30. The church will be hosting the Presbyterian News Agency, who will be filming and working on a documentary. Following the special Worship service with a guest speaker, there will be a Mission Fair. Our Commissions and those agencies that our church has donated to have been invited to come and set up booths to share the work they do in our community. More information about the Matthew 25 Celebration and Mission Fair can be read below.

Respectfully submitted, **Ed Kropa**, Clerk

## "Spring Forward"

Winter is hard on me, as it is for many. The long nights and grey days take a toll on my mental state. Perhaps, I need more vitamin D. Or perhaps I need to focus on the big D — Divinity.

Even in the dark winter God's way is praised. Psalm 147 says, "Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God; for the Lord is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting. God gives snow like wool; God scatters frost like ashes. God hurls down hail like crumbs— who can stand before the cold? Then, God sends out a word, and melts them; God makes the wind blow, and the waters flow. Great is our Lord, and abundant in provision."

The Psalm shows that winter only lasts a season. It is part of the rhythm of God's Created order. God's ways are beyond my understanding. I can only accept it as it is and take hope in the new life of Spring.

Christina Rossetti wrote the poem, *Spring*, with the refrain, "There is no time like Spring, when life's alive in everything." I wrote some additional stanzas reflecting on Winter and Spring:

There is no time like Spring,  
When life's alive in everything.  
Dormant limbs and frozen ground are no longer bound by  
winter's white gown.  
A splinter of light calls into the darkest seam.  
Now shoots of green tell of resurrected life.  
There is no time like Spring,  
When life's alive in everything.

May the light of the Easter season shine for you. God's ordered wisdom is abounding in the hope of resurrection and new life for those who have eyes to see and ears to hear.

*Blessings,*  
**Rev. Trey Hegar**

## Matthew 25 Celebration Sunday! April 30

### Guest Preacher and Mission Fair following Worship

We are a Matthew 25 church! This means that we have joined a national initiative to build congregational vitality, dismantle structural racism, and eradicate systemic poverty and to share our stories with others across the denomination. There will be a special guest speaker during Worship followed with a Mission Fair showcasing many of the good things our church is doing in and beyond our community. The Presbyterian News Service will also be here that weekend to document our story. Plan to attend Worship that day to celebrate what God is doing in our midst and to keep up the good work moving into the future.

## "LIKE and SHARE"

### Our Church Events on Facebook and Social Media

As we continue in this digital age of post-COVID, our church is trying to maintain a positive presence on social media and encourage folks to join us for worship on YouTube. Help us spread the word about the good news happening at First Presbyterian by liking and sharing our social media posts!

**Sarah Hegar**, Director of Congregational Ministries

## Treasurer's Report for February 2023

FEBURARY 2023	CURRENT MONTH	CURRENT MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR TO DATE	2023 YEAR
	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
General Pledges	\$28,449.00	\$20,407.00	\$47,925.00	\$40,824.00	\$244,886.00
From Endowment Fund	\$0.00	\$8,063.00	\$0.00	\$16,125.00	\$96,752.17
Other Revenue	\$1,626.00	\$133.00	\$2,924.00	\$267.00	\$18,600.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	\$30,075.00	\$28,603.00	\$50,849.00	\$57,216.00	\$360,238.17
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>					
Pastor	\$11,143.00	\$11,206.00	\$21,725.00	\$22,261.00	\$133,567.44
Personnel	\$9,888.00	\$11,294.00	\$20,797.00	\$22,588.00	\$136,507.13
Worship and Music	\$129.00	\$267.00	\$411.00	\$533.00	\$4,550.00
Adult Christian Education	\$0.00	\$108.00	(\$59.00)	\$216.00	\$2,300.00
Youth Christian Education	\$511.00	\$783.00	\$935.00	\$1,067.00	\$10,500.00
Stewardship	\$20.00	\$110.00	\$74.00	\$220.00	\$4,800.00
Building and Grounds	\$2,326.00	\$1,889.00	\$4,435.00	\$3,779.00	\$31,175.00
Operations	\$563.00	\$671.00	\$1,584.00	\$1,342.00	\$8,050.00
Technology	\$86.00	\$358.00	\$86.00	\$717.00	\$4,300.00
Mission	\$4,408.00	\$2,437.00	\$4,538.00	\$3,877.00	\$24,488.60
Special Giving	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$29,074.00	\$29,123.00	\$54,526.00	\$56,600.00	\$360,238.17
<b><u>CASH INCREASE (DECR)</u></b>	\$1,001.00	(\$520.00)	(\$3,677.00)	\$616.00	\$0.00
Respectfully submitted, Marvin Bricker, Treasurer					

Special thanks to **Ginnie Swarm, Deb Sinclair, Marvin Bricker** and our **financial clerks** for all of their work.

**Jeff Willham, Stewardship Chair**

### Tithes and Offerings

We ask that you continue to give to the church, so we can continue to help and support our community programs and offer programs and support to you. You may drop off your checks in the office, mail your checks to 902 S. Walnut St. or give online by copying this link

<https://bit.ly/2x46F6I>.

**Rev. Trey Hegar**

## April Worship Helpers

Sunday Morning Building Assistant: **Kent Thomson**

Financial Clerk: **Tom Ellsworth**

Greeters: **Curt & Ginnie Swarm**

Sunday, April 9: Communion Preparer: **Pat Richenberger**

Liturgists: April 2 **Tammy Shull**

April 9 **Kathy Schimmelpfennig**      April 16 **Paul Winer**

April 23 **Karen Kauffman**                      April 30 **Sarah Hegar**

## Holy Week Schedule

### **Palm Sunday Worship, Sunday April 2 at 9:45 AM**

Join us for Worship at 9:45 AM on Sunday, April 2 as we celebrate Palm Sunday. **Soul Notes** and **Sound Appeal** will be playing.

### **Maundy Thursday Worship at St. Michael's Episcopal Thursday, April 6 at 5:30 PM**

This year, we will be holding a joint Maundy Thursday service at St Michael's Episcopal Church on Thursday, April 6 at 5:30 PM. Join us for a Passover Service, including a meal. All are welcome to attend.

### **Easter Sunday with Communion, Sunday, April 9 at 9:45 AM**

Join us for Worship on Sunday, April 9 at 9:45 AM as we celebrate Easter Sunday. Fellowship time with cookies and refreshments to follow. All are welcome!

## Easter Lilies

If you would like to share an Easter lily or spring bulb flower in memory or in honor of a loved one, please fill out the form below and notify the church office by Thursday, April 6. A list of in memory/in honor will be included in the Easter Service bulletins. Plants can be brought into the church anytime between now and Friday, April 7.

We or I plan to share an Easter Lily/Spring bulb plant:

In memory/honor of \_\_\_\_\_  
given by: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Monday Morning Meditation & Wednesday Mid-Week Prayer !**

Every Monday & Wednesday morning from 10 AM to Noon, the Sanctuary lights and heat/AC will be on. All are welcome to use this time for prayer, meditation, candle lighting, and card writing. There will also be prayer cards available for you to leave a note to the pastor for specific prayer requests.

### **You are Invited:**

#### **Help Celebrate Hudson Turning 11!**

**Saturday, April 8 @ 1-3pm, Fellowship Hall**

Join us for live music by **Lewis Knudsen** in the Fellowship Hall. No gifts please! Instead, consider making a donation to sponsor an adaptive swing for a future special needs public park in Mt. Pleasant. Cash/check at the party or Venmo @Sarah-Hegar.

### **Book Group**

**Thursday, April 13 at 7 PM**

Book Group will meet on Thursday, April 13 at 7 PM in the Gathering Space. Book discussion will be over *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. May's book will be *Demon Copperhead: A Novel* by Barbara Kingsolver. Please join us for fellowship and lively conversation. See you there!

### **Recipe for Healing – A Grief Workshop**

**Thursdays, April 13 & 20, 5:30-6:30 PM**

Olson-Powell Memorial Chapel will be hosting a free, two-week bereavement workshop series called *Recipe for Healing*. The workshop will take place on Thursdays, April 13 and April 20, from 5:30 – 6:30 PM at the Olson-Powell Memorial Chapel. Joan Rodgers will be presenting.

Using the book, *Tear Soup*, the workshop will provide a better understanding of grief, provide suggestions for navigating your grief journey, and supply tools to help others who may be grieving. Whether you are grieving or wish to learn how to assist those who may be, all are welcome to attend. Questions can be directed to [morgan@powellfuneralhomes.com](mailto:morgan@powellfuneralhomes.com) or call 319-385-1998.

## **Presbyterian Women Rummage and Bake Sale**

**Friday, April 14, 2023: 12 PM – 6 PM**

**Saturday, April 15, 2023: 8 AM – 1 PM**

**\$2 Bag Sale – Saturday, April 15: 11 AM – 1 PM**

**The sale will be in the Fellowship Hall.**

Set up will start on Thursday, April 13 at 8 AM – 4 PM and also will be on Friday April 14 from 8 AM until time of sale at 12 PM. There will be a volunteer sign-up sheet for the setup, sale, and bake sale on the table in the Gathering Space.

All baked goods need to be packaged with the list of ingredients/recipe and brought into the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, April 13 from 8 AM – 4 PM or Friday, April 14 no later than 10 AM.

Donations will be accepted starting Sunday, April 9. Place donations on the stage in the Fellowship Hall. Please no fall clothes, clothes with missing buttons or broken zippers, large furniture pieces, or TV's.

### **Card Shower for Marty Goodwin**

Dick and Marty Goodwin were members here many years ago. They raised five girls, he was superintendent of schools, and they were very active in the church. For Marty's 90th birthday on Easter Sunday, her oldest daughter Teresa would like to have a card shower. People who remember them and want to wish her well can use the following address:

**Marty (Goodwin) Murphy**  
**c/o Teresa Espy**  
**850 Forest Hill Dr.**  
**Coralville, IA 52241**

### **May ALERT Deadline**

If you have something you'd like to add to the May ALERT, this note is for you. All newsletter articles, event announcements, notices, thank you's, congratulations, and prayer concerns are due to the office by **Wednesday, April 19**. Thank you.

## **One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Supports Our Help to Neighbors**

One Great Hour of Sharing is the annual offering collected by Presbyterian churches during Lent. The money collected is used to fund three ongoing programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People.

While these programs fund activities around the world, sometimes they help as close to home as right here, at First Presbyterian Church in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa! **Recently, Self-Development of People encouraged shifting the Iowa WINS food pantry to immigrant leadership.** This shift aligned with SDOP's mission to encourage self-development of marginalized groups.

Five years ago, after an ICE raid created emergency needs among immigrant families in Mt. Pleasant, concerned neighbors flocked to our church bringing food to help those families. From that initial outreach, a food pantry for immigrant families was created and met a real need for families fearful of giving their addresses, as required at community food pantries.

In January of 2022, SDOP reached out to IowaWINS with a grant of almost \$3,000 to fund the food pantry during the winter months and encourage its transition to immigrant leadership. SDOP provided useful webinars with other groups who could share their stories of similar transitions; these webinars were attended by both IowaWINS people and immigrants working with the food pantry.

While we remain committed to helping neighbors near and far, this story reminds us that sometimes we can be the neighbors in need, grateful for help extended to us. Please consider prayerfully your gift to this year's OGHS, to be collected on April 2, Palm Sunday.



## **IowaWINS Five Years After "The Raid"**

It's been nearly five years since Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raided Mount Pleasant Concrete. With the incredible support from this congregation and others from across the state and nation, we were able to help the families affected by the raid through some very difficult times. Now these families are "back on their feet" and fully contributing members of the Mount Pleasant community.

Given this changed reality, Iowa WINS has chosen to close its food pantry as of early May. This decision was made after consulting with those that have been using this service. This allows us to direct our energy and resources to different projects that help our new neighbors feel welcome in our community.

Iowa WINS is also happy to join in the work of First Presbyterian becoming a Matthew 25 Congregation. We will share in the Mission Fair on April 30, with tables for IowaWINS, Nutrimos, and UNIFY.

### **Remember Meals by Nutrimos**

Meals by Nutrimos offers a variety of freezer meals to purchase in order to help support the IowaWINS food pantry. You can order these meals three different ways:

#### **1) By Phone - (319) 986-5851**

If you want to place an order by phone, please call the church office between 9 AM – 2 PM, Monday through Friday. Cash, check, or gift certificate only accepted for in-person/phone orders.

#### **2) In-Person – Monday through Friday, 9 AM – 2 PM**

You can place and pick up orders in the office during hours above. Orders are also accepted on the first and third Sunday after service (10:45 – 11:15 AM and Wednesdays in the Fellowship Hall (option of hot meal is currently not available). These times do not change unless an announcement is made.

#### **3) Online**

Meals by Nutrimos has a website in which you can place orders. Just visit [iowawins.net/meals-by-nutrimos](http://iowawins.net/meals-by-nutrimos) and scroll down to the menu items to select your meals. Note that orders online must be paid with online payment (credit/debit card, Paypal).

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Are you able to help prepare Nutrimos meals that support the food pantry? We need 1-2 people to work Wednesdays for two or more hours in the early afternoon. Volunteers are requested to work at least once a month. If you are interested in becoming a Meals by Nutrimos volunteer, please contact the church office.

## **Thank You's**

A gigantic thank you for all the cards, prayers and love that has been sent our way over the past few weeks following Kevin's stroke. You cannot imagine how much opening the mail each day meant to us! Kevin is having therapy at Briarwood in Iowa City. Hopefully healing will continue and we'll be home soon!

**Paula & Kevin Hoenig**

Thank you to the **Press On Youth Group** for helping stuff eggs for the Lawler's Egg Hunt. The group stuffed around 1000 eggs, which really helps toward the total of 7500 eggs used in the hunt. A big thank you to **Press On** and **Sarah Hegar** for their help. Pray for good weather on Saturday, April 1 at 10 AM!

**Matt & Jean Lawler**

## **PRAYER CONCERNS:**

- Kevin Hoenig, Sandy Memler
- Pastor Trey's sister, Dianne Hegar Helms
- Liz Wasson's sister, Caryl
- Kelly Allen's niece, Marie Crews, who was diagnosed with breast cancer
- Susan Farnsworth's brother, Jeff Stanley
- Jennifer Dorothy, Andrew Rauenbuehler, Mia Gray, Everly Kirkbride
- Leo Clark's mother, Nancy Aynes
- Lois Roth's brother (Mark Veldhizen), sister-in-law (Kim Velduizen), brother-in-law (Willie Weelden)
- Our shut-ins and those in care centers
- Turkey & Syria, as they deal with the aftermath of the recent earthquakes
- Our nation/world, as they and we deal with COVID-19

## **April Birthdays and Anniversaries**

- 3 Kenna Lamm**
- 4 Aaiden Ashton**
- 6 Mindy Creager**
- 7 Callie DePriest, Kathie McWhirter**
  
- 9 Kathryn Chabal, Hudson Hegar  
Tim & Karen Conrad's Anniversary**
- 10 Darin Stater, Jim Willham  
Tim & Sally Olson's Anniversary**
- 11 Sandy Moore**
  
- 16 Tia Scheitlin**
- 17 Joy Johnson**
- 19 Bonnie Kremer**
- 20 Lou Baccam, April Pforts, Dorothy Wehage,  
Natalie McCormick  
Dick & Jan Benedict's Anniversary**
- 21 Calista Liechty, Kevin Van Dorin  
Carl & Peggy Frank's Anniversary**
- 22 Mary Liechty, Sally Olson, Luke Ryon**
  
- 23 Claudia Streeter**
- 24 Jean Lawler, Zach May**
- 25 Reece Barton, Patty Madden**
- 28 Alec Mathews, Jared Walker  
Adam & Liz McLaughlin's Anniversary**
- 30 Erin Stensvaag**