

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

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.

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 Zoom

Recorded services online - see webpage

Address Service Requested

All-Church Christmas Craft Day

December 19, 3-5 PM

Longest Night Service

December 21, 6:30 PM

Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 6:30 PM



ALERT

First Presbyterian Church 319-986-5851

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

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“Close to Home”

Advent Theme by Sanctified Art

When something hits close to home, it affects us deeply. During the Advent and Christmas season, we journey through scriptures and rituals that are tender, vulnerable, and heavy with emotion. We carry the memories and truths of this season close to our hearts. *Close to Home* acknowledges the “already but not yet” tension of our faith: Emmanuel is with us, and yet, God’s promised day—our everlasting home—is not fully realized. It names our deep longing for God to come close to us.

The Advent and Christmas scriptures are rich with home metaphors and imagery. John the Baptist prophesies about the One who is to come, but reminds us that we are still wandering far from God’s promised day; his message hits close to home, especially for those experiencing inequity and oppression. After receiving the angel’s news, Mary retreats to Elizabeth’s home, seeking refuge and safety. Christ is born in the midst of a journey home, in a crowded dwelling amidst livestock and shepherds alike. The Magi travel far from home to pay homage to Christ, and, having been warned in a dream, they avoid Herod by traveling home another way. In these scriptures, home is both physical and metaphorical, something we seek and something we are called to build. Ultimately, God is our home and resting place. God draws near and makes a home on earth—sacred ground is all around us.

Close to Home also names the pain many of us will carry into this season. The holidays can poke at our grief. Many will be missing loved ones lost to sickness and tragedy. The traumas of the pandemic will still be with us. Many will have lost homes—due to natural disasters, economic hardship, and unjust policies. Many do not feel safe in their own homes due to poor living conditions or harmful family dynamics. Many feel alone and isolated at home. Churches are discerning transitions with their physical buildings; many of our spiritual homes are changing.

We hope you will take advantage of the *Close to Home* Advent Devotional and *Longest Night* Service on December 21 to honor the memories of loved ones.

This Advent, may we be comforted by the One who dwells intimately with us. May we expand safety and sanctuary for everyone wandering far from home. May we come home, wherever home is found—to live fully with joy, hope, and courage.

Rev. Trey Hegar

Session Highlights

By *Ed Kropp*, Clerk

Due to Pastor Trey having COVID and not feeling well, discussion items for the November meeting were tabled and moved to the December meeting. This included the 2022 budget review.

Another thing that was noted is the Buildings & Grounds and Personnel Committees are working together to fulfill the custodian position.

The Perfect Gift

One of the most powerful things that Christians claim is that God saw the great needs of the world and offered a perfect gift in response, a gift that brought God and humanity closer together. God's perfect gift, Jesus Christ. "Emmanuel, God is with us!" our Advent dream proclaims, as God joins in human life, and draws us together as a result. "God is with us" shows God values togetherness and relationship with us, leading us to value togetherness and relationship with one another. When we are all together - and even when we are apart.

We offer our gifts during this Advent Season to the **Christmas Joy Offering**, because God shows us the power and importance of being together, of "being with." We might not be able to meet face to face with those who need the support that our gifts provide, but we are very much still together. We see the potential of students of color who will become our leaders and we seek to come alongside them, to encourage them, to be together with them. And we see church workers who have critical financial needs and we come alongside them, to assist them - we are with them. And we see the witness of the whole Church, either gathered in buildings or connected home to home, member to member, sharing what we have, together. We thank God for being "with us" through the gift of Jesus and for joining us together as the Church and, through our gifts, with those who have need.

This special offering may be given any time during Advent. An envelope is included in this ALERT. Please note Christmas Joy on your check memo.

Thanks! Mission Committee

December Worship Helpers

Sunday Morning Building Assistant: Mark Kauffman

Financial Clerk: Mark Kauffman

Greeters: Curt & Ginnie Swarm

Sunday, Dec. 5: Communion Preparer: Pat Richenberger

Liturgists:

Dec. 5 **Bonnie Kremer**

Dec. 12 Lessons & Carols – **Karen Kauffman, Tim Olson,
Mike & Marilyn Vincent**

Dec. 19 **Adam Creager** Dec. 26 **Lynn Ellsworth**

Candle Lighters:

Dec. 5 **Kremer Family (Travis, Sara, Jaxton, Brynn)**

Dec. 12 **Sally and Tim Olson**

Dec. 19 **Willham Family (Jeff, Robyn, Grant, Lauren)**

Dec. 24 **Van De Berg Family (Travis, Chris, Grace)**

December Schedule for Bells

Here is the rehearsal schedule:

5:20 PM **Soul Duo**, 5:40 PM **Soul Notes**, 6:15 PM **Sound Appeal** on Wednesday nights December 1, 8, & 15.

There will be no bell rehearsals on December 22 and 29.

Here is the performance schedule:

Sunday, Dec. 5: **Soul Notes** play for church

Sunday, Dec. 12: **Sound Appeal** plays for church

Wed., Dec. 15: **Sound of Six** plays at
Arbor Court at 1:30 PM

Mon., Dec. 20: **Sound of Six** plays at
Sunnybrook at 3 PM

Wed., Dec. 22: **Sound of Six** plays at
Van Vorheis House at 3 PM

Treasurer's Report for October 2021

OCTOBER 2021	CURRENT MONTH	CURRENT MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR TO DATE	2021 YEAR
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET
General Pledges	\$25,189.00	\$18,179.00	\$234,240.00	\$181,788.00	\$218,145.00
Other Revenue	\$546.00	\$7,800.00	\$38,424.00	\$95,006.00	\$109,707.35
Total Revenue	\$25,735.00	\$25,979.00	\$272,664.00	\$276,794.00	\$327,852.35
EXPENSES					
Pastor	\$9,119.00	\$9,842.00	\$93,402.00	\$98,414.00	\$118,096.06
personnel	\$7,411.00	\$10,673.00	\$103,629.00	\$106,730.00	\$128,756.29
Worship and Music	\$317.00	\$325.00	\$2,781.00	\$3,250.00	\$3,900.00
Adult Christian Education	(\$169.00)	\$67.00	\$471.00	\$1,667.00	\$1,800.00
Youth Christian Education	\$626.00	\$208.00	\$5,099.00	\$6,584.00	\$12,000.00
Stewardship	\$0.00	\$608.00	\$1,155.00	\$2,783.00	\$3,000.00
Building and Grounds	\$3,588.00	\$2,187.00	\$23,691.00	\$21,875.00	\$26,250.00
Operations	\$833.00	\$642.00	\$6,564.00	\$6,416.00	\$7,700.00
Technology	\$0.00	\$379.00	\$1,791.00	\$3,792.00	\$4,550.00
Mission	\$1,000.00	\$1,503.00	\$16,848.00	\$18,794.00	\$21,800.00
Special Giving	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$22,725.00	\$26,434.00	\$255,431.00	\$270,305.00	\$327,852.35
CASH INCREASE (DECR)	\$3,010.00	(\$455.00)	\$17,233.00	\$6,489.00	\$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.

Brian Sinclair, 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/2x46F6l>.

Rev. Trey Hegar

Online Worship Services

Online worship has been invaluable for keeping our community safe. We will continue to offer online services for those who would not feel safe returning to in-person worship, those who worship with us from geographic distance, and those who are unable to attend on Sunday mornings. We would like to strongly encourage in-person attendance for Sunday morning services for the benefit of being together in worship, seeing friends, and supporting one another in the conversations that take place before and after services.

To access the service via Facebook Live, please "like" or "follow" the First Presbyterian Church Mt. Pleasant Facebook page. You can also choose to receive notifications when we are going live. Once the service starts streaming, you can join or you can log in to view the service later.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2372664501?pwd=SXVhZFZlZWTEvNjJKVXdTa1dzdVFXZz09>

Meeting ID: 237 266 4501 Passcode: 1111111 (7 ones)

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,2372664501#,,,,,0#,,1111111# US

(Germantown)

+13126266799,,2372664501#,,,,,0#,,1111111# US (Chicago)

-Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown) +1 312 626 6799 US

(Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York) +1 253 215 8782 US

(Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston) +1 669 900 6833 US (San

Jose)

Meeting ID: 237 266 4501 Passcode: 1111111

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2372664501>

us for our live 9:45 AM online service

at <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/2372664501> .

You can always visit our worship archives from our website

<http://www.firstpresbyonline.org> Click pre-recorded services.

Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women will have their Christmas Luncheon on Thursday, December 2 at 11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

Christmas donations will be hygiene items for Domestic Violence Shelter and craft items for Camp Wyoming. You can find the donation baskets in the Gathering Space.

Donations will be accepted until the end of the year. Bring your appetite and join us in our Christmas celebration.

Book Group

Kathy Wiley reminded me that Book Group began in November of 2000. Our first book selection was The Diving Bell and the Butterfly by Jean Dominique Bauby. Many in our group are original members and others are new recruits. We've read a variety of books from every genre and have enjoyed the fellowship that comes with discussing books (and other things)! The first meeting of Book Group in 2022 will be Thursday, January 13 at 7 PM in the Gathering Space. Please join us when we discuss The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles!

Second Grade Bibles

Sunday, December 5

It is always a joy to present our Second Graders with Bibles on behalf of the Christian Education Committee.

This year we are presenting to **Brynn Kremer, Kinsley Minton, and Hunter Lentz.**

Join us for this special Sunday.

Lessons and Carols Service

Sunday, December 12

This special Sunday will feature the Westminster Anthem and Sound Appeal bell choir as we take a journey to the manger through Scripture and Song.

All-Church Christmas Craft Day

December 19 3-5pm

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for an afternoon of crafts, cookies, and fellowship. All the materials for crafts will be provided. They will be simple enough to finish a couple within an hour. Cookies, Cocoa, and Coffee will also be provided. This is sure to be fun for all ages.

Longest Night Service

Tuesday, December 21 6:30 PM

For those who have experienced loss, the holidays can be a particularly painful time, stirring up grief in acute ways. As a result, churches around the world have adopted the practice of having a "Blue Christmas" or a "Longest Night" service during the Advent season. We will observe this practice on December 21 at 6:30 PM, which is the longest night of the year.

A Longest Night service is designed to provide space for prayer, reflection, and remembrance amidst the holiday hustle and bustle. In this pandemic season of life, we imagine that grief and loss will be magnified and nearly universal. We hope this service of worship can be a gift providing a space of calm, quiet, and healing.

Christmas Eve Service

Saturday, December 24 6:30 PM

There will be an in-person and online Christmas Eve service at 6:30 PM on Saturday, December 24. All are welcome to attend.

Advent Devotionals

There are Advent Devotionals available for those who want one. Please see the Gathering Space table or the office.



IowaWINS presents *Vang*

Three years ago, **Joanne McCabe** brought our attention to **Mary Swander's** play, *Vang*. On Thursday, November 18, the play was performed at the Heatilator Performing Arts Center after a long interruption of plans due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

About 70 people attended this play, which depicted the stories of four immigrant families—one from Asia, one from Africa, one from Mexico, and one from northern Europe. The stories differed based on the circumstances from which the families came, but all involved agriculture in Iowa and shared a commitment to integrate into their new homes.

Committee members during the three-year period included **Joanne McCabe, Linda Albright, Mike Heaton, Tammy Shull, Ann Klingensmith, and Bob Mueller**. In addition, **Robbie Heaton and Cole Smith** helped with the product that evening.

A free will offering brought in over \$1,000 to be added to the over \$800 in sponsorships. These resources will aid IowaWINS in its service to our new neighbors in Henry County.

Remember Meals by Nutrimos

Meals by Nutrimos actually provides two services. First, it provides delicious and nutritious meals for people who are unable or have limited time to cook. Second, the money raised from selling those meals supports IowaWINS and the food pantry, providing meals for those that need assistance in feeding their families. Meals by Nutrimos also donates a tithe of 10% to the church. For more information or to order meals, please visit <https://www.iowawins.net/meals-by-nutrimos.html#/> or our new Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/mealsbynutrimos> (remember to like it for updates).

Giving Back Day Thanks!

Together we helped a number of individuals and organizations around our community and shared God's love through our actions. Your job may have been a small one, but all of the projects combined make a big difference! A special thank you to **Beatriz and the Nutrimos crew** for preparing the delicious lunch.

Advent Thank You's

Thank you to all the families, readers, and people who are helping with Advent month. Special thank you to the candle lighters: **Beauchamp Family (Brandon, Tara, Ashlynn, Ethan), Kremer Family (Travis, Sara, Jaxton, Brynn), Sally and Tim Olson, Willham Family (Jeff, Robyn, Grant, Lauren)** and the **Van De Berg Family (Travis, Chris, Grace)**; the Lessons & Carols readers: **Karen Kauffman, Tim Olson, and Mike & Marilyn Vincent**; and the liturgists: **Bonnie Kremer, Adam Creager, and Lynn Ellsworth**.

We would like to thank the following friends for their help with the funeral luncheon for **Jaqui Tolson**:

Setup: **Chuck Albright, Sherla Arp, Kathie McWhirter, and Kathy Schimmelpfenning**

Salads: **Sherla Arp, Susan Farnsworth, Char Hinrichs, Liz Wasson, Barb Welander, Martha Wiley, and Mrs. Tony Campbell** (Second Baptist Ministries).

Desserts: **Jack Becker, Steve Readinger and Mike Vincent**
Helpers: **Susan Farnsworth, Pat Richenberger, Becky Siberts, and Kent and Jean Thompson**.

In appreciation, Charlene Hinrichs and Claudia Streeter co-chairs.

Prayer Concerns

- Dorothy Moore
 - Tia Baccam's brother-in-law (Tony Tangkpanya)
 - Lois Roth's brother (Mark Veldhizen)
 - All our shut-ins & those in care centers
 - Our nation/world, as they and we deal with COVID-19
 - All other servicemen & servicewomen
 - Pastor Melisa Bracht-Wagner, Pastor Dave & Family
- <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/melisabracht-wagner>

"LIKE and SHARE"

Our Church Events on Facebook and Social Media

As we continue in this digital age of COVID our church is trying to maintain a positive presence on social media and encourage folks to join us for worship on Zoom, YouTube, and Facebook Live. 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



Wishing you and your family a blessed Christmas!
Pastor Trey, Sarah, Mariah, Marlene, & Marj

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Adam McLaughlin
- 2 Diane May, Jean Turner
- 3 Jean Carpenter, Bev Hamm, Joel Ryon
- 4 Tom Lowe

- 6 Holly Strait
Ike & Kitty Meek's Anniversary
- 11 Piper Wiley

- 15 Jeremy Lee
- 16 Terry Wasson
- 18 Marvin Bricker, Angie Mathews,
Kent Thomson

- 19 Meredith Lee
- 21 Aggie Brooks,
Happy Birthday Sarah Hegar!
Kent & Jean Thomson's Anniversary
- 24 Mike Riepe
- 25 Happy Birthday, Jesus!

- 26 Colin DePriest
- 27 Dave & Pat Heusmann's Anniversary
- 28 Estrella Macia
Trey & Sarah Hegar's Anniversary
- 31 Frieda Dill Palmer