

**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**  
**Administrative Assistant: Esther Wonderlich**  
**Custodians: Rusty & Karen King**

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**

**Highlights**

**9:45 AM Sunday Worship**  
**In-person Worship RSVP**  
**[www.firstpresbyonline.org](http://www.firstpresbyonline.org)**  
**Facebook & Recorded services**

**4:00 PM & 10:30 PM**  
**Christmas Eve Services**

**Meetings - Emails and Zoom until the COVID pandemic is contained and we can ensure the safety of our congregation.**

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

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# ALERT

First Presbyterian Church 319-986-5851

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

Volume 51 No. 12 [firstpresbymtp@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresbymtp@gmail.com) December 2020

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## Those Who Dream....

This Advent Season we will return to the Church's liturgical calendar for worship. The lectionary is a prescribed set of readings that churches around the globe have used for hundreds of years to follow the life cycle of the birth, life, death and resurrection of Christ.

A liturgical group of artists and writers formed a community called *Sanctified Art*. They create stories, songs, art, and writings based on the church's liturgical calendar. This year for Advent they came with the theme, "Those Who Dream..." One author from the group said, "the opening lines from Psalm 126 jumped off the page in our Bible study while searching for a theme, 'When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.'"

What does it look like to live as those who dream? The prophets, the psalmists, John the Baptist, Mary, Elizabeth, Joseph, Simeon, Anna, the shepherds and the Magi—they were all dreamers. They received, discovered, and responded to God's dreams for the world. In Advent, we step into the mystery and awe of God's dreams and pray they shape our reality.

This theme is for the dreamers in all of us—those who dream of a deeper connection with God and those who dream of a better world. It's for those who dream of comfort and for those who have given up on their dreams. It's for those whose dreams have been crushed and for those who show us that dreams take time.

Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman, Director of Branding, Founding Creative Partner of *Sanctified Art* shared the following: When considering the theme of "Those Who Dream...." the image that came to mind most presently was the image of one eye open, and another eye shut. There is

something about this space between sleep and consciousness that I think is important to pay attention to, and something about this move toward awakening that feels deeply relevant to our current context. This imagery can symbolize many things: the bewildering narratives and fragments of our dreams, our individual dreams taking on the form of God's dream, and the collective movement of people it takes to bring God's dream to life. How do we awaken to join in God's dream for the world revealed in Jesus? How can join in making Christ's dream a reality?

We will explore those questions with the traditional stories of advent with **Hope, Love, Joy and Peace!** Join us this Advent as we dream alongside prophets and angels, Mary and the Magi. Join us as we seek and sow God's dreams for our world.

*Blessings, Rev. Trey Hegar*

## At-Home Advent Wreath Packets

This has been a year for the books! We have been adjusting and modifying plans it seems daily. Unfortunately, the Advent and Christmas season will be no different. Many of you will be worshipping from home this winter via Zoom or Facebook Live. Trey, Leo, and Esther have done an exceptional job making sure that as you worship from home you can continue to feel part of this church family.

**As Advent begins on Sunday, November 29, we would love for you to participate at home. At-Home Advent Packets have been assembled for each household. These packets include an Advent Devotional and 5 candles for you to create an Advent Wreath at home, so that as the candles are lit at church, you can also light your candles at home. If you did not receive one and you would like one, please let us know.**

We sincerely hope this can be just one way to feel connected during this season of **hope, peace, joy, and love.**

With love in Christ,

*Sarah Hegar*, Director of Congregational Ministries

## Session Highlights - November 9, 2020

by *Ed Kropa*, Clerk

The motion was passed to approve the following positions:

Corporation President - **Carl Frank**

Corporation Secretary - **Ed Kropa**

Clerk - **Ed Kropa** Treasurer – **Marvin Bricker**

Bookkeeper – **Deb Sinclair** (until replacement)

Treasurer of Bequests – **Paula Hoenig**

Memorial Committee - **Karen Kauffman**

Auditors - **Stephanie Hileman, Susan Farnsworth**

It was noted that Communion was not included in the pre-recorded service utilized on November 1.

An invitation to join in a “County wide drive-thru Nativity Scavenger Hunt” was received. (Trey and Sarah Hegar checked out more details. It was later cancelled.)

The motion was passed for **Ed Kropa** to be the Commissioner to the Zoom Presbytery Meeting on November 19.

The November 8 Zoom service had in-person attendance with enhanced safety measures for those without computer connections, plus others wanting an in-person experience, both groups using a reservation process (limit 50). Even with a local COVID-19 spike, it was decided to continue this arrangement and continue assessment.

### Tithes and Offerings

We would like you continue to give to the church during this time, so we can continue to help and support our community programs and offer programs and support to you.

**Good News!** With our benevolent giving we are able to give \$5,000 for the new Mt. Pleasant Community Day Care, \$500 for Heifer and \$500 for the Guatemala School. We will not be able to make our goal of 10% giving. However, we are close with our donations earlier in the year to the Fellowship Cup, Tolson Community Action, and the Battered Women’s Shelter, Presbyterian Missions, Derecho relief and more. The tithes and offerings of our members empower our church to share God’s love and shine God’s light as we are shaped as God’s people. You may mail your checks to 902 S. Walnut St. or give online by copying this link <https://bit.ly/2x46F6l>.

*Rev. Trey Hegar*

## Treasurer’s Report for October 2020

October 2020	CUR-RENT	CUR-RENT	YEAR	YEAR	2020
	MONTH	MONTH	TO DATE	TO DATE	BUDGET
REVENUES	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET
General Pledges	\$16,954.00	\$20,208.00	\$215,574.00	\$202,083.00	\$242,500.00
Other Revenue	\$5,277.00	\$7,581.00	\$39,871.00	\$93,708.00	\$108,870.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	\$22,231.00	\$27,789.00	\$255,445.00	\$295,791.00	\$351,370.00
EXPENSES					
Pastor	\$8,950.00	\$9,855.00	\$91,226.00	\$96,446.00	\$115,555.00
Personnel	\$9,883.00	\$10,476.00	\$103,367.00	\$104,763.00	\$126,396.00
Worship and Music	\$26.00	\$317.00	\$2,144.00	\$3,167.00	\$3,800.00
Adult Christian Education	\$150.00	\$2,567.00	\$268.00	\$3,167.00	\$3,300.00
Youth Christian Education	\$267.00	\$375.00	\$5,295.00	\$18,250.00	\$19,000.00
Stewardship	\$458.00	\$631.00	\$2,970.00	\$3,013.00	\$3,276.00
Building and Grounds	\$1,692.00	\$2,146.00	\$19,730.00	\$27,708.00	\$33,750.00
Operations	\$481.00	\$767.00	\$5,873.00	\$7,667.00	\$9,200.00
Technology	\$0.00	\$429.00	\$3,020.00	\$4,291.00	\$5,150.00
Mission	\$1,555.00	\$2,245.00	\$12,083.00	\$27,452.00	\$31,943.00
Special Giving	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$23,462.00	\$29,808.00	\$245,976.00	\$295,924.00	\$351,370.00
<b>CASH Increase (Decr)</b>	<b>(\$1,231.00)</b>	<b>(\$2,019.00)</b>	\$9,469.00	<b>(\$133.00)</b>	\$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

### A Reminder from our Stewardship Team

If you haven’t returned your pledge card yet, we would be grateful if you would do so as soon as possible. Extra pledge cards are available at the church. We are finalizing our 2021 budget and would like to include your pledge in our calculations. Please let us know if you have any questions. Our pledges support our mission and ministries. Thanks to all who have already pledged!

## 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.

During these past months, many of us weren't able to be together in person, but we have always been together in spirit, and in faith. We have missed seeing faces we love – up close and personal, but the physical distance has also revealed, for us, the importance of those things which bring us together, even when we are physically far 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*

## Bible in 90 Days is Finished!

We did it!

### We read the BIBLE IN NINETY DAYS!

This was an amazing, incredible journey that so many of you embarked on! Every week I was so excited to hear your thoughts and questions and dive deeper into the word with you. I hope this was a season of growth in your knowledge and faith. I am so proud of each and every one of you! Big round of applause!

*Sarah Hegar*, Director of Congregational Ministries

### **December Worship:**

**Sunday Morning Building Assistant: Mark Kauffman**

**Financial Clerk: Mark Kauffman**

**Liturgists:**

Dec. 6 - **Bonnie Kremer**

Dec. 13 - **Jaqui Tolson**

Dec. 20 - **Janet Cermak**

Thursday, December 24

**4:00 PM Christmas Eve Service - Marilyn Vincent**

**10:30 PM Christmas Eve Service - Lois Roth**

**Be sure to RSVP for worship: "Sign-Up Genius"  
or call or email the office**

Dec. 27 **Lois Roth**

### **Poinsettias**

If you would like to share a poinsettia or Christmas plant in memory or in honor of a loved one, please call the office (986-5851) or e-mail ([firstpresbymtp@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresbymtp@gmail.com)) by December 14 and give us the information below. You may bring in your plant or have it delivered during that week. We will include the list in the December 20 bulletin.

We or I plan to share a poinsettia/Christmas plant:

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

given by: \_\_\_\_\_

## Welcome to Worship In-Person

- **Masks will be required.** A mask will be available, if you do not have one. We have plenty in the entryway.
- **The hymns will be pre-recorded** for us to pray through, but not to sing along out loud.
- **The liturgy will not be a call and response.** Instead the worship leaders will guide us through the call to worship, confession and prayers. You can, of course, pray along in your heart and mind.
- The **ushers will welcome you** to our church and **guide you to the next usher** who will **show you where seating is available**, so that we can maintain safe social distancing.
- We ask that you **please carry your coats and personal belongings with you into the sanctuary.**
- **Hand sanitizer and face masks** will be available, if needed.
- The **bulletins** will already be placed on the pews.
- After worship, the **ushers will dismiss people by rows.**
- You will be **encouraged to exit the building**, instead of having our normal social time. Yes, it's sad, but there will not be cookies and coffee before or after church.
- **To keep the number of attendees at a safe level, we are asking for people to please RSVP for worship. Please see "Sign-Up Genius" emails sent out earlier each week or call the office (319-986-5851) or email ([www.firstpresbymtp@gmail.com](mailto:www.firstpresbymtp@gmail.com) . The safe number may change weekly.)** It will be first come, first serve. I don't like it either. However, we want to have in-person worship, especially for some of our members who don't have stable internet or the required technology. There are also several who don't feel like they get fed spiritually worshipping online. We want to slowly open the space back up as safely as possible for worship.

## Online Worship Services

**If you are comfortable with worshipping online because of the safety,** please continue to do so. Also, **if you find online worship meaningful and if you are willing to continue with that spiritual practice,** please continue, so we can keep the number of those attending in person safe and low. **We will zoom and Facebook live the worship.**

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=SXVhZFZlZWtEbnNFJKVXdTa1dzdVFXZz09>

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](http://www.firstpresbyonline.org) from our website

<http://www.firstpresbyonline.org> Click prerecorded services.

**If you need help with ZOOM, please call Trey or me.** We will happily do a practice session with you to make sure your audio and video are working correctly, so that you can join in for worship and other events

*Sarah Hegar*

## Presbyterian Women

Thursday, December 3 at 1:30 PM fellowship hall  
Program: **Sarah Hegar** Lesson # 3 "Absence of Water"

Devotions: **Char Hinrichs**

**All Women of our Church are Welcome!**

## Book Group

The Book Group will not meet in December.

The next Zoom meeting will be on January 14 at 7:00 PM.

We will discuss A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles.

Keep safe and happy reading!

## Revolution Update

We continue to have so much fun with the K-5th grade children. However, on November 11 we made the decision to cancel Revolution at least through the end of November due to the increase COVID-19 numbers in Henry County and the increase of children and teachers absent from school. We want to maintain the safest environment possible. We also feel like we should lead by example.

I especially want to thank **Bonnie Kremer** for leading drumming. And also **Kathy Schimmelpfennig** and **Patty Madden** for serving as Rovers during November. Prayers for all of our Revolution family to stay safe!

*Sarah Hegar*, Director of Congregational Ministries

## Dear Press On Youth and Parents,

We are keeping safety our priority here as we watch the COVID numbers increase in Henry County and around the state. We have great concern for those we love and are trying to do the best we can to keep everyone as safe as possible. With that said, as of right now, we are canceling December Press On activities. We are trying to think of some ways that we can still be in fellowship during this time and we will communicate with you throughout the month using Facebook Messenger. We hope you are well and that you enjoyed time during Thanksgiving with your families.

Much peace and love to you friends,

*Trey and Sarah*



## IowaWINs

IowaWINs is helping immigrant families in Henry, Des Moines, Jefferson, Washington and Wapello Counties through a grant from Proteus that was written by AFSC/Proteus/AI Exito. The grant includes \$25,000 for emergency assistance to at least 16 families affected by the COVID-19 crisis and another \$5,000 for administration and outreach. So far, we have distributed over \$8,500 to immigrant families in the meat packing and agricultural sectors. Additional support to immigrants not employed in those sectors has been provided directly from Proteus from another fund.

Funds are to be spent by 12/31/2020. The focus is to provide assistance to immigrant families that are experiencing financial difficulty due to COVID-19 and are not eligible for government assistance that is available to other essential workers. Many thanks to **Martha Wiley** who will be receiving the documentation and writing checks to the families. Also many thanks to **David Suarez** who is contacting the applicants to explain the program and collect the necessary documentation.

**Sister Bea Snyder** from Davenport is once again organizing the purchase of Christmas gifts for the families using our Food Pantry. She works with other Catholics and others in the Davenport community, who have been so generous in helping IowaWINs serve the immigrant families in our area since the ICE Raid in May 2018.

Nutrinos is assisting with registrations for a November 16<sup>th</sup> ServSafe training in Spanish with several immigrants enrolled. Also, Nutrinos will pay for the registration for one of our church members to attend ServSafe training in January. This training is focused on safe food handling practices and will allow us to use the church kitchen for food preparation purposes including serving the public.

**Jane Martin**, Chair of Nutrimos, and **Barbara Rainbow** spoke with Henry County Master Gardeners on the impact of their \$250 grant for garden kits and plots in the Community Gardens this summer. They were amazed with how much we were able to accomplish, especially during the pandemic. Good news is they asked if we planned to apply in 2021 - and we said - yes - most definitely!

**Tammy Shull**, Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Commission Chair  
<http://www.firstpresbyonline.org/refugeeimmigrant-assistance-commission.html>

**November 6 Marked the 10<sup>th</sup> Year  
of Ordination for Rev. Sarah Hegar.**

One of her favorite hymns is "Great is Thy Faithfulness."  
She especially loves the lyric that says, God gives....  
"Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow."

Sarah embodies what it means to rely on the Spirit's strength and hope in her ministry. We are celebrating God's gifts given to her and shared with us.

*Rev. Trey Hegar*

*Congratulations, Sarah!*

*Thanks for sharing God's many gifts with all of us!*

**Church Outreach Continues**

Our Elders and Deacons, as representatives of our church, continue to reach out to you during this pandemic just to check in. It may seem like a short phone call to ask how you are feeling about things that week. However, it's our way of saying we care about you, because God cares about you. It's an important way we will stay connected as the church. **If anyone needs someone to run errands for them, please be sure to call the church.**

I would like to thank **Chuck Albright** for using his mulching mower; our churchyard neighbor, **Rich Seberg** for mowing; and **Matt Lawler, Peggy Frank, Paula Hoenig, Trey Hegar, Chuck and Rich** for bagging several bags of leaves. A special thanks to **Coach Termaine Wright** and the **IWU Ladies basketball team**, who bagged 50 – 40-gallon bags of leaves making a total of 100 bags that will be used for compost at Mogo Farms. *Kevin Hoenig*, Co-chair  
Special thanks to Kevin for organizing, for all of his work in blowing, raking and bagging and for the donuts!

**Dorothy Moore** wishes to thank everyone who remembered her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. She received LOTS OF CARDS!!

**Prayer Concerns**

- **Steve Murphy, Sandy Memler, Karen King Ann Klingensmith, April Pforts**
- **Doris Goering**
- **Maggie Epperson's sister (Susan Moenssen-True)**
- **Lois Roth's brother (Mark Veldhizen)**
- **Our shut-ins and those in care centers**
- **Our nation/world, as they deal with COVID-19**
- **Those affected by the Derecho impact**
- **Jeremy Lee (SPC LEE JEREMY 1-14 C 1-133 APO AE 09366)**

Please continue to pray for **Pastor Melisa Bracht-Wagner**. Keep updated on **Caringbridge**:

<https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/melisabracht-wagner>

Please continue to keep **Pastor Dave and their family** in your prayers, too.

Our Christian Sympathies to **Tammy, Dan & Andrea Shull and their Family** on the death of **Tammy's mother, Rachel Proffitt**, on November 13 in Mattoon, IL.

Our Christian Sympathies to the **Allen & Jennifer Dorothy Family** on the death of **Allen's mother, Crystal Wester-camp**, on November 3, 2020 at Arbor Court in Mt. Pleasant.

Our Christian Sympathies to the **Families of Doug & Joyce Conrad, Stephanie & Nathan Chalupa and Dalton Conrad** on the death of **Doug's father** and **Stephanie and Dalton's grandfather, Lyle E. Conrad**, on November 1, 2020 at Arbor Court in Mt. Pleasant.

Our Christian Sympathies to the **Family of Janet Wolin** on her death on October 21. **Janet** is survived by three children: **Eric Lampe** of Norwalk; **Deena Lampe** of Bloomington, MN; **Brian (Rhonda) Lampe** of Bowling Green, KY.



## December Birthdays & Anniversaries!

- 1 Adam McLaughlin
- 2 Diane May - Jacob Moffett - Jean Turner
- 3 Jean Carpenter - Bev Hamm – Joel Ryon
- 4 Tom Lowe
- 6 Holly Strait - Ike & Kitty Meek's Anniversary
- 13 Piper Wiley
- 14 Ken Barker
- 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
- 29 Happy Anniversary, Trey & Sarah Hegar!
- 31 Frieda Dill Palmer



*Wishing you and your family  
a very Blessed Christmas! Stay Safe!  
Trey, Sarah, Marj, Marlene, Leo, Esther, Rusty, Karen*







