

**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: 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 Zoom**

**Recorded services online - see webpage**

*Address Service Requested*

**PW Meeting**

**January 6 - 1:30 PM**

**Book Group**

**January 13 - 7 PM**



# ALERT

First Presbyterian Church 319-986-5851

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

Volume 53 No. 1 [firstpresbymtp@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresbymtp@gmail.com) January 2022



## *“Don’t Make a New Year’s Resolution”*

Don’t make a New Year’s resolution. Why? Because they don’t work. Don’t set yourself up for failure. Unfulfilled resolutions create guilt and shame. The goals of most resolutions aren’t bad. In fact, they are enjoyable. I would love to lose ten pounds and feel better about my body and health. I definitely want to master a hobby, and finally clean out the storage area. Those are things I want to do. However, the resolution category moves them from a place of joyful desire to looming dread. If I make resolutions about things I enjoy, I may begin to cringe when I think of them. So don’t make New Year’s Resolutions. Instead, start doing them. A life coach would call this a lifestyle change. You don’t plan to do something. You just start doing it.

So, what does this have to do with the church? Well, I am glad you asked. There are two things that we can relate to New Year’s resolutions and the church: enjoyment and growth.

Our study guide for life long church learning, or “catechism” to use the fancy church name, asks, “what is one of the main purposes of humanity?” One of the answers is to enjoy God and God’s creation. It isn’t guilt, shame, or fear. It is enjoyment! We make resolutions because we desire an outcome that will bring joy like a nice garden, organized basement, or healthy habits. Don’t burden that joy with guilt by shaming yourself with a resolution. Instead, do it. Start today. God wants you to know joy!

The second relationship to ending the malpractice of resolutions is growth. We are called to grow as disciples of Christ. We can grow spiritually. We can also grow physically, emotionally, financially, and intellectually. Catch this. We all want the church to grow, right? Well, if you aren’t growing as an individual who is a part of the church body; then, the church can’t grow as a whole body.

Don’t make a New Year’s resolution. They will ruin the things you desire. Instead, start doing the things that will bring you joy and growth. Then, tell us what you are doing! We want to hear from you.

*Rev. Trey Hegar*

## **Session Highlights**

*By Ed Kropp, Clerk*

Session was held on Monday, December 13. During that time, **Pastor Trey** led the group through an introductory part of a Post-Covid Analysis Resource generating descriptive words for our church at its best. In addition, the following actions were passed:

- After reviewing the 2022 Budget and adding \$6,200 in expenses, it was approved with a balance figure of \$327,788.04.
- To approve the Baptism of Charlotte Remick

Other discussion included the Mission Committee’s report on disbursements for 2021. They have been completed as follows: Local giving included cash gifts to county homeless shelters, the pastor’s discretionary fund, and the Iowa WINS food pantry. In addition, warm outerwear has been purchased for ten IWU international students who did not have such clothing. Finally, expressions of appreciation will be directed to HCHC and HC-Public Health workers, which will be arranged for January delivery. Global mission disbursements include cash gifts to Heifer International and to a birthing center in Pakistan that is supported by PCUSA.

## New Custodian

Please join us in welcoming our new custodian, **Robert Luth**. Robert has been the custodian for the First United Methodist Church of Mt. Pleasant for the past couple of years, and we're happy to have him joining our team, too.

## January Worship Helpers

Sunday Morning Building Assistant: **Bryce Creager**

Financial Clerk: **Jeff Willham**

Greeters: **Curt & Ginnie Swarm**

Sunday, Jan. 2 Communion Preparer: **Pat Richenberger**

Liturgists: Jan. 2 **Jean Thompson**

Jan. 9 **Tammy Shull**      Jan. 16 **Chuck Albright**

Jan. 23 **Carl Frank**      Jan. 30 **Jean Carpenter**

## January Schedule for Bells

There will be Bell rehearsals on Wednesday evenings on January 5, 12, 19, and 26. The time slots are as followed:

5:20 PM **Soul Duo**

5:40 PM **Soul Notes**

6:15 PM **Sound Appeal**

Sound Appeal will play for the church on Sunday, January 9.

Dear Friends and Families of First Presbyterian Church,

With the increase of positive COVID cases in the county, Session resumed social distancing with masks. If you're able, we ask that both those vaccinated and unvaccinated to please be considerate of others and wear a mask. Pews are marked and social distancing is encouraged. We have singing with worship; however, we ask that you please sing along quietly underneath your mask.

In addition, fellowship time with cookies will be held in the Gathering Space with social distancing. Thank you for your understanding.

*Blessings, Rev. Trey Hegar*

## Treasurer's Report for November 2021

NOVEMBER 2021	CURRENT MONTH <u>ACTUAL</u>	CURRENT MONTH <u>BUDGET</u>	YEAR TO DATE <u>ACTUAL</u>	YEAR TO DATE <u>BUDGET</u>	2021 YEAR <u>BUDGET</u>
General Pledges	\$17,642.00	\$18,179.00	\$251,881.00	\$199,966.00	\$218,145.00
Other Revenue	\$24,347.00	\$7,800.00	\$62,772.00	\$102,807.00	\$109,707.35
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$41,989.00</b>	<b>\$25,979.00</b>	<b>\$314,653.00</b>	<b>\$302,773.00</b>	<b>\$327,852.35</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Pastor	\$9,974.00	\$9,842.00	\$103,376.00	\$108,255.00	\$118,096.06
personnel	\$7,764.00	\$10,673.00	\$111,393.00	\$117,403.00	\$128,756.29
Worship and Music	\$88.00	\$325.00	\$2,869.00	\$3,575.00	\$3,900.00
Adult Christian Education	\$0.00	\$67.00	\$471.00	\$1,733.00	\$1,800.00
Youth Christian Education	\$0.00	\$208.00	\$5,099.00	\$6,792.00	\$12,000.00
Stewardship	\$2,123.00	\$108.00	\$3,277.00	\$2,892.00	\$3,000.00
Building and Grounds	\$1,369.00	\$2,187.00	\$25,060.00	\$24,062.00	\$26,250.00
Operations	\$374.00	\$642.00	\$6,938.00	\$7,058.00	\$7,700.00
Technology	\$0.00	\$379.00	\$1,791.00	\$4,171.00	\$4,550.00
Mission	\$7,376.00	\$1,503.00	\$24,225.00	\$20,297.00	\$21,800.00
Special Giving	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$29,068.00</b>	<b>\$25,934.00</b>	<b>\$284,499.00</b>	<b>\$296,238.00</b>	<b>\$327,852.35</b>
<b>CASH INCREASE (DECR)</b>	<b>\$12,921.00</b>	<b>\$45.00</b>	<b>\$30,154.00</b>	<b>\$6,535.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
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=SXVhZFZlZWTEvNFjKdVXdTU1dzdVFXZz09>

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

PW will meet on Thursday, January 6 at 1:30 PM in the Gathering Space. **Pat Richenberger** will cover the lesson, and **Susan Farnsworth** will host and cover the devotions.

All women are welcome to attend.

## Book Group

Book Group opens the 2022 season on January 13 at 7 PM in the Gathering Space.

January's book is *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles. February's selection is *A Chronicle of Change, Resilience, and Hope from a Heartland Newspaper* by Art Cullen.

Join us for a night of great conversation and (perhaps) illumination!

Book Groups meets on the second Thursday of the month at 7 PM in the Gathering Space.

Here are the books we'll be reading and discussing this year:

**Jan 13:** *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles

**Feb 10:** *Storm Lake: A Chronicle of Change, Resilience, and Hope from a Heartland Newspaper* by Art Cullen

**March 10:** *The Holdout* by Graham Moore

**April 14:** *Twilight in Hazard: An Appalachian Reckoning* by Alan Maimon

**May 12:** *Oh, William!* by Elizabeth Strout

### "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

## **Implicit Bias Experience**

***Each Experience is Two Sessions  
(lasting roughly an hour each)***

**Either Sunday, January 30 & February 6 at 5 PM  
OR**

**Sunday, February 20 & 27 at 5 PM**

We have a bias when, rather than being neutral, we have a preference for (or aversion to) a thing, person, or group of people. Thus, we use the term “implicit bias” to describe **when we have attitudes towards people or associate stereotypes with them without our conscious knowledge.**

You are invited to join in this experience to learn more about yourself and how you perceive those around you. We will use online materials provided by the Kirwan Institute of The Ohio State University to complete this experience. We do this so that we can be more aware of our own biases and live into God's calling to love all people.

## **2022 Yearbook Directory**

If you have updated information (new address, email, phone) for the 2022 Yearbook Directory, please notify the office by January 31, 2022. Thank you.



## **IowaWINS Shares Christmas Joy**

For the third year, **Sister Bea Snyder** and the Davenport community have generously donated gifts for the children and families served by the IowaWINS food pantry. The first year, the gifts were distributed during the Posada event hosted by the immigrant families. Due to COVID, the 2020 distribution was by drive-up with Santa delivering the gifts. This year, we were able to have families come to the Fellowship Hall in small numbers at a time and select gifts for their children, in addition to the HyVee gift certificate provided for each family. It was a great time for all.

## **Remember Meals by Nutrinos**

The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance provided a Sustaining Ministry grant that allowed us to start up Meals by Nutrinos with purchase of overhead items. Net proceeds from the meals (\$'s donated minus ingredient costs) are used to support the food pantry with a 10% tithe to the church. So far in 2021, we have provided almost \$1,500 to the IowaWINS food pantry and almost \$150 as a tithe to the church.

Meals by Nutrinos is starting to branch out into serving the larger Mt. Pleasant community, and we need your help in spreading the word. You may know of seniors, single folks, students, and busy families that would love to purchase prepared meals while doing good at the same time.

Here are some ways you can help out and support us:

- **Online Store**

<https://www.iowawins.net/meals-by-nutrinos.html#/>

Meals by Nutrinos now has online ordering, which is great for those unable during office hours. You can visit the link above to access the store.

- **Facebook Page**

<https://www.facebook.com/mealsbynutrinos/>

Meals by Nutrinos has also joined the Facebook to reach more of the community. We will be posting our menus, meals schedules, special deals, and sneak-peaks of meals to come. Go to the link above or search Meals by Nutrinos on Facebook and give us a like!

- **Volunteering**

Another way you can help and support Meals by Nutrinos is by volunteering. Whether it be assisting meal prep and clean-up, cooking delicious meals, or helping out at the selling tables, we're always looking for volunteering hands. Hours can be flexible, too, so if you are interested in volunteering, please contact us at [iowawinsmp@gmail.com](mailto:iowawinsmp@gmail.com).

- **Order Forms & Surveys**

We want to cater better towards our customers, so Meals by Nutrimos will be offering order forms and surveys on our website and Facebook. The order forms are a great way to request meals that typically sell out fast. By placing your orders ahead of time, we can fulfill your order and you won't have to worry about it selling out before then. With pre-ordering, we can also make meals for those with dietary restrictions, such as vegetarian or gluten-free. Soon, we will be posting interest surveys, which will help us get a better idea of what kinds of meals we should be offering in the future, such as family-size meals and different cuisines.

Many thanks to all of our Meals by Nutrimos customers. We appreciate your support of our ministry that serves both individuals and families who benefit from prepared meal and the immigrant families who are food insecure and benefit from the IowaWINS food pantry. We look forward to meeting the needs of our customers while they are helping to feed those in need in our community.

None of this would be possible without our volunteer chefs, meal prep and clean-up assistants, cashiers, and planning committee. Special thanks to **Kitty Meek, Bob Mueller, Peggy Frank, A.J. Albert, Barbara Rainbow, Charlene Hendricks, Jack Becker, Jean Lawler, Karilyn Bale, Kathy Schimmelpennig, Kathie McWhirter, Kelly Carr, Kevin Hoenig, Mariah Giberson, Martha Wiley, Patty Madden, Susan Farnsworth, Tammy Shull, Pastor Trey, and Sarah Hegar.**

**ALERT Deadline**

The deadline for the February ALERT is  
Monday, January 24, 2022.

If you have any articles, events, thank you's, or congratulations you would like included in the ALERT, please let Mariah know via email or phone before that day.

Thank you.

**PRAYER CONCERNS:**

- **Ellsworth family**
- **Sandy Memler, Dorothy Moore**
- **Lois Roth's brother (Mark Veldhizen)**
- **Our shut-ins and those in care centers**
- **Our nation/world, as they and we deal with COVID-19**
- **Pastor Melisa Bracht-Wagner, Pastor Dave, and their family**  
(<https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/melisabracht-wagner>)

Thank you so much for all the kind cards, thoughtful gifts, and loving words we have received for **Anya and Aria** over the past few months. Your support is always appreciated, and made our hearts feel so warm.

*Love, the Clark Family*

I want to thank everyone for all the prayers and acts of kindness shown to me and my family, especially during this last month. I am very grateful to **Pastor Trey** for his visits to **Jerry**, both at the hospital and at our home. **Jerry** has fought the good fight and has won the race. He is safe in the arms of Jesus, and for that, we are very grateful. We appreciate everyone's thoughtfulness. God bless you all.

*Sincerely, Lea Bradley & Family*

Thank you to all of those who contributed cans of green beans and corn to the Community Thanksgiving Meal. It was a successful meal, and we greatly appreciate your community support.

*Thanks, Parish Life*

Thank you to the **Worship Committee** for all of your extra hard work this month to provide wonderful worship opportunities for our congregation.

## **January Birthdays and Anniversaries**

**3 Elaina Liechty**

**12 Jordan Ashton**

**13 Hailie Baccam, Sandy Breazeale,  
Ann Corrigan, Karen Kauffman**

**14 Stephanie Conrad, Annie Mills**

**15 Michaela Mathews, Marj Thimmesch**

**17 Kathy Schimmelpfennig**

**18 Paula Mohrfeld**

**19 Duane Wiley**

**22 Kathy Wiley**

**26 Mary Beth Young**

**27 Liz Wasson**

**29 Jennifer Stater**

**31 Bob Breazeale**