

**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

**Outdoor Worship**

Sunday, July 3 at East Lake

**Cedar River Haven Field Trip**

Thursday, July 7 at 9:15 AM



# ALERT



First Presbyterian Church 319-986-5851

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

Volume 53 No. 7 [firstpresbymtp@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresbymtp@gmail.com) July 2022

## “Matthew 25: A Bold Vision and Invitation”

The 222nd and 223rd General Assemblies (2016 and 2018) challenged the PC(USA) to embrace Jesus’ call in Matthew 25:31–46 to take our living faith into our communities and the world. As a motion from our Mission Committee, at the June meeting our Session approved joining this movement and became a Matthew 25 church in the PC(USA)! I encourage you to go to your Bible and read these verses.

What does this mean? As a Matthew 25 church, we are called to live out true discipleship by acting boldly, compassionately and fearlessly serving people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned or poor. We are challenged to embrace one, two, or all three of these focuses:

**1) Building Congregational Vitality** by challenging people and congregations to deepen their faith and get actively and joyfully engaged with their community and the world

**2) Dismantling Structural Racism** by advocating and acting to break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color and/or

**3) Eradicating Systemic Poverty** by working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor.

Our church is already doing so much of this work! Being a Matthew 25 church will connect us with resources and other churches to see what they are doing and how we can join in the reconciling work of Christ. On the back of our church sign it reads, “Leave to Serve.” This is exactly what it means to be a Matthew 25 church. We are Sharing God’s Love, Shining God’s Light, and being Shaped as God’s people as we move beyond the walls of our building into the community.

We believe that “Where Christ is, there is the true Church.” Matthew 25 shows us that Christ is with people who are hungry, thirsty, strangers, naked, sick, or in prison. If we wish to serve Christ, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) must be with these same people in our witness, work, and worship. In this mission we encounter Christ, the life of the world, and congregations find true vitality. Can you think of new and different ways we can serve the community of Mt. Pleasant?

I am excited to join others around the country in this initiative to support and uplift one another in our work. Look for more about Matthew 25 coming soon!

*Rev. Sarah Hegar*

## Session Highlights

By *Ed Kropa*, Clerk

Session met on Monday, June 13. The following action items were moved, seconded, and passed:

- to designate our church as a Matthew 25 congregation, as per the Mission Committee’s recommendation.
- to phase out Zoom in favor of Facebook and YouTube Live for Worship services.

## Online Worship to Move to YouTube Live

Beginning on July 3 and following, Zoom will not be offered as an online worship option. In order to provide better sound quality, we will shift to streaming the service live on our YouTube channel and posting the recorded service on Facebook. This should be as easy as clicking on a link in your email to access the service. If you would like help with the technology, please contact **Sarah** or **Mariah** in the next couple weeks.

## Treasurer's Report for May 2022

MAY 2022	CURRENT MONTH	CURRENT MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR TO DATE	2022 YEAR
	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
General Pledges	\$21,119.00	\$21,094.00	\$137,547.00	\$105,474.00	\$235,138.00
From Endowment Fund	\$0.00	\$6,102.00	\$0.00	\$30,598.00	\$73,219.04
Other Revenue	\$1,071.00	\$263.00	\$3,007.00	\$1,222.00	\$20,150.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$22,190.00</b>	<b>\$27,459.00</b>	<b>\$140,554.00</b>	<b>\$137,294.00</b>	<b>\$328,507.04</b>
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>					
Pastor	\$9,658.00	\$10,314.00	\$48,329.00	\$52,021.00	\$124,671.82
Personnel	\$8,719.00	\$10,386.00	\$46,043.00	\$51,329.00	\$120,222.22
Worship and Music	\$456.00	\$325.00	\$1,005.00	\$1,625.00	\$3,900.00
Adult Christian Education	\$59.00	\$192.00	\$181.00	\$958.00	\$2,300.00
Youth Christian Education	\$258.00	\$2,208.00	\$803.00	\$3,041.00	\$10,000.00
Stewardship	\$100.00	\$108.00	\$245.00	\$542.00	\$4,200.00
Building and Grounds	\$2,044.00	\$1,704.00	\$12,661.00	\$10,271.00	\$27,450.00
Operations	\$452.00	\$642.00	\$3,526.00	\$3,208.00	\$7,700.00
Technology	\$0.00	\$379.00	\$0.00	\$1,896.00	\$4,550.00
Mission	\$5,524.00	\$1,543.00	\$13,239.00	\$10,214.00	\$23,513.00
Special Giving	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$27,270.00</b>	<b>\$27,801.00</b>	<b>\$126,032.00</b>	<b>\$135,105.00</b>	<b>\$328,507.04</b>
<b><u>CASH INCREASE (DECR)</u></b>	<b>(\$5,080.00)</b>	<b>(\$342.00)</b>	<b>\$14,522.00</b>	<b>\$2,189.00</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.

*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/2x46F6l>.

*Rev. Trey Hegar*

## July Worship Helpers

Sunday Morning Building Assistant: **Kevin Hoenig**

Financial Clerk: **Carl Frank**

Greeters: **Curt & Ginnie Swarm**

Sunday, July 3 Communion Preparer: **Pat Richenberger**

Liturgists: July 3: **Carl Frank**

July 10: **Barb Miller**                      July 17: **Pat Heusmann**

July 24: **Steve Readinger**      July 31: **Pat Heusmann**

### July Preaching Schedule:

July 3 - **Rev. Sarah Hegar** - Outdoor Worship at East Lake Park (weather dependent)

July 10 – **Rev. David Feltman**

July 17 – **Rev. David Feltman**

July 24 – **Rev. David Feltman**

July 31 – **Marta Pumroy**

### Pastoral Care During July

**Sarah** will be on vacation July 5-15 and at Synod School July 24-29. If you have a need for Pastoral Care, please call the church office. We have help available during this time

### Renewal Challenge of the Week

Every week this summer, you will be given a challenge! This is something to help you see God in your weekly activities and to take time out to rest. Each week the challenge will be printed in the bulletin, shared on Facebook, and sent out in the weekly announcement email.

### July 3 Outdoor Worship at East Lake Park

We will worship near the Hayward Shelter on July 3. You are invited to dress casually and bring your lawn chair.

Everything will be provided for lunch following the service. Come and worship and join in fellowship in the outdoors! If

rain or thunderstorms we will worship in the Sanctuary.

There will be NO online worship option for this Sunday.

### Special Music for Summer

Summer music is off to a good start. We've had a nice variety so far—a piano soloist, a vocalist, a bell tree soloist and a small group of bell ringers.

Thank you to **Sue Feltman** for a nice Mark Hayes hymn tune arrangement for piano, **Blair Buffington** for a marvelous rendition of "The Holy City," **Natalie McCormick** for a bell tree arrangement of "Brethren, We Have Met to Worship," and **Sound of 5 (Sally Fager, Deb Sinclair, Martha Wiley, Jeff Fager, Marj Thimmesch)** for "Kum Ba Yah."

Your contribution to worship was greatly appreciated.

### Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women will be taking a field trip for their July Meeting. **On Thursday, July 7, the group will depart at 9:15 AM to go tour the Cedar River Haven facility.** Cedar River Haven is a nonprofit organization that supports women in recovery in the SE Iowa region. **If you would like to join the field trip, please notify Susan Farnsworth (319-931-0905) or Liz Wasson (319-385-2172) by July 1.** There is also a sign-up sheet on the Gathering Space table (reservations are required). All are welcome.

### Book Group

Book Group will meet Thursday, July 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the Gathering Space to discuss *Mercy Street* by Jennifer Haigh. In August, our book selection is *Under the Whispering Door* by T.J. Klune. Please join us for stimulating conversation and refreshments!

Here are the upcoming book selections:

<b>August</b>	<i>Under the Whispering Door</i> by T.J. Klune
<b>September</b>	<i>Wish You Were Here</i> by Jodi Picoult
<b>October</b>	<i>The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek</i> by Kim Michelle Richardson

### Synod School - July 24-29

Synod School is returning this year in a hybrid model. You have the option of attending in person in Storm Lake or participating in online classes. This is a wonderful experience to grow in faith, learn, and enjoy some rest and relaxation. Classes are phenomenal and there's something for everyone! This is also a great week for families as childcare is provided and there is programming for youth. There are brochures in the office that you can check out. You can also look online at [www.lakesandprairies.org](http://www.lakesandprairies.org).

### Counting Down to Relay for Life: Days and Dollars

**Friday, August 19, from 6-9 PM in Central Park.**

As summer moves along, we are counting the *days* until we walk together at the Henry County Relay for Life. We also hope to start counting *dollars* as we aim toward our goal of \$3000 donated to the American Cancer Society. While the ACS is a national organization, it has a real presence here in Southeast Iowa, funding research grants at the University of Iowa and providing rides and lodging for cancer patients.

You can contribute to this goal online through our church Facebook Fundraiser; our 'Presbyterian Friends - Shine God's Light' webpage is up and running! If you prefer to write a check, please make it out either to American Cancer Society or Relay for Life. Then drop it in the marked collection box in the Gathering Space or mail it to the church. Whichever way you choose to give, donors of over \$20 will receive receipts for tax purposes.

Another way to offer both event and financial support is to purchase a luminary for \$5. Each luminary can honor a cancer survivor, a loved one who has passed, or a caregiver. If you wish to decorate your own luminary, please note that on the order form. You will find order forms on the sign-ups table in the Gathering Space. All luminaries will be displayed at the August 19 event, lighting the way for walkers.

We expect to stay busy counting days and dollars! Join us in continuing to shine God's light in our community.



## **IowaWINS**

### **UNIFY Holds “Coming Out” Event**

UNIFY (Uplifting Needs of Immigrant Families through Youth Leadership) presented itself to Mount Pleasant on Thursday, June 23, in Central Park. Using posters, flyers, and games for the children, the youth wing of IowaWINS demonstrated its outreach.

The young people spoke with local media to spread the news of their work uniting the various communities that make Mount Pleasant their home. The event provided an excellent lead in to the community band concert that followed, and this juxtaposition of UNIFY and community band exemplified the shared love of our town and region.

### **Remember Meals by Nutrinos**

Meals by Nutrinos 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) In-Person**

You can place and pick up orders Monday through Friday, 9 AM – 2 PM in the church office. Orders are also accepted on the first and third Sunday after service (app. 11 AM) and Wednesdays from 3 – 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall (with the option of a hot meal). These times do not change unless an announcement is made.

#### **2) By Phone**

If you want to place an order by phone, please call the church office at **319-986-5851**. Note that office hours are 9 AM – 2 PM Monday through Friday.

#### **3) Online**

Meals by Nutrinos has a website in which you can place orders. Just visit [iowawins.net/meals-by-nutrinos](http://iowawins.net/meals-by-nutrinos) 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).

Meals by Nutrinos would like to thank its customers and volunteers for their continuous support of our meal ministry!

### **PRAYER CONCERNS:**

- **Jennifer Dorothy, who has metastasized Pancreatic Cancer**
- **Terri Gordy, whose husband Dick passed away**
- **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**
- **Ukraine & its people**
- **Keep in prayer all of those attending General Assembly either online or in person in Louisville. Keep in prayer all those attending Synod School, July 24-29**

### **Church T-shirt Orders**

We will be ordering more t-shirts with the First Presbyterian logo. A sign-up sheet will be available in the gathering space. T-shirts at \$10. Color choices will be navy or light blue. Orders will end on Monday, August 1.

### **August ALERT Deadline**

The August ALERT deadline is Wednesday, July 20. Please make sure to have all articles, announcements, thank you’s, and congratulations into the office by the end of that day.

Thank you.

#### **“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

## **July Birthdays and Anniversaries**

**1 Jennifer Lamm**

**2 Kitty Meek**

**5 Leo Clark, Gavin Stensvaag**

**6 Amy Clark**

**14 Mark & Karen Kauffman's Anniversary**

**16 Shelley Van Dorin**

**Ed & Karen Bates Chabal's Anniversary**

**18 Ron Fye**

**19 Dale Taylor**

**20 Susan Farnsworth, Pat Heusmann,  
Mary Murphy**

**21 Jean Church, Emily Van Dorin**

**22 Ann Klingensmith, Grant Willham**

**23 Dan & Tammy Shull's Anniversary**

**26 Abigail Ryon**

**27 Jaxton Kremer**

**28 Art Hamm, Curt Swarm**