

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.

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
902 SOUTH WALNUT
MOUNT PLEASANT IA 52641

Non-Profit Org.
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Highlights

9:45 AM Sundays

In-person and YouTube Live

Fellowship Time to follow

Recorded services online - see webpage

Address Service Requested

Marlene & Marj Appreciation Celebration
Sunday, May 28

Presbyterian Women
Thursday, May 4 at 1:30 PM

Book Group
Thursday, May 11 at 7 PM



ALERT

First Presbyterian Church 319-986-5851

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

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"New Evangelicals"

"In 1990, 27% of Americans reported have three or fewer close friends. Today, that number is 49%. Nearly 40% of Americans report only having online friendships, while 12% of Americans report having no friend at all," wrote Jim Nelles in an opinion column for Fox News titled, "I went back to church on Sunday. Here's why we should all consider getting back to religion."

Thanks to the member who shared the article with me. I hope its troubling analysis motivates you to want to do something like it did for me.

The author points out that people alone are dying inside, literally and physically. Nelles correlates the decline in friendships with the decline in religious participation. He writes, "when people leave their religious community, they are often left to face the world alone...People are less and less able to turn to close friendships for support."

He shared some statistics of how fewer and fewer Americans are attending religious services, and how our society is reflecting the loss. "In 2020, 47% of Americans said they belonged to a church, synagogue, or mosque, down from 50% in 2018 and 70% in 1999."

There is not just a downside to the decrease in religious affiliation, there is a loss to society.

I was blown away at the inverted statistical correlation between drops in church attendance/membership and the rise of things like: Children with one parent, drug abuse, depression, anxiety, anger, lack of trust, and worst of all, suicide for all ages, including teens.

We know our world can be a cruel, cold, and an unforgiving place, but friends make it warm, fun, and meaningful. We need friends. Our friends need us. Lives are literally saved when friends invite friends to meet them at church.

Do you have like-minded friends who are concerned about the direction of the world? If you believe this is a place that teaches personal value, shares spiritual wisdom, and adds encouragement relative to real life, invite them to meet you at church. What a friend we have in Jesus when two or three friends gather together with one purpose — to make new friends who love the way of Jesus. Be the new evangelicals!

*Blessings,
Rev. Trey Hegar*

Session Highlights

Session met on Monday, April 10 at 6 PM in Peter's Room. The following action/discussion items were moved, seconded, and approved/passed:

- For the Cast Iron Seat Collector & Farm Implements Association to use the Fellowship Hall on Friday, September 11, 2023 for banquet celebrating its 50th Anniversary. (They will obtain catering – most attendees will walk in.)
- To Convert Paul's Room into a designated youth room. With IowaWINS' Food Pantry operation phasing out, the classroom will be empty.
- Reformulation of Confirmation and the date for Confirmation Sunday. Christian Education Committee has approved a reformulation of Confirmation. Confirmation Sunday will be April 23, 2023.

Session will meet again on Monday, May 8 at its regular time of 6 PM in Peter's Room.

Respectfully submitted, **Ed Kropa**, Clerk

June ALERT Deadline

If you have something you'd like to add to the June 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 **Monday, May 22**. Thank you.

Treasurer's Report for March 2023

MARCH 2023	CURRENT MONTH	CURRENT MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR TO DATE	2023 YEAR
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET
General Pledges	\$25,272.00	\$20,407.00	\$73,197.00	\$61,231.00	\$244,886.00
From Endowment Fund	\$0.00	\$8,063.00	\$0.00	\$24,188.00	\$96,752.17
Other Revenue	(\$31.00)	\$133.00	\$2,893.00	\$400.00	\$18,600.00
Total Revenue	\$25,241.00	\$28,603.00	\$76,090.00	\$85,819.00	\$360,238.17
<u>EXPENSES</u>					
Pastor	\$10,575.00	\$11,056.00	\$32,301.00	\$33,316.00	\$133,567.44
personnel	\$10,267.00	\$11,294.00	\$31,064.00	\$33,882.00	\$136,507.13
Worship and Music	\$357.00	\$267.00	\$767.00	\$800.00	\$4,550.00
Adult Christian Education	\$150.00	\$108.00	\$91.00	\$325.00	\$2,300.00
Youth Christian Education	\$569.00	\$283.00	\$1,504.00	\$1,350.00	\$10,500.00
Stewardship	\$0.00	\$110.00	\$74.00	\$330.00	\$4,800.00
Building and Grounds	\$4,378.00	\$4,015.00	\$8,813.00	\$7,794.00	\$31,175.00
Operations	\$836.00	\$671.00	\$2,420.00	\$2,012.00	\$8,050.00
Technology	\$0.00	\$358.00	\$86.00	\$1,075.00	\$4,300.00
Mission	\$2,500.00	\$2,436.00	\$7,038.00	\$6,314.00	\$24,488.60
Special Giving	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$29,632.00	\$30,598.00	\$84,158.00	\$87,198.00	\$360,238.17
<u>CASH INCREASE (DECR)</u>	(\$4,391.00)	(\$1,995.00)	(\$8,068.00)	(\$1,379.00)	\$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

May Worship Helpers

Sunday Morning Building Assistant: **Mike Vincent**

Financial Clerk: **Maggie Epperson**

Greeters: **Curt & Ginnie Swarm**

Sunday, May 7: Communion Preparer: **Pat Richenberger**

Liturgists: May 7 **Chuck Albright** May 14 **Jeff Epperson**

May 21 **Carl Frank**

May 28 **Jean Church**

Monday Morning Meditation & Wednesday Mid-Week Prayer !

Every Monday & Wednesday morning from 9 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.

Book Group

Thursday, May 11 at 7 PM

Book Group will meet on Thursday, May 11 at 7 PM in the Gathering Space. Our May book is *Demon Copperhead: A Novel* by Barbara Kingsolver. Our June selection is *Boys and Oil: Growing up Gay in a Fractured Land* by Taylor Brorby. Please join us for fellowship and lively conversation. All are welcome!

Presbyterian Women

Thursday, May 4 at 1:30 PM

Presbyterian Women will meet on Thursday, May 4 at 1:30 PM in the Gathering Space. **Pat Richenberger** will host, **Terri Gordy** will cover devotions, and **Liz Wasson** will cover the lesson. All women are welcome to attend.

Farewell Celebration for long time Music Directors Marj Thimmesch & Marlene DePriest

Sunday, May 28

"So long, Farewell, auf Wiedersehen, good night, I hate to go and leave this pretty sight." We hate to see them go but we are so thankful for the years of music dedication and excellence to this congregation. Please join us in celebrating the years of musical leadership of **Marj and Marlene**. We will celebrate with a lot of special music, cake, and more! Plan to join us for Worship and afterwards for this special occasion.

Jim & Marlene DePriest Retirement Party

Please join us in celebrating the retirement of **Jim & Marlene DePriest** on Sunday, May 28th from 3:30 - 5:30 PM in Fellowship Hall! We are so excited to celebrate our parents and all of the incredible things they have done throughout their career! We hope to see you there!

Their final concert will be on Monday, May 22nd at 7 PM in the Mount Pleasant High School gym if you would like to attend that as well!

VBS For the Rest of Us! (ALL AGES)

Save the Dates of June 22-25

Have you ever been jealous of all the fun the kids are having at VBS? Now is your chance for the fun! Join us for a weekend of games, meals, fellowship, bible studies, and more! VBS For the Rest of Us is for ALL AGES. Your planning team is coming up with a fantastic weekend. Look for more details SOON! But save that date!

Relay for Life

Friday, June 23

The online donation will be ready soon. You can sign up in the Gathering Space to be part of our team! Luminaria/Tiki Forms are also available on the table and will need to be turned in by Monday, June 5. We will walk together on Friday, June 23 on the community square.



IowaWINS GETS HELP IN PLANNING

In our continuing work to set a course for the future, IowaWINS has contracted with **Sonia Reyes** to gather more information from the immigrant community, helping us to identify leaders within that community. She will also guide us in some strategic planning. Sonia, herself an immigrant, has many years of experience in working with—and for—other immigrants.

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 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

Have you volunteered with Meals by Nutrimos in the past? Are you looking to volunteer in the future? We're looking for volunteers to help with cooking and serving on Monday mornings/early afternoons! If you are interested, head to our Facebook page or contact the church office to take a quick volunteer survey so we can get your feedback on availability!

We appreciate your help.

Thank You's

With everyone's help, the April 14, 2023 – April 15, 2023 Rummage Sale and Bake Sale was a success. Thank you to Press On for setting up the tables and clothes racks on Wednesday night so we could start putting out the rummage sale items first thing Thursday morning. Thank you to everyone who helped Thursday, Friday, and Saturday - whether it be bringing rummage sale and baked good items to sell, hanging clothes on the racks, putting items on the tables, or helping during the sale Friday and Saturday. Thanks to everyone who helped Saturday afternoon boxing items up and putting the clothes racks and tables away. The remaining items from the sale were picked up by the Quarter Maybe More Store Monday morning.

The results of the Bake Sale and Rummage Sale are:

Bake Sale	\$	282.50
Rummage Sale	\$	1,009.75
Subtotal	\$	1,292.25
Less Advertising	\$	49.78
Total	\$	1,242.47

The proceeds from the Rummage Sale and Bake Sale go toward mission projects. Our next sale will be in October.

Thank you again for everyone's help and support. I really appreciated it!

Pat Richenberger, Chair

I will be moving early May to 121 W Gibson St, West Liberty, IA 52776. I still need help packing. People can contact me through this email if they have an hour to give. *Thank you, Diane Brooks*

PRAYER CONCERNS:

- Pastor Trey's sister, Dianne
- Sandy Memler, Kevin Hoenig
- Liz Wasson's sister, Caryl
- Kelly Allen's niece, Marie Crews,
- Susan Farnsworth's brother, Jeff Stanley
- Jennifer Dorothy, Andrew Rauembuehler, Mia Gray, Everly Kirkbride, Tony Henley
- Leo Clark's mother, Nancy Aynes
- Lois Roth's brother (Mark Veldhizen), sister-in-law (Kim Veldhuizen), brother-in-law (Willie Weelden)
- Our shut-ins and those in care centers
- Our nation/world, as they and we deal with COVID-19; Turkey & Syria



Welcoming Statement

WHO IS WELCOME HERE?

If you are Asian, Hispanic, Black, or White ...

If you are male or female or transgender ...

If you are three days old, 30 years old, or 103 years old ...

If you've never stepped foot in a church;

or if you are Buddhist, Roman Catholic, Agnostic or are a life-long Presbyterian ...

If you are single, married, widowed, divorced, separated, or partnered ...

If you are straight, gay, lesbian, or bisexual ...

If you are a Republican, Democrat, Independent, Socialist, or not registered to vote ...

If you have, or had addictions, phobias, an abortion, or a criminal record ...

If you own your home, rent, live with your parents, or are homeless ...

If you are fully-abled, disabled, or a person of differing abilities ...

You are welcome here!

All are welcome here!

First Presbyterian Church, Mount Pleasant, Iowa affirms that all people are children of God. This congregation is committed to being a radically loving and welcoming community of faith. We believe it is our responsibility to follow the teachings of Jesus and bring the kingdom of God to the world through love of and service to others.

May Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 3 Grace Van De Berg**
- 4 Tammy Mulford**
- 5 Dalton Church, Zachary Van Dorin**
- 7 Lois Roth**

- 9 Vicki Schroeder**
Jeff & Maggie Epperson's Anniversary
- 12 Heidi Ryon, Ryan Chabal**
- 13 Jonathon Lee**

- 18 Travis & Chris Van De Berg's Anniversary**
- 19 Thaddeus Brooks**
- 20 Rodney Scheitlin**
- 21 Benny Lee**

- 22 Jane Creager, Ike Meek**
- 23 Wendell Thimmesch, Hannah Sinclair**
- 24 Barb Welander**
- 25 Dan Shull**
- 26 Jake Scheetz**
- 27 Amelia Conrad**
- 28 Allan Memler**

- 29 Levi Boston-Kemple, Tom Boston-Kemple,**
Janet Cermak
- 30 Karen Chapman**