

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

Highlights

9:45 AM Sundays
In Person and Zoom Worship
Recorded services online - see webpage

Yard Clean Up Day
Saturday, November 6 at 9 AM

Give Back Day
Sunday, November 14 after service

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>

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Thanksgiving

“Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good!” —Psalm 136:1

The month of November is known for being the month of Thanksgiving and thanks giving. Prayers of gratitude have been around long before the story of Thanksgiving dinner began in the 1600s. The Bible has stories of people giving thanks from offering the first fruits of their harvests to offering a burnt offering of their best livestock. The Bible says nearly 40 times in Leviticus alone, “the smell of the burnt offering creates a pleasing aroma that rises up to God.” The act of the burnt offering was performed out of pure joy and gratitude often with music and some dancing. It was considered a celebratory act. November may offer only a few nice days for barbecuing; you better get outside and make a burnt offering of a colorful veggie shish kabob or a Texas sized grade AAAA steak. Do it for the sheer joy of giving thanks to God that you can. Put on some music. Dance. Say, “Thank you, God. This little party is for you.”

Other acts of thanks fill the Psalms. “I will sing to Lord, for God’s love is good. The love of God endures forever!” (refrain from Psalm 106). This refrain is repeated over and over in many of the Psalms. In-between the refrain are the things the psalmist is grateful for. For example, the rain came or the rain didn’t come, he has a house or feels protected in the wilderness.

Jesus gives thanks to God in his prayer at Gethsemane. The Epistles encourage saying thanks as a way of life. The letters prod the readers to be thankful for guests, greetings on the street, homes, marriages, businesses, and even persecutions. Why persecutions? Because the bullying meant they were living out of the norm. They lived out lives of thanksgiving.

Here are my top three ways for living out a life of thanksgiving:

- 1) Enjoy — God’s creation and marvel at it: the sun, the moon, the grass, the flowers, the rain, the snow. Stand in awe at the immensity and smallness of it all.
- 2) Enjoy — my family. Laugh with Hudson. Enjoy his snuggles, his cries and every breath he takes. Cherish Sarah’s friendship. Hold my church family near. Thank God that serving this church family is my calling and vocation. Stand in awe of this community.
- 3) Count the blessings and let it in to who you are —see one and two (Enjoy!).

How do you live out a daily life of thanksgiving? I would love to hear your top three.

*Happy Thanksgiving,
Rev. Trey Hegar*

Session Highlights

By Ed Kropp, Clerk

Session discussed the following discussion/action items:

- The latest statement from the United Methodist Church in regards to the Cub Scouts was shared.
- Pastor Trey spoke to the opportunities of the recently received Lilly grant.
- There was consensus that Session would be open to any Mennonite congregation request as they make decisions regarding their building and their future.
- 2022 Budget sheet have been sent out and budget parameters will be presented to Congregation on October 31.

Treasurer's Report for September 2021

SEPTEMBER 2021	CURRENT MONTH	CURRENT MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR TO DATE	2021 YEAR
	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
General Pledges	\$19,240.00	\$18,179.00	\$209,051.00	\$163,609.00	\$218,145.00
Other Revenue	\$13,164.00	\$21,300.00	\$37,878.00	\$87,205.00	\$109,707.35
Total Revenue	\$32,404.00	\$39,479.00	\$246,929.00	\$250,814.00	\$327,852.35
<u>EXPENSES</u>					
Pastor	\$9,363.00	\$9,842.00	\$84,283.00	\$88,572.00	\$118,096.06
personnel	\$13,760.00	\$10,673.00	\$96,219.00	\$96,057.00	\$128,756.29
Worship and Music	\$1,159.00	\$325.00	\$2,465.00	\$2,925.00	\$3,900.00
Adult Christian Education	\$298.00	\$1,067.00	\$640.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,800.00
Youth Christian Education	\$497.00	\$208.00	\$4,473.00	\$6,375.00	\$12,000.00
Stewardship	\$879.00	\$708.00	\$1,154.00	\$2,175.00	\$3,000.00
Building and Grounds	\$2,210.00	\$2,187.00	\$20,103.00	\$19,688.00	\$26,250.00
Operations	\$907.00	\$642.00	\$5,730.00	\$5,775.00	\$7,700.00
Technology	\$0.00	\$379.00	\$1,791.00	\$3,412.00	\$4,550.00
Mission	\$1,400.00	\$3,385.00	\$15,848.00	\$17,291.00	\$21,800.00
Special Giving	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$30,473.00	\$29,416.00	\$232,706.00	\$243,870.00	\$327,852.35
<u>CASH INCREASE (DECR)</u>	\$1,931.00	\$10,063.00	\$14,223.00	\$6,944.00	\$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 would ask that 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. You may mail your checks to 902 S. Walnut St. or give online by copying this link <https://bit.ly/2x46F6l>. Again, we want to discourage people from dropping their checks off in person.

Rev. Trey Hegar

Worship Helpers

Sunday Morning Building Assistant: **Chuck Albright**

Financial Clerk: **Heidi Ryon**

Greeters: **Curt & Ginnie Swarm**

Communion Preparer: **Pat Richenberger**

(Sunday, November 7)

Liturgists: Nov. 7 **Sally Olson** Nov. 14 **Janet Cermak**

Nov. 21 **Barb Miller** Nov. 28 **Marilyn Vincent**

Westminster Choir

There will be choir practice/singing on
November 7 & 14 at 8:45 AM.

Bells Practice on Wednesday Evenings

Here is the schedule for Bells Practice for November.

Note: **Sound of 11** will play for church on November 21, and **Sound Appeal** will play for the church on November 28.

November 3: 5:20 PM **Soul Duo**; 5:40 PM **Soul Notes**;
6:15 PM **Sound Appeal**

November 10: no Soul Duo; 5:30 PM **Soul Notes**;
6:15 PM **Sound Appeal**

November 17: 5:20 PM **Soul Duo**; 5:40 PM **Soul Notes**;
6:15 PM **Sound Appeal**

November 24: NO bell rehearsals

You are Invited to Worship In-Person

Dear Friends and Families of First Presbyterian Church,
With positive COVID cases still prominent in the county, the church continues to practice COVID safety measures. We ask that both those vaccinated and unvaccinated to please be considerate of others and wear a mask if able. Pews are marked and social distancing is encouraged. Singing is allowed, we just ask that you do it quietly under your mask.

In addition, fellowship time with cookies will be outside until further notice. Masks are available if you do not have one, as well as hand sanitizer. Thank you for your understanding.

Blessings, Rev. Trey Hegar

Special Speaker at Presbytery Regional Meeting **Thursday, November 18**

Rev. T. Denise Anderson is the Coordinator for Racial and Intercultural Justice for the PC(USA) and is a former Co-Moderator of the PC(USA). She has challenged our presbytery to read the book *Caste* and will be the speaker at this presbytery meeting. This will be in person on Thursday, November 18 at 1 PM at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Cedar Rapids. We can arrange carpools if needed.

Meals by Nutrimos

Meals by Nutrimos has officially opened its online store. You can now place orders and pay through the website. Each month, there will be a new menu to select items from, with seasonal or new meals as well as some of the favorites. To access the monthly menu or place online orders, please visit <https://www.iowawins.net/meals-by-nutrimos.html>.

Meals by Nutrimos will still be available to purchase in the Fellowship Hall Sundays after service and Wednesday evenings from 3-6 PM. You can also call the church (986-5851) to place orders during office hours (9 AM – 2 PM Monday through Friday).

“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



IowaWINS – Moving Forward

IowaWINS held its first “Annual Meeting” under its new bylaws on Saturday, October 16. Attendees heard from **Erica Johnson**, founding director of Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice, who shared the work going on throughout the state that helps immigrants settle into their new lives. **Tammy Shull** presented a short history of the IowaWINS organization, which can be divided into BR and AR—Before the Raid and After the Raid. While the ICE raid dominated the news, it is clear that IowaWINS has been active in many ways to assist our new neighbors.

The meeting culminated in the induction of the new officers for IowaWINS. Officers and Executive Committee members are: **Jeff Fager**, President; **Sam Riepe**, Vice President; **Bob Mueller**, Secretary; **Martha Wiley**, IowaWINS Treasurer; **Tammy Shull**, Nutrimos Treasurer; **David Suarez** and **Ed Kropa**, at-large members of the Executive Committee.

Along with the ongoing activities of IowaWINS, a very special event is coming up in November. **On Thursday, November 18th at 7 PM, IowaWINS will host the play *Vang*** (which means ‘garden’ or ‘farm’ in Hmong) **at the Heatilator Performing Arts Center**. The play presents the experiences of a number of immigrants from many different countries--a Hmong family, a Sudanese man, a Mexican woman, a Dutch boy, and others.

“It isn’t possible to witness this play and not be changed by the gut-wrenching experiences of these recent refugees and immigrants, by their ability to survive in the face of the horrific.” **Dr. Judith A Conlin**, Executive Director, Iowa International Center.

A free will offering to support IowaWINS (<https://www.iowawins.net/>) will be accepted.

Jeff Fager, IowaWINS (Iowa Welcomes Immigrant Neighbors) Chair
<https://www.iowawins.net/>

PW Rummage & Bake Sale Thank You

The last PW Rummage & Bake Sale we had was October 2019; we did not have any in 2020 because of COVID. So, thank you everyone for helping with the Rummage & Bake Sale that happened on October 15th and 16th.

- Thanks to everyone who helped set up the tables and racks Wednesday night so we could start putting items on the tables and hanging clothes on the racks Thursday morning,
- Thanks to everyone who helped Thursday, Friday, and Saturday - whether it was bringing in items and baked goods, hanging clothes on the racks, putting items on the tables, helping during the sale Friday and Saturday, and boxing items up for the Quarter Maybe More store.
- The remaining items from the sale were picked up by the Quarter Maybe More store Monday morning. Thanks to everyone who helped load the truck and put racks, etc. in the shed.

Money from our sale goes toward mission projects.

The bake sale receipts:	\$ 253.90
The rummage sale receipts:	<u>\$ 963.90</u>
Total:	\$1,255.80
Less advertising:	<u>\$ - 49.78</u>
Grand Total:	\$1,206.02

Thank you again for everyone's help and support. Your help made for a very successful sale!

Pat Richenberger, Chair

Prayer Concerns

- Dorothy Moore, John Arp, Jaqui Tolson
- Heidi Ryon's mother (Connie Rhine)
- Tia Baccam's brother-in-law (Tony Tangkhpanya)
- 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>)

Congratulations to Anya Clark on the birth of her daughter!

Aria Page was born on October 12 at 7lbs 2.3 oz.
Anya is doing well.

To My Church Family,

Thank you so much for the wonderful prayer quilt. It is getting much use as I work to get better. It is a comfort to have the prayers of so many behind me.

God Bless, Jim DePriest

A sincere thank you to our church family for concerns, prayers, and a wonderful prayer quilt after my recent surgery. It is much appreciated. I feel great.

Sincerely, John Arp

Next ALERT Deadline is Friday, November 19th

If you have something you'd like to add to the December ALERT, whether it be a congratulations, a thank you, or an article, please email Mariah at firstpresbymtp@gmail.com before the end of the stated day. Thank you!

November Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Bryce Creager
Gene & Kathie McWhirter's Anniversary**
- 2 Verla Barker**
- 4 Sandra Memler**
- 5 Brett Baccam, Tammy Shull**

- 7 Debra Rodgers**
- 8 Scotty Redgate**
- 12 Tom Ellsworth
Steve & Mary Murphy's Anniversary**
- 13 Brandon Beauchamp**

- 15 Maison Ashton, Dave Heusmann, Hannah Stater**
- 16 Pat Richenberger**
- 18 Bob Welander, Ted Wiley
Wendell & Marj Thimmesch's Anniversary**
- 19 Ed Pforts**
- 20 Kyle Kauffman**

- 21 Carl Frank**
- 23 Paige Stater, Carrie Vincent**
- 25 Steve Murphy, Paula Wiley**

- 26 Ethan Stensvaag, Travis Van De Berg**
- 27 Jonathan Stensvaag, Kendin Scheitlin
Bob & Barb Welander's Anniversary**
- 28 Brennan Bender**
- 29 John Schroeder
Al & Sandy Memler's Anniversary**
- 30 Kevin Knox, Jeff Willham**

