

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: 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.

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 Worship

Recorded services online - see webpage

Address Service Requested

Caste Book Study

Sunday, October 3 at 6 PM – Gathering Space

PW Rummage Sale

Friday, October 15, 12 - 6 PM & Saturday, October 16 8 AM - 1 PM

Painting Party

Friday, October 29 6-8pm – Fellowship Hall



ALERT



First Presbyterian Church 319-986-5851

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

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Exciting News: Clergy and Church Renewal Grant

I received a letter earlier this month that said, "Dear Colleague, it is a pleasure to inform you that the Christian Theological Seminary (CTS) has awarded a grant to your congregation for its clergy renewal program. Funding for the 2021 Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Programs is provided to CTS by Lilly Endowment Inc...."

It is a very competitive grant application process for clergy and their congregations to experience a time of renewal together and apart. The grant is for the amount of \$30,695! I worked with the Session's input on the grant and with **Jean Thomson** and **Ed Kropa** as the church liaisons.

The grant I proposed is based on Mark 6:34, 39, 44: "As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them. Then he ordered the disciples to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. So, they sat down in groups....all ate and were filled. Then Jesus sent the disciples away on the boat while he went up the mountain to pray."

The renewal program I proposed for myself, along with the congregation, is based on slowing down like Jesus did in the story of the feeding of the 5,000 and afterwards when he went to pray. The idea came from revisiting the book, *Slow Church* by C. Christopher Smith and John Pattison, after reading about it in *Planning Sabbaticals* by Robert C. Saler. When we slow down and take time to sit together, it creates a space to deepen our connections.

It wasn't a coincidence that one of my elders shared a similar question with me as we dreamed together about the proposal for the church. He asked, "why do you think some of our members are sitting in church every Sunday? What's their story?" I told him, "A-ha! That's the idea behind the sabbatical for the church. Let's slow down and you can find out." Deepening our faith and relationships means taking time to talk to each other instead of just a quick hello. Similarly, sometimes nurturing our faith means talking a long walk alone to go and pray.

For part of my renewal, I will hike a portion of the Appalachian Trail, ride in RAGBRAI, and take a boat trip with my dad. I will also spend time with Hudson exploring regional music and recreational activities.

For the congregation, we will read *Slow Church* by C. Christopher Smith, enjoy some catered meals, special music offerings, guided time for rest, relationships and renewal; it will conclude with an intergenerational trip to Heifer International. The grant will cover all the costs for my travel, the expenses for the church for pulpit supply, pastoral care, catered meals, music, the book and a portion of the intergenerational mission trip. The grant is for next Summer: June-August. Thanks be to God!

Dream Big! Work Hard!
Rev. Trey Hegar

Worship Helpers

Sunday Morning Building Assistant: **Tom Ellsworth**

Financial Clerk: **Chris Van De Berg**

Greeters: **Curt & Ginnie Swarm**

Communion Preparer: Sunday, October 3 - **Pat Richenberger**

Liturgists: October 3 **Karen Chabal**

October 10 **Adam Creager** October 17 **Chuck Albright**

October 24 **Kathy Schim.** October 31 **Sarah Hegar**

Session Highlights

By *Ed Kropa*, Clerk

It was discovered that some of the Mount Pleasant Elementary younger students do not have milk with their snack (care takers haven't or can't pay). The Deacon's covered the gap at Lincoln. It was moved, seconded and passed to supplement what Mount Pleasant prison inmates have allocated for Harlan and Salem (Van Allen is okay) using spaghetti dinner proceeds and/or donations.

The following motions were also passed:

- Tri-T to use the Gathering Space on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 6 PM starting in October.
- PFLAG Mt. Pleasant to use the church for monthly sessions in the evening starting in September.
- make **Mariah Giberson** permanent part time at \$16 per hour.
- end the building custodian relationship with **Rusty and Karen King**.
- begin the discernment process for **Sarah Hegar** to be installed as a pastor.
- PW to hold their Fall Rummage Sale on Friday, October 15 and Saturday, October 16.

You are Invited to Worship In-Person

Dear Friends and Families of First Presbyterian Church,

With the increase of positive COVID cases in the county, the Session decided to resume social distancing with masks. 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. We will continue singing with worship; however, we ask that you please sing along quietly underneath your mask with the song leader.

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

Treasurer's Report for August 2021

AUGUST 2021	CURRENT MONTH	CURRENT MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR TO DATE	2021 YEAR
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET
General Pledges	\$20,352.00	\$18,179.00	\$189,811.00	\$145,430.00	\$218,145.00
Other Revenue	\$8,190.00	\$11,300.00	\$24,714.00	\$65,905.00	\$109,707.35
Total Revenue	\$28,542.00	\$29,479.00	\$214,525.00	\$211,335.00	\$327,852.35
<u>EXPENSES</u>					
Pastor	\$9,119.00	\$9,842.00	\$74,920.00	\$78,731.00	\$118,096.06
personnel	\$11,686.00	\$10,673.00	\$82,458.00	\$85,384.00	\$128,756.29
Worship and Music	\$0.00	\$325.00	\$1,305.00	\$2,600.00	\$3,900.00
Adult Christian Education	\$169.00	\$67.00	\$342.00	\$533.00	\$1,800.00
Youth Christian Education	\$500.00	\$208.00	\$3,976.00	\$6,167.00	\$12,000.00
Stewardship	\$0.00	\$708.00	\$276.00	\$1,467.00	\$3,000.00
Building and Grounds	\$2,112.00	\$2,187.00	\$17,893.00	\$17,500.00	\$26,250.00
Operations	\$614.00	\$642.00	\$4,823.00	\$5,133.00	\$7,700.00
Technology	\$0.00	\$379.00	\$1,791.00	\$3,033.00	\$4,550.00
Mission	\$1,244.00	\$1,503.00	\$14,448.00	\$13,906.00	\$21,800.00
Special Giving	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$25,444.00	\$26,534.00	\$202,232.00	\$214,454.00	\$327,852.35
<u>CASH INCREASE (DECR)</u>	\$3,098.00	\$2,945.00	\$12,293.00	(\$3,119.00)	\$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

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](#) from our website

<http://www.firstpresbyonline.org> Click [prerecorded services](#).

Fall Book Study: *Caste - The Origins of our Discontent* by Isabel Wilkerson

"Wilkerson's work is the missing puzzle piece of our country's history."

Join us for this engaging book as we explore more what it means to live in a diverse society and how we got to this place. We will meet Sunday evenings at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall starting October 3. Books are available for \$15 in the church office with a study guide. Please sign up with your email to get the latest announcements.

Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women will not meet in October in preparation of the Rummage Sale. Help is needed to set up and work the sale, so if you are interested in helping, please contact **Pat Richenberger** or sign-up on the sheet in the Gathering Space.

Book Group

The Book Group will meet in the Gathering Space on Thursday, October 14 at 7 PM.

The October selection is *The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich. The November selection is *Caste – The Origins of our Discontent* by Isabel Wilkerson.

Please join us for some great discussion and fellowship!

Pastor Trey's Bible Study

Pastor Trey's Bible Study meets on Wednesdays at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall unless told otherwise. All are welcome to attend and masks are required.

Worship Committee Meeting

There will be a Worship Committee Meeting on Tuesday, October 5 at 5:30 PM in the Gathering Space. Please wear a mask and social distance.

PW Rummage & Bake Sale

The Presbyterian Women Rummage & Bake Sale is back:

Friday, October 15 – 12-6 PM

Saturday, October 16 – 8 AM-1 PM

\$2 Bag Sale - 11 AM-1 PM on Saturday

The sale will happen in the Fellowship Hall and face masks are required.

**Set up will start on Thursday, October 14
from 8 AM – 4 PM and Friday, 8 AM – 12 PM.**

There is a volunteer sign-up sheet for the setup, sale, and bake sale on the table in the Gathering Space.

All baked goods need to be packaged with list of ingredients/recipe and brought into the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, October 14 from 8 AM – 4 PM or Friday, October 15 no later than 10 AM.

Donations will be accepted starting Sunday, October 10; donations will go on the stage in the Fellowship Hall. Please no summer clothes, clothes with missing buttons or broken zippers, large furniture items, or TV's.

Cookie Bank in Need

Cookies are needed for Fellowship Time after service on Sundays. If you would like to donate cookies for Fellowship Time, feel free to do so and please mark if Gluten Free.

Where the Digital Meets the Divine:

Expanding Our Spiritual Bandwidth

**Saturday, October 23, 10 AM – 2 PM at Saint Andrew
Presbyterian Church, Iowa City**

In response to restrictions in physical gatherings, churches everywhere have been exploring new ways to use technology to extend their reach as the body of Christ. Join us for this workshop with **DeEtte Decker**, who is a Storyteller and Social Media Strategist for the PC(USA).

Sarah Hegar is also a conversation partner for this workshop. You can register at www.saintandrew-ic.org or talk to Sarah.

Painting Party with Annie Guldberg

Friday, October 29 6-8pm in Fellowship Hall

Come join the fun and create your very own masterpiece. **Annie Guldberg** will lead us through a guided painting session. The result will be a beautiful sunset or sunrise with your own touches. You will paint on a 14x18 canvas. Cost is \$20 paid that evening to Annie. Registration space will be limited. Sign up in the Gathering Space or contact **Mariah** in the office.

Giving Back Day! Sunday, November 14

Signs ups will be released in October for opportunities to work on projects all around Mt. Pleasant. We will gather at church for a brief meditation then be sent out into the community for about 2 hours of work. We will return to the Fellowship Hall for a lunch prepared by our Nutrinos folks! You won't want to miss this awesome way to worship God as the Hands and Feet of Christ.

Fellowship Cup Pancake Breakfast

The Fellowship Cup will be celebrating 40 years with a pancake breakfast on October 23 from 7-10 AM. The breakfast is free while supplies last and comes with a choice of a hat, coffee mug, t-shirt, or key chain to commemorate the event.

Grief Support Series

Olson-Powell Memorial Chapel will be hosting a three-week grief support series on Thursday, October 7, 14, and 21 from 5:30 - 6:30 PM. The series is free and open to anyone who has suffered a loss, whether recent or long past.

Joan Rodgers, who has advanced studies in bereavement, will be speaking. For more information, please call 319-385-1998.



IowaWINS

With the recent adoption of IowaWINS bylaws, we will be installing a new slate of officers at our annual meeting on Saturday, October 9th at 2 PM. All supporters are welcome to attend. The incoming officers include:

President/Chair: **Jeff Fager**

Vice President: **Sam Riepe**

Secretary: **Bob Mueller**

Treasurer - IowaWINS: **Martha Wiley**

Treasure – Nutrimos: **Tammy Shull**

These officers along with two At Large Board Members make up the Executive Committee. The At Large Board Members are **Ed Kropa** and **David Suarez**.

In addition, we have several other board members including **Jane Martin** and **Pastor Trey Hegar**. We are actively seeking additional board members, so let one of us know if you would like to join the board.

Our annual meeting will include a guest speaker, **Erica Johnson**, formerly Erica Palmer of Salem, Iowa. Erica is the Founding Executive Director of Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice, located in Des Moines but working statewide. You can learn more about this organization at <https://www.iowammj.org>. Erica will share information about the mission and services of her organization. **Tammy Shull** will report on this year's accomplishments as well as plans for the coming year.

Pastor Trey Hegar will be speaking on behalf of Iowa WINS and its work through the First Presbyterian Church at a National PCUSA virtual discussion on Friday, October 29. The Self Development of People Community Partners will base the discussion and listening forum around how the church can understand ways to listen, engage, and form relationships with communities to eradicate poverty.

Nutrimos, the sustaining ministry of IowaWINS, is pleased to share that through the Meals by Nutrimos program, they were able to provide IowaWINS with just over \$700 for the IowaWINS food pantry. In addition, Nutrimos provided First Presbyterian Church with a tithe of \$78 from the Meals by Nutrimos program. Many thanks to the volunteers in the kitchen and the cashiers for making these donations possible. Special thanks to **Kitty Meek** for organizing the kitchen and the volunteers to produce great meals. And thanks to all of you who are purchasing meals for your families while helping immigrant families with food as well.

IowaWINS recently received a \$1,000 donation from the Quad Cities Community Foundation at the request of the Leading Ladies Giving Circle. **Tammy Shull** recently presented to that group of women via Zoom. We are grateful for the support of many organizations and churches over the last three years.

And mark your calendars for Thursday, November 18th at 7 PM. IowaWINS will be hosting the play, *Vang* at the Heatilator Performing Arts Center. *Vang* (meaning “garden” or “farm” in Hmong) captures the immigrant’s journeys to the U.S. and how they have made farming a sustainable way of life in America. *Vang* is performed by actors **Erin Mills** and **Rip Russell**, is written by recent Iowa Poet Laureate **Mary Swander**, and features photographs by Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer **Dennis Chamberlin**.

“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 Hmong family who fled Communist bullets and wild tigers through the jungle of Laos to a refugee camp in Thailand. A Sudanese man who was thrown into prison in Ethiopia for helping the Lost Boys and left gasping for air through a crack under the door. A Mexican woman who taught herself English by looking up the profane words that were hurled at her during her first job while working in a meat packing plant. A Dutch boy who put the flag of the Netherlands through the paper shredder and declared, " I am an American." These are some of the characters brought to life in *Vang*, a drama about recent immigrant farmers. A free will offering to support IowaWINS (<https://www.iowawins.net/>) will be accepted.

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

A Moment for Missions

Now may the Lord of peace ... give you peace at all times in all ways.
2 Thessalonians 3:16

The second letter to the Thessalonians was written on the same theme as the first: the imminent return of Jesus, and the triumphal resolution of God's plan for all creation. The need for a second letter, though, arose from growing uneasiness, frustration, and fear within the church from those who thought this was supposed to have happened already. God's time was not the Thessalonian's time. As a result, fear and hopelessness gripped the church, resulting in divisions, mistrust, and dismay that began to sap the church of its vibrant ministry. Paul writes to encourage their continued faith and sure hope. In the midst of divisions and discord, he claims a God of peace who can bring peace at all times, in all ways. The church of every time and place wrestles with the distance between our timeframe and expectations and God's.

In God's time, even the small seeds we plant can grow into sturdy trees. In God's time, the fears we carry can be transformed into new partnership and hope. In God's time, our expectations can be expanded and surpassed by God's faithfulness. The 2021 Peace & Global Witness Offering encourages the church of our time to cast off anxiety and fear, discord and division, and embrace our reconciling God's mission to those around the corner and around the world. It is boundless peace God offers. It bursts through the shackles of time and expectation. It quiets the anxiety of each believer by joining us together, as we offer our prayer, *Now, may the Lord grant us peace in all times in all ways.* www.pcusa.org/peace-global

We will receive our Peace & Global Witness Offering on World Communion Sunday, October 3. A special offering envelope is included in this ALERT and envelopes are also in the pew holders. Checks should be made out to **First Presbyterian Church, please note Peace Offering** on the memo line of the check or on the envelope. Thank you!

Mission Committee

Spaghetti Supper Success

We did it again! The 22nd spaghetti supper is now in the books and it would not have been possible without all of you.

Thank you to everyone who bought and sold tickets. It seems we just can't say no as we SOLD 715 tickets and had 671 turned in – a 94% return (not bad at all)!

A couple of highlights from the event:

- we recognized a guest as we served our 10,000th meal
- we had two guests drive thru on their tractor
- we had several guests walk through and enjoyed dining outdoors
- our first guest was served at 4:20 and the last guest at 7:20
- WE HAD FUN!

Thank you to all the volunteers that:

- cooked 108 pounds of spaghetti noodles
- cut 20 pounds of onions
- browned 100 pounds of sausage
- prepared and stirred gallons and gallons of sauce
- baked more than 800 pieces of garlic bread
- tossed 700 salads
- prepared and baked 29 pans of apple crisp
- cooked and served noodles and sauce
- served bread and parmesan cheese
- made sure the to go containers were just right
- greeted our guests and took their orders
- gathered the orders and delivered to the cars
- served as hosts and hostess to our outdoor dining guests
- washed dishes and all the laundry
- helped clean and put the kitchen and fellowship hall back in order

Special thank you to **Mariah Giberson** for her help with spaghetti supper. A super big shout out to **Chef Jack Becker** for his expertise!!! And a special thank you to my dad, **Don Goering**, for agreeing to volunteer. He filled all 600 parmesan cheese cups and stapled our church's 3 promotional pieces on 350 to go sacks!

Mark August 31, 2022 on your calendar for the 23rd annual spaghetti supper. Thanks again one and all, great and small!

Deb Sinclair
Spaghetti Supper Coordinator

Address Changes

Debra Rodgers

1608 Deer Run Lane, Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641

Congratulations to **Carson and Hope Remick** on the birth of their baby girl! **Charlotte Rose Remick** was born on Friday, September 17 at 7lbs 1 oz and 20.5 inches long. Everyone is doing great.

Congratulations to **Sarah Hegar** for being elected President of Camp Wyoming Board!

Thank you to all that helped out and volunteered with the Old Threshers Parking Lot this year. It was a success with approximately \$10,000 in proceeds.

Thank you to **Kevin Hoenig** for watering and caring for the church's plants, as well as his work on the Prayer Garden. He did a wonderful job of in fixing the wall and doing beautiful landscaping around it.

Prayer Concerns

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

"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

October Birthdays and Anniversaries

2 Oliver Bailey, Rose Mary Wise

Art & Bev Hamm's Anniversary

3 Barb Miller

4 Maggie Epperson

5 Maddie Van De Berg

Mike & Marilyn Vincent's Anniversary

7 Dalton Conrad, Allen Dorothy, Charlene Hinrichs

Don & Kathy Wiley's Anniversary

8 Erin Watt

9 Erica Redgate

10 Brad & Annie Mills' Anniversary

Curt & Ginny Swarm's Anniversary

Nathan & Stephanie Chapula's Anniversary

12 Ann Porter, Les Strait

14 Wade Benge, Matt Brooks

16 Tara Beauchamp, Bob Wise

17 Kenton & Carrie Church's Anniversary

Doug & Joyce Conrad's Anniversary

20 Chuck Albright

24 Heaven King

25 Sarah Van Dorin, Scot Lamm

28 Rusty King

30 Dorothy Moore

31 Annika Liechty, Lorrie Parker