

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
Administrative Assistant: Esther Wonderlich
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

Highlights

9:45 AM Sundays

In-person Worship

when weather is feasible

Zoom - Recorded services online

6 PM Sundays - Read the Bible in 90 Days

Sunday, October 25: Annual Congregational

Meeting following Worship - Nominating

Report and Establish Pastor's Terms of Call

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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"We Need a Few Crazy Christians"

An eccentric widow in Italy left \$13 million to her cat. A real estate mogul in New York left \$3 million to his dog and another \$1 million to a domestic care giver for the dog. That's crazy! Well, the church needs a few crazy Christians.

We live in unprecedented times. Never before in the history of the world have so many voices had a platform to promote whatever cause or belief they render as important. Many of these agencies compete against one another. For example, you may open your mailbox and receive an ad for the NRA (National Rifle Association) and an ad for legislative gun control, both asking for financial contributions, both finding many who give. There is a competition for charitable donations. Colleges, hospitals, elementary schools, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Parks and Wildlife, and many more all clamor for our gifts. They are unhesitant in asking and relentless in their quest. They will cater to large donors. They will spend \$1 million to make \$2 million.

In this competitive landscape, the church also needs to stand-out. We can't just expect people to give to the church out of obligation. We have to make a case for why people should give to the church. Why be that crazy person who gave so much money people had to talk about it?

The #1 reason is the world needs to see the Way of Jesus!

Our church is known for being a voice of compassion and justice. We have earned a reputation as people who not only talk about loving our neighbors, but as people who visibly take action to demonstrate that love. The call for such action comes from Jesus. More than any time in our lives, we need the Way of Jesus to be upheld and supported.

One of my favorite all-time hymns, "Here I am, Lord," asks the question, "*Whom shall I send?*" It asks who will go to tend to the poor and lame, the sick and outcast? Who will be a voice for justice and promote Christ-like ideals amongst the people? The refrain answers the question saying, "*Here, I am Lord... I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.*"

The church is an ambassador for Christ in the world. The people of the church are the representatives. I would love to have a few crazy Christians support this work and leave the church \$30 million dollars instead of their pet. More realistically, I am asking for us to each go big in our own way. Please prayerfully consider giving generously again, so that we may continue to "*share God's love and shine God's light.*"

Rev. Trey Hegar



Sunday, September 27

CELEBRATING A SEASON OF STEWARDSHIP

9:45 AM Worship in Wright Pavilion

Followed by Concert with **Annie Savage**

and a **Catered Picnic Lunch**

RSVP for lunch by noon on Friday, September 25

firstpresbymtp@gmail.com or call 319-986-5851

Session Highlights - September 14, 2020

by *Ed Kropp*, Clerk

- After some discussion, the motion was passed to continue to meet for worship outside at the Wright Family Pavilion, while the temperature is feasible and then move to Zoom.
- The motion was passed that the Anti-Racism group become a study group under Christian Education.
- The Nominating Committee nearly has a full slate.
- At **Pastor Trey's** request, the motion was passed to alter his vacation dates from October 13-20 to Sunday, October 25 (following worship and congregational meeting) through Sunday, November 1. (Sarah will be on vacation from October 13 – 20.)

Monday Morning Meditation: This is your monthly reminder that every Monday from noon to 1PM, the sanctuary will be open for prayer. You can come for ten minutes or the entire hour to sit in that space to reflect and spend time in prayer.

Sarah Hegar, Director of Congregational Ministries

Presbytery of East Iowa's Response to the Derecho Storm

Pastors Sarah and Trey have been working with a task force from East Iowa to help with the recovery efforts from the Derecho Storm. This church has helped in many ways! Many of you on August 14 contributed lunch items. Over 600 sack lunches were distributed to people in need in Cedar Rapids just four days after the storm. A couple weeks later many of you donated school supplies. **Sarah** was able to take those supplies to distribute to children in Cedar Rapids. Then on September 5 a group from our church went up to Prairiewoods Franciscan Retreat Center and joined 100 other Presbyterians to clean up trees. They lost over half of their trees on their 70 acres. Over the past month, this church has shown God's Light to many in need and we are grateful.

Treasurer's Report for August 2020

AUGUST	CURRENT	CURRENT	YEAR	YEAR	2020
2020	MONTH	MONTH	TO DATE	TO DATE	YEAR
<u>REVENUES</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
General Pledges	\$26,193.00	\$20,208.00	\$180,574.00	\$161,667.00	\$242,500.00
Other Revenue	\$6,718.00	\$11,081.00	\$34,041.00	\$65,046.00	\$108,870.00
Total Revenue	\$32,911.00	\$31,289.00	\$214,615.00	\$226,713.00	\$351,370.00
<u>EXPENSES</u>					
Pastor	\$8,963.00	\$9,705.00	\$72,136.00	\$76,887.00	\$115,555.00
Personnel	\$9,716.00	\$10,476.00	\$82,458.00	\$83,810.00	\$126,396.00
Worship and Music	\$338.00	\$317.00	\$1,623.00	\$2,533.00	\$3,800.00
Adult Christian Education	\$73.00	\$67.00	\$103.00	\$533.00	\$3,300.00
Youth Christian Education	\$169.00	\$4,375.00	\$5,028.00	\$17,500.00	\$19,000.00
Stewardship	\$11.00	\$131.00	\$53.00	\$1,051.00	\$3,276.00
Building and Grounds	\$1,412.00	\$2,396.00	\$14,359.00	\$21,667.00	\$33,750.00
Operations	\$487.00	\$767.00	\$4,478.00	\$6,133.00	\$9,200.00
Technology	\$0.00	\$429.00	\$2,527.00	\$3,433.00	\$5,150.00
Mission	\$500.00	\$2,245.00	\$8,128.00	\$20,462.00	\$31,943.00
Special Giving	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$21,669.00	\$30,908.00	\$190,893.00	\$234,009.00	\$351,370.00
NET INCOME	\$11,242.00	\$381.00	\$23,722.00	(\$7,296.00)	\$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, Chair*

Reusable Face Mask Drive for Elementary Schools

The Mission Committee became aware of a need for reusable masks at the elementary schools. Students are required to wear masks. If they do not have one, they are given a disposable one. Not only is this not eco-friendly, it contributes to the divide in socio-economic status. With mission funds some masks have already been purchased. We are also asking for either donations of reusable masks, materials such as fabric and elastic, or monetary donations to purchase materials and masks. This drive will be ongoing for the next couple months.

Sarah Hegar, Director of Congregational Ministries

Stewardship 2020

Stewardship is generally recognized as the acceptance or assignment of responsibility to shepherd and safeguard the valuables of others. In this context, as members of the church, we are all stewards of God's valuables. Kind of adds a little weight to the responsibility, doesn't it?

In Matthew 25:14-30, to teach a lesson about stewardship, Jesus used the parable of the three servants who each received a sum of money from their master before he departed on a journey. When he returned, the master rewarded the servants based on what they did with the money—the two who invested the money wisely were praised and given more prestige. The servant who buried the money, who didn't wisely use the gift that was given to him to use, did not receive the favor of the master.

In that same way, one day we will be asked what we did with the gifts given to us to use. As in the parable, the size of the gifts given doesn't matter—just how we used them. The third servant wasn't judged for doing bad things with the money, he was judged for doing nothing with it—essentially, for wasting a gift from the master.

As stewards of God's church, we endeavor to use the gifts given to us wisely. The importance of the Stewardship Campaign in the planning of the use of our gifts in the next year is critical. The work of the session and committees in developing a realistic program and operating budget for the year depends on the participation of the entire congregation in the stewardship process. Our success as leaders of your church lies in your hands.

In the next week, we will all receive a pledge card. I urge you to take the time to consider sharing your gift of talent or treasure with us as we endeavor to be good stewards of God's church. Please fill it out and return it by Sunday, October 25. If you are unable to attend a service by then, please feel free to return it by mail.

Come see some of the amazing things being done in and around our church. We'd love to have you join us as we explore exciting new paths in the life of First Presbyterian Church!

Yours in Christ, *Brian Sinclair*, Stewardship Committee Chair

Presbyterian Women's Short Business Meeting

Thursday, October 1 at 1:30 PM

Socially distance in fellowship hall

All Women of the church are invited. PW is for all women!!

Bible in 90 Days

Around 40 people are participating in the Bible in 90 Days program. We couldn't be more excited with your enthusiasm and questions as you read! Who knew there was so much in the Old Testament that we never learned in Sunday School?! Every Sunday at 6 PM, we get together on zoom for questions and a video. By October 4 we will be in the book of Psalms - almost half-way through! Keep it up and just keep reading!

Sarah Hegar, Director of Congregational Ministries

REVOLUTION

(Kindergarten-5th Grade)

Wednesday REVOLUTION is back!

We have begun our Fall programming again with some modifications. Ten children are coming each Wednesday to create a safer, smaller group. Masks are also worn by children and adults. Special thanks to **Bonnie Kremer** for providing two weeks of drumming! Rovers for the month of September were **Ken and Patty Madden, Barb Miller, and Erica Redgate**. This year the children are learning about the Beatitudes.

Sarah Hegar, Director of Congregational Ministries

Book Group

The Book Group members will find each other on Zoom for our next meeting. We have had great discussions and encourage any interested readers to contact me, if you would like to participate. Join us on **Thursday, October 8 at 7:00 PM** to discuss White Fragility, by Robin Diangelo. November's selection will be The Soul of America, by Jon Meacham and on January 14 A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles. Look for the link to Zoom on your email. See you then!

Happy reading! Patty Madden

Outside Worship Services

We will continue to worship outside at the Old Threshers Wright Family Pavilion as long as the weather is feasible.

Online Worship 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.

Worship with 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>. Just click on prerecorded services.

October Worship:

Sunday Morning Building Assistant: **Tom Ellsworth**

Financial Clerk: **Meredith Lee**

Liturgists: October 4: **Tammy Shull** October 11: **Barb Miller**

October 18: **Jean Carpenter** October 25: **Lynn Ellsworth**

Sunday, October 25:

Annual Congregational Meeting following 9:45 AM Worship

Nominating Report and Establish Pastor's Terms of Call

September Thanks to:

- **Mary Beth Young, Bob Mueller** and **Marilyn Vincent** for being liturgists
- **Steve Readinger, Marlene DePriest,** and **Sarah Hegar** for leading music
- **Sarah Hegar, Lea McCormick,** and **Sound of Eleven (Sherla Arp, Jane Creager, Jeff Epperson, Jeff Fager, Sally Fager, Sara Kremer, Bonnie Kremer, Ginnie Swarm, Marilyn Vincent, Robyn Willham, and Martha Wiley)** for providing special music.

Online Westminster Choir Singers: **Karen Bates-Chabal, Adam Creager, Mindy Creager, Jim DePriest, Marlene DePriest, Lynn Ellsworth, Jeff Epperson, Karen Kauffman and Steve Readinger**

Congratulations to:

- **Joel & Heidi Ryon** on their 25th Anniversary - September 9
- **Ed Kropa** on his 80th birthday - September 17
- **Matt & Jean Lawler** on their 40th Anniversary-September 20
- **Amelia Conrad,** whose poem entitled "Letters from a Foreign Land," was published in the Atlanta-based magazine The Mainline in September.

New Addresses:

Ryan Chabal 932 38th St. SE Cedar Rapids 52403

John & Vicky Schroeder 534 Sunset Dr. SE Altoona 50009



**We have the best spaghetti near or far;
this year we brought it to your car!
THANK YOU, EVERYONE, for your part
in a successful 21st annual spaghetti supper –
DRIVE-THRU ONLY!**

We sold out of our 600 tickets and had 562 tickets returned for a delicious take-out meal. We prepared our famous spaghetti meal, created new delivery procedures and followed COVID-19 protocols practicing social distancing, mask wearing and hand sanitizing. We received financial contributions from our congregation, as well as from out of state patrons, who wrote to us and said they were missing our spaghetti. **Our profit from this year was close to \$4700. This would not have been possible without everyone's support! THANK YOU!**

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Sinclair, Spaghetti Supper Coordinator

**P.S. Mark your calendars - Wednesday, September 1, 2021,
next year's spaghetti supper!**

Special thanks to **Deb Sinclair**, for her outstanding leadership to make our spaghetti supper so successful



IowaWINS'

We have been able to expand the number of immigrant families using our food pantry to 40 families. This is much needed support to families who have been impacted in their jobs and health by the pandemic and continued delays in the immigration process. Thanks to donations and grants, we have funds to continue serving these families through December and are continuing to submit grant applications and share the IowaWINS story with others in our community and in the state of Iowa. We are continuing to provide fresh produce as part of the pantry offering. Thanks to the donations of peppers from the **Hoenig family** and produce planted, tended and harvested by our Nutrimos volunteers. We hope to have produce from the gardens one last time for our last pantry distribution in late September.

We are happy to report that Special Juvenile Immigration Status applications have been approved for all three of the young people who applied for this immigration status. They were all impacted by the ICE raid in different ways and were left without parents in this country. This process requires that the young people have legal guardians who oversee their legal, medical and housing concerns and make annual reports to the government on their well-being. **Pastor Trey and Sarah Hegar, Lynn Ellsworth, and Tammy Shull** have established those guardianships with these young people. All of them have either graduated from high school or are currently in school and doing well. It will still be a long wait before they are able to receive the Permanent Resident status due to the backlog of immigration cases, but are very likely to achieve that status in a few years. They are grateful for the support and have a brighter future because of your donations to IowaWINS.

Respectfully submitted,
Tammy Shull, Chair

Iowa WINS (Iowa Welcomes Immigrant Neighbors)
A Commission of the First Presbyterian Church of Mt. Pleasant
<http://www.iowawins.net>

The Church Needs a

ServSafe Certified Food Protection Manager

With completion of the remodeling, the church kitchen can now become a certified commercial kitchen, but needs to have a certified food protection manager to oversee operations. ServSafe provides a course to get this certification. Nutrimos, a sustaining ministry of IowaWINS, has offered to pay the six-hour course plus certification exam for a church member who would like to become a certified food protection manager. Participants learn current best practices related to safe food handling and cleaning/sanitizing and other food safety essentials. ServSafe® certificates are valid for five years. Registration for each course closes three weeks prior to the course date. Due to demand, some courses may fill prior to the registration deadline. A few upcoming dates close by include:
Iowa City-October 12 Dubuque-October 13 Bettendorf-October 19
Cedar Rapids-October 20 & 26 Fairfield-November 9
FAQs: <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/humansciences/servsafe>
Please let me know if you are interested.

Jane Martín Fairfield cell 443-926-3814 641-469-3527

PRAYER CONCERNS: Karen King; Ann Klingensmith; April Pforts; Doris Goering; Pastor Melisa Bracht-Wagner; Maggie Epperson's sister (Susan Moenssen-True); Lois Roth's brother (Mark Veldhizen); Our shut-ins and those in care centers; Our nation/world, as they deal with COVID-19; Those affected by the Derecho impact; Jeremy Lee

Our Christian Sympathies to the Families of:

- **Marvin & Diane May** on the death of **Marvin's mother, Leslie May**, on September 19, 2020
- **Bill Smith** on the death of **Bill's wife** and **Susie Clark's mother, Shirley Smith**, on September 8, 2020.
- **Wallace Cohen Geary**. Wally died on September 15, 2020, at the Donnellson Health Center in Donnellson.

October Birthdays & 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
Jack & Betty Becker

- 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
- 14 Wade Bengel - 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 Scot Lamm - Sarah Van Dorin
- 26 Sarah Moffett
- 28 Rusty King
- 30 Dorothy Moore – *Happy 95th Birthday!*
- 31 Anni Liechty – Lorrie Parker

Church Outreach Continues

Our Elders and Deacons have each been assigned a group of church friends. They are the representatives of our church. They will reach out to you several times over the coming weeks just to check in. It may seem like a short phone call to ask how you are feeling about things that week. However, it's our way of saying we care about you, because God cares about you. It's an important way we will stay connected as the church.

Pastor Trey

