

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
Temporary 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

Presbyterian Women Meeting

Thursday, September 9 at 1:30 PM
Gathering Space

Book Group

Thursday, September 9 at 7 PM
Zoom

Social Justice Meeting

Sunday, September 12 at 11 AM



ALERT



First Presbyterian Church 319-986-5851

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

Volume 52 No. 9 firstpresbymtp@gmail.com September 2021

The Joy of Generosity

In the month of August, we enjoyed a series based on Adam Hamilton's book, *Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity*. The series addressed our unique cultural conditioning as American consumers and Christians. Jesus teaches that "life does not consist in the abundance of possessions" (Luke 12:15). Yet, our culture shouts that is not true. The result is a wrestling match in our hearts. Despite the fact that we say we believe Jesus' words, we still find ourselves devoting a great deal of our time, talents, and resources to the acquisition of more stuff. The series addressed this dilemma to help us discover joy through simplicity and generosity.

This year, we invite you to celebrate the joy of generosity as you offer your Pledge Card for 2022. You should have received it in the mail. We will gladly send one to you if you did not receive it. We encourage you to find greater contentment and simplicity in your lives as you put God first in your giving and living and to experience the joy that comes from knowing our gifts honor God and change lives.

Why is giving important? Our challenge as members is to find ways to grow deeper in our faith. One way to do this is to offer our financial blessings to God through our tithes and offerings. Through these gifts, we invest in God's vision and purpose and create an opportunity for God to work through us. Our gifts to God each week are an act of worship, and our offerings are vitally necessary to change lives, transform communities, and renew mainline churches.

What does the Bible say? The Bible has much to say about wisdom and finances with 2,300 verses that tell us to be generous and good stewards of our resources. Jesus taught generosity and sacrifice. In the parable of the talents, Jesus taught that God will hold us each accountable for what we do with all of our earthly possessions.

What is expected of me? The Bible teaches us to give a tithe, or the first 10 percent of what we earn, to God and the church's work. For some, giving 10 percent is a very difficult goal. For others, it is the starting point, and their giving far exceeds 10 percent. The important thing is that you start somewhere, that your giving be in proportion to your income, that your giving reflects an appropriate offering to God given your means, and that your offerings express both your desire to serve the Lord and your investment in God's work.

If you are not yet tithing, consider taking a step toward tithing this year. For example, if you now give 3 percent of your income, consider increasing your gift to 4 percent, and add 1 percent each year until you reach the tithing goal.

Our prayer is that everyone will grow in his or her faith through giving financially to the ministries of the church and experience the joy and blessings that come from financial generosity.

What's Next? Pray for the church and how you can help us share God's love through your tithe. Then, fill out your pledge card and return it to the church. We hope to have all the pledge cards returned by Sept. 12.

Grace and peace, Rev. Trey Hegar

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

Session Highlights

By *Ed Kropa*, Clerk

Prompted by 9% Covid positivity in Henry County, the Session approved to temporarily put back the separation ribbons in the Sanctuary, request that all worshipers who are able to wear masks, sing lightly behind the masks, and forgo the Fellowship time.

The following motions were passed:

- the church to participate with other churches in the Presbytery in a book study of *Caste – The Origins of Our Discontent*, Oct 3 thru Nov 21.
- to accept/utilize all three logos with the tree logo being the primary.
- the church to participate in Peacemaker **Efi Latsoudi's** presentations on Wednesday, October 6.
- to use Accrual Funds (estimated \$6,000) to repair the windows of the Gathering Space.
- to hold a Dedication of baby **Matteo** with parents **Julieta and William** on August 15.
- for the Daughters of the American Revolution to use the Gathering Space for monthly meetings on the last Thursdays.

“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

Treasurer's Report for July 2021

| JULY 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 | \$21,500.00 | \$18,179.00 | \$169,459.00 | \$127,251.00 | \$218,145.00 |
| Other Revenue | \$149.00 | \$7,800.00 | \$16,524.00 | \$54,605.00 | \$109,707.35 |
| Total Revenue | \$21,649.00 | \$25,979.00 | \$185,983.00 | \$181,856.00 | \$327,852.35 |
| <u>EXPENSES</u> | | | | | |
| Pastor | \$10,054.00 | \$9,842.00 | \$65,801.00 | \$68,889.00 | \$118,096.06 |
| personnel | \$8,748.00 | \$10,673.00 | \$70,773.00 | \$74,711.00 | \$128,756.29 |
| Worship and Music | \$451.00 | \$325.00 | \$1,305.00 | \$2,275.00 | \$3,900.00 |
| Adult Christian Education | \$0.00 | \$67.00 | \$172.00 | \$467.00 | \$1,800.00 |
| Youth Christian Education | \$1,291.00 | \$4,708.00 | \$3,476.00 | \$5,959.00 | \$12,000.00 |
| Stewardship | \$170.00 | \$108.00 | \$276.00 | \$758.00 | \$3,000.00 |
| Building and Grounds Operations | \$1,276.00 | \$2,187.00 | \$15,782.00 | \$15,313.00 | \$26,250.00 |
| Technology | \$546.00 | \$642.00 | \$4,209.00 | \$4,491.00 | \$7,700.00 |
| Mission | \$811.00 | \$379.00 | \$1,791.00 | \$2,654.00 | \$4,550.00 |
| Special Giving | \$500.00 | \$1,503.00 | \$13,204.00 | \$12,403.00 | \$21,800.00 |
| | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$23,847.00 | \$30,434.00 | \$176,789.00 | \$187,920.00 | \$327,852.35 |
| CASH INCREASE (DECR) | (\$2,198.00) | (\$4,455.00) | \$9,194.00 | (\$6,064.00) | \$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

Worship Helpers

Sunday Morning Building Assistant: **Tim Olson**

Financial Clerk: **Liz Wasson**

Greeters: **Curt & Ginnie Swarm**

Communion Preparer: Sunday, Sept 12 - **Pat Richenberger**

Liturgists: Sept 12 **Curt Swarm** Sept 19 **Mary Beth Young**

Sept 26 **Ginnie Swarm**

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 will once again be 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 put on hold. Thank you for your understanding.

Blessings, Rev. Trey Hegar

(Masks are available if you do not have one.)

Hand sanitizer is available.

Calling all bell ringers (and wannabes)

Bell choir rehearsals will start on Wednesday,

September 8 - Soul Notes at 5:30 and Sound Appeal at 6:15.

We will be welcoming back our "regular" ringers. If you are interested in joining one of these groups or would like more information about them, please contact **Marj Thimmesch** (385-1717) before Sept. 8.

Special Music

We've had a wonderful summer of special music! Thank you to vocalist **Tim Olson**, *Soul Trio* (**Anya Clark, Katie and Natalie McCormick**), *ClasSax 2.0* (**Adam Creager, Nick McCormick, Janel Horn, Luke Ryon and Marlene Depriest**), pianists **Heidi Riepe and Joel Brown**, and the women's trio (**Lynn Ellsworth, Sarah Hegar, Lea McCormick**) who shared their talents during August. Thanks to **Lea McCormick, Lynn Ellsworth**, and **Sarah Hegar** for serving as song leaders. All those who filled the special music spot were greatly appreciated.

Marj Thimmesch

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=SXVhZFZlZWVhNFJlVXZkdzZlVFXz09>

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 pre-recorded services.

Social Justice Meetings to Resume

We will restart social justice meetings after church on the second Sunday of each month starting September 12, 2021 from 11 AM to 12 PM.

Here is the schedule for the next couple of months:

September 12: Limits on diversity training?/
What are divisive concepts?

October 10: Columbus Day vs.
Indigenous Peoples Day

November 14: What is acceptable policing policy?

There will be a video clip of about 10 minutes followed by discussion on a wide-ranging number of issues. Send suggested topics to Bob Mueller at mayatoddbob@aim.com.

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

Beginning Sunday, October 3 for 8 weeks

We have been challenged as a Presbytery by Rev. Denise Anderson, Coordinator of Racial and Intercultural Justice for the PC(USA) and Co-Moderator of the 222nd General Assembly (2016-2018) to read and study this book leading up to her presence with us at our November Presbytery meeting.

We will begin this study on Sunday evening, October 3 and conclude on Sunday, November 21. Over 8 weeks we will join with others in the Presbytery of East Iowa to read and study this book and further our work towards ending racial inequality. A study guide will be provided for participants.

You are also invited to mark your calendars for Thursday, November 18 to hear Denise speak and preach at the Presbytery meeting in Cedar Rapids.

Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women will meet on Thursday, September 9 at 1:30 PM in the Gathering Space.

Book Group

The Book Group will meet via Zoom on Thursday, September 9 at 7:00 PM.

The September book is *All Adults Here* by Emma Straub.

The October selection is *The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich.

Please join us for some great discussion and fellowship!



IowaWINS - Meals by Nutrimos

Feeling rushed? Not enough time to cook at home? **Meals by Nutrimos** can provide a little relief while supporting others in need. But first – here are few questions that we have heard:

- **What is IowaWINS?**
- **What is Nutrimos?**
- **Why are we cooking meals at the First Presbyterian Church in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa?**
- **Do we still have a food pantry?**
- **Why is the food pantry room so barren?**
- **Where does the “Meals by Nutrimos” money go?**
- **What does IowaWINS do with the money?**
- **How can I get the meals?**
- **Can I help?**

Great questions, thanks for asking. We will provide some short answers, but know that there is much more to the story, so feel free to talk with an **IowaWINS/Nutrimos** member to learn more.

What is IowaWINS?

- **IowaWINS** is a community commission of the First Presbyterian Church of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa that was formed in the Fall of 2015. The commission is open to everyone in the community.
- **IowaWINS** Mission: Our communities will be inclusive and hospitable, welcoming people from across the world who chose to live, work, study and seek happiness here.
- On May 9, 2018, **IowaWINS** became the epicenter of the response to the ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) Raid in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, where 32 men were taken from their workplace and detained. This action left their families without their primary breadwinners and caused tremendous fear throughout the immigrant community in Mt. Pleasant.
- **IowaWINS** was able to connect with these families, aiding 24 of those men to be released on bond and reunited with their families. Most have now been granted work permits while they continue to wait on their immigration hearings over three years later.

What is Nutrimos?

- **Nutrimos** is the sustaining ministry of IowaWINS. **Nutrimos** means “We Nourish” in Spanish
- The Presbyterian Disaster Agency (PDA) provided an initial emergency grant to respond after the ICE Raid, but the PDA asked us to consider creating a Sustainable Ministry that would provide ongoing funding to **IowaWINS**. They provided a separate grant to create that sustainable ministry.
- The first project of **Nutrimos** was to provide seeds and plants for immigrants to grow their own food at home or in the Fellowship Cup Community Gardens. These garden kits were distributed in 2019, 2020 and 2021, reaching 50 families this year.

- In 2020 and 2021, **Nutrimos** volunteers planted, tended and harvested nine plots in the Fellowship Cup Community Gardens to provide fresh produce for the food pantry.
- In May 2021, we started a new project to bring in funds for **IowaWINS** - make meals for a donation - and call it **Meals by Nutrimos**.

Why are we cooking meals at the church?

- To raise funds for **IowaWINS** to continue supporting the local immigrant communities, as well as providing a 10% tithe to the church.
- It is a needed service for seniors and families both in our church and in the community.

Do we still have a food pantry?

- Yes, in fact, we are serving more families than ever before. Originally, we started with 32 families. A year later, that number had dropped to 15, but when COVID-19 hit, we found a new need to expand the pantry. We currently serve 44 families.
- Operation of the food pantry has now been turned over to an immigrant leadership group who are also users of the pantry.
- Pantry time has been moved to a weekday evening to make it convenient for the families to pick up their packages.

Why is the pantry room so barren?

- COVID changed the way we support immigrant families. During this pandemic, we eliminated direct distribution of food items as a health precaution.
- In season, the pantry room is filled with produce from the Community Gardens. Bulk items, like paper products, are stocked just before the food pantry distribution times, which are only twice a month. Our wholesaler allowed us to have these items when local stores were out of stock.

Where does the money go?

- **Nutrimos** receives donations and grants to explore ways for **IowaWINS** to become self-sustaining. The group manages the startup expenses and evaluates the success of these projects.
- The net profit is distributed between **IowaWINS** and a 10% tithe to the church.

What does IowaWINS do with the money?

- Support a food pantry currently serving 44 families. As funds allow, we give each family \$50 gift cards so the families can decide what foods meet their diets. We also give them items that have a big impact on the family budget – things like cooking oil, detergent, and paper products.
- Pay application fees for DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) applications and renewals. Pay for work permit applications and renewals for young people. These run about \$500 for each application. The immigrants still must pay attorney fees for the completion and filing of each application.
- Provide education and training for immigrants to help them with new job opportunities, increased English skills, and leadership skills.
- Hold events to educate the community about the obstacles and realities facing immigrants and refugees, creating opportunities to come together to make personal connections.
- Advocate for immigration reform, working for a more just, uniform system that recognizes the need for immigrants to come to our communities.

How can I get the meals?

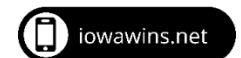
- Links to the **Meals by Nutrimos** webpage are available on the first page of the websites of the First Presbyterian Church: <http://www.firstpresbyonline.org/> and IowaWINS: <https://www.iowawins.net/meals-by-nutrimos.html>

- The webpage has a summary of all menu items and, when you click on an item - you can see the full list of ingredients and a photo. Also, there is an inventory of available items on the webpage.
- To place an order and arrange for a pickup - call the church at [\(319\) 986-5851](tel:3199865851) between 9 AM and 2 PM.
- We are taking a hiatus during Old Threshers but will be kicking off with a fuller menu for church members in September. We plan to start serving community members in October.
- We plan to offer opportunities for selection of menu items on Sundays after church and on Wednesday afternoons/evenings when children and youth activities are happening.

Can I help?

- Absolutely, we can use volunteers in the following areas:
 - Chefs
 - Meal Prep assistants
 - Kitchen clean up assistants
 - Taking donations and providing the meals
 - Board Members for **IowaWINS** or **Nutrimos**
- For those interested in the kitchen work, there is a free training planned for Sunday, August 29th from 1 to 3 PM on food safety taught by an ISU staff member.
- We can work with your schedule to fit this volunteer work into the rest of your busy life.

Thank you for your continued support of this ministry!!!!



Re:Creation! & Youth ALERT

Wednesday after School Program – September 2021
Kindergarten – Fifth Grade with Sarah Hegar

Middle School & High School – September 2021
with Pastor Trey and Adult Advisors

First Presbyterian Church Mt. Pleasant, Iowa
Our Motto - Serving God by Serving Others!

Re:Creation Wednesday After School Program to begin September 8

We are excited and looking forward to another year of Re:Creation! Registration forms are available in the office. This is for children in Kindergarten through 5th grade. We meet every Wednesday after school for snacks, games, drumming, and a Bible lesson.

Invite your friends and see you on September 8!

Press On Youth Group Kick off

Join us Wednesday, September 8 for the Press On Youth Group Kick Off from 6:30 to 8 PM at the Hegar House.

We will kick off the year with a cookout and games at the Hegar House! All 6th through 12th graders are invited to join our weekly youth group. A typical week will include devotions and discussion time, games, and service projects. On September 8, meet us at 909 S. Oakbrook Drive to kick off the school year.

Don't forget your mask!

Due to the increased activity of COVID in our area, the Session has returned to a mask recommendation for all worship, programs, and meetings at the church. Our Wednesday programs of Re:Creation and Press On will be asked to wear masks if able until further notice. We will have masks provided for those that do not have one. Thanks for your understanding and care for all of God's Children.

If you have any questions/concerns, please contact:

Sarah Hegar 319-217-9444 sarah.f.hegar@gmail.com
Trey Hegar 319-217-3407 treyhegar@gmail.com

The new memorial tree in our sanctuary is gracious gift from the family of **J.D. Schimmelfennig**. It is a beautiful and moving tribute to members of our congregation who have passed. Thank you to **Kathy Schimmelfennig** and family for the display. Thank you to **Matt Lawler** and **Chuck Albright** for installing the tree, and thank you to **Hollie Ashton** and **Karen Kauffman** for their work on attaching the leaves. **Pastor Trey** would like to add a thank you to **Paula Hoenig**, the chair of the memorial committee, for coordinating the project and getting the engravings arranged!
Memorial Committee

We give thanks to **Sherla Arp, Jack Becker, Steve Readinger and Mary Beth Young** for providing cakes for the **Ken Barker** celebration of life reception. We also wish to show appreciation to **Susan Farnsworth, Kathy McWhirter, Pat Richenberger, Becky Siberts** and **Kent Thompson** for assisting at the event. Thanks everyone!

Charlene Hinrichs and Claudia Streeter Co-chairs

Thank you to **Kent Thomson** for trimming the lower tree branches to make parking easier for Old Threshers. Thank you to **Jeff and Maggie Epperson** for donating two 100 ft garden hoses to the church. Check out the improvements to the prayer garden on the east side of the church. The wall has been straightened and there is new landscaping. It's a nice shady spot for reflection and prayer.

Kevin Hoenig, Buildings & Grounds

Prayer Concerns

- Dorothy Moore
- 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>)

September Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Jean Thomson**
- 2 Mike & Heidi Riepe's Anniversary**
- 3 Angel King**
- 5 Jelen McCall, Brad Mills**
Kevin & Shelley Van Dorin's Anniversary

- 7 Martha Wiley, Dana Lloyd, Bethany Brooks**
Gary & Carole Lauger's Anniversary
- 8 Lauryn Willham**
- 10 Beverly Ray**
- 11 Jaqui Tolson**
Heath Brooks
- 12 Mike Mathews, Chris Van De Berg**
- 13 Don Wiley**
- 15 Walter Holtkamp**
- 16 Matt Lawler, Bob Mueller (1946)**
- 17 Ed Kropa**
- 20 Jack Kremer**
Matt & Jean Lawler's Anniversary
- 21 Connie Best**
- 24 Judy Fye**

- 27 Caitlyn DePriest**
Bob & Sandy Breazeale's Anniversary
- 28 Sara Kremer**
- 30 Becky Siberts**

