OCTOBER ALERT

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church

First Presbyterian Church Mt. Pleasant, Iowa — Share God's Love

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

Vol. 57, Issue 10

A PEOPLE ON THE WAY

Over the past few weeks, we began a new sermon series called "A People on the Way." Through the stories of God's people in Exodus, we have explored what it means to journey through uncertainty, change, and new possibilities.

We have been reminded that faith is not about having the entire journey figured out, but about trusting God enough to take the next faithful step.

So far, our journey has taken us from the fear of leaving the past behind and moving into an uncertain future when we saw "No Way Forward," to the challenge of trusting God for "Enough for Today."

My prayer has been that the series will make connections from where we are as a congregation to where you may be in your personal life. After all, we are collectively and individually "A People on the Way."

As the series continues, we will keep exploring how God leads us, God forms us, and God sends us. We will consider what it means to move from fear to trust, from scarcity to gratitude, from conflict to reconciliation, and from looking inward to recognizing where God is already at work around us.

The journey is still unfolding, and we don't know exactly where it will lead. But we do know this: we are not traveling alone. God is with us on the way.

Blessings,

Rev. Trey Hegar

BIANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25 AT FOLLOWING WORSHIP

All are invited to attend the Bi-Annual Congregational Meeting following Worship on Sunday, October 25. This is a stated congregational meeting to receive nominations for Elders and Deacons, review the Preliminary 2027 Budget, vote on the Pastor's Terms of Call for 2027, and honor those who have passed on within the past year. All are welcome to come and join us for this meeting.

2027 PLEDGE CARDS & COMMITTEE BUDGETS DUE TO OFFICE BY THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

Stewardship has officially kicked off its 2027 Pledge campaign. Pledge cards have been mailed out and committees have been notified to complete their 2027 Preliminary Budgets. Both the 2027 Pledge Cards and Preliminary Budgets are due to the office and/or Stewardship Chair, Drew Kinser, by Thursday, October 1. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact the office. Thank you.

IN THIS NEWSLETTER YOU CAN EXPECT:

- World Communion Sunday
- August 2026's Financials
- Session Highlights
- Corn Sunday
- Book Group
- Presbyterian Women Fall Rummage & Bake Sale
- Spaghetti Supper Wrap Up & Thanks
- Trunk or Treak
- IowaWINS Article
- Meals by Nutrimos October Menu

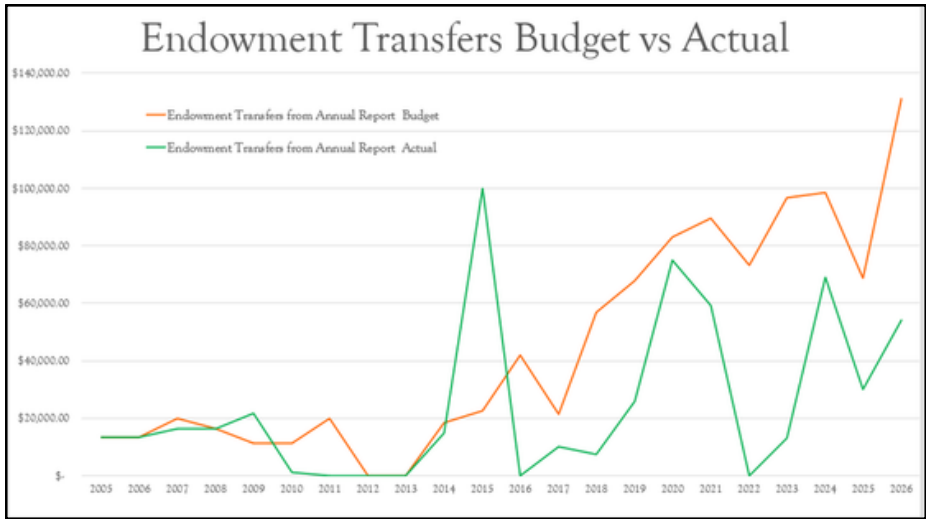
FROM THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

According to the Endowment Fund Charter, there are three allowed and approved uses of the Endowment Fund:

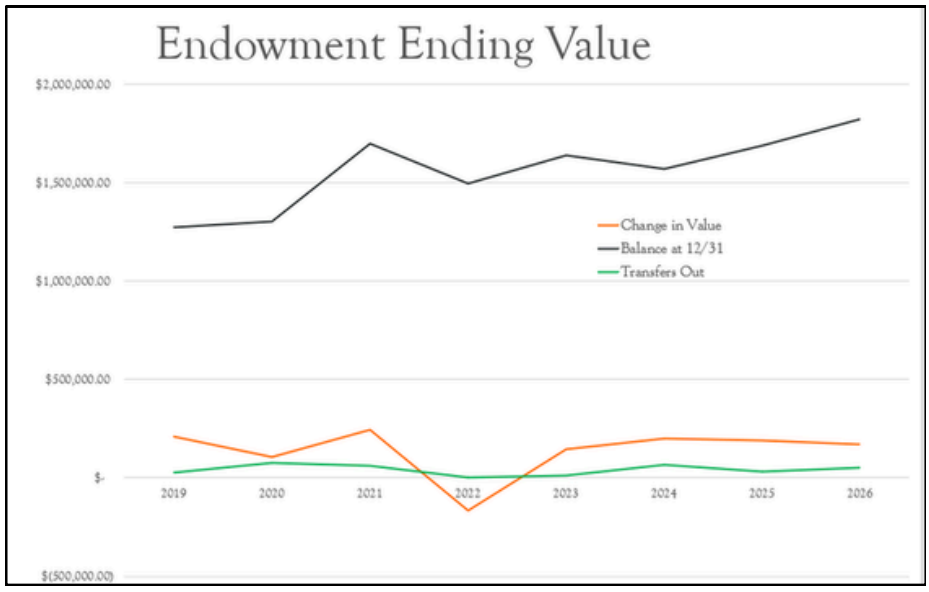
1. Capital improvement projects not within the church's normal operating budget
2. Special mission and ministries
3. And augmenting the regular income of the Church as needed.

We have an amount in the Endowment Fund, the corpus, that we are not allowed to touch under the current charter. That amount totals around $600,000. We work closely with our investment advisors at Morgan Stanley to adjust our investments as needed, depending on what the market dictates.

When we set the budget each year, we end up having to plug in an amount as "Endowment Transfer" to balance the budget. However, we have not had to transfer that total amount from the Endowment solely to cover regular expenses. This first graph shows the budgeted Endowment Transfers, compared to actual transfers each year, going back to 2005:



This next graph shows three lines of comparison: total value in the Endowment, change in value of the Endowment, and transfers out of the Endowment, from 2019-2026. The value of our Endowment as of August 31, 2026 is $1.82 million.



Please don't hesitate to reach out to Drew Kinser, or any Endowment Committee member if you have any questions!

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR AUGUST 2026

August 2026	CURRENT MONTH ACTUAL	CURRENT MONTH BUDGET	YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL	YEAR TO DATE BUDGET	2026 BUDGET
General Pledges	$14,515.00	$19,626.00	$196,174.00	$157,010.00	$204,796.00
From Endowment Fund	$0.00	$10,941.00	$34,000.00	$101,527.00	$131,290.00
Other Revenue	$8,513.00	$1,129.00	$16,704.00	$9,033.00	$75,869.00
Total Revenue	$23,028.00	$31,696.00	$246,878.00	$267,570.00	$411,955.00
EXPENSES					
Pastor	$10,105.00	$11,455.00	$81,960.00	$91,640.00	$137,460.00
Personnel Expense	$14,969.00	$14,841.00	$117,591.00	$118,727.00	$178,815.00
Worship and Music	$53.00	$933.00	$1,432.00	$3,967.00	$6,700.00
Adult Christian Education	$0.00	$192.00	$0.00	$1,533.00	$2,300.00
YouthChristian Education	$1,396.00	$1,458.00	$6,958.00	$7,667.00	$10,000.00
Stewardship	$930.00	$675.00	$3,881.00	$1,900.00	$5,200.00
Building and Grounds	$2,520.00	$1,989.00	$24,197.00	$22,133.00	$36,700.00
Operations	$809.00	$865.00	$7,114.00	$6,920.00	$10,380.00
Technology	$0.00	$333.00	$193.00	$2,667.00	$4,000.00
Mission	$3,172.00	$1,700.00	$16,833.00	$13,600.00	$20,400.00
Special Giving	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Total Expenses	$33,954.00	$34,441.00	$260,159.00	$270,754.00	$411,955.00
CASH INCREASE (DECR)	($10,926.00)	($2,745.00)	($13,281.00)	($3,184.00)	$0.00

Respectfully submitted, Marvin Bricker, Treasurer

Year to Date: Revenue: $ 246,878.00; Expenses: $ 260,159.00; Cash Increase (Decrease): ($ 13,281.00)

Special thanks to **Ginnie Swarm, Mariah Giberson, Marvin Bricker** and our financial clerks for all of their work.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Session resumed its regular meeting on Monday, September 14 at 6 PM in Peter's Room. Since there were no action items, Session Elders gave updates on their committees.

Building & Grounds Committee recently purchased a new fridge for the Fellowship Hall kitchen. The previous fridge was having issues staying cool, and with the Spaghetti Supper approaching, the committee wanted to make sure there would be a fully functioning fridge. The new fridge was purchased using Memorial money.

Stewardship has officially kicked off its 2027 Pledge campaign. Pledge cards have been mailed out and committees have been notified to complete their 2027 Preliminary Budgets. Both the 2027 Pledge Cards and Preliminary Budgets are due to the office and/or Stewardship Chair, Drew Kinser, by Thursday, October 1. It was also noted by Stewardship that an Endowment Transfer of $ 20,000.00 was initiated by the Bookkeeper at the beginning of September, as banking funds were getting too low for regular expenses.

Session also spent time continuing Building for a Future Not Our Own discussions. The three task forces created last Session had all met and will continue moving forward with their discussions.

Session will meet again on Monday, October 12 at 6 PM in Peter's Room.

2026 PER CAPITA

Per Capita for 2026 is $46.63.

TITHES & 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 scanning this QR code.

Rev. Trey Hegar

OCTOBER WORSHIP HELPERS

Sunday Morning Building Assistant:
Tom Ellsworth

Financial Clerks: **Tom Ellsworth**

Greeters: **Curt & Ginnie Swarm**

Communion Preparer - 10/4:
Pat Richenberger

Liturgists: Oct 4 **Steve Readinger**

Oct 11 **Mindy Creager**

Oct 18 **Sally Olson** Oct 25 **Lois Roth**

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4 AT 9:45 AM

Join Worship this Sunday, October 4 at 9:45 AM for an international experience! There will be prayers spoken in other languages and all different kinds of bread for you to try. Communion is a Sacrament that is celebrated around the world and it is special for us to recognize the international community we have right here in Mt. Pleasant.

Be sure to stick around afterwards, too, for a lunch and special presentation by IowaWINs and the Welcome Home Center as they share all of the great things they have been doing in the community this past year. All are welcome!

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6 & 20, 1-2:30 PM PETER'S ROOM

The Caregivers Support Group continues to meet. This is a support group for those caring for a loved one. It is a time of listening, sharing, laughing, and encouraging. **Dan & Gail Heater, Karilyn Bale, and Rev. Sarah Hegar** are the group facilitators.

PASTOR TREY'S BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAYS AT 10:30 AM, ADDINGTON PLACE

Join us for Pastor Trey's Bible Study at our new meeting place, Addington Place at 10:30 AM on Wednesdays. All are welcome to come and participate in this time of reflection, sharing, and joy with one another.

We also host Inclusive Bible Study with Hope Haven on the third Wednesday of the month at 10:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. This joint Bible Study is a great opportunity to get to know some amazing people and partake in great discussion. The next Inclusive Bible Study will happen on Wednesday, October 21 at 10:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.

BOOK GROUP

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8 AT 7 PM

Book Group will meet on Thursday, October 8th at 7 PM in the Gathering Space. Our chosen read for October is *Yesteryear* by Caro Claire Burke. *Yesteryear* is a satirical psychological thriller about Natalie Heller Mills, a successful Christian "tradwife" influencer who wakes up trapped in the brutal reality of 1855.

We hope you'll join us for fellowship and lively discussion. All are welcome! If you would like to be added to our group email list contact **Kelly Allen** kellyduck@gmail.com.

CORN SUNDAY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 4:30-6:30 PM, OUTDOORS/FELLOWSHIP HALL

Come join the fun as we play corn hole (bags), eat corn dogs and popcorn, and tell corny jokes! This will be a fund opportunity for all ages to join in the fun and fellowship!

TRUNK OR TREAT IN OUR PARKING LOT!

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 4-5 PM

Our Wednesday Re:Creation children would love to meet you and have you join their Fall Party! We will have yard games and different activities from 4-5 PM. You are invited to park in the south lot, decorate your trunk, and hand out treats! There will be a sign-up in the Gathering Space. Thanks for supporting this program!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
FALL RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE

SET UP: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 8 AM - 4 PM
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 8 AM - 12 PM
SALE: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 12-6 PM
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 8 AM - 1 PM
$2-A-BAG SALE: SATURDAY, 11 AM - 1 PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL

Presbyterian Women will be having their annual Fall Rummage & Bake Sale on Friday, October 9, 12-6 PM and Saturday, October 10, 8 AM - 1 PM. All items will be 50 cents unless marked otherwise. **The $2-a-Bag Sale will be Saturday, October 10, 11 AM - 1 PM.**

Set up will be on Thursday, October 8 from 8 AM - 4 PM, and Friday, October 9 from 8 AM - 12 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

Starting Sunday, October 4, donations can be placed on the Fellowship Hall stage, starting from the back. Please no summer clothes, clothes with missing buttons or broken zippers, large furniture, or TV's. South church doors will be unlocked during office hours.

Volunteer signup sheets will be on the Gathering Space table to help with the setup, sale, and bake sale. If you plan to bring a baked good, please be sure to sign up. **All baked goods must be packaged with an ingredient list and be brought to the Fellowship Hall Thursday, October 8 or Friday, October 9 before 10 AM.** Thank you in advance for your donations and support!

SPAGHETTI SUPPER WRAP UP & THANK YOU

As my grandfather would say, "Thank you one and all great and small!" Spaghetti Supper 2026 is in the books. Greatly appreciate all of you who provided pies, donated money, sold tickets, bought tickets, and/or volunteered throughout the event. It takes the whole church for our annual spaghetti supper! From beginning to end, this event is a wonderful example of our church family coming together to serve our community.

Looking at the numbers from this year's event:

- **685 of the 700 tickets were sold**
- **195 cars drove through and picked up 552 meals (one driver picked up 17 meals)**
- **5 tables of guests enjoyed dining in the Gathering Space, avoiding the heat**

Reviewing this year's finances:

Income from ticket sales and donations		**$ 9,981.00**
Expenses:		**$ 3,137.28**
Advertising	$ 448.35	
Spaghetti	$ 944.10	
Salad	$ 437.41	
Garlic Bread	$ 287.04	
To Go Containers	$ 649.94	
Kitchen Supplies	$ 71.60	
New Equipment	$ 243.88	
Purchased Pies	$ 54.96	
PROFIT:		**$ 6,843.72**

Special thanks to the planning committee for their time and hard work: **Jeff & Robyn Willham, Erin Stensvaag, Berdette Davis, Sarah F. Hegar, Ed Kropa**, and **Mariah Giberson**. Mark Tuesday, August 31, 2027, on the calendar for next year's Spaghetti Supper!

Deb Sinclair, Spaghetti Supper Coordinator

IOWAWINS:

WELCOME HOME CENTER KEEPS EXPANDING

The Welcome Home Center will kick off a "Kids' Language Club" this month. We have eight students signed up to learn a country's language and culture. This is part of our mission to expand our horizons by introducing community members to the wonders of the world. The more people know and understand others, the more they can celebrate our diversity.

The Welcome Home Center has become a partner in Thrive Iowa. This is a state-sponsored program to meet the needs of people who are struggling by creating a team of providers that can meet all the needs of a family. This program started in Arkansas and proved very effective in moving individuals and families from crisis to thriving. We are happy to be part of this program.

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
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 Chalupa's Anniversary
12 Ann Porter
14 Wade Benge, Matt Brooks
16 Tara Beauchamp, Natan Bayev, Bob Wise
17 Kenton & Carrie Church's Anniversary
Doug & Joyce Conrad's Anniversary
20 Chuck Albright
22 Charlie Martin
23 Kelly Allen
25 Sarah Van Dorin, Scot Lamm
31 Annika Liechty, Lorrie Parker, Barb Parker

NOVEMBER ALERT DEADLINE

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19

All articles, events, announcements, thank you's, congratulations, calendar items, birthdays and anniversary dates for the November ALERT are due to the office by Monday, October 19. Thank you.

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
  - MONDAY, OCTOBER 5 AT 5:45 PM, GATHERING SPACE
- DEACONS MEETING
  - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11 FOLLOWING WORSHIP, PETER'S ROOM
- SESSION
  - MONDAY, OCTOBER 12 AT 6 PM, PETER'S ROOM
- PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE MEETING
  - TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13 AT 5:30 PM, GATHERING SPACE

Meals by Nutrimos

TO-GO FREEZER MEALS

Are you feeling rushed and not finding enough time at home to cook? Not a fan of spending more than 20 minutes making just one meal? Try out Meals by Nutrimos!

WHAT IS MEALS BY NUTRIMOS?

Meals by Nutrimos is a meal ministry that offers nutritious, sizeable frozen meals. All proceeds from sold meals go toward IowaWINs community outreach. In addition, Meals by Nutrimos contributes a 10% tithe to the First Presbyterian Church of Mt. Pleasant.

HOW CAN I PLACE AN ORDER

Ways to Order:

- Online: iowawins.net/meals-by-nutrimos
- Phone: 319-986-5851
- In-Person: 902 S Walnut St, Mt Pleasant
  Monday-Friday, 9 AM - 2 PM
  2nd & 4th Sundays, 10:45-11:15 AM
  Wednesdays, 3-7 PM
  (During School Year)

  Farmer's Market: Wright Family Pavilion
  Saturdays, 8:30-11 AM

WHAT MEALS DO YOU OFFER?

Each month, we offer a select menu of frozen meals of limited breakfast items, savory dinner items, and sweet treats to choose from. All meals are individual serving unless stated otherwise.

If you are interested in a family-sized meal, please contact us or place a pre-order on our website by clicking the pre-order tab above the month's menu image.

DO YOU DELIVER?

Meals by Nutrimos offers in-town delivery of meals for a flat rate of $5 for residents of Mt Pleasant. We do not currently offer delivery for outside of Mt Pleasant at this time.

OCTOBER MENU

Below you will find the frozen meals we will be selling in October. All of the October meals can be ordered online, in-person, or by phone. If you have any questions, please contact us.

Baked Oatmeal (Nuts or No Nuts) **$ 8.00**

Single serving of a flavorful baked oatmeal packed with apples, raisins, and *pecans.

Ingredients: Oats, apples, raisins, *pecans, brown sugar, cinnamon, baking powder, eggs, milk, vanilla, butter, salt. (*no nut option available)

Autumn Soup **$ 8.00**

Single serving of a creamy squash and pumpkin soup.

Ingredients: Butternut squash, sweet potato, pumpkin, heavy cream, milk, butter, brown sugar, cinnamon, ginger, salt, pepper

Cherry Pie Bar **$ 5.00**

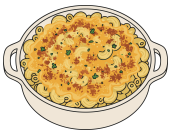
Single serving of a sweet cherry filling on top a pie bar.

Ingredients: Cherry pie filling (no sugar added), flour, sugar, cornstarch, baking powder, butter, eggs, vanilla, almond extract, milk, powdered sugar, salt

Swiss Chicken **$ 6.00**

Single serving of a cheesy, chicken casserole topped with crunchy stuffing.

Ingredients: Chicken breast, cream of chicken soup, swiss cheese, Stove Top stuffing, butter



Tuna Noodle Casserole **$ 6.00**

Single serving casserole of tuna, egg noodles, and veggies in a creamy sauce.

Ingredients: Tuna, peas, cream of mushroom soup, milk, egg noodles, Panko bread crumbs, parmesan cheese, butter

Looking for items from the previous month? Check our website's online store to see what is still in stock!

LEARN MORE!

Call us at 319-986-5851, scan the QR code, or visit our website iowawins.net/meals-by-nutrimos

Pastor: Rev. Trey Hegar
Music & Choir Director: Ming Vierra
Bell Choir Director: Adam Creager
Congregational Ministries Director: Rev. Sarah Hegar
AV Technician & Web Coordinator: Leo Clark
Office Assistant: Mariah Giberson
Custodian: Silvia Carrillo

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Financial Secretary: Ginnie Swarm
Treasurer: Marvin Bricker
Bookkeeper: Mariah Giberson

First Presbyterian Church
Share God's Love

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IMPORTANT DATES FOR OCTOBER

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY WITH LUNCH & IOWAWINS PRESENTATION
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4 AT 9:45 AM

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN FALL RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE
FRI. OCTOBER 9, 12-6 PM & SAT. OCTOBER 10, 8 AM-1 PM, FELLOWSHIP HALL

CORN SUNDAY
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18 FROM 4:30-6:30 PM, FELLOWSHIP HALL/OUTDOORS

TRUNK OR TREAT RE:CREATION
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28 FROM 4-5 PM, SOUTH PARKING LOT