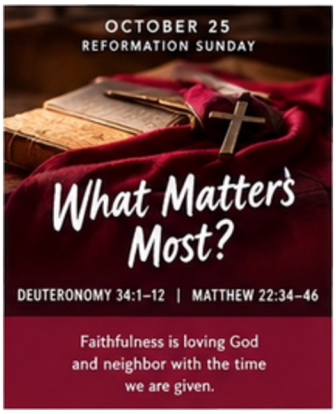
First Presbyterian Church

902 S Walnut St, Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641

Bi-Annual Congregational Meeting



Sunday, October 25, 2026

Share God's Love

"The motto of the First Presbyterian Church is to Share God's Love, Shine God's Light, and Get Shaped as God's People"

Church Staff

Pastor: **Rev. Trey Hegar**
Director of Congregational Ministries: **Rev. Sarah Hegar**
Music Director: **Ming Vierra**
Bell Choir Director: **Adam Creager**
Office Manager & Bookkeeper: **Mariah Giberson**
Custodian: **Silvia Carrillo**
AV Tech/Web Coordinator: **Leo Clark**
Nursery Attendants: **Courtney Bowman, Rachel McWilliams, & Karilyn Titus**
Liturgist: **Lois Roth**

Website: www.firstpresbyonline.org
Email: firstpresbymtp@gmail.com
Phone: (319) 986-5851
Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 AM - 2 PM

Worship Icons

The icons below are provided throughout the Order of Worship to encourage participation of all ages and abilities.

- **Speaking**
- **Music**
- **Listen**
- **Pray**
- **Scripture Reading**
- **Offering**
- **Holy Communion**

Bold text is read or sung by the congregation

*Asterisk invites all who are able to stand

Green is the liturgical color that symbolizes life and growth. Green paraments are used during Ordinary Time on the church calendar.

The Prelude calls us to quiet our hearts and minds in preparation for worship. We invite you to keep silence as you open yourself to the Spirit.

Order of Worship

We believe children learn to worship by being in worship. There is a children's corner with activities in the back of the Sanctuary. If needed, there is a nursery with attendants (end of long hall) available during the service.

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Congregational Meeting today
- Guest Musician - violinist Mira Gibbon
- Trunk or Treat - Wednesday, October 28, 4-5 PM
  - sign up in the Gathering Space
- Meals by Nutrimos Selling today

PRELUDE: **Mira Gibbon,** violin *Let It Be*
By John Lennon, Paul McCartney; arranged by Thiago Marconato

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: As we gather for worship we remember that all of our days are a gift from God.

All: Teach us to count our days so that we live each with wisdom and gratitude.

One: Likewise, Jesus reminds us that the greatest commandments for our lives are to love God and to love our neighbors.

All: We live our lives not just for ourselves but for God and others.

One: We are part of a story larger than ourselves, called to carry God's love into the future.

All: We are grateful for God who calls us, leads us, forms us, and sends us.

***OPENING HYMN:** "God Is Here!" v. 1, 3, 4 **No. 409**

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

One: God calls us to love with our whole hearts, yet we often give our time and attention to things that matter far less. Let us turn to God, who knows us completely and welcomes us with mercy, trusting that grace can reorder our priorities and renew our love.

UNISON PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

Gracious God, you have given us the gift of life, the blessing of community, and the call to love you and our neighbors. Yet we confess that we do not always live according to what matters most. We become distracted by our opinions, consumed by our worries, and impatient with those who see the world differently. We sometimes seek recognition instead of service, certainty instead of understanding, and comfort instead of compassion.

Forgive us when our words of faith are not matched by our actions. Teach us to use our days wisely, to cherish the people you have placed in our lives, and to extend the same grace to others that we seek for ourselves. Shape us into people whose lives reflect your love. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

KYRIE: "Take, O Take Me As I Am" (repeat) **No. 698**

PROMISE OF GRACE

One: Hear the good news: God's love is greater than our failures, and God's grace is always at work making us new. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and invited once again to walk in the way of love. We do not have to earn God's mercy or prove our worth. We are loved by grace and called to share that grace with others.

All: Thanks be to God! We are forgiven, renewed, and ready to follow. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI** **No. 581**

"Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without an end. Amen. Amen."

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of wisdom, as we hear your Word, open our hearts to what matters most. Teach us to number our days with gratitude, to learn from those who have gone before us, and to hear Jesus' call to love you and our neighbors. Through Christ, our teacher and guide. Amen.

Prayer of Reconciliation
Confession is our chance to be honest with God so that our relationship may be repaired and our hearts reconciled. We confess the reality of brokenness in personal and communal life.

Silent Prayer
During the time of silent prayer, you may pray for forgiveness for the things you have done which may have hurt another or when you have felt like your actions or words did not honor God. You may also pray for the courage to do things you have not done like helping others or speaking up for what is right. You may also pray for God to bring to mind things you may not even be aware of that are causing harm in your relationships or the world in general.

Promise of Grace
After confession, we remember how, in baptism, God claims us and names us beloved, commissioning us for lives of service in Christ's name.

Prayer for Illumination
We pray for the Spirit to be present in the reading and our hearing of the Scripture.

SERMON NOTES:

SCRIPTURE: **Deuteronomy 34:1–12** **p. 191**

1 Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of
Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the Lord showed him the whole land:
Gilead as far as Dan, **2** all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the
land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, **3** the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the
valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar. **4** The Lord said to him,
"This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, 'I
will give it to your descendants.' I have let you see it with your eyes, but you
shall not cross over there." **5** Then Moses, the servant of the Lord, died there in
the land of Moab, at the Lord's command. **6** He buried him in a valley in the land
of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day.
7 Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was
unimpaired, and his vigor had not abated. **8** The Israelites wept for Moses in the
plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended.
9 Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his
hands on him, and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the Lord had
commanded Moses. **10** Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like
Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face. **11** He was unequaled for all the signs
and wonders that the Lord sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against
Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, **12** and for all the mighty deeds
and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all
Israel.

One: The Word of our Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC: **Mira Gibbon, violin** *Canon in D*
By Johann Pachelbel; arranged by Lury Cardoso

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 22:34–46** **p. 25**

34 When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they
gathered together, **35** and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a
question to test him. **36** "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the
greatest?" **37** He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your
heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' **38** This is the greatest and
first commandment. **39** And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as
yourself.' **40** On these two commandments hang all the Law and the
Prophets."**41** Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked
them this question: **42** "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?"
They said to him, "The son of David." **43** He said to them, "How is it then that
David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, **44** 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at
my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet" '? **45** "If David thus
calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" **46** No one was able to give him an
answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

One: The Word of our Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON SERIES: **"What Matters Most?"** **Rev. Trey Hegar**

SPECIAL MUSIC: **Mira Gibbon,** violin *Over the Rainbow*
By Harold Arlen, E.Y. "Yip" Harburg; arr. by Luiz Antonio Karam

***HYMN:** "Lord, When I Came into This Life" **No. 691**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**
We believe that God is not finished with us, but is continually forming us into a people of faith, hope, love, and compassion. We believe that God meets us in our struggles, challenges our idols, shapes our character, and teaches us to trust rather than control. We believe that through Scripture, prayer, worship, community, and the example of Christ, God is shaping us into people who love God, care for one another, welcome the stranger, and seek justice and peace. We are not yet all that God calls us to be, but we trust the One who is forming us along the way. God leads us, God forms us, and God will faithfully continue the work God has begun in us. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER
Our Father, Creator, Mother, Redeemer, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HONORING THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED THIS PAST YEAR:
Jennifer Riepe, Michelle Schnicker, Terry Wasson, Sandy Moore, Joy Johnson, Connie Best, Richard Howie, Wade Benge, George Chapman

GIVING THANKS OVER TITHES & OFFERINGS

***CLOSING HYMN:** "Glory to God" v. 1 **No. 582**

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Open with Prayer
Stated Clerk - Quorum and Previous Meeting Minutes (insert)

BUSINESS AGENDA
Nominating Committee
Elders: Terry Small, Sally Olson, Bonnie Kremer (1 more year), Laura Martin (take over for AJ Martin)
Deacons: Linda Keith, Terri Gordy

Offices elected and filled by the Nominating Committee on behalf of Session (no vote required):
Treasurer: Drew Kinser
Bookkeeper: Mariah Giberson
Auditor: Ed Chabal
Financial Secretary: Ginnie Swarm
Financial Clerks: Gail Heater, Jane Creager

Stewardship - Preliminary 2027 Budget

Pastor Trey's Terms of Call (insert)

***CLOSING HYMN:** "Glory to God" v. 2 **No. 582**
***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**
POSTLUDE

Code to give online to the church.

Our worship does not end with the postlude, but continues out into the world, where we are sent to love and care for God's people

Minutes of the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Congregation
Sunday, November 2, 2025

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation was held during Worship on November 2, 2025. Moderator Trey Hegar called the meeting to order with prayer after Communion. Stated Clerk Ed Kropa determined that a quorum was present.

It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the minutes of the October 2024 Annual Meeting with a correction, noted by Sally Olson, that the current Nominating Committee is serving in 2025 for 2027 officers.

It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the Business Agenda.

The Nominating Committee presented the following officers beginning January 2026:
Elders: Berdette Davis, Karen Kauffman, A.J. Martin.
Deacons: Jack Becker and Kathy Nellor.

There were no nominations from the floor – it was moved, seconded and passed to elect these officers.

Nominating Committee members serving during 2026 for 2028 officers are: **Elder Bob Mueller, Elder Dan Heater, Gail Heater, Bonnie Kremer, and Sally Olson.**

Offices elected and filled by the Nominating Committee on behalf of Session (no vote required):
Treasurer: **Marvin Bricker**
Bookkeeper: **Mariah Giberson**
Auditor: **Ed Chabal**
Financial Secretary: **Ginnie Swarm**
Financial Clerks (2028): **Tom Ellsworth, Mike Vincent, Jeff Willham**

Drew Carter spoke to the preliminary 2026 Budget and Pledges received to date.

It was moved and seconded to approve the Pastor's Term of Call for calendar 2026. (This is the same as 2025 except for a 5% increase of salary).

Pastor's Effective Salary	**2025**	**2026**
Salary	$ 61,301.25	$ 64,366.31
Housing Allowance	$ 28,675.51	$ 28,675.51
Subtotal	**$ 89,976.76**	**$ 93,041.82**
Pastor's Benefits Package	**2025**	**2026**
Pension & Insurance	$ 38,690.68	$ 39,411.00
Car Allowance (Mileage Reimbursement)	$ 2,000.00	$ 2,000.00
Continuing Education	$ 2,000.00	$ 2,000.00
Pulpit (Sermons & Visits)	$ 900.00	$ 900.00
Reimbursement Professional Expenses	$ 2,000.00	$ 2,000.00
Other Compensation (Cell Phone)	$ 1,600.00	$ 1,600.00
Subtotal	**$ 47,190.68**	**$ 47,911.00**
Pastor's Total Compensation	**$ 137,167.44**	**$ 140,952.82**

Trey outlined the changes to the Building Use Policy regarding non-profits. Moderator Hegar closed the meeting with prayer.

PASTOR'S TERMS OF CALL 2027

PASTOR EXPENSES	2027 Budget	2026 Budget	% Change
601 PASTOR'S SALARY	$ 64,366.00	$ 64,366.00	0.00%
602 HOUSING ALLOWANCE	$ 28,676.00	$ 28,676.00	0.00%
603 PENSION, HEALTH, DENTAL	$ 27,680.00	$ 35,918.00	-22.94%
604 CAR ALLOWANCE	$ 2,000.00	$ 2,000.00	0.00%
605 CONTINUING EDUCATION	$ 2,000.00	$ 2,000.00	0.00%
606 PULPIT (SERMONS & VISITS)	$ 900.00	$ 900.00	0.00%
609 REIMBURSE PROFESSIONAL EXP	$ 2,000.00	$ 2,000.00	0.00%
610 PASTOR OTHER COMPENSATION (CELL)	$ 1,600.00	$ 1,600.00	0.00%
Pastor Subtotal	**$ 129,222.00**	**$ 137,460.00**	-5.99%

Week of Sunday, October 25, 2026

SUN: 9:45 AM **Worship In-Person, YouTube Live with Congregational Meeting**
Fellowship Time to Follow in Gathering Space
10:45-11:15 AM **Meals by Nutrimos Selling** - Gathering Space
6:30 PM **Scouts** - Fellowship Hall

MON-THU: 10:30 AM **Meals on Wheels** (bag pickup/drop off) - Parking Lot

TUE: 10:30 AM **IowaWINs Board Meeting** - Belle Center & Zoom
6:30 PM **Scouts** - Fellowship Hall

WED: 10:30 AM **Pastor Trey's Bible Study** - Addington Place
3:15-5:15 PM **Re:Creation** - Fellowship Hall
4-5 PM **Trunk or Treat** - Parking Lot
5:25-6 PM **Bell Choir Rehearsal: Soul Notes** - Sanctuary
6:15-7:15 PM **Bell Choir Rehearsal: Sound Appeal** - Sanctuary
6:15-7:45 PM **Press On Youth Group** - Fellowship Hall

THU: 6-8 PM **AGC's Crafts & Cocoa for Critters** - Fellowship Hall

Prayer Concerns

- **Julieta Reza & Family, whose grandmother just passed**
- **Karen Conrad's aunt, Debbie Douthit**
- **Vicki Stainbrook**
- **Jean Carpenter's brother-in-law, Ron Gabriel**
- **Lois Roth's brother, Mark Veldhuizen, sister-in-law, Kim Veldhuizen, sister-in-law, Penny Veldhuizen**
- **Tara Beauchamp's dad, Doug Cowan**
- **Leo Clark's stepdad, Raymond Aynes**
- **Erica Redgate's mother, Audrey Redgate; uncles, Dave Richardt and Gordon; cousin, James and his husband, Darren; friend, Andrew McPeters**
- **Nella Elliot, Sandy Memler, Scott Redgate, Dee Benge**
- **Marilyn Vincent's friend, Sandy Crandell**
- **Kerry Murray, Griffin Manfredi**
- **Carol Chesnutt's mother, Carolyn Thorsen**
- **Chaiden Miller**
- **Matt Lawler's brother, Ken**
- **Susan Farnsworth's mother Joyce, brother, Jeff Stanley**
- **National Guard Troops - 224th Engineer Battalion**
- **Our shut-ins & those in care centers**
- **Israel, Iran, & Palestine; Ukraine**

Worship Helpers
Morning Building Assistant: **Tom Ellsworth** Ushers: **Curt & Ginnie Swarm**
Financial Secretary: **Ginnie Swarm** Treasurer: **Marvin Bricker** Financial Clerk: **Tom Ellsworth**

THANK YOU TREY AND SARAH!

We wanted to give a great big THANK YOU to Rev. Trey Hegar and Rev. Sarah Hegar for all that they do for our church. October is Pastor Appreciation Month, and we're so grateful to have Trey and Sarah. Parish Life will be celebrating with special cookies and bars after Worship during Fellowship Time in the Gathering Space, so make sure to stick around and help celebrate our awesome pastors!

THANK YOU MIRA GIBBON

Thank you to violinist Mira Gibbon for being our Special Music Guest Musician this Sunday! And thank you to Music Director Ming Vierra for coordinating these special music guests!