

MAY 2024

ALERT

The Monthly Newsletter of
First Presbyterian Church, Mt Pleasant, Iowa

902 S Walnut St, Mt Pleasant, IA 52641



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Church Office Hours:

Monday - Friday, 9 AM - 2 PM

On Being Christian

In a world often marked by division and discord, the values we hold dear as a Matthew 25 Church take on a special significance. As we continue on our spiritual journey together, it's important to reflect on the core principles that guide us.

Virtue Over Dogma

One of the central tenets of our faith is the emphasis on virtues, character growth, and actions over doctrine, dogma, or having the right beliefs. Doctrine relates to dogma in its broadest sense, when it represents any belief held unquestioningly and with undefended certainty. While dogma and doctrine provide a framework for our beliefs, it is our virtue and character that define us as Christians.

The Importance of Virtue

It is often said that our actions define us. However, virtue shapes our actions. As Jesus taught us through his words and actions, it is our love, compassion, and humility that speak loudest to the world.

Virtue is not simply a set of rules to be followed, but a way of living that reflects the teachings of Christ. When we act with kindness, patience, and forgiveness, we embody the spirit of Christianity, no matter what we believe about our beliefs.

Challenges in Life

It can be easy to lose sight of the importance of virtue. We are bombarded with messages meant to polarize and divide. We are presented biased information on important topics. We are worked up into a frenzy with fear and concerns. Winning at any cost becomes the norm when possessing right doctrines rises above virtue and character. Being "right" becomes more important than how we play and why we care.

As Christians, we are called to a higher standard. We are called to live lives of virtue, even when it is difficult.

Living Our Values

By focusing on virtues like honesty, generosity, compassion, humility, forgiveness, kindness, and gratitude, I believe we come closer to living as Jesus taught, especially about those who believe in him. He said those who believe in him follow his way. His way was principled. His actions flowed from his virtue. This is what set him apart and caused us to see, believe, and follow.

As a Matthew 25 Church, we are committed to living out our values every day. Through our worship and community gatherings, to our service focused ministries and our dedication to personal growth, we work intentionally to bring light in a world that often feels dark.

May we continue to be guided by love, compassion, and humility in all we do.

God Bless, Rev. Trey Hegar

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Treasurer's Report for March 2024

Year to Date Revenue: \$92,101.00; Expenses: \$83,351.00; Cash Increase (Decrease): \$8,750.00

march 2024	CURRENT MONTH		YEAR TO DATE		2024
	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
General Pledges	\$27,502.00	\$20,173.00	\$79,978.00	\$60,520.00	\$244,886.00
From Endowment Fund	\$10,000.00	\$8,311.00	\$10,000.00	\$24,934.00	\$96,752.17
Other Revenue	\$473.00	\$201.00	\$2,123.00	\$600.00	\$18,600.00
Total Revenue	\$37,975.00	\$28,685.00	\$92,101.00	\$86,054.00	\$360,238.17
<u>EXPENSES</u>					
Pastor	\$10,753.00	\$11,056.00	\$32,039.00	\$33,317.00	\$133,567.44
personnel	\$10,545.00	\$11,120.00	\$31,563.00	\$33,359.00	\$136,507.13
Worship and Music	\$380.00	\$267.00	\$1,169.00	\$800.00	\$4,550.00
Adult Christian Education	\$426.00	\$108.00	\$602.00	\$325.00	\$2,300.00
Youth Christian Education	\$141.00	\$800.00	(\$706.00)	\$2,400.00	\$10,500.00
Stewardship	\$86.00	\$150.00	\$131.00	\$450.00	\$4,800.00
Building and Grounds	\$5,194.00	\$4,110.00	\$8,548.00	\$8,081.00	\$31,175.00
Operations	\$866.00	\$792.00	\$2,985.00	\$2,375.00	\$8,050.00
Technology	\$0.00	\$358.00	\$357.00	\$1,075.00	\$4,300.00
Mission	\$1,550.00	\$2,017.00	\$6,663.00	\$6,052.00	\$24,488.60
Special Giving	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$29,941.00	\$30,778.00	\$83,351.00	\$88,234.00	\$360,238.17
<u>CASH INCREASE (DECR)</u>	\$8,034.00	(\$2,093.00)	\$8,750.00	(\$2,180.00)	\$0.00

Respectfully submitted, Marvin Bricker, Treasurer

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

Session Highlights

Session met on Sunday, April 14 following Worship in Peter's Room. The following item was moved, seconded, and passed:

- for Bob Mueller to arrange a Matthew 25 event featuring MLK's speech "Beyond Vietnam" on May 22, 6:30 - 8 PM.
- to request payment from Endowment of \$18,931.99 for the repair to the North Entrance.
- for the ISU Extension Service to use the kitchen on Thursday, June 6, 8 AM to 12 PM for a 4H cooking class.
- passed for the Hawkeye Bicycle Association to stay inside and the Jim Thompson group and Team Barking Spiders to stay outside. Terry McWilliams of Old Threshers has requested a hose connection for a bike group that will be using the lot behind the church - it was moved, seconded and passed to provide.

Session will meet again on Sunday, May 12 in Peter's Room following Worship.

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 copying this link <https://bit.ly/2x46F6I>.

Rev. Trey Hegar

Two-Cent-A-Meal Offering

On the first Sunday of the month we have added the Two-Cent-A-Meal offering to the Children's Moment. This offering goes to help with the Matthew 25 Initiative in fighting poverty in our community. There are cans and/or labels available in the back of the sanctuary for you to collect your change at home.



May Worship Helpers

Sunday Morning Building Assistant:

Mike Vincent

Financial Clerk: **Mark Kauffman**

Greeters: **Curt & Ginnie Swarm**

Communion Preparer - 5/5:

Pat Richenberger

Liturgists: May 5 **Drew Carter**

May 12 **Mary Beth Young**

May 19 **Pat Richenberger**

May 26 **Jean Carpenter**

Matthew 25: MLK *Beyond Vietnam*

Showing & Discussion

Wednesday, May 22, 6:30-8 PM,

Fellowship Hall

Join us for a Matthew 25 community event in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, May 22 from 6:30-8 PM. We'll be showing Martin Luther King's "Beyond Vietnam" speech, followed by a discussion of the film and the current situation in Ukraine, Gaza, etc. All are welcome to attend

Presbyterian Women

Thursday, May 2, 1:30 PM

Gathering Space



Presbyterian Women will meet on the first Thursday of the month, Thursday, May 2, at 1:30 PM in the Gathering Space. **Terri Gordy** will host, **Pat Richenberger** will cover the Devotions, and **Liz Wasson** will cover the lesson. All women are welcome to attend.



Summer Matthew 25 Lecture Series

Save the dates for these informative and powerful lectures that were first delivered at the Matthew 25 Summit in Atlanta. More information about the Lectures will be shared throughout the summer. These will most likely be shown in the Fellowship Hall following worship on the following Sundays.

Sunday, June 23

Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis, Director of the Kairos Center for Religions, Rights, and Social Justice & Co-Chair of the Poor People's Campaign
Addresses Systemic Poverty (25 minutes)

Sunday, July 28

Rev. Dr. William Yoo, Professor at Columbia Theological Seminary, "The Matthew 25 Church that Never Was, the Matthew 25 Church that is Here Today." (50 minutes)

Sunday, August 25

Rev. Prof. Mitri Raheb from Bethlehem, Palestine, Reading Matthew 25 with New Eyes (45 minutes)



Matthew 25 Book Study Sunday, May 5

Matthew 25 Bridges Out of Poverty book discussion wraps up! Sunday, May 5 following worship, we will meet briefly in the fellowship hall to wrap up the book discussion. Then we will head to Antojitos Maya for lunch (105 W. Monroe St) on the north side of the square. Please join us as we complete this study.



Book Group

Thursday, May 9 at 7 PM

Book Group meets on the second Thursday of the month. On May 9, the group will discuss *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Kristy Lefteri. *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* is a poignant novel that follows Nuri and Afra as they flee Syria's civil war in search of safety, carrying with them the memories of their past and the hope for a better future. Please join us for lively discussion and fellowship in the Gathering Space!

Graduation Party

Grace Van de Berg

Saturday, May 18, 2-4 PM

We would like to invite everyone to help us celebrate Grace's graduation from high school on Saturday May 18th, from 2-4 PM at the Santa House at the Old Threshers Campground Entrance.

Travis and Chris Van De Berg



Presbyterian Women Rummage &

Bake Sale Thank You

With everyone's help, the April 12-13, 2024 Rummage Sale and Bake Sale was a huge success.

Thank you to Press On for setting up the tables and clothes racks on Wednesday night so we could start putting out the rummage sale items first thing Thursday morning. Special thanks to everyone who helped Thursday, Friday, and Saturday - whether it be bringing rummage sale and baked good items to sell, hanging clothes on the racks, putting items on the tables, or helping during the sale Friday and Saturday. Thanks to everyone who helped Saturday afternoon boxing items up and taking the clothes racks to the garage and putting the tables away.

The Quarter Maybe Store picked up the remaining items from the sale on Monday morning. Thanks to everyone who helped with that.

The results of the Bake Sale and Rummage Sale are:

Bake Sale	\$	359.25
Rummage Sale	\$	1,431.46
Subtotal	\$	1,790.71
Less Advertising	\$	66.41
Total	\$	1,724.30

The proceeds from the Rummage Sale and Bake Sale go toward mission projects. In 2023, Presbyterian Women donated to All God's Creatures, Cedar River Haven, Camp Bear Creek (formerly called Camp Wyoming), IowaWINS, and the Mt. Pleasant Child Care Center.

Mark your calendars for our fall Rummage and Bake sale on October 11th and October 12th. Thank you again for all your help and support. I really appreciate it!!!!

Pat Richenberger, Chair

Mission Giving

Throughout the year, the Mission Committee designates giving to various local, national, and international charities, non-profits, and causes. Because of your generous pledges to the church, the Mission Committee was able to send \$1,000.00 to the Presbytery Disaster Assistance fund for humanitarian relief in Gaza. Thank you for your generosity.



Welcome Home Center

Starting Strong

IowaWINS' latest project, the Welcome Home Center, held its grand opening on Thursday, April 4. People stopped by throughout the day, and the event even attracted media attention. That was just the beginning.

Thanks to the hard work of **Oscar Argueta**, the Project Director, many individuals and organizations are aware of our presence, and the reaction has been very positive. Individuals have expressed an interest in volunteering, while others have dropped by to take advantage of our services. At this point, we are primarily a referral service, but Oscar makes sure that people can navigate a system that can be daunting.

Speaking of volunteers, the Welcome Home Center can always use people willing to dedicate some time to staff the center. While we want to have someone available that is bilingual, there are always tasks for those of us who only speak English. More information on how to volunteer is forthcoming.

June ALERT Deadline

Monday, May 20

If you have an article, event, announcement, thank you, prayer concern congratulations, birthday or anniversary date that you would like included in the June ALERT, please send it into the office by the end of Monday, May 20. Thank you.

May Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 3 **Grace Van De Berg**
- 4 **Tammy Mulford, Dan Heater**
- 5 **Dalton Church, Zachary Van Dorin**
- 7 **Lois Roth**
- 9 **Vicki Schroeder**
Jeff & Maggie Epperson's Anniversary
- 12 **Heidi Ryon, Ryan Chabal**
- 13 **Jonathon Lee**
- 18 **Travis & Chris Van De Berg's Anniversary**
- 19 **Thaddeus Brooks**
- 20 **Rodney Scheitlin**
- 21 **Benny Lee**
- 22 **Jane Creager, Ike Meek**
- 23 **Wendell Thimmesch, Hannah Sinclair**
- 24 **Barb Welander**
- 25 **Dan Shull**
- 26 **Jake Scheetz**
- 27 **Amelia Conrad**
- 28 **Allan Memler**
- 29 **Levi Boston-Kemple, Tom Boston-Kemple,**
Janet Cermak
- 30 **Karen Chapman**

thank you

We would like to express our appreciation to everyone who assisted with the luncheon held April 22nd in recognition of the life of **Sara Stanley**. Those who offered assistance were: **Tom Ellsworth, Susan Farnsworth, Barb Parker, Kathie McWhirter, and Kathy Schimmelpfenning**. Salads were furnished by **Susan Farnsworth, Kathy Schimmelpfenning, Ginnie Swarm, and Liz Wasson**. Dessert was provided by **Barb Parker and Mike Vincent**. Thanks everyone!

*Charlene Hinrichs and Becky Siberts
Funeral Courtesy Committee co-chairs*

Our dearest appreciation for the way our church family wrapped its arms around us at the death of my sister, Sara Stanley. It is hard to name all who offered their support, from **Pastor Trey and Ming** for the healing and uplifting sermon and lovely music, the women of PW, who prepared and served the delicious lunch, the calls, prayers, notes, and so much more.

*Grace and Peace,
Mary Beth & Dick Young, Chris & Kenny*

PRAYER CONCERNS:

- Sandy Memler, Lois Betz, Dora McDonald
- Carol Chesnutt's mother, Carolyn Thorsen
- Marilyn Vincent's cousin, Bonnie Huss
- Chaiden Miller
- Barb Parker, nephew Chad
- Aaron Williamson's dad, Rick Williamson
- Matt Lawler's brothers, Joe & Ken
- Jack Becker's foster son, Jeremy Kitchen
- Liz Wasson's sister, Caryl, niece, Terrill
- Kelly Allen's niece, Marie Crews
- Susan Farnsworth's brother, Jeff Stanley and brother-in-law, Doug Pederson
- Lois Roth's brother, Mark Veldhuizen, sister-in-law, Kim Veldhuizen
- Our shut-ins & those in care centers
- Israel & Palestine; Ukraine

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
Custodians: Robert Luth

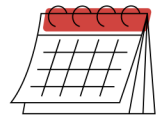


Financial Secretary: Ginnie Swarm
Treasurer: Marvin Bricker
Bookkeeper: Mariah Giberson

First Presbyterian Church
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Mt Pleasant, IA 52641
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May Events



Sunday Worship

Sundays at 9:45 AM, Sanctuary
Fellowship Time to follow in Gathering Space

No Bible Study

Wednesday, May 1

Presbyterian Women

Thursday, May 2 - 1:30 PM, Gathering Space

Building & Grounds Meeting

Thursday, May 2 - 5 PM, Gathering Space

Matthew 25 Book Study - Final Discussion

Sunday, May 5 - After Worship, Fellowship Hall

Parish Life Committee Meeting

Tuesday, May - 5:30 PM, Gathering Space

Book Group

Thursday, May 9 - 7 PM, Gathering Space

Happy Mother's Day - Bells Play during Worship

Sunday, May 12

Session

Sunday, May 12 - After Worship, Peter's Room

Grace Van De Berg Graduation Party

Saturday, May 18 - 2-4 PM, Santa's House (OT)

June ALERT Deadline

Monday, May 20

Matthew 25: MLK *Beyond Vietnam* Discussion

Wednesday, May 22 - 6:30-8 PM, Fellowship Hall

Natalie McCormick Graduation Party

Saturday, May 25 - 11 AM- 2 PM, Fellowship Hall

Office Closed - Memorial Day

Monday, May 27

Meals by Nutrinos Selling

First and Third Sunday of the Month
10:45 - 11:15 AM, Gathering Space

Pastor Trey's Bible Study

Wednesday - 10:30 AM, Peter's Room

RE:CREATION ALERT

Wednesday after School Program

May 2024

K – 5th Grade with Rev. Sarah Hegar

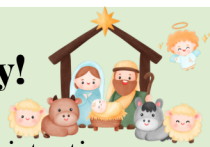
Wednesday Re:Creation Ends with a Bounce! (y House)

Our last Wednesday together was April 24. The kids enjoyed time in a bouncy house and outdoor games at East Lake Park. It has been such a wonderful school year and every single one of these kids are special and loved by us! This program would not be what it is without the many helping hands that make it a success.

A very big THANK YOU to all of the Rovers and Kitchen Helpers and Drivers and Teachers this year: **Kathy Schimmelpfennig, Patty Madden, Barb Miller, Jack Becker, Valerie Willham, Lois Betz, Erica Redgate, Scott Redgate, Terri Gordy, Becky Siberts, Paula Hoenig, Suzi Morrison, Linda Albright, Martha Wiley, and Trey Hegar.** See? It really DOES take a village!

VBS - Christmas in July!

July 8-12, 2024



Vacation Bible School Registration begins on May 1! Look for announcements about the brochure, which will be available both online and in paper.

Campers are completed Kindergarten through 5th grade (5th graders are Counselors in Training) Counselors are completed 6th-12th grade.

Children's Sermon

Each first Sunday of the month, we hold a Children's Moment during Worship. We invite families to come and join on these all-ages Worship opportunities. Join us Sunday, May 5 at 9:45 AM for our next Children's Sermon.

PRESS ON YOUTH ALERT

Middle School & High School

May 2024

with Rev. Sarah Hegar and Adult Advisors

Press On Youth Group Ends with a Party!

The Wednesday night youth group (6th-12th) ended with an outdoor party at East Lake Park. This year, the youth have done so much together including lots of service projects, games, and deep meaningful conversations! We look forward to having more fun together this summer!

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU to the adults that have helped this year including **Kelly Allen, Erica Redgate, Luis Berrios Tormos, and Micaela Lenuis!** This has grown into such a wonderful program and we are so thankful.

Congratulations Graduates!

We offer our congratulations to **Grace Van De Berg and Natalie McCormick.** We will be celebrating them in worship on Sunday, May 12. Both Grace and Natalie have received a scholarship from our church to help them in college next year! Congratulations!

You are Invited!



Grace Van De Berg Graduation Party

Saturday, May 18, 2 - 4 PM

The Santa House at Old Threshers



Natalie McCormick Graduation Party

Saturday, May 25, 11 AM - 2 PM

Fellowship Hall, First Presbyterian Church

Synod School Registration is Open!

July 21-26

We have youth and adults attending Synod School this year! This is a wonderful experience to grow in your faith and to meet and learn from other people from all over the country. Talk to Sarah for more info!