

ALERT

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

902 S Walnut St, Mt Pleasant, IA 52641



Contact Information

Website:

www.firstpresbyonline.org

Email:

firstpresbymtp@gmail.com

Phone: (319) 986-5851

Church Office Hours:

Monday - Friday, 9 AM - 2 PM

God Bless America

July brings us Independence Day, and there's so much to be thankful for. Patriotism and faith have an interesting relationship. As a church pastor, veteran, and citizen, I navigate this landscape regularly.

There are so many political issues that Christians should be concerned about, but it can be difficult to moderate how much religion should be involved with governance and how much politics should be discussed in church. Everyone has different opinions about this, but I believe it's part of my job as a church leader to guide difficult conversations.

I feel to ignore the politics of an election year because we are the church is disingenuous. It comes up daily in the news and in conversations. Our lives are influenced by the rhetoric and our values shape how we feel. For most members of the church, the life of Jesus shapes their ideals and feelings about how we should vote and what we should support in government.

Yet, many middle of the road people are increasingly struggling with whether faith and patriotism should have anything to do with one another. Arguably, as Christians and United States citizens, we don't have a choice. Faith and the well being of our nation are messily intertwined. Whether they should or shouldn't be is a moot point. They are, period.

So how might we traverse this landscape?

For one, defining faith and patriotism is beneficial. In this context, I would define my faith as a journey. I seek to follow the Way of Jesus through the church while still learning what that means in regard to family, community, economics, and government. I do not accept every teaching of the church as gospel. I know the church is imperfect, just as I am. But, I also believe it perpetually calls us to higher ideals. We may never arrive to perfection so there is always room for growth.

Like faith, patriotism is more than an adherence to certain political ideas and ideals. It is greater than the sum of its parts. Like faith, patriotism looks different in each one of us. Yet, like faith and the church, patriotism to me is believing we can do better as a country. As a nation, we have high ideals that require work to live out. Critiquing, either the church or the nation, is not un-American or heretical. It is mutual accountability.

I would hope those who love me would be willing to speak hard truths so I could be even better than what I am.

Faith and Patriotism also require action to make the ideal a reality. It's hard, necessary work. Christian patriotism, if there is such a thing, is to not only believe for but work for the goals of God's Kingdom to be present in the society we are participating in.

The prophets of the Old Testament and Jesus both had a lot to say about the combining of love of God with the love for a nation. The refrain is about justice, righteousness, mercy, and love, the very character embodied in Jesus.

As Paul reminds us in Ephesians 2, we are no longer strangers and aliens, but we are fellow citizens with the saints of every nation, and all are of God's household.

One big family trying to live the best we can. Faith and Patriotism can help.

Blessings, Rev. Trey Hegar

Treasurer's Report for May 2024

Year to Date Revenue: \$174,977.00; Expenses: \$155,621.00; Cash Increase (Decrease): \$19,356.00

MAY 2024	CURRENT MONTH	CURRENT MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR TO DATE	2024
	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
General Pledges	\$41,228.00	\$20,173.00	\$143,134.00	\$100,867.00	\$244,886.00
From Endowment Fund	\$0.00	\$8,311.00	\$29,000.00	\$41,556.00	\$96,752.17
Other Revenue	\$332.00	\$201.00	\$2,843.00	\$1,000.00	\$18,600.00
Total Revenue	\$41,560.00	\$28,685.00	\$174,977.00	\$143,423.00	\$360,238.17
<u>EXPENSES</u>					
Pastor	\$10,695.00	\$11,056.00	\$53,415.00	\$55,578.00	\$133,567.44
personnel	\$11,354.00	\$11,120.00	\$53,062.00	\$55,598.00	\$136,507.13
Worship and Music	\$0.00	\$267.00	\$1,335.00	\$1,333.00	\$4,550.00
Adult Christian Education	\$30.00	\$108.00	\$650.00	\$542.00	\$2,300.00
Youth Christian Education	\$993.00	\$1,300.00	\$636.00	\$4,500.00	\$10,500.00
Stewardship	\$194.00	\$150.00	\$377.00	\$750.00	\$4,800.00
Building and Grounds	\$1,172.00	\$1,985.00	\$29,872.00	\$12,052.00	\$31,175.00
Operations	\$832.00	\$792.00	\$4,690.00	\$3,958.00	\$8,050.00
Technology	\$122.00	\$358.00	\$646.00	\$1,792.00	\$4,300.00
Mission	\$1,685.00	\$2,017.00	\$10,938.00	\$10,087.00	\$24,488.60
Special Giving	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$27,077.00	\$29,153.00	\$155,621.00	\$146,190.00	\$360,238.17
<u>CASH INCREASE (DECR)</u>	\$14,483.00	(\$468.00)	\$19,356.00	(\$2,767.00)	\$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 Monday, June 10 at 6 PM in Peter's Room. The following items were moved, seconded, and passed:

- to have a Baptism Service for Jack Remick, son of Hope and Carson Remick, on Sunday, June 23.
- to approve the AGC Asset Transfer Agreement.
- to proceed with a mural in the youth room with assistance of Annie Guldberg and participation by the youth.
- to allow the Henry County Fair Queen organization to use the Fellowship Hall & Peter's Room for their contest on July 17.
- to add Erica Redgate to the Nutrimos account at Community 1st and obtain a debit card for her on that account.
- to proceed with Imon Communications plans for a fiber optics hub facility next to the garage.
- to strongly support Sarah Hegar's plans for Sabbatical time in 2025
- to approve May 20, 21, 22, 2024 as vacation days for Trey
- to store dishes within Fellowship Hall rather than in the kitchen. Plans of building a storage building were discussed.
- to create a 10 year financial planning task force

Session will take a break for the month of July and will meet once again on Monday, August 12 at 6 PM.

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/2x46F6L>.

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.

July Worship Helpers

Sunday Morning Building Assistant:
Dan Heater

Financial Clerk: **Mike Vincent**

Greeters: **Curt & Ginnie Swarm**

Communion Preparer - 7/7:

Pat Richenberger

Liturgists:

July 7 **Chuck Albright** July 14 **Sarah Raymond**

July 21 **Ken Madden** July 28 **Paul Winer**



Youth Overnight Lock-In

Moved to August

The youth will be taking over the church in August! Date to be determined. Pray for their leaders!

PC(USA) General Assembly concludes

July 4 in Salt Lake City

Keep in prayer our commissioners to General Assembly as they meet and make decisions for the future of our denomination. East Iowa sends two commissioners to each assembly. We will try to share updates via the weekly email as the Assembly takes place.



Summer Brunch

Sunday, July 7 following Worship



We will continue with our summer brunches on July 7 following worship. With RAGBRAI coming through town in July, the theme of this brunch will be sports! Join us and sign up to bring a dish or help serve/clean up.



Presbyterian Women

Luncheon Outing

Thursday, July 11, Carpool at 10:30 AM

Presbyterian Women will have a luncheon outing on Thursday, July 11. The group will be going to Bake & Brew on 92 in Columbus Junction. Bake & Brew supports Cedar River Haven and its "Haven Sisters." If you plan to attend, there will be a sign up sheet will be on the Gathering Space table. The group will carpool, so please meet in the church parking lot at 10:30 AM on Thursday, July 11.

VBS July 8-12

Please keep in prayer all of the people participating in VBS this year! Campers, Counselors, Adult Volunteers, Lifeguards, Bus Drivers, Cooks, and Craft & Games Leaders! We are very excited for another year of VBS and can't wait to share pictures from the week.



Christmas in July!

Sunday, July 14

The VBS theme this year is "Christmas In July." The Sunday following VBS you are invited to worship with us as we celebrate the birth of Christ in the middle of summer! Hymns and liturgy will be focused on Christmas themes. Sure to be a great time!

T-Shirt Sunday

Sunday, July 14

Wear your church t-shirt or any t-shirt to Worship on July 14.



Tapestry Fest

Saturday, July 13, 1-4 PM, Central Park

Join us for Tapestry Fest, an event that celebrates the weaving of cultures, traditions, and perspectives. People from all walks of life are invited to celebrate the vibrant tapestry of Southeast Iowa. Join in the fun as members of our community from all over the world present their culture with food, games, and entertainment. This is a chance to showcase our diversity as a community and to be united in our oneness as members of Mt. Pleasant.

Synod School

July 21-26

Please keep in prayer our adults and youth who will be attending Synod School! **Trey Hegar, Barb Parker, Kelly Allen, Char Hinrichs, Marilyn Vincent, Scott Redgate, Lilli Oliver, Cameron Martin, Cameron Clark, Kaylee Gilbert, and Sarah Hegar.** Also, this year Sarah Hegar is serving as Synod School Dean for the 70th Anniversary. There will be a commissioning of these participants on Sunday, July 21 during worship.

Summer Matthew 25 Lecture Series



Sunday, July 28 Following Worship

For this lecture, we will watch Dr. William Yoo present about reading Matthew 25 through multiple lenses. This is a powerful message for the church. We hope you can attend as we continue to discern how we live into the Matthew 25 Initiative. Snacks will be provided.



Book Group

No Book Group in July

Book Group will be taking a hiatus from our July meeting. Many of our Book Group members will be involved with VBS and may be looking for an early bedtime on Thursday night. Our next Book Group will meet August 8 when we will discuss *The Kamogawa Food Detectives* by Hidalso Kashiwai. See you then!



Matthew 25 Field Trip to the African American Museum in Cedar Rapids

Save the Date! Saturday, August 17

We will travel to the museum and eat lunch together. Your admission to the museum is sponsored by the Mission Committee. More info coming soon!



On top of spaghetti...

Hard to imagine, but Old Threshers will be here before we know it. The planning team will be meeting after the 4th of July holiday to start the process for our 2024 Spaghetti Supper. **The biggest change this year will be moving our event to TUESDAY, August 27.** This date change is a request from Old Threshers and the Mt Pleasant Police Department in an attempt to reduce the traffic congestion.

Sign-up sheets for donations and help will be ready the last of July. If you have any suggestions for the planning team, please let me know.

Deb Sinclair, 319.931.8029



IowaWINS

Welcome Home Center Needs You!

While **Oscar Argueta** had to return to his duties in Guatemala, his daughter **Diana Sanchez** has stepped into this shoes, providing service through the Welcome Home Center. As word spreads in the community, more families are finding their way to the center seeking assistance for a variety of needs.

Diana brings knowledge of the community and passion for the work, but volunteer assistance is needed. Particular skills in technology and public relations would be particularly helpful. In addition, we believe it best to have two people in the office—partly for security reasons.

Here are the office hours for the center:
Monday through Thursday: 9 AM - 1 PM
Friday: 9 - 11 AM

If you would like to commit to a regular time—even one hour a week—please send an email to jfager1104@gmail.com or welcomhomecenter217@gmail.com. Otherwise, stop by when you can. If you have not yet visited the center, this is a great opportunity to see what you are doing for your community.



Ukrainian Family Sponsorship

We are just welcoming the third Ukrainian family to the Mt. Pleasant area. Throughout SE Iowa, there are approximately 30 families that are settling here.

A sponsor must commit to helping the family obtain housing, furnishings, food, medical care, and enrolling children at school and adults in English as a Second Language. This does not mean that the sponsor is responsible for paying for all of this but may need to help initially as the family settles depending on the resources of the family.

IowaWINS is committed to assisting sponsors and the Ukrainian families they bring to this area with the application process, initial expenses, accessing community services and continuing support. Each sponsor and family are different and IowaWINS works with the sponsors to determine the best options and support for them.

Bob Bartles has been working with the United for Ukraine program and has several other families seeking sponsorships. He asked that we share a summary of the families to see if there are individuals or families here who would like to become a sponsor. If, after hearing the summary of the families, you would like to know more about any of them, please let the office know. We have more details to share.

- **Yulia and Ahmet:** Yulia's father and mother have resettled in Ft. Madison and are well established in this new community. Yulia and her husband, Ahmet, desire to be reunited with her parents. They are currently living in Turkey due to the war in Ukraine. Yulia was working as a children's librarian before the war and Ahmet has been working as a paramedic and was part of a team rescuing survivors under rubble after the earthquake in Turkey last year. Ahmet is 27 and Yulia is 24. They were just married last September.
- **Eugene and Yulia and their children:** Eugene and Yulia are both 40 years old. Their daughter Alexandra is 18 years old and their son, Artem is 8 years old. They are seeking a sponsor to come to the US but have been plagued by scammers who ask for money and then disappear. They heard about Bob from other Ukrainians that are settled here and are seeking assistance.
- **Maksym and his mother Nataliia:** Maksym and his mother were in Cyprus when the war came to Ukraine and were unable to return home. They have since lived in Cyprus, France and now Canada. Maksym is 27 and currently working in food manufacturing. His mother is 54 and currently works as a housekeeper. They seek to come to SE Iowa where rental costs are less and they can be self-sufficient. In Ukraine, they worked in hospitality and agricultural jobs.
- **Akhmat and Mavile and their children:** Akhmat and Mavile were born in Crimea and had to move to Kiev when the Russians invaded Crimea. When Russia attacked further into Ukraine, the family moved to Germany. Akhmat and Mavile are in their early 20's and their son is 4 and daughter is almost 2. Akhmat has training in web development and Mavile has worked as an ethics teacher.

July Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Jennifer Lamm
- 2 Kitty Meek, Nancy Tometich
- 5 Leo Clark, Gavin Stensvaag,
Suzi Morrison
- 6 Amy Clark
- 7 Ivan Bayev
- 14 Mark & Karen Kauffman's Anniversary
- 16 Shelley Van Dorin
Ed & Karen Bates Chabal's Anniversary
- 19 Dale Taylor
- 20 Susan Farnsworth, Pat Heusmann,
Mary Murphy
- 21 Jean Church, Emily Van Dorin
- 22 Ann Klingensmith, Grant Willham
- 23 Dan & Tammy Shull's Anniversary
- 26 Abigail Ryon
- 27 Jaxton Kremer
- 28 Art Hamm, Curt Swarm
- 30 Gail & Dan Heather's Anniversary

PRAYER CONCERNS:

- Griffin Manfredi
- Sandy Memler, Lois Betz
- Dora McDonald, Elna Tompkins
- Marilyn Vincent's cousin, Bonnie Huss
- Carol Chesnutt's mother, Carolyn Thorsen
- Chaiden Miller
- Barb Parker, nephew Chad
- Aaron Williamson's dad, Rick
- Matt Lawler's brother, Ken
- Jack Becker's foster son, Jeremy Kitchen
- Liz & Terry Wasson's 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

If you have a prayer concern that you would like to share with our Pastors, our Presbyterian Prayer Chain, or with the Congregation, please fill out an orange prayer card found in the pews and Gathering Space, or notify the office.



Dr. Tom Boston-Kemple Retirement Celebration

Saturday, July 13, 9 AM - 12 PM

Join us in celebrating Dr. Tom Boston-Kemple on his retirement! On Saturday, July 13th, we invite you to our parent's home, the granary in East Amana, for coffee and pastries. Whether you know Tom from school, church, Log Village, camp, or the crosswalk, he would love to see you and enjoy catching up. Stop by any time between 9 AM - 12 PM, and please no gifts.

If you are unable to attend and would like to send your congratulations via mail or email, please send to these addresses:

tbostonkemple@gmail.com

Tom Boston-Kemple
406 53rd Ave
Amana, IA 52203

Thank you for helping us celebrate our dad's years of service as an educator.

**Fawn Boston-Halter, Gretchen Kemple-Taylor,
Levi Boston-Kemple**

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone that came to help me celebrate my high school graduation. It was such a fun day. I would also like to thank you for the scholarship. I can't wait to begin college in the fall.

Thanks again for all your prayers and support.

Grace Van De Berg

August ALERT Deadline

Monday, July 22

If you have an article, event, announcement, thank you, prayer concern congratulations, birthday or anniversary date that you would like included in the August ALERT, please send it into the office by the end of Monday, July 22. Thank you.

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: Robert Luth

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

First Presbyterian Church
902 S Walnut St
Mt Pleasant, IA 52641
Address Service Requested



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage PAID
Permit #90
Mt Pleasant, IA 52641

July Events

Sunday Worship

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

Office Closed

Thursday, July 4 & Friday, July 5

Communion with Children's Moment

Sunday, July 7, 9:45 AM, Sanctuary

Summer Brunch

Sunday, July 7 following Worship, Fellowship Hall

Vacation Bible School

July 8-12, 9 AM - 2:30 PM, Kremer's Farm

IowaWINS Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 9, 10:30 AM, Belle Center & Zoom

Presbyterian Women Luncheon Outing

Thursday, July 11, Carpool at 10:30 AM

TapestryFest

Saturday, July 13, 1-4 PM, Central Park

Deacons Meeting

Monday, July 15, 4:30 PM, Gathering Space

Synod School

July 21-26, Storm Lake

August ALERT Deadline

Monday, July 22

Mission Meeting

Tuesday, July 23, 5PM, Gathering Space

RAGBRAI Stop

Friday, July 26

Matthew 25 Summer Lecture Series #2

Sunday, July 28, 11 AM, Fellowship Hall

Worship Meeting

Tuesday, July 30, 5:45 PM, Gathering Space

Meals by Nutrimos Selling

Second and Fourth Sunday of the Month
10:45 - 11:15 AM, Gathering Space

