



The Good News of First Presbyterian Church

Marshalltown, Iowa
641-753-5929

Volume 88, No. 2
February 28, 2023

Reminder:

- March 1 – Wednesday Club begins**
- March 5 – 2nd Sunday of Lent
- March 12 – 3rd Sunday of Lent
- March 12 – Hymn Sing**
- March 13 – 17 – Spring Break**
- March 19 – 4th Sunday of Lent
- March 21 - Deacons**
- March 21 – Session**
- March 26 – 5th Sunday of Lent

Praise the Lord! Congratulations to Pastor Bryan and Larissa Kunz on the safe arrival of Cedric Jay on February 27, 2023. Cedric is also welcomed by big brother Declan, 5, and big sister Esme, 3.

Words of Wisdom from Pastor Bryan Kunz



This past Wednesday was Ash Wednesday and we entered into the season of Lent. The season of Lent is forty days of preparation for Easter. It is an intentional time of trying to draw close to God, a time of pursuing sanctification.

Sometimes we give something up or take something on for this period as a way to become more like Christ. However, I have found that for many of us, becoming more like Christ is an abstract goal.

We have an idea of Christ’s characteristics. We know he is kind, wise, loving, truthful, just, compassionate, etc. We think about those characteristics and our plan for sanctification becomes a loose attempt at being more kind or trying to tell the truth. Many of these characteristics of Christ are immeasurable, so we have no real way of measuring if we are growing in holiness or not.

Recently I have been wondering why we take this loose of an approach to sanctification. If we want to lose weight or get fit, we know that a loose goal of “just trying to be healthier” rarely works. Instead, we need to establish a clear goal and clear steps to get there. We need to stop buying certain foods and start buying others and make a clear workout plan and goal.

Sanctification is similar in that real change requires recognizing the things that need to change. Maybe it is a habit that needs to be eliminated or a better habit that needs to start. Then you can take a scientific approach to changing that habit or starting that habit. Find a way to measure your growth so you can be rewarded in your success. Figure out what triggers certain sins in your life and learn to respond differently. Write clear goals for how you want your spiritual life to look in a year or five years and figure out what it will take to get there.

Of course, we cannot create a spiritual life on our own. Sanctification and connection with God are the work of the Holy Spirit, but that doesn’t mean we can’t take a serious (but joyful!) approach to our role in the sanctification of the Christian life.

—Rev. Bryan Kunz



Remodel Update

When we started this process of fixing the water issues and updating the Lower



Lounge we called the committee planning the process the Lower Lounge Remodel Committee. Now this committee is proposing some updates and changes on every floor of the church, so we have renamed it the “Remodel Committee”.

The scope of this project has expanded as we have considered many different needs and the future of the church. While we are currently waiting for cost estimates for the next phase, Session has approved the rough plan:

Chapel:

This space has been shared by our music program and Sunday school. While this set up has worked, the committee feels that both programs would benefit from having their own dedicated space. After considering many different options, the plan is to move the music room to the third floor behind the balcony. This is a large space that is unused right now and will offer a great music space along with plenty of storage space for music and instruments. We hope to do an update of this room as it could use new carpet and paint. Moving the music room to the third floor will allow the chapel to become a very nice Sunday school classroom where all of the students are able to gather. This might also free up the Lower Lounge on Sunday mornings for another adult Sunday school class or other gatherings.

Basement Offices:

As we considered the future and the hire of an associate pastor, it would be very nice to have all of the offices in the same area. So, the current proposal is to divide the office space in the basement from two rooms into four. This will allow for an office for the associate pastor near the secretary and the lead pastor's office. It will also create a new conference room which will serve as a meeting area for the pastors and staff. This will require moving the bookkeeper's desk into the old children's ministry office. Exact plans for the office area are still being drawn up. When they are completed we will share the plan with all of you.

Narthex Offices:

With the other plans in place, the offices off of the narthex will no longer be used as offices. Rich's old office will be dedicated to meeting space and the library. We will remove some of the shelving and one of the desks, but only minor changes will happen in this room. This comfortable seating area will also be available as a "mother's room" during the church service. Jon's old office will remain a banner and custodial storage area.

Sunday school rooms:

The other Sunday school rooms and the hallway in the basement will have flooring, paint, and lighting updated. Some technology and storage upgrades will be done as well. These updates will brighten the Sunday school rooms and make them warm and inviting for children and families.

I am sure you have many questions about what all of this will look like or why we are considering

some of these things. Feel free to speak with committee members if you have questions or concerns. We hope to have finalized plans and a budget for this next phase of the project by the March Session meeting, so we hope to share more detailed plans in late March or early April.

—Pastor Bryan for the Remodel Committee
(Terry Buzbee, Josh Grosvenor, Suzanne Brown, Jim Grimmus, and Megan Turbiville)



Time is running out to register for IF:2023 – Women's Conference



The IF:2023 conference begins the first Friday in March! Here's what it's all about:

We desperately want to stay faithful in these times, but we know we can't muster up the faith all on our own. IF:2023 matters to us, because for two days we get to gather and remind each other that God is who we need. God is who will provide. We gather for two days of worship, with our Bibles, and we ask God to move.

Please reserve Friday, March 3 and Saturday, March 5 for a live-streaming IF:Local event here at FPC. Friday will meet from 5:30 – 9:30 p.m., with Saturday from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

You may register with the QR code.

Contact Valerie King (valerie87@gmail.com) with any questions or for help with registration.



Gifts & Memorials



The new Memorials & Special Gifts committee has the privilege of overseeing the use of gifts to First Presbyterian. The gifts are used to fill special needs. In these newsletter articles we would like to pause for a moment, remember, and thank God for the lives of the individuals for whom the gifts were given.

In January 2023 a new freezer was purchased for the Fellowship Hall kitchen. This freezer was purchased with memorial funds from *Robert Scott*, and *J. Wentzien*. Our Presbyterian Women also contributed to this purchase.

In December 2022, the need was made known for a new, better vacuum for the Sanctuary and

other areas. A new vacuum was purchased using funds in memory of *Marvin Hawkins*.

In 2014 it was decided to make video recordings of worship services and adult Sunday school. Equipment was procured and installed and since then has been used weekly to create those recordings. Gifts in memory of the following individuals made that possible; *Al & Eunice MacNaughton, Eleanor Schaudt, Earl Brennecke, Anna Evers, F Carl "Bud" Muschick, Sharon Vogt, Clara Beasley, and James Wolfe*.

Also in 2014, the pianos we use for worship and Sunday school were in need of tuning and repair. Gifts in memory of these individuals made that possible; *Kenneth King, Jean Elliot, Margaret VonKrog, Shirley Jury, Bill & Betty Etter, Ada Spencer, Curt Faber, Elaine Freel, Agnes Ward, and Nathalie Lynch*.

We would like to thank the givers and their families for these wonderful remembrances of their loved ones. We are truly blessed.

---Memorials & Special Gifts Committee



Game Night was a success



After being postponed due to weather, Game Night was held on February 19, 2023, and it was so much fun! There were 85 people there to enjoy the taco bar and fruit salsa. Bingo with prizes was the big draw, but there were plenty of other games going as well, including pin the eye on the monster! If you missed out this time, don't worry! The M & I Committee is planning to host another Game Night in the future.



Hymn Sing

Hymn Sing returns at a new time on **Sunday, March 12, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.** Billy Wilson will be the special guest. Come sing and praise the Lord with us!



Recent Mission Blog Posts



Each Tuesday we post an update from mission partners or local organizations, or something of mission-minded interest. Here are our most recent blog posts. They can be accessed here:

<https://www.fpcmarshalltown.org/blog>

- Jan. 31 Guatemala – MorningStar/Mission Trip
- Feb. 7 Book review: Same Kind of Different
- Feb. 14 PDA – Turkey & Syria earthquake
- Feb. 21 2nd Chance on Third



Property Committee Update

Meeting/Activity date: The February meeting of the Property Committee was on the first Tuesday in February instead of the second Tuesday because the second Tuesday was Valentine's day.

The meeting was held by Zoom, because the chairman is on vacation in Texas. The other members met in the Fellowship Hall. Steve Anderson the Property Committee co-chair set up the Zoom meeting in the Church.

The Property Committee's major project, the Lower Lounge is finished decisions on what furniture to purchase is all that remains. Please feel free to visit the lounge and use it for your upcoming meetings. The sub-committee that planned and designed the Lower Lounge is now considering the remodeling of the hallway where we currently keep the printer.

The leak in the roof at the southeast corner of the Fellowship Hall has been fixed and the stained tile will be replaced.

Our unsung heroes for "Hats Off to..." this month are **Steve Anderson, Dave Freel, and Jim Grimmus** who changed the lights in the south room of the Gathering Place so that the room is well lighted now.

The March meeting of the Property Committee will be held on March 14, 2023.

--Don Feld



Wednesday Club

Imagine providing a healthy snack to a child who often goes without.

Imagine being a friendly face to a child who has had a bad day.

Imagine being a safe and trusted person for a child to talk to.

Imagine providing a safe space for a child to forget her burdens and just be a kid.

Imagine helping give children tools they can use to help others and help themselves.

Imagine helping a child learn he can speak in front of a group.

Imagine teaching a child God's word so she will always have it in her heart.

Imagine the joy of leading a child to Jesus, sharing his love with a child who may not know it!

You can do all of these things by helping with Wednesday Club. Bus riders, snack providers, and the people who help with the program each week provide love, care, and structure to kids as they learn that God loves them.

Wednesday Club begins at 3:30 p.m. March 1, 2023, and will run for seven Wednesdays, ending April 19, 2023. Talk to Michelle or any of the Wednesday Club volunteers to help or learn more.



DEACONS

Deacons News

The Deacons will meet Tuesday, March 21, 2023, @ 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Diane Oleson will lead devotions. The board will discuss the distribution of prayer shawls and give updates on Friends of the Deacons.



Circle News

Elizabeth Circle will meet in the Lower Lounge, on **Thursday, March 9, 2023**, at 1:30 p.m. They



finished their series on "Spiritual Warfare: and will start "Fruit of the Spirit." All women are welcome to come for study and fellowship on the second Thursday of each month.

Sarah Circle will meet **Tuesday, March 21, 2023**, at **9:15 a.m.** in the Lower Lounge. Jinita Boyd will give devotions. Jean Bower will present the program on the families here from Ukraine.



It means a lot to our children and youth to have members of their church family recognize their accomplishments on Sunday mornings. If your child is involved in an event or activity, and you would like members of our church family to know about it, please let the church office know.

Financial Report for January

JANUARY 2023	Actual
Total Receipts	\$35,510.00
Budget	38,902.00
Total Expenses	(\$46,774.00)
Budget	(50,948.00)
Year to Date:	
Total Receipts	\$35,510.00
Budget	42,427.00
Difference	(6,917)
Total Expenses	(\$46,774.00)
Budget	(50,948.00)
Difference	4,174



The flower sign-up for 2023 is now available on the poster in the Narthex or on the clipboard. Flowers will be \$53.50 for both bouquets in 2023. Single bouquets will be \$26.75.



Quilting group to meet in March



The quilters will be working together in March to make quilts for infant baptisms and various mission projects. They will meet in the Lower Lounge on Mondays beginning at 9:00

a.m. on March 6th. Those interested in quilting and sharing fellowship time together are always welcome. No sewing skills are required, as people are needed to press, cut, design, tie, and chat. Don't forget to bring a sack lunch!

Call Bonnie Bradbury at 752-3410 or email her at hankandbonnie3@gmail.com if you are interested or want to learn more.

To learn more about the impact this group has, read this [recent mission blog post](#).



Lower Lounge Coffee Service

Church groups meeting in the Lower Lounge will no longer need to provide their own coffee supplies.

Coffee, both regular and decaf, creamer, and sugar will now be stocked in the Lower Lounge for church group use. Outside groups are still expected to bring their own. The coffee supplies are stored in the lower carousel cabinet.



Thanks & a Tip of the Hat to...

Steve Anderson, Dave Freely, and Jim Grimmus who updated and relamped the light fixtures in the south room of the Gathering Place so that the room is well lighted now. Our faithful workers at the House of Compassion during the month of February: **Matt Broshar, Jackie Hughes, Garry Rottink, and Terri Rottink.**



Thank you so much for the kindness given to me in the loss of my daughter-in-law, Audrey. The Lord's comfort comes through your caring.

---Barb Hawkins



Church family,

No words can express our feelings of appreciation. In the past several months we have received many cards. Whenever we read them, we think of each sender and can feel the love. We have been blessed with lovely flowers, a fruit basket, and phone visits as well as the Christmas carolers who came to our home. We wish you all to be blessed and hope you have a happy new year.

With love,

– Don & Yasuyo Smith

Friends,

Thank you for your generous partnership over the past year. It is because of partners like you that we are able to help those in need. We look forward to your continued support and sharing the House of Compassion's success with you in the future.

Thanks for believing in what we do here.

---Chad Hammar, Executive Director
House of Compassion

Thank you for your continued support of Marshalltown Christian School. MCS is a valuable part of our community. Your financial partnership ensures Christian education for future generations.

In Christ,

---Julie Lander, MCS Board

Thank you all for the prayers for patience as I waited for surgery, for good outcome so I can do good works and for my eventual return to good health. I thank God for those blessings. I appreciated the cards from members of church, flowers and soup from the deacons, and warm reception as I was able to return to worship in person.

--- Mindy Tullis



FEBRUARY SESSION ACTIONS



Session REPORT

The Stated Session meeting of First Presbyterian Church, Marshalltown met in the Fellowship Hall, February 21, 2023.

Moderator Rev. Bryan Kunz opened the Session meeting at 7:02 p.m.

and Steve Anderson presented the devotions and prayer.

There was a quorum in attendance.

Motion carried to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2023, Stated Session meeting as amended for clarity.

Search Team: Pastor Bryan reported a recent candidate withdrew for theological reasons, but they are pursuing others.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Bryan reported things overall are going well and he is enjoying teaching the adult Sunday school class on John. He will work half time for a few weeks after the baby is here. Rev. Ian McMullen will preach on March 5th and Amgad Beblawi, RE will be in the pulpit March 12th. He plans a sermon series on the Sermon on the Mount when he returns.

Finances: Matt Broshar reported that with the higher budget, January giving, though higher than last year, did not meet the target. There was negative cash flow for the month, but many large one-time bills, including the per capita, were paid. **Motion carried to transfer** \$7,000 from the general fund to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. **Motion to move** \$70,000 from the general fund to the building projects fund **passed**.

Property: Don Feld had nothing to add to the written report. Terry Buzbee reported for the former Lower Lounge Renovations Committee (now Remodel Committee) that the work on the Lower Lounge is essentially done with some furniture yet to be purchased and a window to be possibly put in the door. They are now looking to the hallway, Sunday school area, and office space to have the associate pastor's office near the offices of the pastor and secretary. Music will be given their own space on the third floor. [For a summary of the plan, see the article on page 1.] **Motion to approve** the direction of the renovation **carried**. The committee will bring a budget to Session for approval next month.

Mission/Evangelism: Case Hegeman submitted a written report. Pastor Bryan talked about Tom Bower's effort to raise \$50,000 from presbytery/churches to support the school for children with disabilities in Egypt.

Worship & Music: There were 106 for communion on January 1st.

Christian Education: Pastor Bryan reported camp scholarship form is available on the church website.

A & P: Terry Buzbee said the committee had nothing to report. Pastor Bryan reported members of the Thinking Forward Committee have met with

Missions & Evangelism and Membership & Involvement committees about their recommendations.

Membership & Involvement: Tracy Ostrem said they served 85 at Game Night February 19th with \$112 collected in the free will offering that night.

Memorials: Steve Anderson reported the committee hopes to give Session a monthly update on funds available beginning next month.

Other: Pastor Bryan brought the issue of small churches looking for space to worship in our building to Session. As a church in a community with so many languages and cultural groups living here he believes we need to make space available as a good neighbor. The question is how to do that without impinging our own use. He would like a committee to work on this as he sees it as an ongoing issue. Motion carried to approve the 2022 Statistical Report.

Motion prevailed to adjourn the meeting following prayer at 8:56 p.m.




Newsletter deadline with APRIL 2023 information is Monday, March 20, 2023, for anyone wanting to submit an article.

Members in mission making a difference.
GOOD NEWS from First Presbyterian Church is published monthly. Deadline for the following issue is published in the calendar. Comments and contributions are welcome.
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March 2023 Birthday/Prayer Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Praying for each other brings us closer together. Please pray each day for those listed.</i>			1	2	3 Dela Eklou Marlene Hall Ronald Kauffman	4
5 Rhonda Buzbee	6 Charlotte "Hoke" Farr Dick Ploeger	7	8	9	10 Koffi Vivien Tengue	11
12 Donald Feld	13	14 Henry Johnson	15 Carolyn Bell Rich Lange Lisa Miller	16 Blessing Banissan	17 Isaiah Rottink Pat Stickfort	18
19 Georgia Smith Jack Stickfort	20	21 Jenny Buschbom	22 Carolann Ballenger	23 LaVerne Paul	24 Don Smith	25
26	27 Chris Nason	28 Marcia Quick	29	30	31 Roger Schoell Lynette Tovar	

Role	SUNDAY SERVANTS				
	March 5	March 12	March 19	March 26	
Worship Leader	Angie Pietig	Richie Ritter	Jim Grimmus	Pat Kremer	
Greeters	Bill Eilers		Rich & Arlene Lange	Roger & Karen Schoell	
Fellowship Hosts	Greg & Suzanne Brown	Pat & Mary Hemming			
Cup Washers	Greg & Suzanne Brown	Pat & Mary Hemming			
Donuts	Steve Strand	Marlene Snyder	Abra Banissan	Susan Hibbs	
Nursery	Matt Broshar & Deb Williams	Terri Rottink & Deb Williams	Barb Hawkins & Deb Williams	Mary Hemming & Deb Williams	
Flowers	Greg & Suzanne Brown	Pat & Nancy Kremer	LaVerne Paul	Anna & Andy Randall	
Deacons	Jim Grimmus & Ruth Feld	Paul & Karin Podhajsky	Barb McBride & Terri Rottink	Larry & Judy Erion	
Usher Teams	FIRST SUNDAY	SECOND SUNDAY	THIRD SUNDAY	FOURTH SUNDAY	FIFTH SUNDAY
Team Captain	Terry Buzbee & Larry Schrum	Stan & Nancy VanWyk	Roger & Karen Schoell	Josh Grosvenor & Andy Randall	Dick & Barb McBride
Ushers	Tim Bell Mick DuBois Harlan Quick Bruce Wirin	Amy Drummer Jeff Drummer Barb Vovos	Pat & Mary Hemming	Ryan Flack Lucas Johnson Matt McKibben Ross Turbiville Kyle Young	Chuck Colwell Karen Colwell Steve Strand
Usher Alternates (any Sunday)	Bonnie Bradbury Jim Grimmus Tracy Ostrem Lisa Simpson	Diane Broshar Craig Henze LaVern Paul Barb Vovos	Doug Cooper Pat Kremer Harlan Quick Lee Wilkinson	Arlene Lange Anna Randall	Bonnie Grimmus Dennis Ostrem John Simpson

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARCH 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 3:30p Wednesday Club 5:30 M & I Committee 6:30p Bells 7:30p Choir 8:30p Praise Team	2 8:30a Flapjacks – Lower Lounge 2:00p Memorials/SG Committee	3 5:30p IF:2023 – Fellowship Hall	4 7:30a Men's Group 8:00a IF:2023 – Fellowship Hall
5 2nd Sunday of Lent 9:00a Worship – online & in person 10:15a – Sunday school 6:00p – Youth Night & HS Youth Group	6 5:45p Worship & Music Committee 7:00p Missions & Evangelism Comm.	7 10:00a Presbytery – Ackley	8 3:30p Wednesday Club 6:30p Bells 7:30p Choir 8:30p Praise Team	9 8:30a Flapjacks – Lower Lounge 1:30p Elizabeth Circle Lower Lounge	10	11 7:30a Men's Group
12 3rd Sunday of Lent 9:00 a Worship - online & in person 10:30a – Sunday school All ages 3:00p – Hymn Sing	13 Marshalltown Spring Break	14 Spring Break 7:00p Property Committee (Zoom)	15 Spring Break 6:30p Bells 7:30p Choir 8:30p Praise Team	16 Spring Break 8:30a Flapjacks – Lower Lounge 2:00p FPC serves @ House of Compassion	17 Spring Break	18 7:30a Men's Group
19 4th Sunday of Lent 9:00 a Worship - online & in person 10:15a – Sunday school – All ages 6:00p – Youth Night & HS Youth Group	20 Newsletter Articles Due	21 9:15a Sarah Circle – Lower Lounge 6:00p Deacons 7:00p Session	22 3:30p Wednesday Club 6:30p Bells 7:30p Choir 8:30p Praise Team	23 8:30a Flapjacks – Lower Lounge 2:00p Memorials/SG Committee	24	25 7:30a Men's Group
26 5th Sunday of Lent 9:00 a Worship - online & in person 10:15a – Sunday school – All ages 6:00p – Youth Night & HS Youth Group	27	28	29 3:30p Wednesday Club 6:30p Bells 7:30p Choir 8:30p Praise Team	30 8:30a Flapjacks – Lower Lounge	31	