



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Volume 90, No. 2

Pastor LaCosta's Column

Learn what's going on with the youth on p. 2.

Third Floor

Learn about the third floor renovation on p. 4.

Reminder:

Mar. 9—Daylight Savings Time begins

Mar. 9—Game Night

Mar. 17-21—Marshalltown Schools Spring Break

Mar. 18—Deacons

Mar. 18—Session

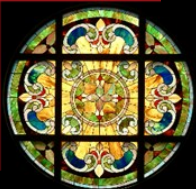
WORSHIP:

9:00 AM Sunday

10:15 AM Sunday School

WEBSITE

www.fpcmarshalltown.org



Word of Wisdom from Pastor Bryan Kunz

As we have studied the Apostle's Creed I have had a few conversations about the other creeds and confessions of the PC(USA). What I have found is that we really don't know our confessions well. We know the creeds because we say the Apostle's Creed regularly and we occasionally read the Nicene Creed, but I think we would be hard pressed to say much about the confessions beyond Westminster question and answer #1.

Forgive me for being a theology nerd, but I find this to be a bit of a shame. The confessions are excellent expressions of our faith. I would particularly recommend the Heidelberg Catechism, the Westminster Shorter Catechism, and the Confession of Belhar. I know the catechisms sound intimidating, but they are intended for teaching new converts and young people the basics of the Reformed faith. To "catechize" is to teach the principles of the faith. This is why catechisms are often set up as a question and answer – because people naturally ask hard questions as they are learning about the faith. Really, the truth is that we keep asking these hard questions throughout life. We return to them throughout life. A loved one dies, and we wonder whether they were really saved, or what salvation really requires. A friend deconstructs their faith and we start to question what we believe about Christ's work and why it matters. These are pastoral concerns and the confessions respond pastorally, with compassion and hope.

The confessions are not just theological documents; they also talk about how we live. The Confession of Belhar is a response to the part that churches played in the South African apartheid. It is a confession (both of guilt and belief) and a clear statement on justice, peace, reconciliation, race, and hope for true unity in Christ. In fact, I think it has some profound things to say to our current cultural moment and how we should treat the sojourners in our midst.

The confessions may be old documents and some of them are boring, but others are deeply pastoral and surprisingly applicable to our modern experiences. I would encourage you to read the ones I have mentioned here. I have physical copies on my shelves that you are welcome to borrow or you can simply google "PCUSA book of confessions" and find a digital copy on the PC(USA) website. If you give them some time and effort I suspect you will find them helpful and encouraging.

—Rev. Bryan Kunz



Youth News

Youth Spotlight

Feb. 27 @ 7:00pm—
Mariachi performance in
LeGrand—**Winner**
Banissan

March 7 & 8 @ 7:00pm —
Charlie and the Chocolate
Factory musical —
Winner Banissan, Payton
Pietig & Madi Van Dyk

February marked six months since our family joined First Presbyterian! It is hard to believe because the time has seemed to fly by.

One of the highlights of the last six months has been getting to know so many of you better as we've studied God's word together. On Wednesday nights and Friday mornings, two groups have been studying prayer. It has been wonderful to discuss the ways we've thought about prayer and how God's word shapes our prayers. Through petition, adoration, and lament, we've learned more about God, ourselves, and one another.

There are also lots of opportunities coming up that I'm excited about! On April 4-5, we'll host a women's conference. It is not the IF Gathering like in the past, but we will still hear from a variety of speakers, spend time in worship, have fellowship, and set aside time for discussion and reflection. We hope you'll join us and invite your friends!

As we head into Lent, we'll be exploring Christian practices in adult Sunday school. These practices can help us pause in the middle of our noisy, busy lives and look for ways that God is at work. They are ancient practices that the Spirit still uses to draw us close to God. Many people choose to give something up for Lent, but this season of reflection is also a great time to *add in* a practice that helps you grow spiritually.

One of the ways we live out what we know and experience is through service. The first weekend in May we are taking a group to Spencer, IA. You can read more about that trip later in the newsletter. I would love to talk with you about joining us!

One thing has been clear over the past six months: God is at work among his people! I look forward to what the next six months will bring as we continue to follow Him together.

**Grace and Peace,
Pastor LaCosta**



What's happening at FPC

Game Night

M&I is planning a Game Night on Sunday, March 9. Dinner will be served at 5:30 with games to follow until 7:00 p.m. Bring your cribbage board, cards, and games for small children. Bingo will be played with small prizes. Please join us for a great meal and a fun time with friends.

It takes a lot of people to have Game Night, so if you would like to lead Bingo, lead a small children's game, be a fourth for a card game, or provide some cookies or bars look for the sign-up in the Narthex.

Let's have fun on March 9th!!

Gifts & Memorials

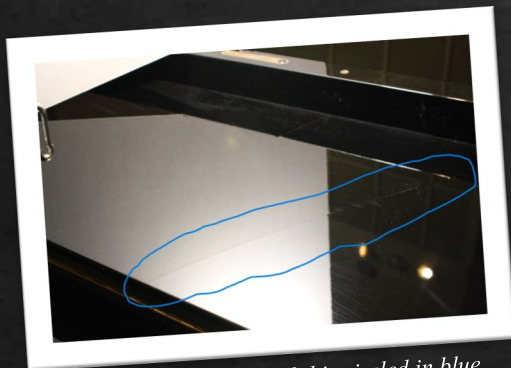
The Memorials & Special Gifts committee has the privilege of overseeing the use of gifts to First Presbyterian. The gifts are used for special needs. In these newsletter articles, we would like to remember and thank God for the gifts that were given.

Last year we added a second wireless microphone to our sound system. The additional microphone allows both pastors to be involved with worship activities like communion and children's sermons. Gifts in memory of the following individuals enabled that project: Dean Baker, Lola Rinnan, Marsha Barber, and the Sanford / Felper / Vande Kamp family.

We want to thank the givers and their families for these gifts and pause for a moment to remember these members of our church family.

Grand Piano Lid Repaired

The Schimmel (sanctuary) grand piano lid was damaged in a break-in two years ago. Thanks to **Greg Brown's** efforts to get the repair done by expert finisher Christoph Storrer of Orem, Utah, the lid has been repaired. It was reinstalled before Christmas by Greg and **Don Feld**.



One of the cracks in the lid is circled in blue.



The finished lid before leaving the shop.



Don Feld and Greg Brown reinstall the repaired lid.

Recent Mission Blog Posts

We post to our mission blog every other Tuesday to update you on the work of the ministries and missionaries we support. After a holiday break, here is our most recent blog post. All posts can be accessed here: <https://www.fpcmarshalltown.org/blog>

Feb. 4 ChildVoice Success stories

Feb. 18 Lakeshore Center & Spencer mission trip

The Upper Room

Behind the balcony are five rooms – a large center room, and four outside smaller rooms. None of these rooms have had much maintenance or improvement in at least 30 years, so it is time to fix them up and make them fit our current needs as a church. Below is an overview of the work, we will be giving details about this space in Sunday school, and you can ask questions to any committee member: Pastor Bryan, Steve and Wynona Anderson, Greg and Suzanne Brown, and Valerie King.

Room 1: The Upper Room

This is the large center room, which will be set up as an extension of the sanctuary. It will be a nice, quiet space for small meetings and Bible studies. It will have carpet and paint similar to the sanctuary and will be a comfortable sitting space. It will also be available for parents to take a child out of the service for a few minutes if necessary and for conversations or gatherings after church. This room is heated and cooled from the sanctuary, so it is often too hot or cold, so we will install a heat pump to assist in keeping it a comfortable temperature.

Room 2: Classroom

The North outside room will continue to be a middle school classroom. It has been cold in the winter and hot in the summer, so the first step here was to insulate the outside walls. This will help to regulate the temperature along with the heat pump in the middle room. A new sink (with hot and cold water!) and countertop will improve things for the teachers as well.

Room 3: Music Files

Years ago, this room was the bookkeeper's office. With the remodel downstairs, we needed a space for the music files and for the choir and bell choir to choose music. Like the classroom, the outside walls will be insulated. The ceiling will also be fixed up a bit and we will purchase a new cabinet for storing extra choir robes.

Rooms 4&5: Puppet and Costume Storage

The South and Southwest rooms store puppets, Orff instruments, costumes, and props. They work well for these purposes, so they have been cleaned up and reorganized, but don't need much more work.



We trust the improvements in this area will allow us to better use this space for ministry for many years to come!

—Upper Room Committee

News & Upcoming Events

Coming this Month: Spencer Mission Weekend Update

There will be a weekend mission trip to Spencer, Iowa, May 2-4, 2025, to work on flood recovery there. This is open to everyone, and families are encouraged to come along. The group will stay at Lakeshore Center at Okoboji in hotel-like rooms, and there will be activities and some appropriate work opportunities for children while adults are working in Spencer. People with a range of skills, including working with children, are needed. The long term recovery group in Spencer anticipates there will be drywall, taping, mudding, and painting to be done. If the weather is favorable there will be work landscaping and moving things back into people's homes as well. Kids can also travel to Spencer to work as long as they are supervised by their parents. Please prayerfully consider being a part of this mission team. See Pastor LaCosta for more information.

Quilters

The quilters will be meeting Mondays in March in the Lower Lounge. You do not need to know how to sew to take part, as there are many steps to make a quilt including designing, cutting, pressing and tying. This group has a lot of fun while making quilts for Jonathan's House in CAR. See Bonnie Bradbury for more details.

Deacons

The deacons will meet in Fellowship Hall on **Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.** to discuss upcoming events and share information about our deacon friends.

Circle News

Elizabeth Circle will meet **Thursday, March 13, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.** in the Lower Lounge.

Sarah Circle will meet **Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 9:15 a.m.** in the Lower Lounge.

Pantry Update



The Super Bowl food drive was a huge success! We had 648 items donated, and Kansas City won the drive by a huge margin.

Staples most needed at this time are **cereal & oatmeal, peanut butter, ramen, pasta & pasta sauce, shelf-stable milk or dry milk packets, canned soups, canned fruit, single serving and family-size meals (e.g. spaghetti), and tuna, chicken or ham, eggs.** Items such as **apples, cutie oranges, potatoes, crackers, granola bars, pop tarts, snacks, and personal care** items are also welcomed. You may bring items to the wagon under the main entrance stairs any time.

Lenten Breakfasts

Lenten Breakfasts return! You are welcome to join Christians from around town as we journey through Lent together on Wednesday mornings. There will be breakfast and a short devotion beginning at 6:30 a.m. on the following days:

March 12 th	Elim Lutheran Church – 302 W. Church St.
March 19 th	First Presbyterian Church – 101 S. Center St.
March 26 th	St. Mary Catholic Church – 11 W. Linn St.
April 2 nd	First Methodist Church – 202 W. Main St.
April 9 th	First Congregational Church – 312 W. Main St.
April 16 th	Hope United Methodist Church – 2203 3 rd Ave.



February Session Actions

The Stated Session meeting of First Presbyterian Church, Marshalltown met in the Fellowship Hall, February 18, 2025.

Moderator Rev. Bryan Kunz opened the Session meeting at 7:02 p.m. Steve Anderson led devotions and prayer.

There was a quorum in attendance.

Motion carried to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2025, Stated Session meeting.

Lead Pastor's Report: Pastor Bryan said things are going well. His trip to Egypt with Tom Bower has been postponed until later in the spring, but he will be on vacation the last week of March. Lenten Breakfasts are returning, and we will host March 19th.

Associate Pastor's Report: Pastor LaCosta expressed her excitement about the missions retreat. She is working on the youth mission trip and the adult mission trip to North Carolina. She is also planning the April 4-5 women's conference with Larissa Kunz.

Finances: Matt Broshar reported January giving was good for a traditionally low month. The per capita apportionment was paid in full.

Committee Reports:

Property: Steve Anderson reported the NE door will go in as soon as it is warm. Pastor

Bryan took the Session on a field trip to the third floor and explained two options the committee has considered. Motion carried to spend up to \$60,000 on the third floor renovation. This will include adding heat pumps to make the space more comfortable year round.

Mission/Evangelism: Lee Wilkinson reported he is still trying to get an answer from PDA on the California wildfire relief. There will be a special offering when we get the information needed on the effort to help displaced people.

Worship & Music: There were 105 in February.

Christian Education: Pastor LaCosta had nothing to add to the written report.

Membership & Involvement: Game night will be March 9. The church directories should be on their way.

Memorials & Special Gifts: Steve Anderson had nothing to add to the written report.

Other:

Motion prevailed to renew the use agreement for Together We Can for another year.

Motion prevailed to adjourn the meeting following prayer at 8:25 p.m.

Financial Report

January

JANUARY 2025	Actual
Total Receipts	\$33,704.00
Budget	35,539.00
Total Expenses	(\$48,934.00)
Budget	(50,295.00)
Year to Date:	
Total Receipts	\$33,704.00
Budget	35,539.00
Difference	(1,835)
Total Expenses	(\$48,934.00)
Budget	(50,295.00)
Difference	(474)

Newsletter deadline with APRIL 2025 information is Thursday, March 20, 2025, 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.

Church office phone: 641-753-5929 – Web Site www.fpcmarshalltown.org

Email Church at church@fpcmarshalltown.org

Pastor at bryan@fpcmarshalltown.org – Secretary/Editor at church@fpcmarshalltown.org

March 2025 Birthday/Prayer Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Praying for each other brings us closer together. Please pray each day for those listed.						1
2	3 Dela Eklou Marlene Hall Ron Kauffman	4	5 Rhonda Buzbee	6 Mitch Brown Charlotte "Hoke" Farr	7	8
9	10 Koffi Vivien Tengue	11	12 Don Feld	13	14 Henry Johnson	15 Carolyn Bell Lisa Miller
16 Blessing Banissan	17 Isaiah Rottink Pat Stickfort	18	19 Georgia Smith	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					




SUNDAY SERVANTS

Role	March 2	March 9	March 16	March 23	March 30
Worship Leader	Brenda Severson	Angie Pietig	Lee Wilkinson	Pat Kremer	John Simpson
Greeters	Garry & Terri Rottink	Doug & Jinita Boyd			
Door Greeter	Dave Freiel	Lee Wilkinson	Mitch & Michelle Brown Family	Craig & Tedra Henze	Jackie Hughes
Fellowship Hosts	Barb & Dick McBride	Mitch & Michelle Brown Family		Diane Broshar	
Cup Washers		Michelle Wilkinson	Jacob Jorgensen	Diane Broshar	Roger & Karen Schoell
Donuts	Terry & Rhonda Buzbee	Bert Tice	Bill & Susan Lawyer	Don & Ruth Feld	Marlene Snyder
Nursery	& Abigail Stone	Barb McBride & Abigail Stone	Barb Hawkins & Abigail Stone	& Abigail Stone	& Abigail Stone
Flowers	Doug & Jinita Boyd		Jackie Hughes & Diane Oleson		Chuck & Karen Colwell
Deacons	Paul & Karin Podhajsky	Pat & Nancy Kremer	Wynona Anderson Lisa Simpson	Case Hegeman & Carter Strand	Jackie Hughes & Michelle Wilkinson
AV Tech	Diane Broshar	Lindsey Van Wyk	Bill Lawyer	Steve Anderson	Steve Anderson
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	Barb Vovos	Pat & Mary Hemming	Ryan Flack Lucas Johnson Matt McKibben Ross Turbiville Kyle Young	Chuck Colwell Karen Colwell Caleb Brown Isaac Brown Mitch Brown
Usher Alternates (any Sunday)	Bonnie Bradbury Craig Henze LaVerne Paul	Diane Broshar Pat Kremer Harlan Quick Barb Vovos	Doug Cooper Arlene Lange Anna Randall Lee Wilkinson	Bonnie Grimmius Dennis Ostrem John Simpson	Jim Grimmius Tracy Ostrem Lisa Simpson

First Presbyterian Church

March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 7:30a Men's Group
2 8:40a – Prayer - Conf. Room 9:00a Worship – online & in person 10:15a Sunday school – all ages 5:30p Youth Group	3 6:00p Worship & Music Comm. 7:00p Missions & Evangelism Comm.	4 6:30p Property Comm.	5 Ash Wednesday 3:30p Wednesday Club 5:30p Worship 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Choir 8:30p Praise Team	6 8:30a Flapjacks – Lower Lounge 7:00p CE – Lower Lounge	7 9:00a Bible Study – Lower Lounge	8 7:30a Men's Group 
9 8:40a – Prayer - Conf. Room 9:00a Worship – online & in person 10:15a Sunday school – all Ages 4:00p Upper Room Comm. 5:30p Game Night	10 6:00p M & I Comm.	11	12 3:30p Wednesday Club 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Choir 8:30p Praise Team	13 8:30a Flapjacks – Lower Lounge 1:30p Elizabeth Circle – Lower Lounge	14	15 7:30a Men's Group
16 8:40a – Prayer - Conf. Room 9:00a Worship – online & in person 10:15a Adult Sunday school only	17 	18 9:15a Sarah Circle Lower Lounge 6:00p Deacons 7:00p Session	19 Spring Break 6:30a Lenten Breakfast 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Choir 8:30p Praise Team	20 8:30a Flapjacks – Lower Lounge 2:00p FPC serves @ House of Compassion <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i>	21	22 7:30a Men's Group
23 8:40a – Prayer - Conf. Room 9:00a Worship – online & in person 10:15a Sunday school – all ages 5:30p Youth Group	24	25	26 3:30p Wednesday Club 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Choir 8:30p Praise Team	27 8:30a Flapjacks – Lower Lounge 7:00p CE – Lower Lounge	28	29 7:30a Men's Group
30 8:40a – Prayer - Conf. Room 9:00a Worship – online & in person 10:15a Sunday school – all ages 5:30p Youth Group	31					