



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Volume 90, No. 5

Pastor LaCosta's Column

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

Our Graduates

Meet our graduates on page 3.

Reminder:

June 8—Pentecost
June 14—Flag Day
June 15—Father's Day
June 15—I-Cubs game
June 15-21—Youth Mission Trip
June 17—Deacons
June 17—Session
June 19—Juneteenth
June 20—1st day of summer

WORSHIP:

9:00 AM Sunday
10:15 AM Sunday School

WEBSITE



www.fpcmarshalltown.org



Word of Wisdom from Pastor Bryan Kunz

Presbyterian World Mission Closes

As some of you have probably heard, the PC(USA) has recently decided to close Presbyterian World Mission, which was its sending agency for foreign missionaries. In 2010, Presbyterian World Mission supported 200 mission coworkers by 2025 that number was down to 60 and 54 of them were laid off earlier this year.

The reason given for these cuts and for closing the ministry altogether is primarily financial. With the decrease in PC(USA) membership and the closing of churches, this makes some sense. However, the numbers above show that the shift away from missions has been going on for a while. The denomination has struggled with viewing missionaries as colonial and with the ideas underlying evangelism.

I am really bothered by this decision by the denomination. I understand financial issues, but there was no attempt to try other funding methods. I understand that at times missionaries have brought western culture and values more than Christianity. Mistakes of the past do not mean that all foreign missions should be eliminated. I applaud the desire to equip local Christians to do ministry in a country (after all, they know the needs and assets and culture much better). However, the call of Jesus is clear – we are to go and make disciples of *all nations*. The apostles went out from Jerusalem and Judea (their home cultures) and into other areas to proclaim the gospel.

I think the real problem is that many in our denomination have lost the urgency of that command. I suspect many pastors and congregants would question or deny that Jesus is the only way of salvation. When you don't stand on the truth of scripture of course the desire to serve others and evangelize disappears because truth becomes relative and evangelism becomes a bad word.

When Jesus sent his disciples out, he sent them to declare the Kingdom of God and to care for the physical needs of the people around them. Nothing about that call has changed for Christians today. The mission coworkers we supported were doing these same things and equipping others to do them.

I think I can safely speak for our church's Missions and Evangelism Committee when we say that we remain committed to supporting missions work throughout the world and in our own community because it is clear that is what Jesus expects of us.

—Rev. Bryan Kunz



Discipleship on Mission

VBS



Join us for **True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World**, July 14-17!

You can register on the church website or by using this QR code:



5th & 6th Grade Group



In May the Mission and Evangelism Committee led a group of 13 from FPC to repair flood-damaged homes in Spencer, IA. We stayed at Lakeshore Camp, enjoying the beautiful views of the lake during our downtime. On Saturday morning, we travelled to Spencer where most of our group spent the day tearing down paneling and installing drywall in the basement of a home. Some of the group travelled around Spencer, completing different, smaller jobs: yard cleanup, priming a basement, and removing staples from the ceiling of a local pastor. We connected with the head of Clay County's long-term recovery, who explained much more about the lingering effects of the flooding and the continuing impact on the community. We had worship on the deck at Lakeshore before heading home on Sunday. M&E is looking forward to leading another trip to Spencer sometime this fall.

Our K-5th graders ended their Sunday School year in May learning about the parables of Jesus. They studied the parable of the Good Samaritan and the parable of the Unforgiving Servant. A big THANK YOU to our teachers, helpers, and subs for a great year of Sunday School! Our kids are learning so much!

Our youth group ended the regular year by playing Underground Church, a favorite of the group. We wrapped up our study on the Sermon on the Mount, discussing what it means to live as God's people in God's kingdom. We are looking forward to putting what we learned into action as we serve in South Dakota from June 15-21. Please be in prayer for our group as we travel, learn from and serve the people of the Cheyenne River Reservation, and learn more about God's Kingdom.

We're also gearing up for VBS July 14-17, and we need YOU! Register your kids and grandkids and invite your neighbors. We also have some volunteer spots open for group leaders, nursery, helpers, decorators, and builders. Please talk to me or another member of CE if you'd like to help!

**Grace and Peace,
Pastor LaCosta**

What's happening at FPC

Church Picnic

M&I is once again sponsoring a picnic at Kaufman Park in State Center on **Sunday, August 3**. They will cook the brats, burgers, and hot dogs, and provide the plates, utensils, and beverages. If you are able, please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert. Mark your calendar and join your church family for great food, fellowship, games, and fun! Watch this space for more details.

Church directory updates

If any information has changed from what is in the latest church directory, please let the office or Tracy Ostrem know. Also, if you need help downloading the directory to your phone or computer, please come in to the church office or let Tracy know. It is so helpful to have on your phone and we can help you.

2025 Graduates

Winner Banissan graduated from Marshalltown High School. He will be entering the Utility Technician program at Marshalltown Community College and plans to become a lineman. Winner is the son of Bruno & Abra Banissan.



Isaac Young graduated from Marshalltown High School. He will work at Lake View Camp this summer while discerning God's plan for his future. Isaac is the son of Kyle & Amber Young.

Adelaide (Wilkinson) Halvorson graduated from the University of Iowa with her BSN. She will continue working as a charge nurse at Mayo Clinic Health System in Austin, MN.

Congratulations to our graduates!



Elliana Rottink graduated from Marshalltown High School, and also earned her AA at MCC. She will be attending the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls to study elementary education. Elli is the daughter of Jon & Heather Rottink.



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. Here are our most recent blog posts. All posts can be accessed here: <https://www.fpcmarshalltown.org/blog>

May 13
May 27

Winner Banissan—mission trip to Mississippi
The Turks & changes to PCUSA world mission

Spencer Mission Trip

A group of thirteen people from First Presbyterian Church traveled to Spencer, Iowa, May 2-4 to work on flood recovery. They stayed at Lakeshore Center on Okoboji (camp) and also enjoyed the peaceful atmosphere there.

The group was split into smaller groups and a lot was accomplished both in Spencer and at camp.

We hope to take a group back in the fall as there is much more work to do. We'd love to have you join us!

—Missions Committee



Thank you

Members of First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for your recent donation to the Emergency Food Box. Your kindness makes it possible for us to help meet the emergency food needs of people in Marshall County. The Emergency Food Box program is supported entirely by donations from individuals, organizations, and churches. We are grateful that you have chosen to be part of this program. On behalf of those who will benefit from your generosity, we again say "thank you for your help!"

—Emergency Food Box

My sincere thank you to all who expressed sympathy in any way to our family at Rich's death. He loved this church and our church family. We are blessed to be a part of the First Presbyterian family. In love,

—Arlene Lange and family



3rd Floor Progress

The 3rd floor project is nearing completion with carpet being laid the last week of May.



A Tip of the Hat to —

Chad Pietig, Amber Young, Bethany Wirin, and Richie Ritter for faithfully serving as youth group volunteers this past year! Our faithful workers at the House of Compassion during the month of May: **Jackie Hughes, Tracy Ostrem, Bella Van Dyk, LaCosta Van Dyk, and Lavonne Watkins.**



News & Upcoming Events

Coming this Month: Presbytery Mission Delegation

You are invited to join Presbyterians from across Iowa to learn about immigration issues from the perspective of churches along the Mexican border who minister to migrants on a daily basis.

The trip is November 15-21, 2025. People on the trip will:

- Visit ministries serving migrants & deportees
- Tour US Customs/Immigration facilities
- Walk migrant trails in the Sonoran Desert
- Stay in dormitory lodging with Mexican cuisine

The cost is \$850 + airfare, partial scholarships are available.

More information and the application are available at
<https://presbynciowa.org/us-mexico-border/>

You may also contact Ministry and Mission Executive Amgad Beblawi (amgad@presbyteries.org) with your questions.

Altar Flowers

There are many Sundays available to sponsor altar flowers this summer. The bouquets are \$25 per bouquet, or \$50 for both. You may also bring flowers from your garden (please give the church office a week's notice if you plan to do this). The available dates are:

June 8 & 15 July 6, 13, 20, & 27 August 3, 10, 24, & 31

Deacons

The deacons remain dedicated to staying in contact with their friends with a call, card, or visit. These little gestures mean so much to each of them as it's a way to stay connected to their church family.

It is with great sadness that we recently said goodbye to Bonnie Sievers and Barb Wollam. They are gone to a better place but not forgotten.

If you or someone you know is in need of being added to our list, please contact Pat or Mary Hemming, Deacon Chairpersons.

Circle News

Elizabeth Circle will meet **Thursday, June 12, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.** in the Lower Lounge.

Sarah Circle will not meet over the summer. They will meet again September 16th.

Pantry Update

At press time, at least **283** items have been donated in May. Over **1,600** items have been donated in 2025! We appreciate everyone's generosity to this project. As we head into summer the need will be greater as children will not be getting lunch at school. To help meet this need we will be putting extra items out each day.

Items most needed at this time are *breakfast cereal, soup, canned fruit and vegetables, pasta, pasta sauce, ramen, shelf-stable milk or dry milk packets, single serving and family-size meals, granola bars, and proteins, including peanut butter and tuna, bread and tortillas, and items kids can prepare*. You may bring items to the wagon under the main entrance stairs any time.



May Session Actions

The Stated Session meeting of First Presbyterian Church, Marshalltown met in the Fellowship Hall, May 20, 2025.

Moderator Rev. Bryan Kunz opened the Session meeting at 7:03 p.m. Lee Wilkinson led devotions and prayer.

There was a quorum in attendance.

Motion carried to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2025, Stated Session meeting.

Lead Pastor's Report: Pastor Bryan reported his trip to Egypt went well. He will be gone the last week of June on study leave. There will be no adult Sunday school in June and a series on evangelism will start in July. A sermon series on 1 & 2 Thessalonians will begin in June.

Associate Pastor's Report: Pastor LaCosta shared that the Spencer mission trip went well and they are hoping to have a group go again in the fall. She will be gone June 4-10 presenting and preaching at RCA General Synod, and also June 15-21 leading the youth mission trip to South Dakota. Youth group finished the year well.

Following questions at last month's meeting, Pastor LaCosta lead a discussion about transgender people. The session affirmed our desire to lovingly welcome and disciple all who come through our doors.

Finances: Pastor Bryan reported (with help from notes Matt Broshar left for him) that April weekly giving exceeded the target. Spending for the third floor project is also reflected in the report.

Committee Reports:

Administration & Personnel: The 2022 financial review report was presented showing no concerns. They are reviewing policies and procedures with the goal of presenting them to Session for approval next month.

Property: Steve Anderson reported they have someone to replace the heaved concrete at the entrance and some broken places on the north side of the church. Carpet will be installed on the third floor next week.

Mission/Evangelism: Lee Wilkinson reported PCUSA has ended its world mission program abruptly at the end of March. Pastors Bryan and LaCosta are working to gather information on this upsetting action. **Motion to pause** mission giving to PCUSA until we have more information about where our money is going **carried**. The committee will be discussing this further.

Worship & Music: There were 100 for communion in May.

Christian Education: Pastor LaCosta said people are needed to lead stations for VBS July 14-17.

Membership & Involvement: Tracy Ostrem said the committee did not meet after a very busy April.

Other business: **Motion to approve** the use agreement with Hebron Temple for another year **carried**.

Motion prevailed to adjourn the meeting following prayer at 8:46 p.m.

Financial Report

April

APRIL 2025	Actual
Total Receipts	\$38,775.00
Budget	36,789.00
Total Expenses	(\$40,846.00)
Budget	(38,715.00)
Year to Date:	
Total Receipts	\$150,997.00
Budget	152,136.00
Difference	(1,139)
Total Expenses	\$155,652.00)
Budget	(165,293.00)
Difference	9,641

Newsletter deadline with July 2025 information is Friday, June 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


June 2025 Birthday/Prayer Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Lauren Mosher Brinegar	3 Ruth Feld	4 Diane Broshar Reena Pearson	5 Diane Starn	6	7 Rich Daniels
8	9 Kurt Lynch	10 Mary Hemming John Simpson	11 Stan Van Wyk Michelle Wilkinson	12	13 Doris Strand	14 Larry Erion
15 Anastasia King	16 Marylou Beckman	17	18 Craig Henze	19 Dennis Ostrem	20	21
22	23 Linda Allen Lynn Jensen	24 Anna Randall	25 Roger Anders Kallen Flack	26	27	28
29 Austin Tullis	30	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Praying for each other brings us closer together. Please pray each day for those listed. </div>				

Role	SUNDAY SERVANTS				
	June 1	June 8	June 15	June 22	June 29
Worship Leader	Valerie King	Terry Buzbee	Bill Eilers	Gail Reese	Thomas Wilkinson
Greeters	Garry & Terry Rottink				
Door Greeter	Dave Freel	Lee Wilkinson	Mitch & Michelle Brown Family	Craig & Tedra Henze	Matt & Diane Broshar
Fellowship Hosts	Dick & Barb McBride	M & I Committee	Mitch & Michelle Brown Family		Mitch & Michelle Brown Family
Cup Washers	Dick & Barb McBride	M & I Committee	Mitch & Michelle Brown Family		
Donuts	Matt & Diane Broshar	No donuts			
Nursery	& Abigail Stone	& Abigail Stone	Barb Hawkins & Abigail Stone	& Abigail Stone	& Michelle Wilkinson
Flowers	B & B Wirin; G & T Rottink			Mary & Pat Hemming	Sue & Barry Bryant
Deacons	Joyce Anderegg & Barb Vovos	Karen Schoell & Marlene Snyder	Pat & Mary Hemming	Pat & Nancy Kremer	Paul & Karin Podhajsky
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 Grimmus Dennis Ostrem John Simpson	Jim Grimmus Tracy Ostrem Lisa Simpson

First Presbyterian Church

JUNE 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:40a – Prayer - Conf. Room 9:00a Worship – online & in person 5:00p Mission Trip parent meeting	2 6:00p Worship & Music Comm. 7:00p Missions & Evangelism Comm.	3 5:00p Mission Trip parent meeting 6:30p Property Comm.	4 8:30p Praise Team	5 8:30a Flapjacks – Lower Lounge ← Pastor LaCosta away →	6	7 7:30a Men's Group
8 8:40a – Prayer - Conf. Room 9:00a Worship – online & in person	9	10	11 8:30p Praise Team	12 8:30a Flapjacks – Lower Lounge 1:30p Elizabeth Circle – Lower Lounge	13 11:00a Mary Baker memorial service	14 7:30a Men's Group
15 Father's Day 8:40a – Prayer - Conf. Room 9:00a Worship – online & in person 1:08p I-Cubs game	16 6:00p M & I Comm.	17 9:15a Sarah Circle Lower Lounge 7:00p Session	18 8:30p Praise Team	19 8:30a Flapjacks – Lower Lounge 2:00p FPC serves @ House of Compassion	20 <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i>	21 7:30a Men's Group
← Youth Mission Trip (Pastor LaCosta) →						
22 8:40a – Prayer - Conf. Room 9:00a Worship – online & in person	23 Office closed 	24 Office closed	25 8:30p Praise Team	26 8:30a Flapjacks – Lower Lounge	27	28 7:30a Men's Group
← Pastor Bryan gone → ← Michelle on vacation →						
29 8:40a – Prayer - Conf. Room 9:00a Worship – online & in person	30			