



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Volume 90, No. 4

Pastor LaCosta's Column

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

Easter Eggstravaganza

See pictures on p. 3.

Reminder:

**May 2—4—Mission Trip to
Spencer**

May 11—Mother's Day

May 20—Deacons

May 20—Session

May 26—Memorial Day

May 29—Ascension of our
Lord

WORSHIP:

9:00 AM Sunday

10:15 AM Sunday School

WEBSITE

www.fpcmarshalltown.org



Word of Wisdom from Pastor Bryan Kunz

The Spiritual Practice of Enjoying the Outdoors

In adult Sunday school we have been talking about spiritual practices. We went through a list of practices throughout Lent. One Sunday LaCosta talked about seeing the work and presence of God in the world around us. I appreciated what she had to say because spending time outdoors has been an important spiritual practice for me.

That might sound like an odd thing to call a spiritual practice, but I have often found that spending time outdoors leads me to prayer and meditation. I find even when I am fishing or hunting or backpacking (maybe not so much with mowing the lawn or weeding), I am drawn to worship by the beauty of God's creation. I find I can't help but praise and pray.

I have also found why ancient peoples often looked to the mountains as the places of God. For some reason I feel closer to God in the mountains. I suspect some of it is the experience of sublimity. For example, while I was doing a study abroad in Ecuador we hiked Mount Pichincha. This mountain overlooks Quito, and you can drive much of the way up, then we would hike the last little way to the summit. On one of our trips up to the top, I took a side trail and found myself separated from my group, off the beaten path. I sat down on a rock, looking out at the terraced hills and enjoying some rest. Suddenly, as I sat there a thick fog rolled in and in a matter of moments I couldn't see beyond my finger tips. I was overwhelmed with the recognition of God's greatness. In seconds, I could be engulfed by fog, I felt small and inconsequential in the best way because it drove home to me in that moment how profound God's love is, that in a world where I am so small, God still chooses to love me. I couldn't keep from worshipping on that mountain.

Maybe nature doesn't work on you in the same way, but there is a lot of evidence that being outside improves our physical and mental health. Being outside can give us a space to think and pray. As the weather warms, but it is not yet hot, take some time and go outside. Maybe leave your phone inside for a while and just enjoy nature. Look at the variety of birds and flowers and trees and see if it doesn't lead you into worship as well.

—Rev. Bryan Kunz



Pastor LaCosta's Mission & Discipleship News

Youth Spotlight



Winner Banissan showing the work done on a roof during his spring break mission trip to Cary, Mississippi.

Thank you to everyone who attended or helped with our women's conference! It was a great weekend of spending time together and learning together from God's word. We are looking forward to next year's conference!

Thank you also to all those who attended or helped with Easter Eggstravaganza! The kids had a great time learning together about the resurrection.

We have 13 people going to Spencer to help with flood recovery. The missions committee has been excited and encouraged by the response from the congregation to this opportunity! We are looking forward to sharing about our experience when we return.

April was a fun month in youth group; the weather has allowed us to be outside and play some really fun, silly games! We've also continued diving into the Sermon on the Mount, discussing prayer and giving, the Lord's Prayer, and how we should think about justice in God's already-not yet kingdom.

It is hard to believe that it is already May and we are wrapping up Sunday school and youth group for the year! It has been so fun to get to know our students this year, and we are excited to celebrate with our graduates on May 18. We are also looking forward to VBS July 14-17; if you're interested in helping as a station leader or group leader or helping with decorations, please talk to me! We're looking forward to our True North Alaskan Adventure—look for the posters in the narthex and Fellowship Hall to register.

Youth Group

**Grace and Peace,
Pastor LaCosta**



What's happening at FPC

I-Cubs Game

It's baseball time! We are going to head to an I-Cubs game on **Sunday, June 15th** for the 1:08 p.m. game versus the Louisville Bats. Please sign up in the Narthex as soon as possible with your name and the number of tickets you need as tickets need to be purchased the first week of May to get good seats together. See Jackie Hughes if you have questions.

Church Picnic

Mark your calendar for **Sunday, August 3rd!** M & I is planning a picnic again since so many have enjoyed the outing in the past. Be looking for more details.

Attention 2025 Graduates

We will be celebrating our graduates' achievements during the **May 18, 2025**, worship service. If you have a graduate in your family in 2025 (including December 2024 grads—high school or higher education) we ask that you send a billfold sized (portrait style) picture for display by **Sunday, May 4th**. Be sure to include the graduate's name, school, and certificate or degree earned. You may call or email church with the information, but we ask you send or bring in a physical photo.

Easter Eggstravaganza

Easter Eggstravaganza was April 16. Much fun was had by all as they learned the Easter story and did some activities with some special people.



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>

April 1	Eric Voss—One Church, Mason City
April 15	YSS of Marshall County
April 29	Fairhaven School—Egypt

Wednesday Club

Wednesday Club finished its spring session with a parent program and meal. The children's voices were so beautiful as they sang "Hallelujah." They also shared a skit about the Fruit of the Spirit. Everyone did a great job!

I am always so amazed by how God is at work through Wednesday Club. He brings together volunteers with just the right mix of gifts and talents to love on the children and provide what is needed to help them learn about him. The kids ask such good questions, demonstrating their understanding of the important things we are teaching.

Thank you to everyone who gives their time and talents to this outreach ministry in so many ways each week: **Wynona Anderson, Diane Broshar, Matt Broshar, Jackie Hughes, Bryan Kunz, Barb McBride, Garry Rottink, Terri Rottink, Bert Tice, LaCosta Van Dyk, and Nancy Van Wyk.** And to our youth helpers, **Naysa and Alyn.** And also to those who provided snack in April: **Jennifer Anderson, Jackie Hughes, Valerie King, Barb McBride, Nancy Van Wyk, and Lee Wilkinson.** Thank you also to the **M & I Committee** for preparing and serving the wonderful meal the last night.

—Michelle Wilkinson



3rd Floor Progress

The 3rd floor project is nearing completion with Kurt Lynch now finishing up the countertops and drawers.



A Tip of the Hat to —

Don Feld for remaking the Little Pantry door and latch, and **Kurt Lynch** for staining it....to **Amber Young & Ashley Johnson** for all their work to put on Easter Eggstravaganza.... **Michelle Wilkinson** for another great semester of Wednesday Club.... **Property Committee** for planning a successful church work day.... Our faithful workers at the House of Compassion during the month of April: **Diane Broshar, Matt Broshar, Jackie Hughes, Rich King, and Bert Tice.**

News & Upcoming Events

Coming this Month: Mission Teams Commissioned



Two mission teams were commissioned during worship on Sunday, April 27, 2025. Teams going to Egypt and Spencer, Iowa, were presented and prayed over. Pastor Bryan Kunz and Pastor Tom Bower left later that day for Egypt to visit Fairhaven, the special needs school in Alexandria that we support and Tom has worked with for years. Pastor LaCosta Van Dyk is leading a team of over a dozen church members to Spencer to work on flood recovery May 2-4. This is a follow-up visit from a trip a small group took last fall. Spencer sent teams to work in Marshalltown after the 2018 tornado.

Pastor Bryan Kunz commented that he didn't expect to be asking for pulpit supply now that we have two pastors here, but having both be on mission was the best reason to do so. Rev. Ian McMullen will preach in their absence on May 4th.

Completing a missions hat trick, Winner Banissan shared about his spring break mission trip to Cary, Mississippi, where he worked hard repairing rooves damaged in a tornado, and enjoyed seeing God at work in the world.

Flowers

Lowe's Flowers generously reduced the cost of the altar flowers this month. Starting May 4, bouquets will be \$25, or both for \$50. There are many summer dates available to sponsor. As always, you may bring flowers from your garden, but please give the church office a week's notice if you plan to do so.

Deacons

The Deacons' next meeting will be May 20 at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship hall. Michelle Wilkinson has devotions. One of the best parts of our meeting is when the deacons share news about the friends they contact. Our friends are so appreciative of our visits, calls or cards we send. They really enjoy the small treats they often receive too! Being connected to their church family means so much to them.

Circle News

Elizabeth Circle will meet **Thursday, May 8, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.** in the Lower Lounge.

Sarah Circle will meet **Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at 9:15 a.m.** in the Lower Lounge.

Pantry Update

Thanks to your generosity, **239** items were collected for the little pantry during Holy Week! This greatly helped replenish some needed supplies.

Items most needed at this time are **cereal & oatmeal, peanut butter, pasta & pasta sauce, shelf-stable milk or dry milk packets, canned soups, canned fruit, single serving and family-size meals, 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.



April Session Actions

The Stated Session meeting of First Presbyterian Church, Marshalltown met in the Fellowship Hall, April 15, 2025.

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

There was a quorum in attendance.

Motion carried to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2025, Stated Session meeting.

Lead Pastor's Report: Pastor Bryan will be gone April 27—May 8 to Egypt with Tom Bower. He and Pastor LaCosta met to talk about her first six months here and both feel things are going well, they get along well, and she is doing good work.

Pastor Bryan then brought up the Olympia Overtures (the second of which has not yet passed) and gave Session some handouts with the language from the amendments and other pertinent documents. A wide ranging conversation was held on this topic.

Associate Pastor's Report: Pastor LaCosta shared that she is excited about the upcoming Spencer mission trip with about a dozen people going. She is doing some long-term planning for next year as she had no time to do so when she started here.

Finances: Matt Broshar reported that March weekly giving reached the target, with first quarter well ahead of prior years.

Committee Reports:

Property: Pastor Bryan gave an update on the upper room project, noting HVAC work started that day. Steve Anderson added that the property work day went well.

Mission/Evangelism: Lee Wilkinson highlighted the committee's tour of YSS. They are looking at how they can use information they learned to create opportunities for church members to get involved around the community at different ministries and organizations.

Worship & Music: There were 127 for communion in April.

Christian Education: The committee will meet next week.

Membership & Involvement: Tracy Ostrem said she and Jackie Hughes deep cleaned the kitchen and moved some items to different cabinets, but everything is labeled. The committee will be busy with meals over the next week or so.

Motion prevailed to adjourn the meeting following prayer at 8:21 p.m.

Financial Report

March

MARCH 2025	Actual
Total Receipts	\$44,871.00
Budget	44,270.00
Total Expenses	(\$32,454.00)
Budget	(39,178.00)
Year to Date:	
Total Receipts	\$112,225.00
Budget	115,347.00
Difference	(3,122)
Total Expenses	\$114,931.00)
Budget	(126,578.00)
Difference	11,647

Newsletter deadline with June 2025 information is Tuesday, May 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

May 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 Lee Wilkinson	2 Steve Irvine Connie Jensen	3
4 Suzanne Brown Ryan Grabau	5 Nicholas Cooper Jason Strand	6	7	8 Isaac Young	9 Jean Abbas	10
11	12 Janeen Boliver	13 Mike Gerbo Larry Watkins	14 Lori Adams Ryan Flack	15	16	17
18 Jeff Drummer	19	20 Tracy Ostrem	21 Jim Avise Shirley Egli	22	23 Madysen Van Dyk	24
25 Joyce Anderegge	26 Adam Podhajsky	27 Meg Sponseller	28	29 Caleb Brown Pat Hemming	30 Bryan Kunz	31 Kyle Young



Role	SUNDAY SERVANTS				
	May 4	May 11	May 18	May 25	
Worship Leader	Craig Henze	Jim Grimmus	Ashley Johnson	Winner Banissan	
Greeters					
Door Greeter	Dave Freel	Lee Wilkinson	Mitch & Michelle Brown Family	Craig & Tedra Henze	
Fellowship Hosts	Jackie Hughes	Matt Broshar	Mitch & Michelle Brown Family		
Cup Washers	Mitch & Michelle Brown Family	Diane Broshar	Jacob Jorgensen		
Donuts	Marlene Snyder	Roger & Karen Schoell	Valerie King	Steve & Doris Strand	
Nursery	& Abigail Stone	Michelle Wilkinson & Abigail Stone	& Abigail Stone	& Abigail Stone	
Flowers	J & B Grimmus; Rich Youds	Terry & Rhonda Buzbee	Hank & Bonnie Bradbury	Mitch & Michelle Brown Family	
Deacons	Paul & Karin Podhajsky	Wynona Anderson & Lisa Simpson	Case Hegeman & Carter Strand	Jackie Hughes & Michelle Wilkinson	
AV Tech	Lindsey Van Wyk	Diane Broshar	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

MAY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 8:30a Flapjacks – Lower Lounge	2 5:00p Mission trip to Spencer	3 7:30a Men's Group
						
4 8:40a – Prayer - Conf. Room 9:00a Worship – online & in person 10:15a Children's Sunday school – No adult SS today 5:30p Youth Group	5 6:00p Worship & Music Comm. 7:00p Missions & Evangelism Comm.	6 6:30p Property Comm.	7 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Choir 8:30p Praise Team	8 8:30a Flapjacks – Lower Lounge 1:30p Elizabeth Circle – Lower Lounge	9	10 7:30a Men's Group
11 Mother's Day 8:40a – Prayer - Conf. Room 9:00a Worship – online & in person 10:15a Sunday school – all Ages 5:30p Youth Group	12 6:00p M & I Comm.	13	14 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Choir 8:30p Praise Team	15 8:30a Flapjacks – Lower Lounge 2:00p FPC serves @ House of Compassion	16	17 7:30a Men's Group
18 Graduate Sunday 8:40a – Prayer - Conf. Room 9:00a Worship – online & in person 10:15a Sunday school – all Ages 5:30p Youth Group	19	20 9:15a Sarah Circle Lower Lounge 6:00p Deacons 7:00p Session <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i>	21 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Choir 8:30p Praise Team	22 8:30a Flapjacks – Lower Lounge	23	24 7:30a Men's Group
25 8:40a – Prayer - Conf. Room 9:00a Worship – online & in person	26  Church office closed	27 3:30p Yasuyo Smith Memorial service 7:00 CE – Lower Lounge	30 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Choir 8:30p Praise Team	29 8:30a Flapjacks – Lower Lounge <i>Ascension of the Lord</i>	30	31 7:30a Men's Group