



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Volume 89, No. 10

Pastor LaCosta's Column

Learn what's coming up on p. 2.

Jonathan's House

Read Carter's update on p. 3.

Reminder:

- Nov. 1—All Saints Day
- Nov. 3—Daylight Savings Time ends
- Nov. 5—Election Day
- Nov. 10—Pastor LaCosta Van Dyk's installation**
- Nov. 13—M&I Meal
- Nov. 19—Deacons
- Nov. 19—Session
- Nov. 23—Holiday Stroll
- Nov. 28—Thanksgiving Day

WORSHIP:

- 9:00 AM Sunday
- 10:15 AM Sunday School

WEBSITE

www.fpcmarshalltown.org



Word of Wisdom from Pastor Bryan Kunz

Third Floor Improvements

As a church with an old building, we always have upkeep and improvement work to keep things working well for our ministry. In the last renovation we worked through the lower level of the church, co-locating offices, improving classrooms, and generally updating. In that process, we made changes that had ripple effects on our music programs, and we committed to making sure that our music programs have what they need to thrive.

A few weeks ago an ad-hoc committee made up of Wynona Anderson, Valerie King, Suzanne Brown, Steve Anderson (as a Property Committee representative) and I met and started thinking about the changes that have happened and how we can better utilize the area behind the balcony.

The third floor has served many functions over the years. I am told that at one point the pastor and his family lived in that space, using the large center room as their family room and the four side rooms as bedrooms. Thank you for not asking me to do that! Currently, the only regular uses of the space are for the middle school Sunday school classroom and storage. The whole area is badly in need of updating and some changes to make it better fit our current needs.

In our conversation, we heard that both the Bell Choir and Chancel Choir have adjusted to practicing in their new spaces and this will not change. However, we need a space to store music files and unused choir robes, so one of the rooms on the third floor will be dedicated to that purpose. The large third floor room will be a multi-purpose room to hold small group Bible studies, meetings, etc. The classroom will be updated but continue to serve middle school Sunday School. The other two storage rooms will have minimal work done and continue to serve as storage rooms.

The committee that met has laid out some beginning ideas and is now getting quotes and advice from professionals. The general idea will be to update the space with new carpet, paint, lights, ceilings, and whatever else is needed to make it function well. When we have developed a plan, it will go to the Property Committee and Session for revision and approval. We will keep you updated as that plan comes together.

—Rev. Bryan Kunz



Youth News

Youth Spotlight

Nov. 7—Miller home wrestling meet @ 4:30 p.m.
Richard Ritter

The youth group took a trip to No Escape Iowa in Ames on October 20, and we had a blast! Half our group reclaimed King Arthur’s sword and the other half found missing board game pieces to escape. It was a fun time problem solving together, as well as getting to know each other better. We finished off the night with a trip to 5 Guys for burgers, fries, and ice cream. A huge thanks to Chad Pietig for chaperoning and driving the bus for us—even though I unknowingly guided us into downtown Ames!

Thank you also to all our volunteers so far this year and those who have brought meals. It is such a joy to sit and eat with the students—they are chatty and share a lot while they’re eating! The meals have all been wonderful.

Youth Group

Nov. 3—Painting pumpkins
Nov. 10—Operation Christmas Child
Nov. 24—Thanksgiving dinner

Some upcoming youth events to be aware of: We will be painting pumpkins on November 3 and shopping for/packing Operation Christmas Child boxes on November 10. We’ll have a “thanksgiving” supper together on November 24—we’ll provide fried chicken, and you can bring your favorite side to share! Our family continues to look for a home in Marshalltown, and we are hopeful we will be able to move around Christmastime! Thanks for your continued prayers during this process.

Escape Room

**Grace and Peace,
Pastor LaCosta**

Pastor LaCosta’s Ordination



What's coming at FPC

Thankful for Our Church Family meal

M & I will be serving a “Thankful for Our Church Family” meal on Wednesday, November 13. This is come-as-you-are—straight from work, sports, or whatever—anytime between 5:00—7:00 p.m. The meal won't be your traditional turkey dinner, but it will be something good! Plus, the fellowship can't be beat. Plan to bring your family and enjoy a “thankful” meal. Take out will be available for Deacons to bring to their friends. Look for the sign-up in the narthex.

Jonathan's House

An interesting thing is happening at Jonathan's House. Since we accepted our first orphan in 2012, we have been bringing in children who need to be rescued from life threatening situations. We've watched them grow, learn, and mature. 2024 has been a year when several of them were ready to leave the orphanage for a life on their own.

Sandra arrived in 2015, during the brutal civil war, after hiding in the forest with her little brother for several months after rebels killed her family. Since then, I have watched her grow into a young woman with a beautiful heart who tirelessly cares for other children at the orphanage. While I was visiting the orphanage in November 2023, a young man approached me to ask for her hand in marriage. This was an interesting experience for both of us, and they were married last summer. Sandra and Ymol now live in the village near the orphanage and she has been hired by Jonathan's House as an auntie who cares for the children. She is an absolutely wonderful young woman, firmly grounded in her faith in Jesus, and I'm so excited and thankful for their future together.

A few more highlights:

- ◆ Teranus passed his college entrance exams will begin to study at the university in Bangui soon. In CAR, passing the college entrance exam is a very high accomplishment that few children even dream of.
- ◆ Boudoin will begin a two year program to become a nurse's assistant. He is a very intelligent young man who has always shown interest in our medical center and the medical staff.
- ◆ Dimanche and Jospin have applied to the national police program and are waiting to begin training.
- ◆ The orphanage, school, medical clinic, and school lunch program now employ eighty people. We have become the largest employer in the area, and the good jobs that we offer have a significant impact on the financial health of the community.
- ◆ And one thing... We have gained a reputation for our willingness to rescue orphan babies, usually after the death of the mother during childbirth. We now care for 19 children aged 2 and under.

2024 has been a year of tremendous growth for Jonathan's House in the Central African Republic. Our older children are ready to start their own lives and they are prepared for exciting futures. The orphanage is alive with the sounds of new babies. We've completed a full cycle of growth, and we're starting the cycle again. Thank you to everyone at First Presbyterian for your prayers, support, and encouragement since we began in 2012. As many of you know, Jonathan's House began without the experience and knowledge that would have been helpful to face unknown challenges, but God was faithful to His children. Jonathan's House survived and the children flourished. I'm looking forward to seeing what He does next.

—Thankful, Carter Strand

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. They can be accessed here: <https://www.fpcmarshalltown.org/blog>

Oct. 1 The Turks—Madagascar
Oct. 15 Jonathan's House—Central African Republic
Oct. 29 Rhode Island church plant—Jen Davis

Wednesday Club

Wednesday Club is underway! This fall we are learning about prayer, especially the reasons why we pray and what happens when we do. We have learned that Jesus prayed and sometimes did so to teach us to pray as he did before Lazarus was raised from the dead. Through Esther's story, kids have learned that God wants to involve us in his work. And the story of the Roman centurion's servant showed us the value of faith in our prayers and lives. The children also learned the importance of thanking God through our trip to Grimes Farm to enjoy and learn about God's creation.

Thank you to our volunteers who make Wednesday Club possible: *Wynona Anderson, Diane Broshar, Matt Broshar, Jackie Hughes, Bryan Kunz, Barb McBride, Garry Rottink, Terri Rottink, Bert Tice, LaCosta Van Dyk, Nancy Van Wyk.* To our youth helpers *Blessing Banissan* and *Naysa Rottink.* Thank you also to those who provided snack in October: *Carrie Anderson, Jennifer Anderson—API Solutions, Abra Banissan, Jackie Hughes, Barb McBride, and Heather Rottink.*

Thank you

Thank you to the Congregation at First Presbyterian Church for the many cards, notes, thoughts, prayers, and sympathy with Rollie's passing. Thank you also to the ladies who provided the wonderful luncheon on short notice and to the deacons for looking after Rollie.

—The family of Rollie Freel

Thank you for being a wonderful church family. We hope to be back soon. Please keep Barry in your prayers.

—Sue Bryant

Thank you for the gifts you gave for Pastor's Appreciation month. Thank you also to M&I for the wonderful breakfast and the time of fellowship. It is a gift to be able to minister with you all!

—Pastors Bryan & LaCosta



A Tip of the Hat to —

Case Hegeman for cleaning the church while Debbie was on vacation... **Jackie Hughes and Tracy Ostrem** for their work on the church directory... **Dave Freel** for picking up the weekly little pantry bread donation... **Everyone who signs up** to be Sunday servants on the clipboard... Our faithful workers at the House of Compassion during the month of October: **Dave Freel, Tedra Henze, Chuck Hughes, and Jackie Hughes.**

News & Upcoming Events

Coming this Month: House of Compassion Supply Closet

We are collecting items for the House of Compassion Supply Closet in November. They currently have high need for the following items: **dish soap, laundry detergent, shampoo and conditioner, toilet paper, baby wipes, baby shampoo, diapers** (size 4, 5, & 6) and **cold medicine for children and adults**. Other items in demand include **feminine products, paper towels, trash bags, hand soap, deodorant, band-aids, pain relievers, light bulbs, batteries**, etc. There is a box in the Narthex through November 24th for donations. For more on the Supply Closet, go to <https://www.fpcmarshalltown.org/post/support-the-hoc-supply-closet>

Poinsettias

Once again we will dress the chancel for Advent and Christmas. You may sponsor one or more of the poinsettias (mix of red and white with gold foil) that will be on display. The cost is \$10.00 per plant. Please pick up your plant after Christmas. Forms will be in the Sunday bulletin and completed forms can be placed in the offering plate. You may also send in your check along with information on who the poinsettia is given by and who or what it is in loving memory, honor, or celebration of. Please put "poinsettia" in the memo. **Orders due by Sunday, November 24, 2024.**

Alternative Gift Fair

As November arrives it is time to think about Alternative Gift Fair. Sarah Circle will again be offering gift choices for needs at Jonathan's House and choices from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog. Last year you very generously gave \$8800 to these needs. As you consider those on your gift list that say they don't want or need "more stuff" consider a gift from the choices on the alternative list. You will receive a card with a description of your gift to show someone that you care.

The Gift Fair will start on November 24 and go through December 22. There will be an order form in the bulletin every Sunday which can be presented to the gift table in the narthex.

Circle News

Elizabeth Circle will meet **Thursday, November 14, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.** in the Lower Lounge. Hostess is Carole Permar with co-hostess Brenda Miller. Shirley Egli has devotions. We will be studying lesson #7. All women are welcome.

Sarah Circle will meet **Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at 9:15 a.m.** Jean Bower and Diane Welch will serve as hostesses and Terri Rottink will give the devotions. Our program will be discussing which projects to fund. Hope to see you all!

Pantry Update

Thank you for your continued support of our pantry ministry. It makes a difference in people's lives! So far in 2024 over 2800 items have been donated to the pantry! Staples most needed at this time are *canned soups, canned fruit and vegetables, pasta & pasta sauce, shelf-stable milk or dry milk packets, single serving and family-size meals, peanut butter, canned chicken or ham, eggs, and breakfast items*. Items such as *apples, cutie oranges, crackers, granola bars, snacks, and personal care items* are also welcomed. You may bring items to the wagon under the main entrance stairs any time.



August Session Actions

The Stated Session meeting of First Presbyterian Church, Marshalltown met in the Fellowship Hall, October 15, 2024.

Moderator Rev. Bryan Kunz opened the Session meeting at 7:02 p.m. Tedra Henze presented devotions and prayed.

There was a quorum in attendance.

Motion carried to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2024, Stated Session meeting.

Lead Pastor's Report: Pastor Bryan shared a day in the life of a pastor. He will be setting up a membership class soon.

Associate Pastor's Report: Pastor LaCosta reported youth group is going well and asked for prayers that their house sells as they have found one in town.

Finances: Matt Broshar reported September giving hit the weekly target and exceeded the budget. He also explained changes he made in some of the agency accounts to better reflect how money is being used. He also updated Session on progress on the 2025 budget process.

Committee Reports:

Property: Steve Anderson reported there was good turnout for the work day and lots of projects got done. The 3rd floor committee has met and are just starting to work on a plan.

Mission/Evangelism: Greg Brown drew attention to the excitement the people who went to Spencer brought back and the committee's desire to send a larger group again in the spring, including families. Three families will be sponsored for Christmas through House of Compassion. They are also working on a response to hurricane damage in Western North Carolina Presbytery.

A&P: The committee had not met.

Worship & Music: There were 110 for communion in October.

Christian Education: Ashley Johnson had nothing to add to the written report.

Membership & Involvement: Pastor Bryan thanked Tracy Ostrem and Jackie Hughes for their ongoing hard work on the new directory.

Other: Session reviewed the Articles of Incorporation as required annually. There was discussion of the difficulty nominating committee is having filling all the deacons positions.

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

Financial Report

September

SEPTEMBER 2024	Actual
Total Receipts	\$42,517.00
Budget	41,750.00
Total Expenses	(\$33,212.00)
Budget	(35,030.00)
Year to Date:	
Total Receipts	\$316,426.00
Budget	329,090.00
Difference	(12,664)
Total Expenses	(\$296,429.00)
Budget	(328,200.00)
Difference	31,771

Newsletter deadline with **DECEMBER 2024** information is **Wednesday, November 20, 2024**, 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

November 2024 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	4 Jan Faber Lily Johnson Marlene Snyder	5	6 Susan Lawyer Leah Mosher Heather Rottink	7	8 Marla Grossman	9 Carole Permar Karen Schoell Ken Smith
10	11 Vera Grosvenor	12 Marcus Henze	13	14	15	16
17	18 Renee Vogt	19	20 Bob Boeyink Bert Tice	21 Reagan Buschbom	22	23 Mercedes Love
24	25 Jean Bower	26 Pat Kremer Elliana Rottink	27	28 Sue Bryant	29	30 Kevin Strand

Role	SUNDAY SERVANTS				
	Nov. 3	Nov. 10	Nov. 17	Nov. 24	
Worship Leader	Don Feld	Pat Kremer	Lucas Johnson	Bill Eilers	
Greeters	Roger & Karen Schoell	Chuck & Karen Colwell	Mary & Pat Hemming		
Door Greeter	Dave Freel	Lee Wilkinson	Mitch & Michelle Brown Family	Craig & Tedra Henze	
Fellowship Hosts	Barb & Dick McBride	Matt & Diane Broshar	Mitch & Michelle Brown Family	Jackie Hughes	
Cup Washers	Mitch & Michelle Brown Family	Matt & Diane Broshar	Jacob Jorgensen	Jackie Hughes	
Donuts	Roger & Karen Schoell	Jacob Jorgensen	Don & Ruth Feld	Jacob Jorgensen	
Nursery	Nancy & Pat Kremer	&	&	&	
Flowers		Mick DuBois	Robin Harrison	Bryan & Larissa Kunz	
Deacons	Pat & Nancy Kremer	Pat & Mary Hemming	Jim Grimmus & Ruth Feld	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 Steve Strand
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
NOVEMBER 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 7:30a Men's Group 10:30a Robert Smith funeral
3 8:40a – Prayer - Conf. Room 9:00a Worship – online & in person 10:15a Sunday school – all ages 2:30p Presbytery meeting in Nevada	4 6:00p Worship & Music Comm. 7:00p Missions & Evangelism Comm.	5 	6 11:00a Pastors Fostering Hope 3:00p Wednesday Club 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Choir 8:30p Praise Team	7 8:30a Flapjacks – Lower Lounge	8	9 7:30a Men's Group
10 8:40a – Prayer - Conf. Room 9:00a Worship – online & in person 10:15a Sunday school – all ages 3:00p Pastor LaCosta's installation 5:30p Youth Group	11 6:00p M & I Comm.	12 6:15p Bible Study	13 3:00p Wednesday Club 5:00p M & I Dinner 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Choir 8:30p Praise Team	14 8:30a Flapjacks – Lower Lounge 1:30p Elizabeth Circle Lower Lounge	15	16 7:30a Men's Group
				← Matt on vacation →		
17 8:40a – Prayer - Conf. Room 9:00a Worship – online & in person 10:15a Sunday school – all ages 5:30p Youth Group	18	19 9:15a Sarah Circle Lower Lounge 6:00p Deacons 7:00p Session	20 3:00p Wednesday Club 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Choir 8:30p Praise Team Newsletter Articles Due	21 8:30a Flapjacks – Lower Lounge 2:00p FPC serves @ House of Compassion 7:00p CE Committee	22	23 7:30a Men's Group Holiday Stroll
24 8:40a – Prayer - Conf. Room 9:00a Worship – online & in person 10:15a Sunday school – all ages 5:30p Youth Group	25	26 6:15p Bible Study	27 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Choir 8:30p Praise Team	28  Thanksgiving Day	29 Office Closed	30 7:30a Men's Group