

The Good News of
**First Presbyterian
 Church**

**Marshalltown, Iowa
 641-753-5929**

**Volume 86, No. 1
 January 29, 2021**

**The Purpose Statement for the First
 Presbyterian Church of Marshalltown**

- G** Growing in Christ through *worship*.
- R** Reaching out in *fellowship*.
- A** Affirming faith through *discipleship*.
- C** Caring for the lost through *evangelism*.
- E** Embracing others in mission and *ministry*.

February Memory Verse

*"If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet
 walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the
 truth."*

1 John 1:6

**Words of Wisdom
 from Rev. Tom Bower**



*"If we could see beyond today as God can see,
 If all the clouds should roll away,
 The shadows flee;
 O'er present griefs we would not fret,
 Each sorrow we would soon forget,
 For many joys are waiting yet
 For you and me."*

The words of an anonymous song writer touch us and remind us of faith, hope and love. Maybe should say that those words draw us back to our "faith perspective."

Meanwhile, we wonder, we contemplate – when the pandemic is over, how will our lives have changed? This is certainly true of us in the church, probably in all churches.

- Will people come back when we can reopen?
- Will people have become just fine and happy worshipping in pajamas?
- What about all of our church properties? Will our

buildings be under-utilized from now on as we become aware that we can do a whole lot with Zoom?

I know some pastors who are almost in a panic mode wondering about the future, in some cases even their own personal future.

We're all nervous about when and how this ordeal will end. And that's to be expected. But no need for panic. God is good. God will lead us. God will give wisdom as we chart our future.

As Pastor Rich reminded is in the Annual Report of 2020:

**"Keep on being faithful
 God has a plan
 Trust in that!"**

-Rev. Tom Bower

Annual Meeting



Annual Meeting

The first ever Annual Meeting of Marshalltown First Presbyterian Church held via Zoom took place Sunday, January 24, 2021.

It was a joy to see so many of you. The meeting participants were treated to Pat & Mary Hemming's granddaughter, Kylie Jo's rendition of "The B-I-B-L-E." Adorable!

Annual reports were sent out via email. You may stop by church to get a paper copy. Call ahead and we will meet you at the door.



Pastor Nominating Committee Report

Who are the members of the Pastor Nominating Committee?

Bethany Wirin and Terry Buzbee Co-Chairs; Julie Lynch, Matt Tullis, Ashley Johnson, Amy Drummer, and Pat Kremer, Secretary

What is the job of the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)?

The job of the PNC is, in consultation with the presbytery, to engage in the process of discernment to discover who God is calling to be the pastor in the next chapter of our congregation's life and ministry.

What has happened so far?

Because we as a church had just completed our Mission Study, we were allowed to draw upon this work to begin writing the Ministry Information Form (MIF). The MIF is a document that paints a picture of the mission and ministry of our church and the kind of pastor we need to lead us forward. Prospective pastors will use this form to help them discern whether God might be calling them to serve our church.

Even before the PNC was organized, work on the Ministry Information Form (MIF) began. Pastor Bower studied all the data collected during the Mission Study and sent a first draft of the MIF to members of the Mission Study Committee: Pat Kremer, Chair, Chuck Colwell, Larry Erion, Steve Strand, Carole Permar, Bethany Wirin, Kari Hancock, and Karin Podhajsky. They provided feedback which was incorporated into this initial draft.

The first meetings of the PNC took place on December 29, January 5, and January 12 in the fellowship hall, with appropriate social distancing and masking. Each meeting begins with a period of devotion and prayer. We spent time getting to know one another, team building, and getting organized. We received training from Ian McMullen, Executive Presbyter and reviewed the Call Process. Members of the PNC then began their work to further develop the MIF. They refined the draft they received from Pastor Bower and the Mission Study Committee and prepared to present it for approval to the Session of our Church and the Presbytery Committee on Ministry.

Co-Chair Terry Buzbee presented the MIF to the Session at its January 19 meeting, where it was approved. The MIF will next be presented to the Presbytery Committee on Ministry at its regular meeting on February 8.

When approval is received, the MIF will be sent to the Church Leadership Connection (CLC). The

CLC functions much like a placement office. Their mission is to help the PNC call potential pastors who are a likely "fit" to make an initial connection, allowing them to go deeper in exchange of information, conversation, and discernment.

The Pastor Nominating Committee will continue to keep the congregation informed of our work through the newsletter and reports from the pulpit. Of course, confidentiality is critical, and we will not be able to discuss potential candidates until appropriate. We request and appreciate your prayers.

---Pat Kremer, Secretary



Scripture does not know of any human life which is so commonplace that it is not valuable enough to become eternal, and this is its high optimism. Nothing is too much for Scripture. Since every person is known by God by name, and since every person exists in time in the presence of the God who is judgment and salvation, every person is a person of eternity, and not just the noble spirits of history.

—Karl Rahner



Many of us remember fondly Dorothy Hillis. She and her husband Lee were active members of First Pres for many years. Dorothy served as organist here. She will celebrate her 99th birthday on February 2. Do the math and you will discover that she was born on 2/2/22!

Send a birthday card to Dorothy at:
1020 S. Scott Blvd.
Iowa City, Iowa 52244

Missions News



The Missions Committee is asking itself some questions to think about mission potential, and they welcome your input:

Let's begin 2021 by brainstorming some other mission project potentials here at FPC Marshalltown. Consider physical and/or social

opportunities, inside our Church walls and out in the community, neighborhood, citywide, statewide, nationwide, perhaps worldwide. Perhaps geographic specific or even consider physical improvements to our local Church Campus. What would you suggest where resources would be best spent?

Another way to look at this.....consider an anonymous donor drops off a check at the Church for say \$10,000.00. The only restriction placed on the donation is/was that it be used to 'help people'.

How/where would you suggest the donation be used?

Would you suggest it be used all in one place or split it up for multiple uses/missions?

Perhaps it will be used for already established agencies or directed towards new one[s]?

Maybe a suggestion is to further fund our already established missionaries and missions? Look for new needed missionary support?

Would you suggest the donation be given to an established organization [PCUSA, Salvation Army, Red Cross etc.] or something new that is just starting out and is in need of startup funding?

How would you decide and then direct the donation to be best served in 'helping people?' What would be your suggestions for its use?

---Dave Freel

Family Night

Family Night in February 2021 will be live streamed on Feb. 3 at 6:15 p.m. Pop some popcorn, because this will be our first ever watch party family movie night!



Mosaics



If you do not have your mosaic tile finished, now is the time to get them done. Please put your name on the back or in the corner so we can assemble the mosaics when they are returned. If you need help or will not be returning to

church right away, please contact Michelle for assistance michelle@fpcmarshalltown.org. I can also resend tiles that may have been misplaced or damaged.

---Michelle Wilkinson



Fasting from criticalness

Most fasting involves temporarily giving up something you enjoy. When you long for a cookie or a favorite show, you instead turn your attention to God, reorienting yourself to his best.

Catherine Marshall, in *A Closer Walk*, presents a different approach she calls fasting from "criticalness." God dealt with her judgmental spirit by prompting her to spend 24 hours without criticizing "anyone about anything." At first, Marshall felt rather empty when she didn't engage in a heated political debate. But friends and family didn't seem to miss her comments. Plus, God replaced the energy she'd spent attempting to correct others with energy and creativity to positively influence them.

A critical spirit can make us lose perspective, joy and even relationships. It also can prevent the good work God wants to achieve through us. Consider what could happen as a result of your own "criticalness fast." Pray for God to do the correcting while you focus on building up others.

—Janna Firestone

Financial Report for DEC.

DECEMBER 2020	Actual
Total Receipts	\$46,407.00
Budget	32,792.00
Total Expenses	(\$28,126.00)
Budget	(39,737.00)
Year to Date:	
Total Receipts	\$372,434.00
Budget	416,692.00
Difference	(44,258.00)
Total Expenses	(\$344,848.00)
Budget	(416,692.00)
Difference	71,854.00

Is Your Pledge Current?

Be sure to keep your pledge up to date by mailing your donations to First Presbyterian Church, 101 S. Center St., Marshalltown, Iowa 50158.



The altar flower sign-up is underway. Please call or email the church office to request a date to sponsor flowers for the 2021 year.



Christ distributes courage through community; he dissipates doubts through fellowship. He never deposits all knowledge in one person but distributes pieces of the jigsaw puzzle to many. When you interlock your understanding with mine, and we share our discoveries, when we mix, mingle, confess and pray, Christ speaks.

—Max Lucado, *Fearless*

Circle News



Elizabeth Circle: Contact Lola Rinnan (641-691-1436) for information about their February meeting.

Sarah Circle: Contact Jinita Boyd (641-485-4147) for information about their February meeting.



Pictures Wanted



As part of our commemoration of Pastor Rich's ministry at First Presbyterian Church we are putting together a book of his time here. This book will also be used as a guest book for the celebration event

we will have for him. Pastor Rich served this church from November 2000 to November 2021.

You can help by submitting photos of Pastor Rich and his ministry to michelle@fpcmarshalltown.org.

Pictures prior to 2014 are especially needed. Photos need to be digital, but if you have older photos and need help scanning them, please contact Michelle.

Pictures must be submitted by **February 14**.



"I would permit no man, no matter what his color might be, to narrow and degrade my soul by making me hate him."

—Booker T. Washington

Awesome Presbys

Awesome Presbys, our 5th-8th grade youth, have been learning what the Bible says about friendship since last summer. At their last meeting they shared what they think about God's gift of friendship.

What is a good friend?

A good friend will help you if you are sad, makes smart choices, knows when to be present and when to be absent- he knows when to leave you alone. They know you well! A good friend would never pressure you to act certain ways or do anything you are uncomfortable with. A good friend always tells me the truth, even when it's hard to hear. Good friends respect each other.

How am I being a good friend?

I'm being kind and sympathetic when they are having a bad day. I'm encouraging. I don't start drama, and I don't talk about people who my friends have drama with if it will stir them up.

Why is friendship important?

Being a good friend and having them is beneficial to your life. You have to have a relationship with your parents, but friends are your choice. You aren't forced to be friends, so it's more relaxed. It's intimate, and you can always talk to them.

Co-leader Pat Kremer shared a good saying that the group agreed with. "If our life was a cookie, friends would be the chocolate chips."

Sunday School



The Sunday school children have learned about the Baptism of Jesus and his temptation by Satan right afterward.

Thank you to Doug Bacon and the Pietig family for helping share the lesson!

In February we will be looking into the Lord's Prayer and the Lord's Supper. There will be a Sunday school Zoom on February 14th.

Wednesday Club



Wednesday Club to Go will start up again March 3rd. There will be opportunities to help by providing snack and delivering

bags. Please be praying for this ministry and the children and volunteers who will take part.



Where have you seen God lately?

Watching deer eat in a field
Bunny tracks in the snow
Seeing so many people on the annual meeting Zoom
The strength to powerlift
Beautiful sunset
People who help at the House of Compassion
Beautiful snow drifts
The people who move snow
Unexpected flowers
Helpful people on the other end of the line

The Power of Love



By comparing love to everything from oxygen and fire to wind and war, songs and poetry emphasize its immense power — for good or for ill. Christian author Patrick Morley uses metaphors that focus on love's practicality in everyday life: "Love is the glue that

holds us together and the oil that keeps us from rubbing each other the wrong way." He also calls love "the WD-40 of relationships" because it "can seep into tight places where logic, threats and even promises just can't seem to penetrate."

St. Augustine, who predated WD-40 by centuries, knew that love not only eases friction in personal interactions but, with God's help, can change hearts and lives. "Love all [people], even your enemies," he advises. "Love them, not because they are your brothers, but that they may become your brothers. Thus, you will ever burn with fraternal love, both for him who is already your brother and for your enemy, that he may by loving become your brother."



our faithful workers at the House of Compassion during the month of January: **Matt Broshar, Sue Bryant, Jackie Hughes, and Bert Tice.**



What a day brightener! The colorful bouquet of flowers the Deacons brought is still being enjoyed and much appreciated. Thank you! We are watching our weekly church services and are grateful for them. We look forward to the time we can see our church family in person.

-Norm & Shirley Egli

Thank you to the Deacons for the poinsettia and the fresh flowers, too! I have been enjoying both. A special thank you to the Bells for checking up on me.

-Sincerely, Ruth Hayes (via Ann)

Sue Bryant says "Thank you! I appreciate the online services."

Keith & Diane Oleson are "saying 'hi' to all. We're doing the best we can under the circumstances, right?"



The **Emergency Food Box** continues with its adjusted schedule. The open hours are 1:00 - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. If you have friends or family who are struggling due to job loss, reduced hours, or increased food needs, please inform them we are here to serve anyone for whatever reason.

Marshall County families can be served once a month. They only need to show a valid **photo ID**. The Emergency Food Box address is **109 S. 3rd Street, Marshalltown (in parking lot of Elim Lutheran Church)**. Please phone if you have questions is **641-753-0486**.

Monetary donations are always appreciated. It is suggested they be sent to Emergency Food Box, PO Box 391, Marshalltown, IA 50158. The Emergency Food Box especially wants to thank the community for its generous support during this difficult time.

We are always looking for Food Box volunteers. We have many different types of opportunities that are available, and we are very flexible in arranging times to fit your schedule! Contact: Cindy Staron, 752-4868.



Movie Night: I think it's something many families enjoy. It's a time to sit and be together and focus on one thing, instead of the business and chaos of life. Popcorn and candy certainly don't hurt the cause as well.

On Wednesday Night, February 3rd, at 6:15 pm, we are going to have a "Church Family Movie Night." With the benefits of technology, we will be able to use our Christian video library service: RightNow Media, to be not able to just watch a movie remotely together from home, but also to see, hear, and chat with each other. This will be sort of a "Netflix meets Zoom" event.

While the "movie" is geared toward younger viewers, all are welcome to participate. We will be watching the first episode of a series called "Bible Unearthed." This 12-part series explores the history, importance, and impact of archaeology and how discoveries help us better understand the ancient world. The team teaches from an interactive studio filled with artifacts, models, slides, and gizmos.

I will be sending out more information in the days ahead. Most importantly, you need to have an "account" to log in. This is a subscription service that the church pays for. There's no cost to you, you just need to accept the invitation, and create a username and password to be able to log-in. I will send out an email with instructions, or simply contact me and ask me to send you the invite link.

Here is a link to the trailer for Bible Unearthed:

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/KidsSeries/418269?episode=Trailer>

Please join us for Family Movie Night!

--- Jon Rottink

JANUARY SESSION ACTIONS

The Stated Session meeting of First Presbyterian Church, Marshalltown met via Zoom, January 19, 2021.

Moderator Rev. Tom Bower opened the Session meeting at 7:03 p.m. Don Feld presented the devotions and prayer.

There was a quorum in attendance.

Motion prevailed to approve the December 16, 2020, Session minutes.

PNC report: Terry Buzbee said the Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) had met three times and presented the Ministry Information Form (MIF) for approval. The MIF is a self-report of the what the congregation is like and what it is seeking in a pastor. We seek to continue following a "traditional stance toward issues within society and also within PCUSA" in the area of social and theological issues, especially marriage and the sanctity of life. We seek a leader, who will be a shepherd and teacher to help the church body grow with strong family ministry. The top leadership competencies sought are these: preaching and worship leadership; spiritual maturity; public and private communicator; collaborator; change agent; decision maker; strategy and vision; interpersonal engagement; and initiative.

Staff reports were presented.

Finances: Matt Broshar presented the financials noting stronger giving in December than usual. Giving was lower each week in 2020, but due to the exceptional giving in December we finished only \$1700 short the three-year average in giving. Spending was also down, so we finished the year on a strong footing.

Finance/Stewardship: Matt reported there were not as many pledges coming in this year. The committee may look at a different way of conducting the stewardship campaign.

Mission/Evangelism: Dave Freel reported the committee is asking itself some thought-provoking questions to guide their actions.

Worship & Music: Wynona Anderson reported the committee discussed special offerings. **Motion to serve communion** on the first Sunday of each month, Maundy Thursday, and Christmas Eve prevailed.

Christian Ed: Angie Pietig reported the committee is hoping to offer in-person VBS this summer.

A & P: No report

Membership & Involvement: No report

Property: Pat Hemming reported the fire alarms were tested with no problems. The committee is getting estimates on upgrading the sanctuary lighting.

Church Reopening: Don Feld reported the numbers are trending slightly downward, but not far enough to reopen yet.

Other: Pastor Tom announced committee assignments. **Motion prevailed** approve check signers for 2021.

Wynona Anderson will present the devotions for the February 2021 Session meeting.

Motion prevailed to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was closed at 8:01 with prayer by Rev. Tom Bower and the group repeated the "Lord's Prayer."



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 tjbower@yahoo.com

Youth & Families Director at jrottink@hotmail.com

Office Mgr./Editor at church@fpcmarshalltown.org

Christian Education Director at

michelle@fpcmarshalltown.org



Newsletter deadline with MAR. 2021 information is due Sunday, Feb. 21, 2021 for anyone wanting to submit an article.

Reminder:

Feb. 3 — Family Night Movie Watch Party

Feb. 14 – Valentine's Day

Feb. 15 – President's Day

Feb. 16 - Session

Feb. 17 – Ash Wednesday – Lent begins

Feb. 21 – First Sunday in Lent

Feb. 28 – Second Sunday in Lent

February 2021 Birthday/Prayer Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Orlyn Langenbau	2 Margaret Fehrle-Cooper	3	4	5 Barb McBride	6 Paul Podhajsky Jon Rottink Bruce Wirin
7 Daryle Wilmott	8 Bill Lawyer	9 Mavis Gray Glenn VanStaalduine Oliver Young	10 Amanda Vogt	11	12	13
14 Sara Reed Dominic Severa	15 Doug Cooper Chad Pietig	16	17 Owen Bovenmyer	18 Tyler Peglow Jim Perkins Deb Williams	19	20 Lavonne Watkins
21	22	23 Betty Jacobs Valerie King William & Wyatt Ritter Eliott Voss	24 Beth Harrison	25 Caroline Kauffman	26 Val Wilson	27
28 Ed Peng Dylan Witt (29 th)						

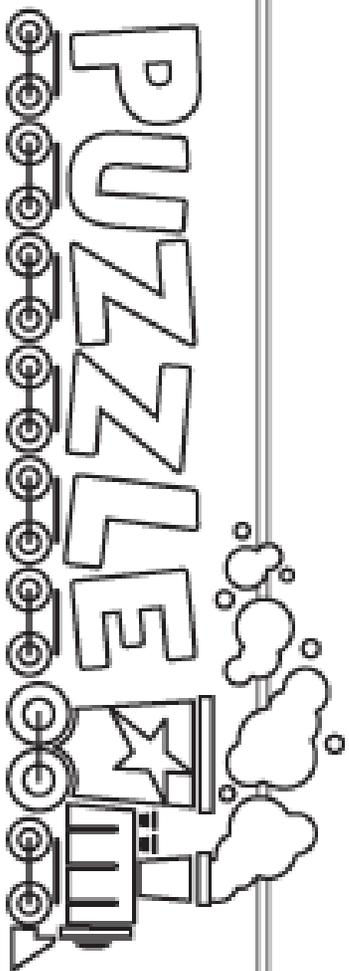


For God so loVed the world
 thAt he gave his
 onLy
 begottEn
 SoN,
 thaT whoever
 belIeves
 iN him should not perish
 but havE everlasting life.
 (John 3:16, NKJV)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 5:00 A&P Meeting @ church 5:30p CE Meeting - Zoom 6:30p W & M Meeting - Zoom	2 10:00am Staff Mtg	3 6:00 Reopening Committee - Zoom 6:15p Family Night – Live Streamed Movie Night	4 7:00p Property Meeting – Zoom	5 Church building is closed to everyone except staff & small church group meetings	6 Church building is closed to everyone except staff & small church group meetings
7 9:00 a Worship - online Church building is closed to everyone except staff & small church group meetings.	8 Church building is closed to everyone except staff & small church group mtgs	9 10:00am Staff Mtg. 5:30pm – A & P Meeting-Zoom Church building is closed to everyone except staff & small church group meetings	10 Church building is closed to everyone except staff & small church group meetings	11 Church building is closed to everyone except staff & small church group meetings	12 Church building is closed to everyone except staff & small church group meetings	13 Church building is closed to everyone except staff & small church group meetings
14 9:00 a Worship - online Church building is closed to everyone except staff & small church group meetings Valentine’s Day	15 6:00p – Finance via Zoom Presidents Day	16 10:00am Staff Mtg. Church building is closed to everyone except staff & small church group meetings 7:00 p.m. Session-Zoom	17 Ash Wednesday 5:30pm Worship – online Church building is closed to everyone except staff & small church group meetings	18 2:00p First Pres serves at House of Compassion Church building is closed to everyone except staff & small church group meetings	19 Church building is closed to everyone except staff & small church group meetings	20 Church building is closed to everyone except staff & small church group meetings
21 Newsletter Articles Due 9:00 a Worship - online	22 Church building is closed to everyone except staff & small church group meetings	23 10:00am Staff Mtg. Church building is closed to everyone except staff & small church group meetings	24 Church building is closed to everyone except staff & small church group meetings	25 Church building is closed to everyone except staff & small church group meetings	26 Church building is closed to everyone except staff & small church group meetings	27 Church building is closed to everyone except staff & small church group meetings
28 9:00 a Worship – online						



A Barren's Friendship

In the Bible, Ruth and Naomi are known for their loving friendship.

Directions: Using the key, fill in the blanks to see what Ruth says to Naomi.



 J O U O U B E O 3 E E

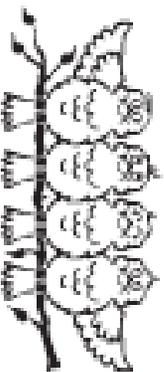
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 N U E N O U U N O



 O E O O 3 E E O



RUTH 1:16, NIV

 F O 3 E O

W	A		E	T
B	U	H	D	O
G	R	L	Y	I
N	S	P	M	

Answer: "Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God." Ruth 1:16, NIV