



THE PULSE NEWSLETTER

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

September 29, 2025

Vol. 64 No. 23

“Faith is taking the first step even when you don’t see the entire stairway.”
-Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dear Members and Friends,

What's next? That's the question we are asking ourselves here at Mason City First Presbyterian. At our congregational meeting on September 21st, it was made clear that we cannot continue as a congregation in our community without making some significant changes. The financial reality is that without changes we will work through our reserves in two or three years. Thankfully, we can make changes that will bring us into the future God has for us in which we can continue to serve our community and to worship and grow in our love and knowledge of God through Jesus Christ.

As your Session has looked at next steps, we would like to do two things: provide for continued life together as a congregation and discover how we can continue to serve God's mission with all of our resources into the coming decades. There are several things we, as members of the church, will need to commit to in order to move us forward.

As we move forward there are four areas in which our financial standing can be improved. First is to encourage those who already contribute financially to stretch a little more in their giving. The second is to ask those who are members and friends but do not give regularly to consider doing so. Given the increase in costs and the loss of members this last year, we estimate that without any change in giving we will be \$50,000 short next year which would need to come from our reserves. However, if everyone were to increase their giving by 5% and everyone would commit to giving something during the year, that shortfall could be significantly reduced. This would give us all some breathing room to make plans for our future. Nevertheless, we know that some cannot give more because of their situations and no one should be giving out of a sense of guilt.

The other thing we must do as we move forward is to invite others to join with us in serving Christ in this place. Sharing your faith and inviting others to join with us can be scary and intimidating. Early next year I will be offering some workshops on understanding and growing comfortable with sharing the Good News and how it has impacted you personally.

It may be that we can thrive and continue doing church in a traditional way with a growing commitment to giving and witnessing. Regardless, we must still consider the changing landscape of religion in our times and how God is calling us to respond. The Session intends to begin exploring possible ways of utilizing our property to both benefit our community and generate new forms of income to be used for ministry. In partnership with the Presbytery of North Central Iowa we will investigate using the Good Futures Accelerator program through Rooted Good. If you're interested, you can learn more at www.rootedgood.org/good-futures.

While we are moving forward into an uncertain future, we are doing so with a faithful God. I hope we can all join in committing to continue servicing God, one another, and our community as First Presbyterian. It will be an exciting journey of faith.

God bless,

Pastor Kip

Church Calendar

This Week

Wednesday | October 1

9:00 am	Staff Meeting
6:00 pm	EAT Night
7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal

Thursday | October 2

12:00 Noon	Bible Study
1:00 pm	Prayer Shawl Meeting

Week of October 5

Sunday | October 5

9:00 am	BLAST
9:00 am	Adult Forum
10:30 am	Worship with Communion

Tuesday | October 7

10:00 am	Coffee & Conversation
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Wednesday | October 8

7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
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Thursday | October 9

9:30 am	Quilting Group
	NO Bible Study!

Week of October 12

Sunday | October 12

9:00 am	BLAST
9:00 am	Adult Forum
10:30 am	Worship

Tuesday | October 14

4:15 pm	Special Needs & Endowment Ministry Team
6:30 pm	Small Group Bible Study at the home of Pastor Kip & Lee

Wednesday | October 15

7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
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Thursday | October 16

5:30 pm	Deacons
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Week of October 19

Sunday | October 19

9:00 am	BLAST
9:00 am	Adult Forum
10:30 am	Worship

Tuesday | October 21

6:30 pm	Small Group Bible Study at the home of Pastor Kip & Lee
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Wednesday | October 22

7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
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Thursday | October 23

9:30 am	Quilting Group
12:00 Noon	Bible Study
6:00 pm	Session

Week of October 26

Sunday | October 26

9:00 am	BLAST
9:00 am	Adult Forum
10:30 am	Worship
	Special Congregational Meeting with Election of Officers following worship

Monday | October 27

12:00 Noon	Articles for November Pulse Newsletter due
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Tuesday | October 28

6:30 pm	Small Group Bible Study at the home of Pastor Kip & Lee
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Wednesday | October 29

7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
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Session Notes

The Session met September 25, 2025 in a Stated meeting. In actions taken, Session approved:

1. Scheduled the Fall Congregational Meeting to include the election of officers and approval of the updated Pastor's Call for 2026.

Slate of Officers:

Deacons:
Kathy Buren
Rhonda Pyle
Mary Markwalter

Elders:
Nancy Beenken
Nancy Nickerson
Sarah Kress

At Large Nominating Committee:

Alice Zinnel
Charlene Gooch
Coni Samsel

2. Sending a By-laws amendment to the Annual Meeting of the Congregation regarding use of email.

3. Approving Beth Ehlers to preach on October 12, 2025.

Session also accepted the schedule for Stated Meetings: 10/23/25, 11/20/25, 1/22/26, no meeting in December due to the holidays. The Session agreed to ongoing discernment within this council and with Pastor Kip, the Exploratory Team, and the congregation regarding what our mission is, what it will continue to be, and what changes are needed to remain vital.

Elizabeth R. Gross, Clerk of Session

Adult Forum

Meeting Sunday mornings at 9:00 am
in the Meeting Place

October 5: Discussion of film "Same Kind of Different as Me"

October 12: What do homeless look like to you? Discussion on readings from "What Difference Do It Make?"

October 19: Homelessness in our community.
(Guest Speakers)

-Yvonne Addis

Adult Forum is discussing "Same Kind of Different as Me" and the follow-up letter from Ron Hall and Denver Moore, "What Difference Do It Make?" to look at our hearts and community with a new understanding. This discussion is in keeping with our Matthew 25 mission.

October 5 – Same Kind of Different as Me The movie. Forum will discuss the movie. Please feel free to drop in for the Cliff Notes.

October 12 – What do the homeless look like to YOU? Dirty vagrant? Lazy? Discussion of readings from "What Difference Do It Make?"

October 19 – Homelessness in our community. What do you know about the homeless in Mason City and the surrounding communities?

-Nancy Jewell, The Beacon. The low barrier warming shelter will open this winter. Come hear how you can help.

-Jesse Germundsen, Executive Director Northern Lights Alliance for the Homeless Shelters. There are new shelters coming available in the Mason City area.

October 26 – "I see you. You are not invisible. You are a person." Come discuss Heart Knowledge and The Art of Homelessness.

November 2 – North Iowa Impact Team, Mary Huey, Connection Program Coordinator. NI Impact Team is a non-profit that focuses on food rescue and street outreach. The new 'little' pantry next to our produce table is in support of this ministry. Come learn about it.

-Nancy Nickerson

Thank You

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your donations of school supplies to help The Salvation Army. Because of friends like you, we are able to continue to help families of North Iowa with backpacks and school supplies to begin the school year. We are truly blessed to have caring friends like you. Friendship can mean different things in different situations. It can mean compassion in times of suffering, reassurance in times of doubt, or a helping hand in times of need. You have demonstrated the many qualities of friendship through your generous gift and faithful prayers. Thank you again for caring about the needs of others in our community.

Grace and peace
Steven & Kayley De Castro, Captains/Pastors



St. John's Episcopal Church

Mason City, Iowa

Dear Friends,
Thank you for your continued support of the "hygiene pantry" at St. John's Episcopal Church.
Your generous collection of 360+ items filled our cupboard. The pantry is called upon daily to help someone.
Blessings to all,
Sue Stone

Please Keep the Following People in Your Prayers

- ◆ Val Gross, father-in-law of Betsy Gross
- ◆ Mike Thrams, brother of Rhonda Pyle, continuing cancer treatment
- ◆ Ellen Nelson, friend of Betsy Gross, reoccurrence of cancer



Bible Study Opportunity

Everyone is invited to participate in a Bible Study on Thursdays at 12:00 Noon in Pastor Kip's office. Come, bring your Bible and join the study group!



Small Group Gathering



Pastor Kip and Lee host a small group gathering in their home at 215 Meadow Lane each Tuesday night at 6:30 pm. Everyone is welcome to join in, so please feel free to come.

Lectionary Readings

October 5

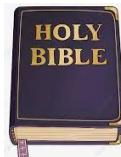
Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4; Psalm 37:1-9
2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10

October 12

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c; Psalm 111
2 Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19

October 19

Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 121
2 Timothy 3: 14 - 4:5; Luke 18:1-8



October 26

Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22; Psalm 84:1-7
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14

October Birthdays

- October 4 — Paul Hertzel
- October 4 — Lisa Foster
- October 7 — Diane Trimble
- October 11 — Laura Little
- October 15 — Barb MacGregor
- October 17 — Kyra Jellema
- October 31 — Faith Herout



Congregational Financial Information

By the end of August, our congregation had donated \$717 to the Hawkeye Harvest Food Bank in the Sunday offering plate. Other missions that have received donations include Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the Mission of Dignity.

Donations should be noted in the memo line of your check so they can be forwarded effectively.

Gifts toward our budget for August were \$7,507; budgeted expenses for August were \$24,870.97.

"These Days" Daily Devotionals

The October, November & December 2025 "These Days" devotionals are available on the table in the Narthex and also on the table by the office. Feel free to take a copy home with you.

Below is Cal Dorenkamp's new address:

431 Stageline Road, Apt. #213
Hudson, WI 54016
Phone: 641-420-3917



A pair of glasses was found in the Fellowship Hall after the congregational meeting on Sunday, September 21. If they might be yours, please contact the church office at 424-4273.

