



First Presbyterian Church

Marshalltown, Iowa

October 2026

WORSHIP:

9:00 AM Sunday

10:15 AM Sunday School

WEBSITE

www.fpcmarshalltown.org

Word of Wisdom from Pastor Bryan Kunz

Security and Wi-Fi Upgrades

You might have noticed the recent addition of new security cameras around our building. I want to let you know some details about this and invite any questions or concerns you might have.

The biggest reason for these additional cameras is for our staff to feel safe in the building. You might remember that we had a break-in a few years ago. Since then we have had a few minor issues that point to unauthorized access of our building. We hope these cameras will deter anyone trying to get in who shouldn't and warn staff if someone does enter the building. The cameras are not constantly monitored, but they have sensors that will notify us if someone is in the building outside of business hours.

Additionally, we have improved access to the building by adding an intercom at the South entrance. This allows the secretary to see and speak with people at the door. It will also allow us to give out key cards and access codes or staff can "buzz" people in even if we aren't in the building (regular keys will still work too).

Lastly, our work on the cameras brought up a clear opportunity to upgrade aging internet equipment as well. These upgrades will bring greater security to our internet

systems and a bonus of guest Wi-Fi. This will be a nice addition for when outside groups use our building.

I always get mixed feelings about security devices at churches. I want church to feel like a welcoming place where it is clear we find our security in our faith, not in humans or devices. I do not want people to feel like they are being monitored while at church. You will notice that the cameras are predominantly watching doors, letting us know who is coming and going, not monitoring conversations or activities within the building. We know that cameras are not going to prevent all problems or keep us safe. Like locks on our doors and seatbelts in our cars, they are meant to be a wise precaution. In the end, we all know that our only real security in life is found in Jesus Christ. He is the one who provides the breath in our lungs, the opportunity for each day, and our greatest assurance – the creator of the universe knows us fully and loves us still.

—Rev. Bryan Kunz

Discipleship on Mission from Pastor LaCosta Van Dyk

October was a fun month for our children and youth! Our preschool-5th graders learned about Peter's vision and his visit to Cornelius and enjoyed a fall fun day party. At their fall fun day, kids decorated cookies, sang songs, and learned about how pumpkins can remind us of the ways God makes us new. Our high school students continued to study Judges alongside the adults; they enjoyed the story of Ehud and Eglon!

In middle and high school youth group, we enjoyed an evening playing games and decorating sugar cookies for fall. The kids had some VERY creative cookie creations! We continued to study Can I Ask That?, a curriculum that helps students work through tough questions about faith and life. In October we asked, "Is Hell Real?" and "Can I Do Something So Bad God Won't Forgive Me?" We've had between 15 and 20 students each Sunday night and we've had great conversations! I'm so impressed with what they're learning from week to week, their insights, and what they remember from passages we studied last year. What an amazing group of students! If you'd like to provide a meal for our students, you can contact me or sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4AAFAC2CA1F5C25-65426426-youth#/hope>

Many of our students also attended a concert together at Journey Church at the end of October. In between worship with Jon Rottink's band and a performance from Caleb and John, we heard from the son of Aplington/Parkersburg's former football coach Ed Thomas. Aaron Thomas shared some of the life lessons he has learned from his dad, including putting faith first and persevering through adversity. His family's story of forgiveness, hope, and integrity was powerful.

Our high school students also received more information about our upcoming mission trip to Costa Rica. We will be there from July 10-16. Our first fundraiser will start next

week! We'll be selling frozen cinnamon rolls just in time for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Watch for the signup sheet coming soon.

Missions and Evangelism has also been busy; we met with the Turks to hear more about their ministry in Madagascar and met with another potential mission partner. We look forward to sharing more from both of them soon! We are also gearing up for the holiday season; we will share information soon about several opportunities to support local families during Thanksgiving and Christmas. We are also looking forward to hosting the community during the Holiday Stroll and will be serving cookies and hot chocolate again this year.

Thank you for all your kind words and gifts during Pastor Appreciation Month. Our family has felt so loved and supported here at FPC, and I continue to be so thankful for God's call here. It is a blessing to serve alongside you!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor LaCosta

Youth Group



Pumpkin Carving

Membership & Involvement Committee (M&I) hosted a pumpkin carving and decorating event on the afternoon of Sunday, October 25th. Twenty-six people, including several families, attended and lots of pumpkins were turned into spooky, fun, and beautiful fall decorations. It was a fun afternoon!



First Presbyterian Bell Choir Attends Festival

Five ringers from our First Presbyterian Church Bell Choir and the First Congregational Bell Choir attended the Mid-Iowa Handbell Festival in October. Clinician Sandra Eithun, M.M.Ed., from Appleton, Wisconsin, led the festival at Windsor Heights Lutheran Church. She has over 650 pieces for handbells in publication.

During the clinic day, more than 60 bell ringers prepared five pieces of bell music, which they presented in concert Saturday afternoon. Wynona Anderson, First Presbyterian Bell director, commented, "It was a wonderful day of making beautiful music together, learning new bell techniques, and enjoying fellowship with people from at least five different states who love playing handbells. Thank you to Vickie Unferth for bringing this festival to our attention and enrolling our church bell choir in the Handbell Musicians of America."

Attending the event were Marcia Bristley, Vickie Unferth, Judy Erion, & Wynona Anderson from First Presbyterian, and Krystal Randall from First Congregational.

You may listen to a recording of the concert and see a few photos from the event [here](#).



Quilters have busy October

A big thank you to the gals who spent every Monday in October making 21 baby quilts. It was a wonderful time of sewing and fellowship. Thank you to Karen Colwell, Ruth Feld, Barb Hawkins, Kim Mehlenbacher, Brenda Miller, Diane Oleson, and Karen Schoell. We are looking forward to doing it again in March. The quilts can be seen in the Lower Lounge for the next few weeks before we take them to Orphan Grain Train.

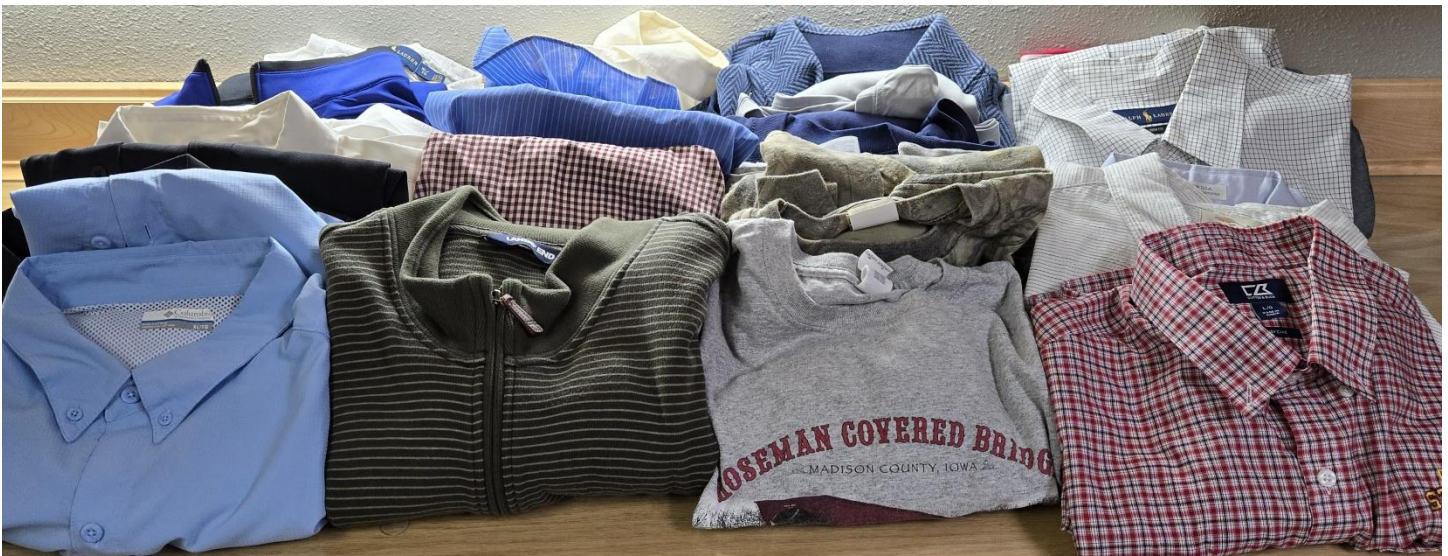
—Bonnie Bradbury



*Front L-R: Bonnie Bradbury and Barb Hawkins
Back L-R: Karen Colwell, Karen Schoell, Brenda Miller, Diane Oleson, Kim Mehlenbacher, Ruth Feld*

Farm worker shirt drive

In October, Missions & Evangelism committee sponsored a long-sleeved shirt drive for farm workers served by Proteus. Long-sleeved shirts are important in the fields to protect workers from farm chemicals and the elements. First Presbyterian Church collected 23 shirts. If you have shirts you'd like to donate you can bring them to the church office anytime.



Wednesday Club

Wednesday Club is underway with 32 children participating! This year we are learning about the Beatitudes - special blessings God gives to people who see their need for him and live to please. We've learned what a blessing is and that we need God. We have also learned that God is with us even when we are sad or lonely. We can always count on him.

Thank you to our volunteers who made Wednesday Club possible. They do a great job! *Wynona Anderson, Matt Broshar, Beverly Free, Jackie Hughes, Barb McBride, Garry Rottink, Bert Tice, LaCosta Van Dyk, Nancy Van Wyk and Lee Wilkinson*. Thank you also to those who provided snacks in October: *Jackie Hughes, Heather Rottink, Terri Rottink, Lee Wilkinson, and Craig Williams*. Ad to Elizabeth Circle for their donation to cover additional snack expenses.



News & upcoming events

Membership & Involvement news:

Our next event is our annual all-church **Soup & Sing** on **Wednesday, December 2nd** with the Deacons.

Families and individuals from the church who like to carol will join in groups to sing Christmas carols to the "Friends of the Deacons." We will meet in Fellowship Hall at **5:15 p.m.** for a soup supper and then carpool in groups to go caroling. When done, we will meet back at the church

for hot chocolate, hot apple cider, and cookies and bars. This is for people of all ages, and all are invited for fellowship whether they plan to sing or not.

Plan now to join the group to enjoy an evening of fellowship with our “Friends of the Deacons” and brighten your own holiday!

Deacons:

The Deacons met Tuesday September 15 at 6:00 p.m. for our regular meeting. We selected two possible dates for Soup and Sing in December. Mary would speak with M & I and check the Iowa/Iowa State basketball schedule.

December 2 was selected for that traditional event. More information coming later. Deacons will be visiting with their friends to see if they would prefer fruit or poinsettias and if they would they like carolers to visit.

Following the regular meeting we broke into small groups with elders in each group. Together we discussed questions that Pastor Bryan prepared, about the work we do and how the elders could support us.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, November 17 at 1:00 p.m.

Pat & Mary Hemming, Deacon Co-chairs

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 22, 2025.**

Circle News

Sarah Circle will meet in the Lower Lounge at 9:15 a.m. on Tuesday, November 17, 2026.

Elizabeth Circle will gather **Thursday, November 12, 2026, at 1:30 p.m.** in the Lower Lounge. We will be studying lesson 8 in the study book “Abiding in Christ.” Please come join us for study and fellowship. This is a study you can join at any time.

Alternative Gift Fair

It is again time to think about holiday gift giving so Sarah Circle is again offering the Alternative Gift Fair. Rather than giving a material gift to someone you care about you will be able to

choose giving from the Presbyterian Gift Catalog or from a need at Jonathan's House. Starting on **November 22** going **through December 20** there will be an insert in the Sunday church bulletin listing choices for giving. That list with your choice can be taken to the table in the narthex where someone from Sarah Circle will help you. You will receive a card and an insert describing the gift you are giving.

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. All posts can be accessed here:

<https://www.fpcmarshalltown.org/blog>

October 13 Anibal & Elizabeth Mazariegos in Guatemala

October 27 RAGBRAI recap

Thank you

Dear church family,

Thank you again to the congregation for the Pastor's Appreciation gift. Thank you also to all of you who wrote personal notes or cards. I am very grateful for this congregation and the opportunity to serve Christ alongside all of you!

—Pastor Bryan

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you so much for your donation! We are so thankful for your RAGBRAI fundraiser to support the community. With your continued support we can continue to serve our community. Thank you again

—Jasmine Spikes, Executive Director House of Compassion

Thank you to everyone for their prayers, cards, and support over the last year. Your prayers are powerful and I feel blessed.

—Anastasia King

A tip of the hat to —

Jim Grimmus for faithfully mowing the lawn all summer....**Dave Freel & Garry Rottink** for repairing the east Gathering Place door frame and painting the entire east wall (they finished at

10:00 p.m. on a Saturday night, painting by the light of their pickup trucks!)....Our faithful workers at the House of Compassion during the month of October: **Diane Broshar, Matt Broshar, Jackie Hughes, Garry Rottink, and Terri Rottink.**

Little Pantry

Thank you for your continued support of our little pantry! This month we are collecting items for Thanksgiving dinners such as *stuffing mix, turkey gravy, cranberries, yams, potatoes, pumpkin, etc.*

Items most needed at this time include **breakfast cereal & oatmeal, pancake mix & syrup, bread or tortillas, canned fruits, pasta sauce, crackers and canned soup, canned pasta meals (ex. ravioli), granola bars, and proteins, including peanut butter and tuna.** You may bring items to the wagon under the main entrance stairs any time.

Financial report

SEPTEMBER 2026	Actual
Total Receipts	\$31,038.00
Budget	36,194.00
Total Expenses	(\$33,669.00)
Budget	(37,664.00)
Year to Date:	
Total Receipts	\$338,252.00
Budget	353,675.00
Difference	(15,423)
Total Expenses	(\$347,486.00)*
Budget	359,005.00
Difference	11,519
One-time Transfers	(\$134,037.00)*

*In addition to the operating expenses we have transferred \$100,000 from the general fund to the Gathering Place Fund and \$34,037 from the general fund to complete the third floor renovation. Session authorized both of these transfers. They were not budgeted, so they do

not show on that line. We will continue to show this through 2026 as a reminder that these transfers have been made and affect the general fund balance.

August Session Actions

The Stated Session meeting of First Presbyterian Church, Marshalltown met in the Fellowship Hall, October 20, 2026.

Moderator Rev. Bryan Kunz opened the Session meeting at 7:04 p.m. He led devotions and prayer.

There was a quorum in attendance.

Motion carried to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2026, Stated Session meeting.

Lead Pastor's Report: Pastor Bryan said service attendance has been thin but he is encouraged by new members getting involved.

Associate Pastor's Report: Pastor LaCosta reported youth group is going well with 16-20 youth in grades 7-12 attending. The mission trip will be to Costa Rica from July 10-16. Be looking for cinnamon roll fundraisers.

Finances: Matt Broshar reported average weekly giving was low in September, the lowest month of 2026. September has been a consistently low month over the last three years.

Committee Reports:

Budget: Matt Broshar presented the proposed 2027 budget which has a 3.4% increase for staff and an overall 5.1 % increase. Session will vote on it next month.

Finance: Greg Brown reported the committee will meet in November to rebalance the portfolio.

Vision & Values: Pastor LaCosta shared a revised statement that took into account concerns from the previous Session meeting. There was discussion over the new statement. **Motion carried** to approve the mission and values statement. It will be presented to the congregation through a sermon series in the new year.

Property: Steve Anderson reported the annual inspection showed the bus tires are weather-checked and will be replaced. He asked everyone to be sure doors are shut fully and locked as there have been some thefts recently. The new security system will help address this problem.

Memorials & Special Gifts: Steve Anderson reported the committee will be reviewing their procedures.

Nominating: Lee Wilkinson reported the committee discussed adding a youth member to Session. There was discussion which will continue next month.

Other: Session continued the discussion on General Assembly actions and the ways it wants to communicate those with the congregation.

Motion carried to re-elect Roger Schoell and Matt Broshar to the Byron Lesch board.

Motion prevailed to adjourn the meeting following prayer at 9:38 p.m.

Reminders:

November 1—Daylight Savings Time

ends

November 3—Election Day

November 11—Veterans Day

November 17—Deacons

November 17—Session

November 21—Holiday Stroll

November 22—Christ the King Sunday

November 26—Thanksgiving Day

November 29—First Sunday of Advent

November Calendars (on next page)



Volume 91, No. 10

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

Associate Pastor at lacosta@fpcmarshalltown.org

Secretary/Editor at church@fpcmarshalltown.org

November 2026 Birthday/Prayer Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Jan Faber Lily Johnson Marlene Snyder	5	6 Susan Lawyer Leah Mosher Heather Rottink	7
8 Marla Grossman	9 Carole Lively Karen Schoell Ken Smith	10	11 Vera Grosvenor	12 Marcus Henze	13	14
15	16	17	18 Renee Vogt	19	20 Bert Tice	21 Raegan Buschbom
22	23 Mercedes Love	24	25 Jean Bower	26 Pat Kremer Elliana Rottink	27	28 Sue Bryant
29	30 Kevin Strand	Praying for each other brings us closer together. Please pray each day for those listed.				

Role	SUNDAY SERVANTS				
	Nov. 1	Nov. 8	Nov. 15	Nov. 22	Nov. 29
Worship Leader	Kurt Lynch	Jim Grimmus	Keith Oleson	Larry Schrum	Lee Wilkinson
Greeters	Doug & Jinita Boyd	Roger & Karen Schoell			
Door Greeter	Lee Wilkinson	Dave Freel	Mitch & Michelle Brown Family	Craig & Tedra Henze	Jackie Hughes
Fellowship Hosts	Mitch & Michelle Brown Family	Barb & Dick McBride	Garry & Terri Rottink	Diane Broshar	Jackie Hughes
Cup Washers	Mitch & Michelle Brown Family			Diane Broshar	Jackie Hughes
Donuts	Marlene Snyder	Merle & Diane Bakker	Jim & Bonnie Grimmus	Rich Youds	Rhonda & Terry Buzbee
Nursery	Bethany Wirin & Abigail Stone	& Abigail Stone	Barb Hawkins & Abigail Stone	Dani Minkel & Abigail Stone	Michelle Wilkinson & Abigail Stone
Flowers	Pat & Mary Hemming	Robin Harrison	Meg Sponseller	Bryan & Larissa Kunz	Poinsettias
Deacons	Pat & Mary Hemming	Pat & Nancy Kremer	Wynona Anderson & Brenda Miller	Stan & Nancy Van Wyk	Case Hegeman & Carter Strand
AV Tech	Diane Broshar	Lindsey Van Wyk	Bill Lawyer	Steve Anderson	Lindsey Van Wyk
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 Anna Randall Lee Wilkinson	Bonnie Grimmus Dennis Ostrem John Simpson	Jim Grimmus Tracy Ostrem Lisa Simpson

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:40a – Prayer - Conf. Room 9:00a Worship 10:15a Sunday school 5:30p – Youth group 	2 6:00p Worship & Music Comm. 7:00p Missions & Evangelism	3 6:30p Property 8:00p CE Comm.	4 3:30p Wednesday Club 6:30p Bells 7:30p Choir 8:30p Praise Team	5 8:30a Flapjacks – Lower Lounge 12 8:30a Flapjacks – Lower Lounge 1:30p Elizabeth Circle – Lower Lounge	6 13	7 7:30a Men's Group 14 7:30a Men's Group
8 8:40a – Prayer - Conf. Room 9:00a Worship 10:15a Sunday school 5:30p – Youth group	9 6:00p M & I Comm.	10	11 3:30p Wednesday Club 6:30p Bells 7:30p Choir 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 Holiday Stroll
15 8:40a – Prayer - Conf. Room 9:00a Worship 10:15a Sunday school 5:30p – Youth group	16	17 9:15a Sarah Circle – Lower Lounge 1:00p Deacons 7:00p Session	18 3:30p Wednesday Club & Dinner 6:30p Bells 7:30p Choir 8:30p Praise Team	26  THANKSGIVING DAY	27 	28 7:30a Men's Group
22 8:40a – Prayer - Conf. Room 9:00a Worship 10:15a Sunday school 5:30p – Youth group	23	24	25			
29 1st Sunday of Advent 8:40a – Prayer - Conf. Room 9:00a Worship						