

Presbyterian

July 2022

I'm always surprised that the most frequently asked question I get during the week after worship or after Vacation Bible School or after some other church event is this: Well, how many people were there? I probably need to stop being surprised by it, as numbers have been the measuring stick for success in the church for decades. Still, numbers have never really been how I've measured success—in fact if you ask me how many were in worship, I'm more likely to start listing names to get to a number than I am to know the number, because I believe it's not about the numbers or how many people attend. It's about the relationships we have built and are building.

Let's be clear, it's not that numbers don't serve a purpose or don't have their place. They do serve a purpose and there is a place for them. However, numbers can no longer be the top priority. For the numbers don't actually reveal how we are doing in following God's call or how we're serving God. Numbers don't tell the story of the kid who felt safe enough in our space that he was able to admit he'd done wrong when he stole something. Numbers don't tell the stories of the prayers, cards, and support offered to those in need. Numbers don't tell the stories of fellowship and relationships built around service and ministry. And if we only used numbers to define our success, we would miss out on all of these stories.

I read an article recently written by Lovett H. Weems, Jr. titled "The Resilient Small Church" and in it he demonstrates "how size does not always bring resilience in the face of adversity. He explains how in some circumstances smaller churches can be less vulnerable and fragile than larger ones" (https://www.churchleadership.com/leading-ideas/the-resilient-small-church/?fbclid=IwAR1Jq5cqwaNQVxPndH6zGsqT45QOEc5SJP0u86N629kr_Y0W_aolwSfHG08). He goes on to write: This [is] a paradox with which church leadership must contend. We often think of large churches as strong and small churches as weak. It is true that by almost all standards, larger churches tend to have advantages when it comes to vitality and potential for growth. However, viewed from another perspective, the large church may be more vulnerable and fragile than the small church. This is especially true when there are adverse changes within or without. Size does not always bring resilience in the face of adversity.

...

In the end, the challenge for all churches goes beyond size. Size may benefit one church or limit another, but long-term mission sustainability depends on the same attribute for both: Each must adapt to new circumstances or die. That change may involve expanding into unknown territory, or it could mean adjusting to a new understanding of church requiring fewer assets. Such change is never easy, but it's important. Survival is not a worthy goal, but sustaining a mission is.

It's not about the numbers and it's not about survival. Our *Book of Order* states that explicitly when it says, "The Church is to be a community of faith, entrusting itself to God alone, even at the risk of losing its life" (F-1.0301).

So, to sustain our mission and follow God's leading, we must, as Weems writes, "adapt to new circumstances or die." And that's what we're doing. With our mission garden, capital campaign, and Service Saturdays, we are making adaptations. I see the vitality of our congregation and the resiliency of all of you in how we have faced the challenges of the past 2 years and I hope you'll join me in recognizing it's not about the numbers. It's about the relationships—"for the Church is the body of Christ and we are to be a community of faith, hope, love, and witness, trusting God alone" (Ibid.).

Grace and Peace, *Pastor Jessica*



July 3

Usher: Cindy Peterson
Liturgist: Quaid Eddy

July 10

Ushers: Kurt and Diane Scott
Liturgist: Donna Peckham

July 17

Ushers: Nancy and Alec Turner
Liturgist: Sue Selby

July 24

Usher: Sue Selby
Liturgist: Doug Leonard

July 31

Usher: Betsy Akin
Liturgist: Megan Boswell

August 7

Usher: Ron Brown
Liturgist: Betsy Akin

August 14

Usher: Jackie Butcher
Liturgist: Ken Pangburn

August 21

Ushers: Zach/Michelle Morgan
Liturgist: Randy Olive

August 28

Usher: Angie Mullen
Liturgist: Quaid Eddy

Nick Mullen July 17
JP Jones July 19
Michelle Leonard July 27
Aaron Leonard July 31

We ask for your help in keeping
the birthday and prayer lists
current.

If you have any changes or
additions, please let us know.

Family and Friends of James Haag
Family of Buzz Herbert
Family of Jim Redel
Ray Reynolds
the Stielows
Lisa Konecne
Shirley Olive
Wayne Rychnovsky
Joyce Pangburn
Kay Olson
Ukraine
Paul Maynes
Kimberly Wilson
Marvin Smith
Dick Blazek
Cheryl Swartz
All dealing with chronic pain
All dealing with COVID-19
All affected by severe weather
All the caregivers
All affected by Supreme Court
rulings



Newsletter Deadline: For the **August** newsletter, please submit all news and announcements by **Wednesday, July 20**. Thank you so much for your help in making sure we get information communicated to everyone.



Mission and Outreach to hold Demonstration at Farmer’s Market Monday, July 11 from 5-6.

Mission and Outreach will be sharing a demonstration on the uses of zucchini at the Farmer’s Market this summer with the hopes of using some of our own crop. We will be providing samples and recipes in our ongoing efforts to reduce food insecurity in our community. If you would like to help with this project, contact Betsy Akin for more information.

Vacation Bible School

We’re in the middle of a wonderful week of Vacation Bible School embracing the theme of Monumental: Celebrating God’s Greatness! So far, we’ve had almost 30 kids attend and 22 volunteers helping out. Thank you so much to everyone who has given of their time and energy. We could not do this without you!



Meals on Wheels

We are scheduled to deliver Meals on Wheels for the month of July and will be delivering on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Fridays will be bigger as they include the weekend meals that day. Please call Cindy Peterson (641.431.4413) to see what days might still be available. All in all we will deliver 17 days in July so please consider volunteering more than one time during the month. Your help is appreciated.



Capital Campaign

This past Sunday, the Capital Campaign Team announced that we have so far received pledges or one-time gifts totaling \$65,550! We are well on our way of reaching our goal of \$100,000 to fund the four major projects in the church. (More info about each project on the following page). Thank you so much to everyone who has already given or turned in a pledge! Currently, we have five two-person teams meeting with members and friends of the church. If you have not yet been contacted and wish to have a conversation, please reach out to Alec Turner, chair of the Capitol Campaign Team.



We are confident we will raise the \$100,000 and in fact, we hope to raise more than that amount in order to help fund future projects in the next 5-10 years, or sooner. This was a benefit of our previous capital campaign. We had extra funds that helped fund additional projects over the years, such as replacing the smaller furnaces that service the offices and Sunday School rooms. We hope to reap the same benefit from this capital campaign.

There are three remaining Sundays in which you'll receive an update on the new level of giving, so we encourage you to get your pledges and gifts submitted so we can share the wonderful news of where we are at. If for whatever reason you have not received a letter and pledge form, please let the office know (641.322.4917 or office@1stprescorning.org) so we might mail/e-mail it to you.

Again, a big thank you to and for those who have already given and to all of the campaign team members!

First Presbyterian Church Capital Campaign

Signage

A storm damaged our church sign beyond repair. A new sign will be created with aluminum lettering that will be attached to the building.

3K



Technology

We plan to make our service more accessible by ensuring better sound and visuals for all while streamlining aging and complicated equipment.

47K



HVAC

The heating and cooling equipment that services the sanctuary is needing to be replaced. This will replace that portion of the HVAC system.

30K



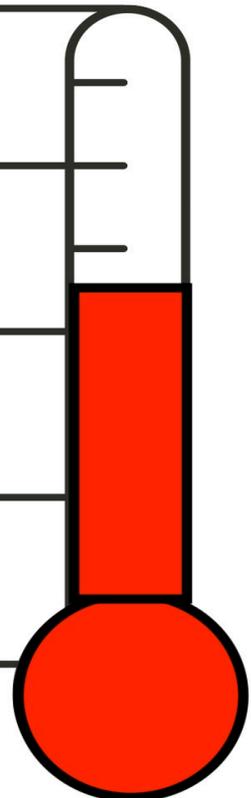
100K

80K

60K

40K

20K

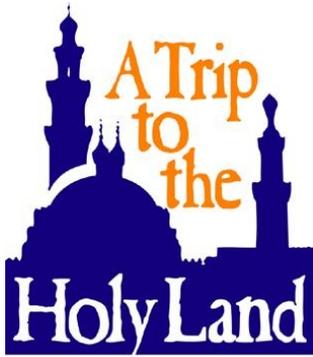


Windows

Our stained glass windows are in need of preventative maintenance through ventilated exterior covers. Project scope also includes repair to some windows that are beginning to bow.

20K





Israel Palestine Pilgrimage & Study Trip May 4-16 2023

Join Presbyterians from across Iowa as we visit biblical sites, meet local Christians and church leaders as well as representatives from the Jewish and Muslim communities, and learn about the Israel-Palestine conflict, peacemaking and reconciliation efforts.

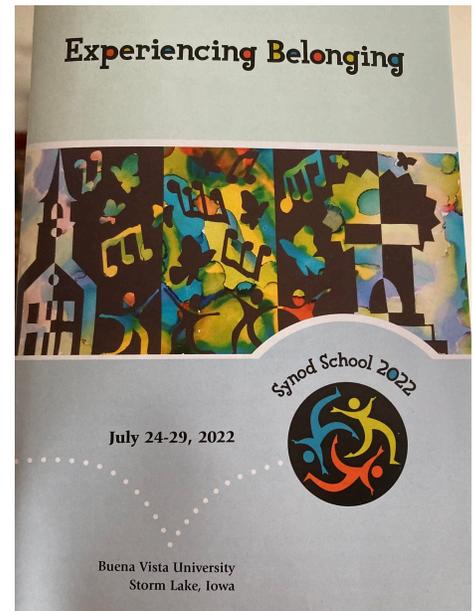
The double occupancy rate is \$2,700, which includes 10 nights of lodging, most meals, guides, tips, and on the ground transportation. Airline travel is not included. Limited single occupant is available for an additional charge of \$850. Scholarships are available.

For more information go www.presbynciowa.org/israel-palestine/ or contact Amgad Beblawi at amgad@presbyteries.org or call 502-592-3223

Synod School 2022 July 24 - 29, 2022 Experiencing Belonging

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Hinson Hasty is the Adult Convocation Speaker, Rev. Dr. Alonzo Johnson will be leading the Youth Convocation, and worship will be led by Rev. Tim Hughes Williams and Rev. Sara Sutter. It's a great lineup of leaders and you're encouraged to register and attend. There are classes to fit everyone's interests! More information is available in the booklets in the church foyer or on the Synod website at:

<https://lakesandprairies.org/engaging-leaders/synod-school/>



Presbyterian Gathering

On Saturday, August 27th, Iowa Presbyterians will gather at First Presbyterian to celebrate Christian CommUNITY: in Iowa, within our denomination, and in solidarity with all Christians around the world! You are invited to join in this celebration that will include inspiring worship, joyful music, fellowship, food, and an array of thought-provoking workshops. Learn more and register at: <https://dmpresbytery.org/iowa-presbyterian-gathering/>



Summer Fun & Friends Camp

Summer Fun & Friends Camp is back for 2022 and will be better than ever! Join us July 10-16, 2022 for a week-long celebration of the world God made for us. The lake may be drained but our hearts are full and the excitement level is high! Camp is held in Indianola, IA at Camp Wesley Woods. If you've completed 4th to 8th grades, your invited got attend as a camper for the whole week, July 11-16. Children who have completed 2nd and 3rd grades are invited to join camp for July 13-16. And youth who have completed 9th to 12th grades are invited to attend and participate as youth leaders (they would need to arrive on July 10). You can find more information on the presbytery website: <https://dmpresbytery.org/2022/02/15/summer-fun-friends-camp/>. The church does have scholarships available for any kid who would like to attend camp.



Re-Formation of the Congregation



You are invited to join Presbyterians from across Iowa to a four-part seminar on revitalizing and reforming our congregations. The purpose of the seminar is to equip church leaders and pastors for ministry in this rapidly changing time, and help them strengthen the local church's worship, witness, and engagement in God's mission. Ministers and members are invited, although the program is directed at the ministry of the laity.

The next session is scheduled for Saturday, July 9th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Ames.

The Rev. Dr. Karoline Lewis, world-renowned biblical scholar and Professor of Biblical Preaching at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, will be presenting on the gift and meaning of biblical authority for the life of the church. Registration: You can register online at <https://dmpresbytery.org/2021/11/17/re-formation-of-the-congregation/> or contact the presbyteries office at (319) 233-1747. There is no registration fee. However, participants will be asked to contribute toward lunch cost.

May 2022 General Fund Checking Account	
Beginning Balance 05/01/22	\$10,062.83
Income	\$9,929.67
Expenses	\$11,239.70
Ending Balance 05/30/22	\$8,752.80



First Presbyterian Church
907 Grove Avenue
Corning, Iowa 50841
(Return Service Requested)

Sunday Worship Time: 10:00 AM

Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/1stprescorning
See all the news on our Website: www.1stprescorning.org

Session Members

Betsy Akin
Jackie Butcher
Doug Leonard

Avery Morgan
Angie Mullen
Ken Pangburn

Cindy Peterson
Kurt Scott
Nancy Turner

Rev. Jessica Paulsen

Home phone: 641-418-8143

Email:

pastor@1stprescorning.org

Mission Statement

The First Presbyterian Church of Corning believes in the good news of the Gospel and will grow through and share the love, grace, and compassion of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Church Phone

641-322-4917

Email:

office@1stprescorning.org