

First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon, Iowa

Annual Report 2024



Annual Meeting of the Congregation + Sunday, January 26, 2025

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2024 PASTOR'S REPORT

*Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?
Isaiah 43:18-19*

If there was a theme for 2024, this passage from Isaiah 43 might be it. Churches (and institutions in general) are famous for resisting change and preferring “the way it has always been done,” but we made several changes this year, some by choice, some out of necessity.

STAFFING: We had so many changes this year!

- DCE Jonathan Walsh “retired” at the end of 2024; Kristi Karwal Clark was our interim from February through July. The position now remains vacant.
- Office Manager Donna Warhover resigned in August; in September, Stephanie Turner started in that role.
- Treasurer Jonathan Walsh asked to be done by the end of the year; Nona Hutchinson agreed to replace him and received training in December
- Nursery Attendant Chickadee Webster graduated from Cornell and moved in September; Nico Seda-Morales (another Cornell student) began that same month.
- Custodian Trent Bowman left us in November and Jeff Bray started.

MUSIC: We have not had a Music Director since August 2023.

- Pat Hogan plays most Sundays and does a wonderful job, but needs some Sundays off.
- In July, Stacey Griffin was looking for a welcoming congregation where she could share her musical gifts (voice, piano, guitar). Stacey’s background is in contemporary worship music and she has brought that to the second and fourth Sundays (Pat plays the first and third Sundays).
- Some have welcomed this new-to-us music style with enthusiasm, and others aren’t so sure. We continue to live into this tension, trusting that the Holy Spirit is present in it and at work in us.
- *Both Pat and Stacey have declined a stipend or salary so play for us as a form of service and an act of worship. We are grateful for them both!*

MORE DIGITAL:

- At the Session’s suggestion to improve communications, I began making posts for Facebook and Instagram last spring. These are also used in the weekly newsletter and as an announcements slideshow before worship.
- Our church directory is online! Find it at InstantChurchDirectory.com or download the phone app (Android or iOS). Easily upload a photo, update information, and call, text, or email church friends from within the app.

MORE COLLABORATIVE MINISTRY:

- I continue to meet regularly with colleagues from Seeds of Faith ELCA and the Mount Vernon United Methodist Church.
- Rooted Youth Group (Middle School) meets Wednesdays 6:30-8, and a High School Bible Study meets Sundays 12:15-1:00. Our three churches share hosting.
- Vacation Bible School together was a blessing for all of us!
- New this year was a Good Friday Service hosted by First Pres and a Prayer Service on Election Eve hosted by Seeds of Faith.
- Serving on the Southeast Linn Community Center's board has kept me up to date on the growing needs in our community and how our congregation can help address them.

What has not changed is my gratitude to be in ministry with all of you, and the promise that in these challenging and often troubling times, God is faithful still. Our need for God and one another remains.

Pastor Lori Wunder

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon, Iowa January 28, 2024

The Stated Meeting of the Congregation was called to order by Moderator Lori Wunder at 10:40 AM. She opened the meeting with prayer. Clerk Pat Hogan advised her a quorum was present, and the meeting proceeded. It was moved to approve the docket. It was seconded and the motion carried. It was moved to approve the minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting. It was seconded and the motion carried.

Reports

Pastor's Report:

- One of the big focuses of the year was encouraging re-connection in the congregation, offering monthly opportunities to gather over the summer, allowing new and 'seasoned' church folks to meet.
- In March, we welcomed Donna Warhover into the Office Manager position. Julia Andrews ended her time as Director of Music at the end of August. Patricia Hogan and Cornell student, Mina Massaquoi, have been filling in until a replacement is found.
- Jonathan Walsh resigned as Director of Christian Education as he began working full-time for USPS.

- Personal highlights for this past year:
 - Preaching the Narrative Lectionary September through May both years and for the excellent resources I have found that I have enlivened my own learning and growth in biblical studies.
 - A sermon retreat in August at a Presbyterian Camp on Flathead Lake in Montana. I felt renewed by the gorgeous location and the learning, worship and time with colleagues.
 - Joining the board of Southeast Linn Community Center. Knowing more about the needs in our community is vitally important.

Social Concerns:

- A big part of our focus has been in support of Southeast Linn Community Center since this organization serves the economically disadvantaged, children, and senior citizens of our communities.
- Through SELCC, we delivered Meals on Wheels during the months of April and October. Those delivering meals were Marsha Acord, Elaine Bishop, Barb Bjork, Jim Bonewald, Mike and Lori Cranston, Marsha McWhinney, Kristy and Tom Parker, Beth and Tom Simon, Rita Swales, and Lori Wunder.
- SELCC was the recipient of our monthly Noisy Offering twice during the year for donations totaling \$272.20.
- In December, our congregation had a Giving Tree with “ornaments” asking for donations of socks, underwear, diapers, wipes, depends, and gift cards as well as toys for a room for SELCC’s clients to “shop” for children’s gifts.
- On September 27, our congregation had a luncheon to learn about the work of Efi Latsoudi of Lesvos, Greece. Efi was chosen as an International Peacemaker by the PC(USA) and spent five weeks visiting churches in the U.S. Lesvos is a first stop for refugees, and Efi has devoted her life to caring for them in her country.
- We had a “Service & Sharing” Sunday on October 29. After a brief-er worship service, participants got into crews to do yard clean-up at the church and for church friends who needed some help while another crew remained at church to make soup.

Personnel:

Committee members: Scott Larson (chair), Barb Bjork, Lori Cranston, Pastor Lori Wunder (ex-officio)

- Recommendations were made to hire Donna Warhover as Office Manager. Session approved.
- The committee continues to address two open positions in January 2024: Music Director and Director of Christian Education.

Audio Visual Technology:

Committee members: Scott Larson (chair), Shane Austerman, Ed Bjork, Gerald Gerber

- The AV system installation was completed with the installation of the TVs in the sanctuary and fellowship hall.
- Services were live streamed each week on both Facebook and YouTube, allowing users to choose what platform to watch on.
- Security cameras were installed on the exterior of the church for member and staff safety.

Member Care:

Committee members: Diane Clay (chair), Jeff Bray (co-chair and liaison to Session), Carol Dillard, Dixie Mackie, Mary Palmer, Fran Bray, Laura Werkman

- Forty dedicated “links” of the Prayer Chain offered up hope, comfort, and encouragement to those of the seventy-three requests.
- Cards were sent when appropriate by Dixie and Diane.
- Delicious and welcomed meals were provided on five occasions, and our “taxi” service was implemented nine times.
- Volunteers visited our shut-ins throughout the year taking treats and These Days devotionals. Pastor Lori and Jeff offered them the Sacrament of Communion three times this year with Pastor Lori and Fran offering a fourth time. There are two shut-ins in Cedar Rapids and three in Mount Vernon.
- The Knitting Ministry continues to create beautiful prayer shawls and has a good supply. One was gifted in 2023 to provide warmth and comfort.

Building and Property:

- Derecho-damaged siding on the front of the church was replaced this fall. There is still some damaged siding on the back of the church that will be repaired by the contractor this spring or summer.
- A potential project for the upcoming year is refinishing or replacing the wood doors in the front of the original church. Scott Larson has done quite a bit of research for this. We intend to have Dave Bennett, painter and former church member, take a look at them and give his input as to how we proceed with this. In addition to the doors, the wood jambs are rotting at the bottom and require some repair.
- Matt Siders, Mount Vernon Parks and Recreation Director, was very thankful after Magical Night for the use of our lower level for their cookie decorating station. He said it worked well, and they will probably want to use our facility again.

Christian Education:

We continued to follow the Narrative Lectionary throughout 2023. Sunday School met regularly from January until the end of the school year. In June, most of our Sunday School

students attended Vacation Bible School. We picked up again after summer break and concluded the second Sunday in December.

2023 Calendar of Christian Education Events and Highlights:

Wednesday Early Out (WEO):

- 2/8 - Valentine's Day cards for shut-ins
- 3/8 - Arts and Crafts
- 4/12 - Movies and Games
- 5/10 - Pollinator Garden
- 10/18 - Abbe Hills Farm

Sunday School:

- 5/7 - 6/11 - Long-term Mosaic art and lesson project led by Sue Deibner
See "The Handshake" hanging in the Connection space
- 5/30 - Bible Presentation for third through fifth graders

Vacation Bible School (VBS): "Who Is My Neighbor?"

- 6/12 - 6/16 - With an ecumenical Sunday service on June 18 at Seeds of Faith
- 11/19 - 12/10 - Long-term handmade ornaments project led by Kristi and Emily and presented to congregation on Sunday, December 17

Rooted Youth Group with UMC and Seeds of Faith Lutheran:

Youth meet weekly on most Wednesday evenings during the school year. Events included:

- Backyard Olympics
- Night Hike at Palisades-Kepler State Park and Lodge
- Bass Farms Kick-Off Event
- Camp Tanager Clean-Up
- Lord's Prayer Rewrite
- Halloween and Christmas Parties
- Journey Boards
- Making Watercolor Christmas Cards
- Sauerkraut Days Parade
- AirFX Trampoline Park Event
- Sounding Bowls and Meditation
- Getting to Know Your Bible
- Campfire and Games

Chickadee Sean Webster continues as our regular Nursery Attendant. They also provided nursery care for younger children of our volunteers during VBS in the summer. Other volunteers and helpers were Daniel Riechers, Sam Bauer-Shoer, Lori Wunder, Shane and Jackie Austerman, Sue Deibner, Kristi Karwal-Clark, Collin Clark, Emily and Jonathan Walsh, Julia Andrews, Sara Lenhart, C.J. Lane, Beth Simon, Pat Hogan, Jennifer Lengwin, and Rita Swales.

Finance:

Committee Members: Becky Ahrens, Shane Austerman, Barb Bjork, Larry Petrick, Jonathan Walsh, Treasurer

- In June, the finance committee recommended to Session to use \$6,401.67 to pay off the remaining balance on the building loan mortgage.
- Collectively, the members of the committee continue to assume the role of financial secretary for the church.
- We had to take \$17,500.00 from savings to support the general fund.
- We were able once again to have our annual auction during 2023 and raised \$4,391.00.
- We didn't have a stewardship campaign this year because we would probably receive about the same number of pledges for the same amount of money. We assume that the 2023 pledge amounts will be the same for 2024.
- Scholarships were awarded in the amount of \$300.00 each to Madison Cranston and Trevor Weber. No camperships were awarded this year.

Nominating:

Committee Members: Jackee Austerman and Mike Cranston from Session, Emily Fitzpatrick, Rozanne Petrick, Jonathan Walsh elected by the congregation, Lori Wunder, ex-officio

- The number of Ruling Elders needed to serve on Session according to our bylaws is no fewer than five and no more than nine.
- Those completing their terms in January 2024 are Wendy Dorn-Recalde (2nd term) and Scott Larson (2nd term).
- Those continuing their terms (elected in 2023) are Jeff Bray, Mike Cranston, Sue Deibner (all 2nd term), Jackee Austerman, Pete Rian, Rita Swales.
- The Nominating Committee presented Gerald Gerber and Emily Walsh for election to Session. After receiving no nominations from the floor, these nominees were elected unanimously.
- Patricia Hogan was elected Clerk of Session by the Session at their January 9, 2022 meeting. She will have voice but no vote and will be up for re-election at the February 2024 stated meeting.
- Emily Fitzpatrick will serve on the 2024 Nominating Committee from the congregation at-large along with Becky Ahrens and Ed Bjork.

Pastor's Terms of Call:

Pastor's Terms of Call were approved as follows:

Salary \$30,354

Housing \$27,404

SECA \$4,418
Medical Flex \$2,500
Total Effective Salary \$64,676
Pension/Medical \$25,255
Continuing Education \$2,100
Professional Expenses \$1,500
Auto Allowance \$2,100
Total Package \$95,601
4 weeks paid annual vacation
2 weeks paid annual continuing education
8 weeks paid maternity leave per occurrence
2 family weekends paid annually

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and carried. Moderator Lori Wunder closed the meeting with prayer at 11:12 AM.

Moderator Lori Wunder called to order the Annual Meeting of the Corporation at 11:15 AM. Patricia Hogan requested Moderator Lori leave the sanctuary. A discussion followed about the difficulties our church has faced since the beginning of the pandemic. Church involvement was one of the things that fell out of routine for many. Moderator Lori has been instrumental in encouraging re-connection in our congregation. After a thorough, thoughtful discussion, the congregation decided to provide a love offering for Pastor Lori. It will be given to her on February 14 at our Pancake Brunch Service. A motion to approve all business conducted at the Annual Meeting was made, seconded, and carried.

A motion to adjourn was made at 11:34 AM, seconded, and carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Hogan, Clerk

Lorene Wunder, Moderator

SESSION REPORT OF 2024

PURPOSE: Maintain a spiritual government of the congregation for the mission of Jesus Christ

PASTOR: Lorene E. Wunder, Installed Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon, Iowa (October 24, 2010)

RULING ELDERS:

Class of 2025

Jeff Bray (2nd term)

Mike Cranston (2nd term)

Sue Deibner (2nd term)

Jackee Austerman

Pete Rian

Rita Swales

Class of 2026

Gerald Gerber

Emily Walsh

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY as of January 1, 2024: 124

GAINS: 8

The following people were received as new members by letters of transfer during worship on January 28, 2024: Megan Casey, from Community Church, Hudson, Iowa; Roger Dana, from First Presbyterian Church, Marion, Iowa; Gary and Cathy Doermann, from Christian Community Church, Mechanicsville, Iowa; C.J. and Erin Lane, from Chandler Presbyterian Church, Chandler, Arizona; Jay and Arlie Willems, from St. Paul Lutheran Church, Anamosa, Iowa.

TRANSFERS OUT: 1

Christine Wagner-Hecht to Glen Avon Presbyterian Church in Duluth, MN

REMOVED DUE TO INACTIVITY: 7

After being contacted or being inactive for four or more years:

Paul Iversen, James Cannon, Ryan & Tasha Whitman, Anthony Deibner-Hanson, Russell Riechers, Victoria Riechers.

DEATHS: Mary Clare Coulter

BAPTISMS: 0

MARRIAGES: 0

CURRENT ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP as of December 31, 2024: 123

Respectfully Submitted,
Patricia Hogan, Clerk of Session

2024 SOCIAL CONCERNS

Our main local mission partner is Southeast Linn Community Center. They do so many things to serve the economically disadvantaged, children and senior citizens of our communities. Rita Swales and Lori Wunder were SELCC Board Members in 2024 and kept many of the initiatives in front of us.

Our support for SELCC included:

- Delivering Meals on Wheels during the months of April and October. Thanks to everyone who signed up to help: Marsha Acord, Elaine Bishop, Barb Bjork, Mike & Lori Cranston, Pat & Dick Hogan, Kristy & Tom Parker, Beth & Tom Simon, Rita Swales, and Lori Wunder.
- Collecting Household Items in April (TP, paper towels, tissues, laundry detergent, bath products, dish soap)
- Donating \$302.75 to provide reduced cost pool passes for local families
- Collecting Backpacks for the distribution of school supplies at the end of July
- December (into January 2025) Collection of Socks, Underwear, Diapers and Depends.
- Noisy Offering donations for SELCC totaled \$2386.20

Other activities:

Following terrible flooding from Hurricane Helene in late September, the Presbytery of East Iowa encouraged congregations to put together PDA Clean Up Buckets. We filled six five gallon buckets and had many other supplies left. In total, Presbytery of East Iowa congregations filled over 120 clean up buckets!

We had a "Service & Sharing" Sunday on October 27. The majority of leaves were still on the trees, so our work focus was inside and outside the church. After a shortened worship service, folks headed outside to rake, scoop up pine needles on the north side of the lot, pull weeds and deadhead. Others did work inside the church, and Penny Gerber made lunch. It was another great opportunity for service and fellowship.

2024 PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The 2024 Personnel Committee members included Emily Walsh (from Session), Barb Bjork, and Lori Cranston and Pastor Lori Wunder in an ex-officio capacity.

We began January without a Director of Christian Education. Emily Walsh and Kristi Karwal Clark took the lead on Sunday School each week while Lori Wunder continued helping with Rooted, the middle school youth group. Knowing we would need someone to help make Vacation Bible School happen, we hired Kristi Karwal Clark to be Interim Director of Christian Education through July. This position has not been filled since.

In August, we were sad to receive a letter of resignation from Donna Warhover, our Office Manager, effective August 16. We hired Chickadee Webster as an interim. In September, we hired Stephanie Turner as our new Office Manager. Steph started September 10, and works in the office Tuesday-Friday 9:00-Noon.

Treasurer Jonathan Walsh let us know he wanted to be done with that role by the end of the year. After brainstorming possible replacements, we asked Nona Hutchinson (recently retired tax preparer and church secretary) if she would be interested. She was willing! She trained with Jonathan in December and took over in January.

Trent Bowman finished his time with us as Custodian in November. Jeff Bray started that same time.

Together with the Session, we continue to assess what to do about the vacant positions of Music Director and Director of Christian Education.

2024 MEMBER CARE

In 2024 our committee consisted of: Chair Diane Clay, liaison to Session Jeff Bray, Carol Dillard, Fran Bray, Dixie Mackie, Mary Palmer, and Laura Werkman. Mid year Fran "retired" from our committee after many years of generous service, and by fall Kim Andresen joined us, volunteering for multiple tasks. Jeff was off Session by the end of the year and gratefully stayed to assist us in our mission.

Our devoted Prayer Chain members lifted up 75 requests for healing, support, comfort, and peace. Amen to the power of prayer and our Father's loving mercy.

Cards were faithfully sent when needed, i.e. get well, sympathy, thinking of you, plus Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter greetings to our shut-ins.

Wonderful meals were provided seven times to those in need and our "taxi" service was utilized on ten occasions.

Volunteers visited our shut-ins throughout the year, and Pastor Lori and Jeff served them communion in March, June, September, and December.

The Knitting Ministry has quite a supply of beautiful prayer shawls ready to gift to anyone in need of comfort.

Perhaps you saw the awesome Member Care flier Pastor Lori created. We are in need of additional volunteers especially for providing meals, and visiting shut-ins. Please consider helping out. I can't express how very rewarding it is!

A heartfelt thank you to my dedicated committee members and volunteers who share their time and talents to serve one another as our Lord asks us to.

Yours in Christ,
Diane Clay

2024 BUILDING AND GROUNDS

HVAC

- Contracted Preventative Maintenance (PM) Services for the new addition (Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall is separate system) with Waldinger, the company that installed them in 2009.
- Repaired three inoperable HVAC units (Units in order of repair, 1 (nursery and common room), 5 (3rd floor), and 3 (Office and hallway). Have 5 total units)
- Pending actions: replace failed recirculating air motor (exhausts air from bathrooms), plan to replace blower motor in unit 2 (PM identified signs of near-term failure); contract Maintenance Services for Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall

Elevator

- Switched Elevator inspection services from Schindler to Shumaker and contracted PM services for the elevator (not provided by prior service provider).
- Got the chair lift (sanctuary) removed from the State list of elevators requiring inspection.
- Pending action: Complete decommission of chair lift (removal of hydraulic oil form lift motor).

Siding

- Repair of siding damaged by the 2020 derecho was completed in March

Front Door (to Sanctuary)

- Have a verbal commitment from Dave Bennett to repair the door jamb and paint the doors spring 2025

Grounds

- Determined that NE corner of parking lot is cracked, and severely eroded.
- Collected bids to repair parking lot NE corner.
- Identified that the SE rain spouting line is crushed under the sidewalk by the East door. Action is TBD.
- Pending: the marquee sign is painted shut and needs attention.

Submitted by Ed Bjork & Gerald Gerber

2024 CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Kristi Karwal-Clark started as our Interim Director of Christian Education in February, remaining in that role until July. For the fall, Sue Deibner and Rita Swales volunteered to lead Sunday School.

Sunday School:

We again followed the Narrative Lectionary throughout 2024. Sunday school met weekly from January until the end of the school year.

January-May:

Teachers used Spirit & Truth Publishing's curriculum based on the Narrative Lectionary.

Summer:

Most of our Sunday school students attended Vacation Bible School.

September-December:

Rather than using the curriculum, Sue and Rita decided to invite the children to build with LEGO while they discussed the day's reading. They shared their creations with the congregation during coffee hour

Sunday, December 22: No Rehearsal Christmas Pageant!

After several years without a children's pageant, we found a script, set out costumes and invited God's children of every age to participate in telling the story. It was a hoot!

Vacation Bible School (VBS): "Digging In, Growing Deep"

Cooperative VBS put on by First Pres, MVUMC and Seeds of Faith ELCA

Sunday, June 30 through Wednesday, July 3

1:00-4:00 at Seeds of Faith

VBS began with a potluck meal and intergenerational activities for all ages on Sunday, June 30. Kids had a great time learning about what plants need to grow (soil, water, sun), stories from the bible, and fun songs, AND played games and made beautiful art projects.

"Rooted" Youth Group (with UMC and Seeds of Faith Lutheran)

Middle School youth met weekly on most Wednesday evenings during the school year. Starting in the fall, we began a new format, starting with reading through highlights of the bible in small groups and having a time of sharing, followed by a different activity each week: study, games, art, or service. Each congregation took turns hosting and providing meals for the group by month.

Rooted Youth Group once again hosted the Magical Night Soup Supper fundraiser for Southeast Linn. Held on December 5 at the MVUMC, the youth helped make chicken noodle and minestrone soup and served that along with donated chili, rolls, cookies and bars. They set up, served, and cleaned up. Including the Cookie Walk staffed by SELCC, \$2439.25 was donated.

High School Bible Study (with UMC and Seeds of Faith Lutheran):

By request, we started a weekly bible study, Sundays 12:15-1:00. Location rotates by month through the three churches.

Nursery Care

Chickadee Webster continued as our regular Nursery Attendant through September. After graduating, Chickadee moved to the Twin Cities area. Nico Seda-Morales, a new Cornell student, started in late September. Nico provides nursery care for younger children during worship and occasionally joins Sunday School.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all the teachers and helpers who made our Christian Education program for children and youth possible!

Kristi Karwal-Clark, Collin Clark, Mike and Lori Cranston, Madison Cranston, Marissa Cranston, Sue Deibner, Pat Hogan, Jennifer Lengwin, Sara Lenhart, C.J. Lane, Beth Simon, Charlie Stewart, Rita Swales, Emily Walsh, Franklin Walsh, Ava Willems, Lori Wunder.

2024 Finance Committee

Purpose:

To oversee the finances of the church and to propose our General Fund Operating Budget for the upcoming year.

Committee:

Becky Ahrens, Shane Austerman, Barb Bjork, Larry Petrick and Jonathan Walsh.

Highlights:

- The Finance Committee met virtually as needed.
- We have a carryover balance of \$ -245.50 for the upcoming year (2025).
- Collectively the members of the committee continue to assume the role of Financial Secretary for the church.
- We did not have an auction this year (session decided to do it bi-annually).
- We did not have a stewardship campaign this year. We assume that the 2023/24 pledge amounts will also be the 2025 pledge amounts (unless we receive updated information).
- A thank you postcard with a personal message was sent to everyone who contributed financially to our church.

Scholarship Highlights:

- Scholarships were awarded in the amount of \$300.00 each to the following: Uwen Boettcher, Madison Cranston, Andrew Heck, Jayce Pendergrass and Trevor Weber.
- No Camperships were awarded for the year.

2024 Annual - Financial Secretary's Report

Submitted by Larry Petrick

Patterns of Giving in 2024

Paid by those pledging	\$91,245.82
Paid by those non pledging	\$63,309.00
Free Will Offering	\$ 1,136.10
2023 Pledges paid in 2024	\$ 778.68
Per Capita	\$ 722.36

General Fund	Pledged for 2024 (#)	Pledged for 2025 (#)
	\$ 92,806.00 (36)	\$ 90,338.00 (34)

Number and Distribution of Pledges

Amount per Week	2024	2025
up to 14.99	11	11
15.00 to 29.99	6	6
30.00 to 44.99	6	2
45.00 to 54.99	2	4
55.00 to 64.99	1	1
65.00 to 79.99	2	1
80.00 to 99.99	3	2
100.00 and up	5	7
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	36	34

Memorial Funds Receipts

Mildred Grubbs \$50.00

Mission Disbursements (does not include in-kind donations)

Almost all was received from Noisy Offerings

Presbyterian General Mission	\$-
Camp Bear Creek	\$-
Iowa Safe Schools	\$ 137.77
Mt. Vernon/Lisbon Community Theatre	\$ 500.00
SE Linn Community Center	\$ 2,386.20
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance	\$ 639.37

Total Donated \$ 3,663.34

2024 ACCOUNT SUMMARY

GENERAL OPERATING FUND	-245.50
DERECHO INSURANCE CHECK	3,468.10
FRONT DOOR MAINTENANCE	400.85
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT (to be used for major building projects)	1,826.05
PERPETUAL BUILDING TRUST (principal -\$15,500- investment given to maintain the property of the church in perpetuity. Earnings may be used for this purpose.)	19,404.97
MARY BYERLY ESTATE (unrestricted)	14,662.06
MARY BYERLY MISSION PROJECTS	13,409.19
MEMORIAL FUNDS (checking)	
DEACON FUND	1,974.98
JAY GUNN	1,165.00
TERRY LESSMEIER	3,000.00
JEANETTE MADSON (for DCE position)	20,555.00
SHERLEE PETERSON	1,034.04
ALLEN AHRENS	12,725.00
OTHERS	1,524.54
MEMORIAL FUNDS (in mutual funds)	20,086.07
KEEDICK SCHOLARSHIP	70,077.07
(established with \$25k from Keedick Memorial - added \$10k from Dolezal Memorials and \$4k from Armstrong Memorials. Interest is to be used for camperships and up to 4 years undergrad scholarships)	
YOUTH MISSION TRIP	779.16
PRAYER SHAWL (yarn for shawls)	512.09
2025 PLEDGES RECEIVED IN 2024	13,107.32
BLIND SPOT GRANT	364.32
BUILDING FUND	3,000.00
CIHA ESTATE	3,232.73
CONTINUING ED CARRYOVER	1,730.83
MUSIC (FARM) FUND	72,651.91

2-YEAR GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS/BUDGET COMPARISONS

Category	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2024 Budget	Proposed 2025 Budget
INCOME				
PLEDGES	97,901.31	91,245.82	102,800.00	90,338.00
YOUR OFFERING	45,224.00	63,309.00	47,475.00	66,472.00
LOOSE OFFERING	1,661.00	1,136.10	1,600.00	1,200.00
PER CAPITA	1,121.00	722.36	1,200.00	900.00
PRIOR YEARS' PLEDGES	185.00	778.68	0	0
PRIOR YEAR CARRYOVER	2,643.67	0	0	0
IN HOUSE LOAN	17,500.00	0	0	0
DESIG. CONTRIBUTIONS	0	1,000.00	0	0
BUILDING USAGE	1,800.00	460.00	0	0
MISCELLANEOUS	0	285.95	150.00	150.00
TRANSFER FROM MEMORIAL (Director of Christian Ed)	8,160.00	1,550.00	15,600.00	13,200.00
TRANSFER SCHLSHP	0	0	2,000.00	2,000.00
FUNDRAISERS	4,512.60	0	7,500.00	7,500.00
TOTAL INCOME	180,707.00	160,487.91	178,325.00	181,760.00
EXPENSES				
PASTOR SALARY	30,290.30	30,354.00	30,354.00	31,410.00
PASTOR HOUSING	27,519.92	27,404.04	27,404.00	28,363.00
SECA	4,229.58	4,418.52	4,418.00	2,403.00
DEFERRED INCOME	0	0	0	0
TOTAL EFFECTIVE SALARY	62,039.80	62,176.56	62,176.00	62,176.00
DENTAL	0	-310.44	0	0
MEDICAL FLEX	2,849.32	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
MEDICAL-PENSION	24,299.04	24,299.04	25,225.00	26,736.00
PROF & AUTO EXPENSE	3,613.56	2,184.53	3,600.00	3,600.00
CONTINUING EDUCATION	1,459.71	2,358.94	2,000.00	2,000.00
TOTAL PASTOR SALARIES ...	94,261.26	93,208.63	95,501.00	97,012.00
OFFICE MANAGER	8,300.37	7,940.65	10,920.00	12,480.00
CUSTODIAN	2,880.00	1,943.75	3,900.00	5,200.00
CHOIR DIRECTOR/KEYBOARD	7,866.64	0	12,000.00	12,000.00
CHRISTIAN ED DIRECTOR	8,160.00	1,550.00	15,600.00	13,200.00
TREASURER	1,180.00	1,460.00	2,080.00	2,080.00
NURSERY	1,578.89	1,285.00	1,560.00	1,820.00
PAYROLL TAXES TOTAL	3,407.10	1,123.00	3,525.00	3,579.00
WORKMAN'S COMP	564.00	1,037.00	600.00	700.00
BACKGROUND CHECKS (personnel)	0	0	0	0
PAYROLL ACCOUNTING SERVICES	950.00	1,275.00	975.00	1,375.00
TOTAL OTHER PERSONNEL	34,887.00	17,614.40	51,160.00	52,434.00

Category	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2024 Budget	Proposed 2025 Budget
EXPENSES continued				
POSTAGE	97.19	329.27	200.00	200.00
COMPUTER	696.25	796.58	1,170.00	1,250.00
COPIER	3,982.81	4,044.58	4,400.00	4,200.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	255.58	335.83	0	0
TELEPHONE	1,859.16	1,779.78	1,900.00	1,900.00
SESSION/PERSONNEL	0	90.00	100.00	100.00
PER CAPITA	5,454.45	5,356.00	5,356.00	5,622.00
ADVERTISING	88.31	85.00	200.00	100.00
CHRISTIAN ED & YOUTH	3,898.91	1,076.49	4,725.00	2,000.00
FELLOWSHIP	31.19	45.44	50.00	50.00
MEMBER CARE	56.09	52.80	50.00	125.00
OUTREACH	50.00	0	50.00	50.00
PROPERTY MAINT./SUPPLIES	4,793.92	11,117.71	4,800.00	8,200.00
BUILDING LOAN PAYMENTS	2,500.00	0	0	0
INSURANCE	8,708.50	9,579.75	9,346.00	10,280.00
UTILITIES	14,319.61	13,402.91	14,750.00	14,750.00
MOWING/SNOW REMOVAL	1,286.90	1,465.95	1,500.00	1,500.00
GENERAL MISSION	0	0	3,850.00	3,850.00
LOCAL-GLOBAL MISSION	353.10	0	500.00	500.00
PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND	0	0	100.00	100.00
STEWARDSHIP	0	159.41	0	50
MISCELLANEOUS	590.00	0	13.00	12.00
MUSIC/SOLOISTS/HANDBELLS	1,902.70	463.45	1,500.00	1,000.00
PULPIT SUPPLY	1,219.00	450.00	1,500.00	1,000.00
WORSHIP SUPPLIES	628.64	529.17	0	0
SCHOLARSHIPS/CAMP	0	0	2,000.00	2,000.00
Total Other Expenses	<u>52,771.70</u>	<u>51,160.12</u>	<u>58,060.00</u>	<u>58,839.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	181,919.96	161,983.15	204,721.00	208,285.00
DEFICIT	-1,212.38	-1,495.24	-26,396.00	-26,525.00

2024 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Members: Jeff Bray and Mike Cranston from Session; Becky Ahrens, Ed Bjork and Emily Fitzpatrick elected by the congregation; Lori Wunder, ex-officio

The number of Ruling Elders needed to serve on Session according to our bylaws is no fewer than 5, and no more than 9.

Those completing terms in January 2025 are

Jeff Bray (2nd term)
Mike Cranston (2nd term)
Sue Deibner (2nd term)
Jackee Austerman
Pete Rian
Rita Swales

Those continuing their terms (elected in 2023 and 2024) are:

Jackee Austerman (2nd term)
Rita Swales (2nd term)
Gerald Gerber
Emily Walsh

Thus we have four continuing members of Session.

The Nominating Committee presents the following for election:

Kim Andresen
Roger Dana
Patricia Hogan*

If the way be clear, this would give us seven elders on Session.

**Patricia Hogan was elected Clerk of Session by the Session in January 2022, 2023 and 2024 and has had voice but no vote. Electing her will give her both voice and vote.*

Nominees for Nominating Committee for 2024:

1. Emily Fitzpatrick
- 2.
- 3.

We are grateful to Jeff Bray, Mike Cranston, Sue Deibner and Pete Rian for their service on Session!

**2025 Terms of Call
For Pastor Lorene E. Wunder
and First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon, IA**

Salary	31,410
Housing	28,363
SECA	2,403*
Medical Flex	<u>2,500</u> (taxable, so included in TES)
<i>Total Effective Salary (TES)</i>	<i>64,676</i> (includes Medical Flex)

*SECA self-employment contribution was reduced by 46% or \$2015 from 2024;
\$1056 was moved to Salary and \$959 to Housing.

Pension/Medical	26,736
Continuing Education	2,000
Professional Expenses	1,500
Auto Allowance	<u>2,100</u>
<i>Total Package</i>	<i>97,012</i>

- 4 weeks paid annual vacation
- 2 weeks paid annual continuing education
- 12 weeks paid maternity leave per occurrence
- 2 family weekends paid annual