

# ANNUAL REPORT YEAR 2020

Annual Meeting  
January 17, 2021  
11:30 a.m.

## First United Presbyterian Church Winterset, Iowa



*Serving Winterset and Madison County  
in Christian ministry since October 10, 1854*

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*The mission of the First United Presbyterian Church is to make disciples of all people for the glory of God through teaching, caring and worshiping.*

## PASTOR'S REPORT

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### WHAT A DECADE LAST YEAR WAS

It's not an overstatement: None of us have ever lived through a year like 2020.

2020 in hindsight:

- The discovery of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and a pandemic.
- Quarantines and self-quarantines and sheltering in place.
- Extensive restrictions (effective in Iowa on March 17) on public gatherings, including—from a church perspective—worship gatherings, funerals, potlucks, Sunday school, meetings, etc.
- Cancellation of in-person school classes in the spring.
- Wearing masks.
- Shopping for groceries online, and neighbors helping neighbor, ensuring that friends were OK and had food and just staying connected.
- A monumental and arduous racial reckoning across our country, including the biggest protests for racial justice and civil rights since the 60s, prompted by the killing of George Floyd during an arrest in Minneapolis on May 25.
- The 2020 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) voted 407-72 (85% yes) on June 26 to approve a resolution declaring that Black lives matter; confessing that the church has been complicit in perpetuating injustice; and pledging to “confront and dismantle systemic racism” in the church and in society.
- Online “Morning Prayer” 3x a week at 9:00 and online worship on Saturdays and Sundays. And presbytery meetings via Zoom.
- Emails and letters and Zoom conversations about when to “go back to worship” meaning back to “in-person” worship.
- Making sure everyone stays safe during in-person worship (when we resumed) with stringent hygienic precautions, physical distancing, masks, and not singing during worship.
- Outdoor worship x 2 this year with communion and breakfast sandwiches—two of our highest attended services after the March 17 restrictions.
- The highest voter turnout in our nation’s history for a turbulent presidential election.
- Watching as loved ones deal with the unpredictable symptoms of the coronavirus—we all have our own stories—my parents were in “lock-down” in their residential care facility for many months after numerous positive tests.
- Maintaining a 6-foot physical distance at all times and elbow-bumps.
- My son Luke turns 21.
- For many, increased conversations with family and friends about race, equity, and inclusion—certainly true on college campuses, from what I have seen.
- Vision 2020 Task Force completing its work—even in the midst of a pandemic—including discussions and discernment, the Congregational Snapshot Report, survey and publication of survey results, approval of the Vision 2020 Task Force recommendations in November.

On a personal note, I believe I have seen this year, in part, through the eyes of my son Luke, a student at Central College in Pella. His spring break was extended to two weeks; then the semester was moved exclusively to online learning. The college’s study-abroad program has been cancelled—dashing his hopes of a semester in Wales. The college has been back “in-person” this fall, but he finished the semester from home after Thanksgiving break. For young people especially, it must feel like everything has changed and so much taken

away—think, for example, of the class of 2020 and no fans at the basketball tournament and no prom or commencement in any way that looks at all like “we had hoped it would be.”

I share this because I think as we move forward into a post-pandemic, post-2020 world, we would do well to listen to the hearts of those who are “coming of age” in the midst of everything we have been going through. Yes, we ought listen to everyone’s hearts, but I think it makes a lot of sense to emphasize listening to voices too long unheard, and that certainly includes young people.

All of these events and “highlights” of 2020, plus many that didn’t make my list, consumed our lives—collectively and individually—during 2020. The year challenged us in ways we could have never expected. And, yet, in the midst of this, don’t you feel a sense of hope? I do.

“Now faith means putting our full confidence in the things we hope for, it means being certain of things we cannot see” (Hebrews 11:1). I am looking forward to 2021 with new hope—while taking with me many lessons from 2020. I am looking forward to lighting candles (literally and metaphorically) as the church and for church; as a sojourner on this earth and for the whole world... And I am looking forward to you, the one body of Christ at 1UPC, lighting candles too. In a thousand different ways.

Glad to be on the journey with you,

Pastor Randy+



## CLERK OF SESSION AND STATISTICAL REPORT

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The session is the governing council for the congregation and is composed of ruling elders, elected by the congregation to active service, as well the pastor. The session is responsible for governing the congregation and guiding its witness to the sovereign activity of God in the world so that the congregation is and becomes a community of faith, hope, love and, witness. In seeking to help the congregation be and become this community, the session has an important role as it engages in prayerful discernment and attends to how God's Spirit may be at work in the congregation and in the broader community.

The session at 1UPC customarily meets in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday each month. Because of restrictions related to COVID-19 and our desire to do whatever we can to keep people safe and healthy, many session meetings in 2020 were held via video conferencing (Zoom). The Annual Congregation Meeting was held on January 26, 2020 to receive the 2019 Annual Report. A brief special congregational meeting was held on March 1, 2020 to nominate and elect Teresa Fleming and Jen Orton to the office of Elder in order to enable them to serve as co-clerks of the session. Because of pandemic restrictions, they were ordained and elected as co-clerks during a special session meeting (via Zoom) on May 26, 2020.

Other elections were Shane Pashek (treasurer), Mike Dickerson, Deb Kneller, and Bill Kneller (financial secretaries), and Pam Deichmann (presbytery commissioner). The session nominated Ethel Lee Osborn Tucker for the 2020 "Faithful Through the Years" Award, which is presented annually by the presbytery. This award was presented to Ethel Lee during the Presbyterian Women's Thank Offering Worship Service. The session accepted, with regrets, the resignations for personal reasons of Teresa as co-clerk (9/22), Jen as clerk (11/17), and Mark Smith as session member (11/17).

Although no formal session meeting was held during March, there were numerous conversations related to the early concerns and events regarding COVID-19. An initial message from the session related to CDC recommendations, precautionary actions for the church and members, and other information was distributed to the congregation on March 11. Another letter to the congregation was sent (again, via email and regular mail), immediately following the Governor's pronouncement on March 17 that included a prohibition on all public gatherings over ten persons. Session continued to keep the lines of communication open during the early days of the pandemic, especially regarding discussions about resuming in-person worship. During the May 12 meeting, session voted to tentatively restart in-person services on June 7 and an outline of precautions was approved. During a dramatic rise in positivity rates during November, in-person worship was again suspended for three weeks by unanimous consent via email.

To summarize the year, stated (and special) session meetings were held as follows: January 21; February 18; April 2; May 12; May 26 (special); June 16; July 21 (special); August 25; September 22; October 13; November 17; and December 15.

Communion was celebrated during in-person worship in the sanctuary 17 times during the year for a total of 255 individuals served. Communion was celebrated at outdoor services in August and September with 40 persons partaking of the sacrament. In addition, communion was made available through many online opportunities. The average attendance for worship prior to COVID-19 was 40 (January), 44 (February), and 40 (March). During the pandemic, in-person worship has averaged nearly 20 with many others sharing in worship via live stream and Facebook Live.

Four new active members were received into membership by way of transfer of membership (2) and reaffirmation of their faith (2). One baptism was approved but was delayed until 2021 because of COVID-19 restrictions. Three active members requested their membership be moved to the inactive roll. The death of two

members was recorded. As of January 1, 2020, we had 75 members on the active roll. As of December 31, 2020 the active roll indicates 70 active members.

On behalf of the session, a word of deep gratitude to all members and friends who have contributed to the work of God at 1UPC-Winterset in many different ways—financially; through time and talents; through ministries of encouragement, compassion, teaching, worship and music leadership, and much more.

Respectfully submitted,

*Rev. Randal K. Lubbers*  
*Moderator*



## **VISION 2020 TASK FORCE**

The Vision 2020 Task Force (Kevin de Regnier, Mike Dickerson, Shane Pashek, Mark Smith, JoAnn Collins, Darla Millhollin, and Rev. Randal Lubbers) met initially on February 13, 2020 and completed its final report on November 16, 2020. That report, presented to the session on November 17, follows:

### **INTRODUCTION**

At its January 21, 2020 meeting, the Session created the Vision 2020 Task Force and charged the Task Force to:

- a. Through prayer, discernment, and study seek the Spirit's guidance in all the work of the Task Force;
- b. Gather information from all sources, P&F, Treasurer, etc., to create an accurate and detailed accounting of the Church's financial status and history of finances;
- c. Analyze financial reports, identify trends, and exceptions to trends;
- d. Develop a complete and accurate demographic profile of church membership including trends in membership, worship attendance, and giving;
- e. Ascertain, through a variety of methods, congregational opinions on the Church's financial situation, desired pastorate model (FT, PT, Shared), current ministries, especially as it relates to Hope Home, desired ministries, and programs;
- f. Using these and any other relevant sources of information, prepare a report explaining in detail the current financial situation of the church, the findings of the demographic study, the congregation's preferences for the aspects of the church outlined in item d above, and the recommendations of the Task Force.

The Vision 2020 Task Force is pleased to present its report and recommendations to the session.

## REPORT

**Item a.** The Task Force began each meeting with prayer and sought the Spirit's guidance in all its work.

**Items b, c, and d.** The Task Force gathered information and created the Congregational Snapshot (Membership, Money, Mission, and Projections) that was presented to Session at its October meeting. This same information was communicated by email and regular mail to all members in October. The four-page Congregational Snapshot is incorporated into this Task Force report by reference.

**Item e.** Approximately one week after sending the report to the congregation, members were sent a link to a survey to ascertain member's opinions and desires related to the Church's finances, programs, ministry, and membership. The survey was mailed to those without an email address. Regular reminders were sent to all to encourage them to take the survey. The survey was available for 2 weeks.

35 responses were returned representing 37 members, 2 surveys represented the opinion of two married couples. The response rate was very good with 50% of members participating in the survey. 70% of respondents were women. Responses were received from all age groups except the under 18 group and members across all length of membership categories.

One caveat to the interpretation of the survey is that while we asked people to answer the questions based on pre-COVID conditions, it is clear that several respondents answered based on current church operations. It is difficult to determine to what extent this impacted responses. Additionally, we received 3 surveys after the October 28 deadline. The Task Force did NOT include these surveys in the final results. The following summaries of results are incorporated into the Task Force report by reference:

1. Results with Graphs
2. Confidential Responses to Open-Ended Questions

## RECOMMENDATIONS

In response to the charge to the Task Force as specified in item f above, the Vision 2020 Team makes the following recommendations to the Session. These recommendations are based on the research of the Task Force and the results of the member survey. These recommendations are in no particular order.

1. Hope Home is neither a ministry nor a financial priority for the members of the church. We recommend:
  - a. The current Hope Home ministry should be ended with the hope of future ministry opportunities.
  - b. The Hope Home house should be sold as soon as possible.
2. The majority (56%) of members responding to the survey believe the church should have a full-time pastor. Of course, for this model to be sustainable, significant membership growth will be required. And, without growth in membership and/or levels of giving (including one-time gifts and bequests) we have reserves only sufficient to allow for seven years of deficits at the current level. Therefore, we recommend:
  - a. The session, and the financial leaders/officers, should continue to emphasize positive-yet-reality-based communication to and with the congregation about stewardship and finances.
  - b. The session, under Pastor Randy's leadership, should broaden and expand upon the work of the Task Force by devoting significant time and energy in prayerful, Spirit-led strategic planning.

- c. Session should continue to evaluate the feasibility of the full-time pastor model based on the strategic plan objectives and goals, and the financial resources of the church.
  3. Members expressed various degrees of frustration with the current worship services, including a feeling of not connecting with sermons and the desire for more contemporary music. Therefore, we recommend:
    - a. Session work in collaboration with Pastor Randy and the Worship Team to modify and enhance the worship services to reach a broader cross section of the membership, including children and youth.
  4. There is a desire for greater spiritual growth opportunities for all ages, especially children and youth. Therefore, we recommend:
    - a. The session collectively and the members of the session individually should fully engage in their respective responsibilities regarding the spiritual nurture and growth of members as outlined in the Book of Order.
    - b. Spiritual growth opportunities should be made available in a variety of formats, topics, times, locations, and leadership.
  5. Based on the comments received in the survey, there may be congregation members considering leaving the church. Therefore, we recommend:
    - a. The members of the session should actively engage those members known, to determine the specific issues leading to their considering leaving the church.
    - b. The session should work to reconcile these individuals to one another, to the church and to God.
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All five recommendations were approved by the session at their stated meeting on November 17, 2020, as was the following resolution of gratitude:

**MSC to thank the members of the Vision 2020 Task Force for contributing their spiritual gifts to the life of the church through their work on the Task Force; for their dedication to prayer and discernment and study; and for zeal in seeking the Spirit's guidance in all their work; and for their time and hard work during the year.**

Submitted by  
*Pastor Randy Lubbers*

# REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

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## PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT 2020

### Committee Members

Wendy Sawyer (Chair), Pat Dickerson, Paul Millhollin and Mike Dickerson (congregational member).

Chairman Wendy Sawyer, Paul Millhollin, Mike Dickerson and Pat Dickerson met by Zoon in December to evaluate Pastor Randy Lubbers. We used the Vision 2020 Task Force questionnaire results that were sent back to the church.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Wendy Sawyer, Chair*



# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN REPORT 2020

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## Committee Members

Gentry Landers, Moderator; Teresa Fleming, Secretary; and Deb Kneller, Treasurer

We had such high hopes for 2020 following a very busy and active 2019, however, along with many other church committees COVID-19 had other plans for us. The middle of March found us closing our church doors due to “stay at home orders” that came down from the CDC and our Presbytery. We eventually began a few limited activities on-line, using Facebook Live, Zooming, and outdoor meetings when possible.

**January** January 19, 2020 our PW met for a business and planning meeting to discuss the fundraisers and events we were going to work on for our 2020 calendar year. We also approved our new 2020 budget and PW officers: Gentry Landers, moderator; Teresa Fleming, secretary; and Deb Kneller, treasurer. We planned a full slate of fundraisers and activities including a Fat Tuesday fundraiser for February, May Breakfast in May, Airing of the Quilts in June, a dinner to replace the German dinner we held in June 2019, Christmas Child Shoeboxes in October, Holiday Hop in November, and a Wrapping Station in November/December.

**February** Held a very successful annual Fat Tuesday Taco Bar fundraiser February 25, 2020.

**October** Our Christmas Child Shoebox mission project went ahead beginning October 13, 2020 with members of the church picking up their boxes from the church, filling the, and having them back to the church by November 12, 2020. We had a very good response from the congregation as we collected over 22 boxes which were then taken to New Bridge Church during collection week November 16, 2020.

**November** Thirteen ladies from our church participated in our annual PW Thank Offering Service which we did virtually in the sanctuary over Facebook Live. During the service Ethel Lee Osborn Tucker was presented with a 2020 Presbyterian Women Purpose Award and our Thank Offering and Christmas Child Shoeboxes were dedicated.

Our Holiday Hop Bazaar was held in the church November 21, 2020 with an amazing variety of holiday baked goods and crafts. Masks and social distancing were required so that we could provide a safe environment for our shoppers. We had a surprisingly good turn-out considering we were still dealing with COVID-19 restrictions.

We had three deaths in our church during 2020. We were able to serve one luncheon for the Mark Perkins (Tucker) family. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions, we were not able to provide funeral luncheons for the families of Thelma Stevens and Virginia Kimberlin.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deb Kneller  
PW Treasurer



**2020 ANNUAL PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN  
TREASURER REPORT**

**Beginning Balance as of 12/17/19**

Deposits were as follows:

Mark Perkins (Tucker) funeral luncheon	\$ 500.00
2020 Fat Tuesday Fundraiser	\$ 418.00
Additional Fat Tuesday	\$ 29.00
2019 Holiday Hop Bazaar item sold	\$ 25.00
2020 Holiday Bazaar	\$1,553.30
Additional Holiday Hop Bazaar	\$ 41.00
<b>Total Deposits</b>	<b>\$2,566.30</b>

<b>Total Balance</b>	<b>\$7,817.80</b>
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**Withdraws were as follows:**

Dickersons-new Christmas tree for Fellowship Hall	\$ 95.99
Fareway-funeral luncheon groceries	\$ 75.28
Presbyterian Women's Annual Fund(Mission Pledge 2020)	\$ 380.00
CRU-Campus Crusades 1st installment	\$ 600.00
F.U. Presbyterian Church-Hope Home 1st installment	\$ 500.00
Fareway-10-\$10.00 restricted grocery cards	\$ 100.00
Winterset Oil Company-payment of gas vouchers used	\$ 10.00
CRU-Campus Crusades final installment	\$ 600.00
Fareway-drink mix for kitchen	\$ 25.62
F.U. Presbyterian Church-Hope Home final installment	\$ 500.00
Presbyterian Church (USA)-Disaster Relief Assistance	\$ 250.00
CROP Walk-pledge	\$ 75.00
Cash-Holiday Hop Bazaar cashbox	\$ 200.00
The Winterset Shopper-add for Holiday Hop Bazaar	\$ 50.50
<b>Total Withdraws</b>	<b>\$3,462.39</b>

**PROPERTY AND FINANCE REPORT 2020**

**Committee Members**

Kevin de Regnier, Chair; Jake Jacobs, Hal Jackson, Mike Dickerson, Robert Newton, Don Stanley

The Property and Finance Committee has been looking up this year; at roofs. The early June hailstorm resulted in significant damage to the manse roof, while wind damaged the roof at Hope Home. Unrelated to wind or hail, the flat portion of the church roof began leaking. As a result all 3 roofs needed replacement or repair. Fortunately, the manse and Hope Home roofs were covered by our insurance so our costs were limited to the \$5000.00 deductible. Insurance covered the remaining \$16,000. Unfortunately, the church roof was not damaged so we had to bear the \$5200 cost of those repairs.

Throughout the year the committee members tackled a variety of routine maintenance items and minor repairs. A special thanks to Jake and Carol Jacobs for their care of the church lawn, shrubs, and gardens throughout the year. Thanks also to all who helped with snow removal and little fix it projects around the church. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Finally, the committee regularly monitored the budget and the church finances and took the steps necessary to ensure bills were paid on time. We also conducted a review of our investment accounts to ensure we are receiving a reasonable rate of return while not taking undue risk of loss. We continue to maintain our account with Edward Jones in a managed account. Since the inception of this account, our average return has been approximately 7% per year.

Respectfully Submitted  
*Kevin de Regnier*



## WORSHIP TEAM REPORT

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### Committee Members

The Worship Team exists as the session committee charged with walking alongside the pastor in envisioning, planning, creating, and evaluating the worship experience at 1UPC. The members of the Team have “filled the pulpit” when the pastor is “off duty” for vacation and study leave. In the past the Team has customarily met every-other month, but the meetings have been less frequent during the coronavirus pandemic.

Looking at the conversations from one of our most productive meetings, in April, tells us a lot about the way this year has challenged us. At that meeting we talked about worship *after* the pandemic in ways that demonstrate how much we didn’t know about how long we would be dealing with COVID-19. The notes from the meeting still apply—but, as is so obvious now, the pandemic has been a much longer road than what we had anticipated back then. Regardless of the timing—which we realize now-more-than-ever is always in God’s hands—the themes we talked about ring true as we worship with physical distancing, masks, and no singing: (1) praise and thanks to God for safety, presence, technology, and other mercies in the midst of the pandemic, (2) acknowledgment of struggle, loss, and grief—even the grief we feel at not being able to sing, (3) the vital importance of community and connectedness, and (4) a call to action to reach out to those who are lonely, sick, and dealing with financial difficulties directly related to the economics of the pandemic.

#### *Saturday Evening Worship*

At the beginning of January, we began “A Quest for Aliveness,” a Saturday afternoon “in the round” conversational worship experience. Attendance was sparse, but those who shared in the experience found it meaningful. After the COVID-19 restrictions, “A Quest for Aliveness” became an exclusively on-line worship experience via Facebook Live on the church’s FB page. The 30-minute service generally reaches over 80 people. The church even received a thank you card and donation from a viewer in Kansas.

#### *More Contemporary Components to Worship*

The session is working in collaboration with Pastor Randy and the Worship Team to modify and enhance the worship services during 2021 to reach a broader cross section of the membership, including children and youth. There will be more contemporary music on the screen—we continue to look for new sources while navigating copyright issues related to live streaming.

#### *The Lord’s Supper*

We generally celebrate the sacrament on a regular basis during Sunday morning worship on the first Sunday of each month. In addition, we schedule the Lord’s Supper on other dates of significance in the life of our congregation and dates most appropriate during the liturgical church year.

#### *To God alone be the glory!*

THE WORSHIP TEAM

Submitted by Pastor Randy



**NOMINATING**

**Committee Members**

Pam Deichmann, Chair; Pastor Lubbers, Ruth Reed, Ethel Lee Osborn Tucker and JoAnn Collins

**COMMITTEE**

The committee has met twice and established a process, and timeline in November and December of 2020. Included in the process includes a letter that outlines the roles and responsibilities of a session member, and an approach that includes a time for concernment. The committee hopes to have the nomination process finalized at the end of Dec and realize candidates will face new church development processes in 2021.

Respectfully Submitted  
*Pam Deichmann*

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## **HISTORY COMMITTEE**

### **Committee Members**

Pam Deichmann and Connie Banks

The Church History Committee met in January and February in winter months. They established and implemented a sorting and mapped filing system in history items such as group pictures, yearly directories and old paper copies of session minutes. However due to COVID 19 the committee was unable to complete the display project of historical item due to COVID 19; and plan to resume projects once COVID 19 pandemic passes.

Respectfully Submitted  
*Pam Deichmann*



# OUTREACH MINISTRIES

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## 2020 HOPE HOME REPORT

### Committee Members

Paul and Darla Millhollin, Lori Ryner, Teresa Fleming, Deb Hubby, Kris McDonald, Natalie Montross and Amy Nolan.

This year the congregation was able to help three families with our Hope Home ministry. One family had moved into the home last fall, was able to get on their feet and found employment out of state. Shortly thereafter a local couple with two children had significant fire damage to the home they were purchasing on contract. Since it was a contract sale their insurance only paid the contract holder for repairs to the house and for some of their personal property. During the 6 months it took to repair the fire damage they had to live elsewhere while still making payments on the home. Since they could not afford rent and payments the parents were living with some relatives in Des Moines and their children were living with other relatives in Dexter. Through Hope Home they were able to reunite and live as a family until their home was repaired and they returned to their original home in September.

The Session had requested we not let another family move in until the Congregation decided what the future of the Hope Home ministry would be. However, in late October we were contacted by CRISP that a family of three was about to be evicted from their home. They had both lost their jobs earlier in the year due to COVID-19 layoffs, were working again but because they had gotten behind on rent and utilities, they needed a place for two to three months. The referral was passed on to Session for consideration who voted to go ahead on the condition it was a short-term arrangement. The family moved to Hope Home in late November, they are getting caught up on past bills and are preparing to find their own housing again in February.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Paul Millhollin*



## OUTREACH MINISTRIES

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### MISSIONS AND CARE TEAM 2020

Committee Members: Laura Silverthorn and Wendy Sawyer

#### Mission

The focus of our team is to coordinate missions inside and outside of the walls of the church. The four special missionary offerings are planned by this team (One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peace Offering, and Christmas Joy). The team organized the dates and information that would be shared for each.

CRISP has continued to be a good partnership and is enjoying the space provided for their programs. A reminder that CRISP continues to provide numerous opportunities for our congregation to volunteer in support of this mission.

#### Care

This year has certainly been unique. At the beginning of 2020, we visited members in their homes on a regular basis. Once COVID-19 hit the face-to-face interactions ended due to safety. Our goal when it becomes safer is to visit once again. Some members made calls and sent cards.

Please contact Pastor Randy or the church office if you are aware of someone in need of care.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Laura Silverthorn & Wendy Sawyer*

### THE STEEPLE 2020

The Steeple is the church's newsletter. This newsletter does not belong to one individual, but to the whole congregation. It is the Administrative Assistant's responsibility to compile information regarding upcoming events, announcements and inspirational items. Pastor Randy Lubbers has been writing the cover page which covers a wide variety of topics and sermons. The main purpose of the newsletter is to serve as a communication tool to keep members and friends updated on "what's happening" at the church and to encourage all readers in their walk with God. The newsletter is sent out electronically via email to 114 members, friends and neighboring churches. The newsletter is also printed out and a hard copy is available to anyone that comes into the church. The Steeple is mailed out to 25 individuals that have requested a copy.

There are many articles and announcements found within the pages of the newsletter. You will find a summary of what the Presbyterian Women's activities and events they have been doing and what they have planned for the future. There is a list that rotates through the list of members to remember birthdays and anniversaries. Many committees report updates of projects and reminders of committee meeting dates and locations. The church calendar found on the last page can be used as an easy reference for important dates coming up. Copies of the Steeple can be found in the information rack outside the church office and on the church's website at [www.wintersetpresbyterian.org](http://www.wintersetpresbyterian.org).



## **CHURCH CALENDAR 2020**

The church office produces a monthly calendar. It is the main source for reference regarding dates and updates, along with the times or cancellations of events. It is important to inform the administrative assistant of any events or changes so she in turn can update the calendar. You can find the calendar in two locations, one is always attached the Steeple Newsletter and one is always posted on the door of the church office. In the past we have had the church calendar posted on the bulletin board. That has not been occurring due to the covid restrictions, but we will be seeing it in the near future.

## **EMAIL PRAYER CHAIN 2020**

The change that has occurred with the Prayer Chain Email is the email address. The prayer chain email is now at [churchsecretary3261@gmail.com](mailto:churchsecretary3261@gmail.com). The goal and purpose of this email continues to be a source of providing prayer requests and prayer updates for those individuals desiring prayer, information on funerals. The church's administrative assistant then sends the email out to all members who are on the prayer email list. This prayer email is available 24/7 and is checked often throughout the day. Those that do not have email are then called when the church office is open or other designated members forward the message to them.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Chery White  
Administrative Assistant*

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 2020**

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### **Committee Members**

Pat Dickerson, Chair; Elaine Newton, Gentry Landers, Nicole Smith, Kevin de Regnier and De Negley

January and February brought us breakfast of waffles, bagels and juice. Our classes were taught by Gentry Landers, Nicole Smith and Elaine Newton. De Negley led the music for the children. When Covid-19 arrived we stopped our classes and have not been able to start Sunday School classes yet due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Pat Dickerson, Chair*

## **FELLOWSHIP 2020**

In January we had a potluck after the Annual Congregation meeting and a Chili Cook-off after the meeting. The winners of the Cook-off were Kevin de Regnier and Jen Orton. They were given awards for their endeavors. Every Sunday after church was fellowship time, which we did in January, February and the first part of March. Covid-19 hit and we did not do any more special events until June and September when we had outdoor worship at the Middle River Park, with catered Hardee breakfast sandwiches. In December we did our Reverse Caroling, where a group of thirteen carolers stood on the sidewalk outside of our church and sang to people as they drove by. The carolers kept warm with hot cocoa and cider.



*Respectfully Submitted,  
Pat Dickerson, Fellowship Chair*

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2020

Vacation Bible School was held on line in July. Every night the children picked up a craft and a snack as they drove up to the church. The volunteers dressed up like pirates as the theme for VBS was “God’s Great Treasure Hunt.” We handed out over 100 VBS packets to children. They were then instructed to go onto Facebook and watch a video of a play that was directly related to the craft they had picked up. Several children who attended our church were the actors to the plays. Teresa Fleming coordinated and directed the VBS this year and it was a great success thanks to Teresa and the volunteers!

*Submitted by,  
Pat Dickerson*



## **SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH**

### 2020 WEBMASTER REPORT

This year I have expanded the usual website report to include other social media activities. Other than our website, our main social media presence is through our Facebook page.

Our website is regularly updated with information regarding the church, our services, and activities. Obviously, COVID has been the main focus of our updates.

As a result of the COVID pandemic, we have had to suspend in-person worship on several occasions. During the first interruption, Rev. Lubbers used the manse and his personal Facebook page to provide live streamed worship services. Simultaneous with this, we invested in several upgrades to our worship computer and software, added a remote controlled camera, another computer, streaming software, and video switching equipment.

These upgrades have allowed us to create and distribute a highly produced live stream on our church Facebook page which integrates the worship slides we use in the sanctuary with live video and overlaying graphics

identifying service participants. Additionally, we can use the picture in a picture feature to show both the slide content and the worship leader in the same frame. To accomplish this, requires 2 computers, using 5 monitors/projectors, the soundboard, a video switcher and four different software programs; all running at once.

Yeah, you're right; it's a lot to manage, which leads me to the main reason for telling you all of this. If you or someone you know would like to help make sure that everyone can join us for worship, whether in-person or on-line, please let me know. We will gladly train you.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Kevin de Regnier  
Webmaster*

## **FACEBOOK 2020**

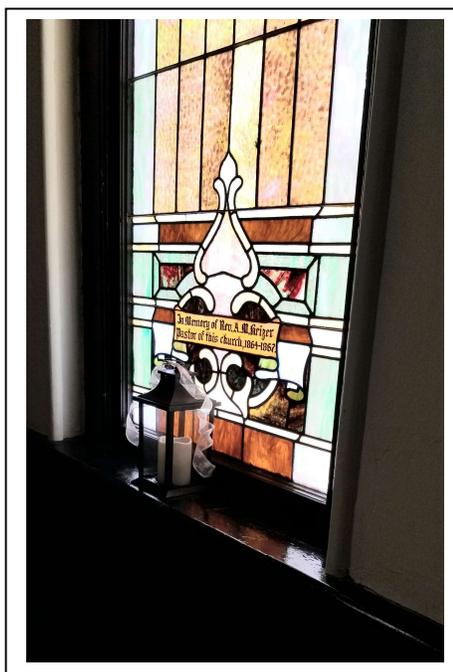
In the wake of COVID-19 restrictions on large public gatherings—initially instituted in Iowa on March 17—the church's Facebook page has been more important than ever. Shortly after we cancelled in-person gatherings, Pastor Randy began leading weekday Morning Prayer (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 9:00 a.m.) on his own Facebook page (via "Facebook Live") and Saturday and Sunday worship on the church's Facebook page. In addition to worship and spiritual growth opportunities, the church's Facebook page continues to provide updates on upcoming events, inspirational quotations and meditations, complete sermon manuscripts, and other interesting posts. Members and friends of the church are free to read, comment, react, and respond to others' comments on the IUPC page.

The church has been able to use Facebook's advertising tools to promote in-person and online events, promote its Facebook page, and raise awareness about the church and its ministries. The dollars spent on ads have all been donated to church. Two promotions near Easter reached over 9,000 persons over the course of two weeks for \$55. An ad during October reached 1,088 for \$14.

"Engagement This Week" (one of the measurement tools) for 12/25-12/31 shows IUPC with 124 persons engaged (reading/interacting/sharing) our page's posts. The same measurement for five other Winterset churches averaged 37. A total of 475 persons "like" our church's page—that ranks highest among Winterset churches.

Going forward, the church plans to continue to increase its presence on Facebook, especially through short quotes, inspirational notes, and photos; all of which have shown to have relatively strong levels of response.

Submitted by  
*Pastor Randy*



## CIRCLE REPORTS

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### HANDS TO GOD 2020



Hands to God met the second Tuesday in January and February. We continued to meet at 6:00 pm to have pizza and fellowship while working on craft or personal projects. Because of COVID, we did not meet from March to December.

We met in August to talk about possible options for the Holiday Hop. Our options were to either hold an in-person event or a virtual event. As the year progressed, we felt we could hold an in-person event with required masks and social distancing. A few women gathered at church on Thursday, November 19 to set up and price all items.

The Holiday Hop Bazaar was held on Saturday, November 21. Our proceeds for the event totaled over \$1350.

*Respectfully submitted*  
*Rae de Regnier*

### MADONNA CIRCLE 2020



The Madonna Circle meets the first Monday of each month (except July and August) at 7:00 P.M in the church fellowship hall. This year we continued and completed our study of Ecclesiastes with the book, A Woman of Contentment by Dee Brestin. De Negley led this study as we learned to discover the truth of what it means to be content in a life filled with difficulties.

We had 7 meetings this year because Covid 19 kept us from meeting from April to August. In August, we met at the city park to catch up with each other and make sure we were all doing OK. We started our lessons again in September, where we met on Elaine's deck. The rest of our meetings were at church and we wore masks. In spite of the pandemic, we did find time for other fun and meaningful activities. Throughout the year, we participated in many activities of the Presbyterian Women and other organizations in the church. We helped with the Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes and participated in the Thank Offering worship service. We also helped with the Holiday Hop Bazaar. This year, for our December Christmas party, we each brought a toy to donate to Madison County's Toys for Tots. We also looked at a few books to decide our next study beginning in January.

We do our part to support the ministries in our church and Presbytery, continuing our support of Beth Blankers with CRU (Campus Crusade), and also provide for any needs of the church.

The members of the Madonna Circle extend an invitation to all women of the church to join us for our lessons. We have interesting discussions and wonderful fellowship.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Gaylene Blankers*

### EVENING GUILD CIRCLE



Members included Ruth Reed, Ethel Lee Osborne, Connie Banks, Suzanne Null, Dixie Conkling, Shirley Parkins, Carol Jacobs and Pam Deichmann

Evening Guild Circle/ Bible study group met on the first Wednesday of the month except In January and August at the church fellowship hall 5-6:30 PM. They bring a sack lunch and anyone is welcome. However this year we cancelled monthly meeting past March due to COVID 19 guidance's for social distancing, and reduce social gathering

Bible Study included "These Days Daily Devotions for the Living by Faith and in the winter joining the Pastors Book Club". Members continue to support home visits and/or phone calls to shut-in twice a year. However unable to complete any spring visits and only visited shut in to deliver cookies and follow COVID 19 prevention measures

Evening Guild members supported following PW Mission Projects in 2020 and local mission efforts included:

- Participated in planning and implanting the May Breakfast fundraising activities in May until it was cancelled
- Participated in Fall Bazaar
- Participated in the Fall Thank Offering service in Nov
- Delivered cookies for shut in and staff in Dec
- Due to COVID 19 few fall visits shut in rather made phone calls
- Supported efforts to served lunch and dinners as fundraisers for the church in Jan/Feb and social distance Bible School

Respectfully Submitted  
*Pam Deichmann*



## OTHER REPORTS

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### MADISON COUNTY CROP WALK REPORT 2020

**CROP WALK RESULTS** Our 2020 CROP walk was definitely different than in years past. Our local churches did not walk in person, and we were unable to canvas the community for donations. However, CROP walk committee members from Winterset churches still asked for your support, and here are the results of that effort:

St. Paul Lutheran raised \$2190

First Christian raised \$501

First United Presbyterian raised \$365 (Brian and JoAnn)

First United Methodist raised \$220

Our 2020 total amount raised is \$3276. (There was no trophy presentation this year, and no food drive.)

Thank you to all who supported our First United Presbyterian Church effort! PLEASE let JoAnn Collins know if you'd like to join the committee for the 2021 CROP walk to be held in late September.

Submitted by  
*JoAnn Collins*

## TREASURER'S REPORT

January 1 - December 31, 2020

### INCOME

	Bank Interest Income	5.89
	Book Sales	73.50
	Flower Fund	330.00
	Dividend Income	25.86
	HOPE HOME INCOME	2755.00
	IN & OUT	
	Coffee Fund	26.10
	In & Out - Other	<hr/>
<b>Total In &amp; Out</b>		<b>26.10</b>
	Memorial Income	1,095.00
	Insurance Payment	16,382.30
	<b>Offerings:</b> Loose Collection	371.25
	Member Non-Pledge	17,681.00
	Member Pledge	62,425.56
	Non Member Donations	100.00
	Sunday School	7.00
	Special Offerings	<hr/>
<b>Total Offering</b>		<b>81,516.50</b>
Other Income:		
	IRS Refunds	535.95
	SBA Loan COVID19	17,700.00
	Special Events:	<hr/>
<b>Total Other Income</b>		<b>18,405.65</b>
Per Capita Income		100.00
Rental Income:		
	Other Rental	600.00
	Wee Learners	<hr/>
<b>Total Rental Income</b>		<b>5,050.00</b>
<b>Transfer Incomes</b>		
Transfer from Ed Jones		15,000.00
Transfer from FM Savings		11,500.00
Closing Mariners and Youth Accounts		<hr/>
<b>Total Transfer Incomes</b>		<b>34,644.74</b>
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>160,410.54</b>

### EXPENSES

#### CARE

Bank Service Charges	3.04
Don Justo Coffee	<hr/>
<b>Total CARE</b>	<b>94.00</b>

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Vacation Bible School	117.95
<b>Total CHRISTIAN EDUCATION</b>	<b>832.39</b>

**EVANGELISM**

Web Site	324.00
<b>Total EVANGELISM</b>	<b>324.00</b>

**HOPE HOME EXPENSE**

Maintenance	12,837.38
Mortgage	7,089.60
Other (Storage and Registration of Van)	513.60
Utilities	4,885.86
<b>Total HOPE HOME EXPENSE</b>	<b>25,326.44</b>

**MISSION**

Special Offerings	1,212.38
General Assembly UMS	720.00
Presbytery UMS	1,372.50
Synod UMS	1,140.00
<b>Total MISSION</b>	<b>4,444.88</b>

**PASTOR COMPENSATION**

Cash Salary	37,721.57
Dental Plan	-1,168.44
Pension & Benefits	22,356.36
Supplemental Death Benefit	-594.00
Utilities	2,975.09
<b>Total PASTOR COMPENSATION</b>	<b>61,290.58</b>

**PER CAPITA**

Presbytery Per Capita	2,497.50
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**PROPERTY & FINANCE**

Chamber dues	200.00
Church Maintenance	6,264.54
Church Utilities	8,236.52
Copier Rental	1,747.30
Insurance	6,146.00
Phone and Internet Service	2,785.77
Janitorial Supplies	31.01
Manse Maintenance	14,950.00
Office Supplies	1,179.07
Postage	357.79
Property & Finance (cont'd)	
Safe Deposit Box	20.00
Seasonal Decoration (Flag fund)	35.00
Trash Removal	770.40
<b>Total PROPERTY &amp; FINANCE</b>	<b>42,723.40</b>

**STEWARDSHIP**

Financial Secretary Expenses	47.72
<b>Total STEWARDSHIP</b>	<b>47.72</b>

**SUPPORT STAFF**

Admin. Asst. Continuing Ed.	0.00
Admin. Asst. Yearly Salary	15,302.89
Custodian	1,940.72
Payroll Taxes	5,744.82
Workers Compensation Insurance	698.00
<b>Total SUPPORT STAFF</b>	<b>23,686.43</b>

**WORSHIP**

Advertising	398.96
Congregational Music	432.64
Organ & Piano Maintenance	2,126.84
Supplies	10.00
Shelter Rental	60.00
<b>Total WORSHIP</b>	<b>3,028.44</b>

<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>163,584.38</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-3,173.84</b>

Notes on 2020 Budget

- Income Notes
  - Income transfers
    - Ed Jones \$15,000.00
    - F&M Savings \$11,500.00
  - Other transfers
    - Mariners Account \$ 6,302.03
    - Youth Account \$ 1,842.71
  - Extraordinary income
    - IRS refund \$ 535.95 Overpayment of withholding
    - SBA PPP Loan \$17,700.00 Forgiven
    - Insurance Payment \$16,382.30 For roof damage
  - Total Transfers and EO Inc \$69,262.99
- Expense Notes
  - Extraordinary Expenses
    - Roofs
      - Church \$ 5,900.00
      - Manse \$14,900.00
      - Hope Home \$ 8,200.00
      - Total \$29,000.00
    - Hope Home Furnace \$ 4,133.41
  - Total Extraordinary Exp \$33,133.41
- Ordinary Income \$ 91,147.55
- Ordinary Expense \$130,450.97
- Net Ordinary Loss \$ -39,303.42



# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART OF SESSION & COMMITTEES

2020

FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
210 W. GREEN STREET, WINTERSET, IA 50273  
515-462-3261  
Email: churchsecretary3261@gmail.com

## **SESSION**

**Holds ultimate authority for all aspects of the church**

### SESSION MEMBERS 2021:

Kevin de Regnier  
Shane Pashek

### SESSION MEMBERS 2022:

Pam Deichmann  
Kay Stanley

### SESSION MEMBERS 2023:

Paul Millhollin  
Ruth Reed

**Clerk of Session:** currently vacant  
**Pastor and Moderator:** Rev. Randal K. Lubbers

### PERSONNEL

Wendy Sawyer  
462-2467

- \* Pat Dickerson
- \* Mike Dickerson
- \* Paul Millhollin

- Direct, evaluate, and schedule staff.
- Discipline staff at direction of Session

### PROPERTY & FINANCE

Kevin de Regnier  
462-2965

- \* Hal Jackson
- \* Mike Dickerson
- \* Robert Newton
- \* Jake Jacobs
- \* Don Stanley

- Authorize expenditures within budget

### WORSHIP/MUSIC

Sheryl Puderbaugh  
314-6334

- \* Pastor Randy Lubbers
- \* Kevin de Regnier
- \* Paul Millhollin

- Schedule worship leaders, lay leaders, ushers and greeters
- Communicate music to organist/pianist

### SOUND BOOTH

Kevin de Regnier  
462-2968  
Mike Dickerson

- Ensure coverage for weekly services
- Recruit and train volunteers
- Make repairs as needed

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND

### FELLOWSHIP

Pat Dickerson  
468-2066

- \* Nicole Smith
- \* Ruth Reed
- \* Gaylene Blankers
- \* Teresa Fleming
- \* Gentry Landers
- \* Elaine Newton
- \* Kevin de Regnier

- Prepare and provide lessons weekly
- Arrange for substitute coverage when absent
- Ensure fellowship coverage

### HOPE HOME

Paul Millhollin  
201-9686

- \* Darla Millhollin
- \* Lori Ryner
- \* Natalie Montross
- \* Deb Hubby
- \* Kris MacDonald
- \* Amy Nolan

- Care of Hope Home family
- Communicate Hope Home family's progress and needs

### MISSIONS

#### AND CARE

Wendy Sawyer  
462-2467  
Laura Silverthorn  
468-0214

- Identify and promote mission opportunities
- Ensure proceeds of mission collections are deposited
- Coordinate care services for volunteers

### FUNERAL DINNERS:

Pat Dickerson  
468-2066

- Communicate with Funeral Home
- Contact and arrange meals with the volunteers of the church

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Pam Deichmann, Chair  
462-3277  
Pastor Lubbers  
Ruth Reed  
Ethel Lee Osborn Tucker

- Through prayer, conversations, discernment and the power of the Spirit, nominate officers to service on Session