

Session Meeting
First Presbyterian Church
Davenport, Iowa
April 21, 2025

The stated meeting of the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Davenport, Iowa was held on Monday, April 21, 2025. The meeting was held with Zoom only.

Moderator Rev. Dr. Kristopher Schondelmeyer called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM. A quorum was present. Rev. Schondelmeyer led the Session in a discussion on the Ecclesiastical health of the church as being a part of a vital congregation, and the importance of working together to achieve the goals of the church using 2 Corinthians 5:11-212. Guest Ruth Ann Tobey-Brown was introduced as the new Volunteer Coordinator, and she asked Session to let her know the needs of their committees in the future. Kris then reviewed the volunteer interests questionnaire that will be included in the bulletin next Sunday. Time will be given during the sermon for everyone present to fill it out.

	Class of 2025		Class of 2026		Class of 2027
P	Dan Breinich <i>Personnel</i>	P	Dianna Darland <i>Hospitality & Welcoming</i>	P	David Bowles Edwards <i>Worship & Music</i>
P	Nancy Chapman <i>Finance</i>	A	Denny Jorgenson <i>Congregational Fellowship</i>	P	Dan Darland <i>Building Grounds & Safety</i>
P	Bonnie Johnson <i>Stewardship</i>	P	Kathy Knox <i>Christian Ed & Fellowship with Youth</i>	P	Craig Foster <i>Finance</i>
P	Nathan Kabel <i>Buildings Grounds & Safety</i>	P	Diana Miller-Bur <i>Worship & Music</i>	P	Paula Hartmann <i>Personnel</i>
E	Zoë McCullum <i>Buildings Grounds & Safety</i>	E	Cathy Pratscher-Woods <i>Stewardship</i>	P	Sharon Simmonds <i>Adult Spiritual Growth</i>
E	Julia Meyer <i>Co-Clerk of Session</i>	P	Jed Steckel <i>Adult Spiritual Growth</i>	P	Jay Williams <i>Adult Spiritual Growth</i>
P	Kristine Oswald <i>Worship & Music</i>			E	Erin Yingling <i>Christian Ed & Fellowship with Youth</i>
P	Mark Ruebling <i>Congregational Marketing & Growth</i>				
P	Vicki Stegall <i>Personnel</i>	P	Mark Jones <i>Co-Clerk of Session, non-voting</i>	<i>P-present E-Excused A-Absent</i>	

A Land Acknowledgement was read.

Staff members:

P	Rev. Dr. Kristopher Schondelmeyer <i>Pastor / Head of Staff</i>	E	Kristine Olson <i>Director of Financial and Business Administration</i>	E	Darren Long <i>Director of Building and Grounds</i>
P	Marty Bowles Edwards <i>Co-Director of CEFY</i>	E	Jim Middleton <i>Director of Office Administration</i>	E	Matthew Bishop <i>Director of Music and Arts</i>

Guests: Co-Director of CEFY Marty Bowles Edwards, Deacon Moderator Terri Sheetz, New Member Julie VanPelt, Guests Kirk Christie, Ruth Ann Tobey-Brown and Mike Bawden. Staff members were given Monday off because of Easter.

A motion to amend the agenda was made by the Personnel Committee. **On motion and second**, the agenda was approved as amended.

On motion and second, the Session approved seating our guests, with voice and no vote.

Reception of a New Member

- Introductions: New member inquirer, Julie VanPelt was introduced and spoke about her faith journey and her gifts.
- Following an opportunity for questions, **a motion and second** were made to receive Julie VanPelt into active membership at FPC. She will be presented to the congregation on Sunday May 11, 2025. **The motion was approved.**

Library Committee: Kirk Christie presented his motion for a fundraising event: it was amended to; Irene Huffman donated her cookbook collection (200+) for a library fundraiser. During May's Manna and More, to set up and offer to purchase the cookbooks for a free will donation, the proceeds going towards the library. The library committee would use 2-3 long tables in Fellowship Hall.

It was suggested that Kirk contact Jim Middleton to place the information in the church bulletin. **On motion and second** it was approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were presented on the Consent Agenda:

- Approve the March 17, 2025, Session Meeting minutes.

On motion and second, the Consent Agenda was approved as presented.

Scholarship Concept Proposal: Mike Bawden joined the Zoom meeting and was seated with voice and no vote. Mike reviewed his proposal for a children and youth church/scout participation program that would allow for funds to be provided for higher education or trade school. Funds would be managed by the Foundation and the accounting of the 'points' would be administered by a committee of members and staff of the church. The Bawden family would not be involved. The presentation/discussion was discontinued because most of the proposal document had not been provided to Session. The discussion will be rescheduled for a future meeting.

CLERK'S REPORT

- The Report of the Clerk of Session for April 2025 is appended to these minutes.
- The letters to individuals on Membership List #1 will be mailed requesting a response by the end of May.
- Communications received by the Clerk:
 - Update from Glen Roebuck about the Hilltop Community Development Planning meeting on March 27, 2025.
- Action item:
 - **On motion and second**, the proposed amendment to the Child Protection Policy in the FPC Operations manual to remove the 'Safety Officer' reference was tabled to

review whether this was indeed necessary because of a 2024 revision approved by Session.

DEACONS' REPORT

The Session received a written report from Deacon Moderator Terri Sheetz including:

- The Deacons are in talks with Tapestry Farm about partnering to utilize 2 houses owned by the Foundation.
 - Kids Against Hunger is scheduled for April 27, 2025.
 - Plans are underway for Juneteenth, Beauty on the Boulevard, the Annual Picnic, a Game Night, and a men's fellowship at the ballpark.
 - The Women's Tea, on April 13, was successful.
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SESSION COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS

- Written Session committee reports were received and are appended to these minutes.
 - Comments from Elder Craig Foster, Finance Committee, on the Income/Expense reports.
 - YTD the net surplus is \$72K, with income exceeding expenses. The projected \$87K deficient might be less if expenses continue to be under budget.
 - **Action items from Session Committees:**
 - Elder Dan Breinich presented a motion that the Session approve the employment of Diana Miller-Bur as the part-time Administrative Assistant to the Pastor/Head of Staff. The motion received a second. Elder Diana Miller-Bur and Co-Clerk Julia Meyer were excused from the meeting for the discussion and voting on this motion.
Background:
 - This position was approved by Session in February 2025 and funded in the 2025 budget approved by Session.
 - A 2-month search identified only 2 potentially qualified persons who were interviewed by the Pastor and 2 members of the Personnel Committee.
 - Diana Miller-Bur was clearly the superior candidate.
 - Because she is a church member, it was felt to be important for Session to affirm this hiring decision. Diana will have access to some sensitive information in her work with the Pastor. Diana will also need to resign from Session but will be able to continue as a congregational member of the Music & Worship Committee. The need for strict confidentiality has been made clear.
 - Following discussion, the motion was approved without opposing votes.
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STAFF REPORTS

- Written staff reports were received and appended to these minutes.

Report of Rev. Dr. Kristopher Schondelmeyer, Pastor/Head of Staff

- The previous week was Holy Week and was very busy.

- Two deaths were reported: John Martin, the service at FPC, officiated by Rev. Dr. Kristopher Schondelmeyer on April 22, 2025 and Don Hanney, officiated by Rev. Pat Halverson at Weertz Funeral Home on April 25, 2025.
 - Breeze continues to be updated to work out the bugs.
 - Website redevelopment is in progress but will not be completed as soon as hoped due to the amount of outdated information that needs to be revised. The new goal is to have it available for church leadership in the summer. Staff still need to provide their information and the new Administrative Assistant (AA) will be responsible for entering this data.
 - The new church app will be generated from the website and is projected to be available in September.
 - **Pastor Committee Attendance:** Pastor Kris wishes to attend fewer committee meetings and requests that Session Committees ask for his presence when his input is required. As the sole staff representative to many of the committees, Pastor Kris needs to better balance his time and hopes Session will accept this request. The new AA will ensure his attendance when requested. Zoom is encouraged.
 - Pastor Kris thanked the Session for their service.
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OTHER BUSINESS

- **2025 Membership Review:** Session reviewed the Active Membership roll list #2. The Session provided comments about persons on this list who may be inactive.
- **Report on the April 5, 2025 PEIA Meeting:**
Prior to the meeting, Co-Moderator of General Assembly Rev. Tony Larson participated in a Q&A. Among the topics he discussed were:
 - Changes in the Worldwide Mission Partners (i.e. Presbyterian missionaries) which includes reducing the workforce by half and redefining their roles.
 - Changes to the Matthew 25 initiative. The office which supported this initiative has been merged with the Office of General Assembly. The initiative remains in place but with less support.
 - PCUSA joined many other denominations in a lawsuit to stop the government executive order allowing immigration arrests inside places of worship.
- Highlights of the PEIA business meeting:
 - Search team for the next Transitional Executive Presbyter announced.
 - Promoted a PEIA workshop on May 17 - 3E: Encourage, Equip, Engage.
 - Voted to close the Presbyterian Church in Mediapolis.
 - Commissioned 20+ people for the Triennium.
- **Strategic Discernment Team:** Nancy Chapman provided an update on the work of this team. She reported the congregation's comments from the April 13, 2025 Strategic Discernment Team presentation at Manna & More. Her comments included how overwhelmingly everyone wanted programs directed at families with children and youth.
The SDT will draft recommended priorities to bring to Session to discern future space and staff requirements. The next meeting is May 7, 2025.

Evaluation of the meeting: It went well, providing written Staff reports is efficient.

ADJOURNMENT

The agenda was completed. No new business was brought to the floor. The Moderator closed the meeting with prayer at 9:20 PM.

The next Stated Meeting of the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Davenport, Iowa will be held May 19, 2025, at 6:30 PM in Von Maur Hall. Zoom will be available.

The Rev. Dr. Kristopher D. Schondelmeyer
Moderator

Julia A. Meyer and Mark Jones
Co-Clerks of Session

Appendix 1: Clerk's Report for April 2025

REPORT OF THE CLERK OF SESSION **APRIL 2025**

I. Membership Changes

Reduction in the Active Membership Roll

The following people were removed from the active membership roll by Session on March 17, 2025, at their request.

- Beth Runkle
- Tony Runkle
- Don Pederson

Death of member

- Irene Huffman died on March 18, 2025. A service in her memory was held on March 28, 2025, at First Presbyterian Church and with the Rev. Dr. Kris Schondelmeyer officiating.

I. Communion

Communion was celebrated on Sunday, April 6, 2025 at the 9:30 AM worship service with the Rev. Dr. Kristopher Schondelmeyer and Rev. Marta Pomroy, Tres Rios Presbytery, officiating.

II. Revision to FPC Operations Manual

Currently the manual states:

‘For the purpose of this policy the “Safety Officer” referred to in this policy shall be a paid staff member designated by the Personnel Committee. **As of 2021, the Personnel Committee designated the Head of Staff as Safety Officer.**’

It is proposed that the sentence in red would be deleted to allow flexibility in choosing the paid staff member without further amendments to the manual.

III. Communication received by the Clerk: Report of the Hilltop Community Development Planning Committee

On March 27, 2025, John Gere and I (Glen Roebuck) attended one of several meetings being hosted by the Hilltop Community. They are presenting information and getting feedback on development planning for the near and distant future. We were able to view a detailed map of the area, hear of potential plans and ideas, as well as listen to the concerns area businesses and residents currently have for the area. A few points:

The map as drafted now has the border of the Hilltop community two blocks West of the church. Thus FPC, as well as many other PUNCH faith communities, are not a part of the formal Hilltop community. Incorporating many churches in this area would provide greater input and synergy into addressing common and shared neighborhood concerns. We recommended extending the border three blocks west to incorporate more churches as well as the shopping center on Locust near our church.

Safety is a shared concern for many, not necessarily related to crime, but in regards to an increasing presence of people experiencing homelessness, as well as traffic and walkability. Loitering is a concern as well as graffiti for some. These are some of the same concerns we have had from perhaps a different perspective. Representatives from the Center who were in attendance reported that the number of unsheltered individuals has increased 40% in our neighborhood over the past year.

There was also discussion on the need to continue to bring more business to the area. We recommended the development of an accurate real time assessment of available retail and residential space in the Hilltop and to create a strategy to fill those spaces. It will not happen by accident.

Given the location of two colleges, a high school and an elementary school within the Hilltop District, making this area exceedingly bike-friendly is somewhat of a "no-brainer."

We will continue to monitor any developments and report back as necessary.

IV. Christian Education Attendance March 2025

	Children and Youth								Adults			
March 2025	Nursery	Pray-ground	Sunday School All Grades	Kirkwood Choir	Cherub Choir	Youth Ministry*	Musik-garten*	Youth Choir	Adult Sunday School	Women of Hope	Contemplative Lenten Series	Bible Basics
3/2 - 3/8	5	9	26	8	3	5/4	4/3	3	8	--	--	Recess
3/9 - 3/15	2	10	Manna & More	#8	NA	3/5	Manna & More	NA	Manna & More	--	--	Recess
3/16 - 3/22	2	10	Recess	Recess	NA	Recess	Recess	Recess	11	5	11	7
3/23 - 3/29	4	9	22	7	NA	9/4	3/2	7	13	--	12	7
3/30 - 3/31	4	11	28	9	NA	11/5	3/2	7	14	--	11	8
Total	17	49	76	32	3	28	10/7	13	46	5	34	22
Weekly avg	3	10	25	8	3	7	3/2	4	12	5	11	7
			#Sang in Worship			*Youth or Children/Adults						

V. Worship Attendance March 2025

March 2024		Cong. Count	Choir & Clergy	Totals
	9:30 AM	81	43	124
	On-line Views			33
3	Total			157
	9:30 AM	80	12	92
	On-line Views			43
10	Total			135
	9:30 AM	81	36	117
	On-line Views			39
17	Total			156
Evensong	7:00 PM	39	25	64
17	Total			64
	9:30 AM	96	58	154
	On-line Views			55
24	Total			209
Maundy Thursday	6:30PM			65
28	Total			65
Good Fri	7:30PM	67	56	123
	On-line Views			38
29	Total			161
Easter	9:30 AM	215	57	272
	On-line Views			55
31	Total			327
Monthly Totals*				984
Weekly Average*				197

On-line views are based on livestream views and other views 2 weeks after the last service of the month. Weekly average is figured on the sanctuary attendance plus views on Facebook and Vimeo. *Monthly totals and weekly average based on Sundays only.

March 2025		Cong. Count	Choir & Clergy	Totals
	9:30 AM	88	42	130
	On-line Views			52
2	Total			182
Ash Wednesday	7:00 PM	34	2	36
5	Total			36
	9:30 AM	77	53	130
	On-line Views			20
9	Total			150
Evensong	7:00 PM	45	20	65
9	Total			65
	9:30 AM	77	14	91
	On-line Views			24
16	Total			115
	9:30 AM	74	35	109
	On-line Views			26
23	Total			135
	9:30 AM	83	41	125
	On-line Views			27
30	Total			152
Monthly Totals*				734
Weekly Average*				147

On-line views are based on livestream views and other views 2 weeks after the last service of the month. Weekly average is figured on the sanctuary attendance plus views on Facebook and Vimeo. *Monthly totals and weekly average based on Sundays only.

Appendix 2: Session Committee Reports, April 2025



Session Committee/ Commission Notes: April 2025

Congregational Fellowship: April 13, 2025

Wanted to let everyone know that we will not be holding a meeting Monday night April 14th. This has been a very busy week for our committee and we were able to discuss upcoming events at the Manna and More that was held April 13th.

Manna and More was a HUGE Success. We served 77 adults and 17 children. We had donations of \$293.00 with expenses of around \$130.00.

Many thanks to everyone that helped make this happen. Matt, Bob, Judy, Paster Kris for bringing a Casserole. Also, our committee members Ralph, Val, Verna, Mariann. Carole, Debra, Jay, Sherry, Rebacca, Marilyn and Denny.

Next event will be April 17th Maundy Thursday Soup dinner.

We will serve 6 different types of soup and bread.

Volunteers that have agreed to help serve and clean up are: Ralph, Val, Carole, Verna, Debra, Jay, Sherry, Marilyn, and Denny.

We will need to arrive at 5:00 to set up, warm up soup, and cut up bread.

Thanks to Marty Bowles Edwards for volunteering to bake 7 loaves of bread.

Submitted by Marilyn Jorgenson



Finance Committee Minutes; March 11, 2025

Present at the meeting were: Tom Spitzfadden, Nancy Chapman, Pam Paulsen, Eric Sholl, Karen Moore, Craig Foster and Kristine Olson. Eric reported that he will be moving soon and we are sorry to lose him.

Karen agreed to take the minutes of the meeting.

The minutes of the February meeting were approved.

January and February financials were reviewed.

There was discussion concerning the two funds that were originally funded by the Mission Connection committee. It was decided to combine the two and delay moving the money until next month.

There was no follow up from the annual meeting or the Financial Annual report.

There was a letter from the insurance company about sexual misconduct liability requirements.

The Personnel Committee should review the information and implement them. The Finance Committee will pay the premium.

Kristine reported that she is struggling with how to report income from RMD's that don't come in on a regular basis. She would like to spread that income equally over the year.

She also is working with Birdies and will send a letter to members soon as to how and when gifts through Birdies will be reported.

Tom and Craig will work with Kristine on the plan for doing the Agreed Upon Procedures with congregational members.

There was a discussion concerning supporting children and families. A written report

will be presented to Session but we did not feel that we would be responsible for it. Vacation Bible School will be held the week of June 16. We will be responsible for lunch one day. We will talk about this next month. Our next meeting will be April 15th and the meeting adjourned with prayer by Pam



Community Outreach Meeting

I (Glen Roebuck) attended the monthly Community Outreach meeting hosted by CHC. Below are a few highlights, please respond to items in **BOLD**:

1. I reminded attendees of the Caring Closet services and hours, and thanked those who attended the very successful and well received Justice Choir Concert (Tapestry Farms was in attendance today, so that connected well with their message shared at the meeting). At the May meeting, I would like to promote the Mental Wellness Concert slated for May. **Matt**, can you make me 30 copies of a flyer for that event (If you are making flyers) and share an electronic copy as well? My meeting is the first Friday in May.
2. Humility Homes continues to seek funding to address the needs of those unhoused, which continues and is not improving. It was also noted that there continues to be a heightened level of trauma experienced on the streets.
3. There is a suicide prevention initiative that has a resource tool called the “just call” card. I have asked to get some of those and can deliver to the church and the Caring Closet.
4. Unity Point is offering outreach education services as well as blood pressure, STD and cancer screenings. **Would we like to host something like this during Caring Closet hours?** Let me know and I can contact people and make arrangements.
5. Reminder: CASI has adult incontinence products if we have a need within the Caring Closet.
6. It was reported today that since January there has been a significant decline in the number of area immigrant women getting health screenings due to fear of ICE involvement. In the long run this represents the potential for significant health care issues for the individuals and our community.
7. The social worker at the Davenport Library has vacated that position; grant funding for the position expires in June and there is no indication of grant renewal at present. The feeling in the room today was that it is likely this position will not be filled.
8. I have asked the organizer of this group to consider tracking the services that are being discontinued due to current federal and state mandates and the reduction of funds. In this way we can get an accurate picture of what we may be losing in our community. For example, two people present today discussed their role in LIHEAP services (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program). LIHEAP was essentially closed or scheduled to close earlier this week at the Federal level. We need to have an understanding locally of how many people each of these reductions impacts locally.

9. There appears to be increased movement of employees between and out of non-profits. Some people present today represented different agencies a few months ago. I anticipate there will be more transition as programs fall under reorganization or closure.



FPC Davenport Strategic Discernment Team Retreat: Discerning the Next 10 Years

Date: March 8, 2025

Time: 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Location: FPC Davenport

Facilitator: Rev. Dr. Kris Schondelmeyer

Retreat Schedule & Activities

9:00 - 9:30 AM | Opening Worship & Centering in God's Presence

- **Sung Worship or Quiet Reflection:** A song & silence to attune hearts to God's leading.
- **Scripture Reading:** Select a passage that emphasizes vision and discernment.
- **Framing the Day:** Facilitator shares the purpose of the retreat and desired outcomes. Talk about congregational assessment and the kinds of things it can help us discern.
 - Are we serving the people who are here with ways to build community and to speak to the concerns of their lives?
 - Who is not represented in this assessment that we need in order to be a vital congregation as we look to the future?
 - Are the priorities of those who filled out the assessment about preparing us for a bold vision for our future? OR Are the priorities about making those presently here feel comfortable?
 - When looking at the assessment alongside our purpose, core values, and mission, is there a vision that emerges for you? And what priorities and resources are needed to achieve that vision?
- **Prayer for Guidance:** Asking the Holy Spirit to lead the process.

Gracious God,

As we gather to seek Your will for our church, help us to let go of our own preferences and desires. Open our hearts and minds to be guided by our Pastor, led by Your Spirit, that we may listen with humility, speak with love, and discern with wisdom. May Your vision guide us, and may we trust that Your plans are greater than our own.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



Strategic Discernment Team meeting March 8, 2025

Flip chart 1: WHERE HAVE WE BEEN, in the past 10 years?

#1 What were significant ministry successes?

Caring Closet

PUNCH Thanksgiving Dinner

PAS

Community Picnic

Homecoming dinner

Deacons refocus-financial, reorg
Choir/music -leadership
Partnering with schools

#2 What challenges did we face?

Steve J. left
Presbytery turmoil
COVID-interim pastor
Decreased Interest from non-members
Community garden
Decrease number of mission trips

#3 Where have we seen God at work?

Caring Closet
Healing the church
Drawing healthy leadership

Flip chart 2:

Reflection questions:

#1 How well do our current ministries align with these?

Align well but need increased publicity
-receipt of values and giving/participation in values
What are we not doing?

#2 What parts of our purpose/core values/mission still resonate?

Based on % of members' involvement, for most part, congregation is on board

#3 What in our programmatic priorities, if anything, needs refining to better live these out?

Need more energy-Umph!
More space to allow increase to happen.
More hands-on partnering with community-many already exist

Flip chart 3-4:

SWOT Analysis of FPC Davenport

Strengths-What are we doing well?

Member care teams
Caring closet
Justice Choir
Preaching
Sanctuary choir, youth choir, etc.
Youth programs
Children's programs
Pickleball
Financial reserves
Staff
Congregation servant leadership
Spacious physical property

Weaknesses-What needs improvement?

Spacious physical property-access, HVAC, kitchen
Lack of vision
Insufficient invitations to join us
20/80 rule
Digital presence
Marketing/evangelism
Deficit budget
Small staff but larger expectations

Paid service vs volunteer from members

Opportunities-What possibilities is God opening for us?

Space to expand accessible space
Programs to engage community (recreational, etc.)
Art-based programming
Houses/properties
Garden area
Scouts-draw people in, need projects
Community partnerships
To offer hands-on opportunities to members
Offer shelter inside the building (after updates to facility)
Engage young families
Engage young adults
Reach out to college students (SAU, Palmer)
Mission trips, youth trips
Inclusivity

Threats-What challenges or obstacles do we face?

Aging building (costly)
Aging congregation (decreasing income; decreasing volunteers)
Deficit budgeting
Perception of more “successful” churches
Neighborhood-safety perception and reality
Lack of education of legacy giving
Church nostalgia-old days were better days

Flip chart 5:

“If our church fully lived into God’s calling, what would it look like in 10 years?”

Community Center “Senior” population, meals, resources, education, arts, wellness-**6 votes**

Small groups -**4 votes**

Space for children/youth-**3 votes**

Center operated BY the community-**1 vote**

Community partnerships-**3 votes**

Community advisory group-**3 votes**

DELP (Davenport Early Learning Project)-**no votes**

Increased focus on time/talent/treasure (stewardship)-**2 votes**

Hands-on Mission-**3 votes**

Caring closet-**6 votes**

Excellence in worship-**7 votes**

Music Ministry-**9 votes**

Financial management-**5 votes**

Member care-**3 votes**

Digital presence-**5 votes**

Discussion/next steps for some priorities from above list:

Music ministry (9 votes): develop strategic goals, do intentional cross training; increase participation in children’s music; consistent attendance in children’s music.

Excellence in worship (7 votes): sabbatical time for pastor with quality preaching while pastor is away, creative arts in worship; volunteers to attend a worship/music conference; measure growth in worship.

Community Center (6 votes): work with volunteers to determine uses and then space needed for uses; ask the congregation: “what do you want?”; possible staff needs- participants pay as they use? What about staff coordination?

Caring Closet (6 votes): need more room for display-need a plan, need kitchen space, involve more volunteers.



Boy Scout Troop 7 (co-ed) First Presbyterian Church of Davenport, Iowa.

The combined troop currently has seven scouts (5 boys and 2 girls) with one scout having recently turned 18. The troop has six active leaders. Though small, the scouts we have are all very active.

Benny Jacobsmeier (the scout who recently turned 18) was able to finish all work needed for Eagle Rank. His Eagle Board of Review is scheduled for May 29th. We anxiously await the results of his board and the opportunity to celebrate a new Eagle Scout, which the troop has not had in many years.

In February the troop held a weekend-long lock-in at FPC and participated with Scout Sunday service with all scouts and 6 leaders in attendance as well as 2 Cub Scouts and Den Leader.

In March the troop had a weekend cabin campout at the Loud Thunder Scout Reserve with 7 scouts and 5 leaders in attendance.

They also participated in a Merit Badge Clinic where 6 scouts each earned an additional merit badge.

The troop held a Quarterly Court of Honor, where we were able to award 7 total rank advancements, 14 total merit badges, and 2 youth leadership positions.

The troop works hard to support itself by participating in fundraising activities to include monthly donut sales in Fellowship Hall, Mama Basso pizza sales, hosting a Trivia night at the LULAC club in west Davenport, and are currently participating in a council wide beef stick sale.

Respectfully Submitted,
Daniel D Darland
Charter Organization Representative



April 14, 2024 minutes

First Presbyterian Church Board of Deacons

Attending Kris Schondelmeyer, Elizabeth Breinich, Nancy Chapman, Sarah Soenksen, Bob Lehnherr, Heidi Pedersen, Connie Connolly, Amy Saskowski, Steve Earp, Sherry Williams, Andy Bowles Edwards, Colleen Duenes, Mason Pedersen, Katrina Williams, John Gere, Lois Boyer, Pat Halverson, Terri Sheetz

Agenda Item	Resp. Party/Time	Detail	Notes
Opening Devotion	Heidi		
Review of Minutes	Terri		
Matthew 25	Terri	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Building Congregational Vitality	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dismantling Structural Racism • Eradicating Systemic Poverty 	
Guest – Tapestry Farms	Anne and Leslie and Nancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnering with them in their mission 	After hearing about the work and needs of Tapestry Farms from founder Ann, the deacons passed a motion to partner with them in providing housing for two immigrant/ refugee families in two properties owned by the foundation.
Member Care follow-up	Colleen Terri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates • Concerns raised at meeting Sunday with members in hospital 	Concerns were raised about the lack of church visits to members in the hospital. This is due to the hospitals no longer informing the church that a member has been admitted to the hospital. Terri to follow up with the hospital to see if certain wording can be removed from the admission forms and to provide information for the e-news letting members know the hospital does not release admission information to the church.
Border mission	Kris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update 	Kris is reviewing information from the meeting with interested church members.
Upcoming events	Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easter Egg Hunt hot dogs 	Kathy to give a minute for mission for Juneteenth celebration and the flip flop/ slider give away.
Volunteer Coord.	Andy Edwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates 	Sign up to go out in bulletin in April
Outreach	Sarah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates • Picnic 	Kids Against Hunger is April 27 Andy Bowles Edwards is looking into the cost of the tent and bouncy house for the church picnic which will be September 7.
Member Care	Colleen Duenas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates 	Colleen is planning a family game night sometime after Labor Day. Mason is planning a young adult's electric game night for October to coincide with Halloween. Steve is planning a night at the ballpark for the men with son/daughter similar to the Women/daughter tea for June.
Mission Connection	John Gere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates 	
Closing Prayer	Heidi		

Appendix 3: Staff Reports, April 2025

FPC Staff Reports: April 2025



Jim Middleton, Director of Office Administration

- Outside digital signage was installed the first week of April with final installation of cosmetic panels finished the week of April 7th .
- Breeze implementation is continuing with the cleanup of the data that was moved from Church Windows. The initial round of multiple User Role configuration setups are being finalized, tested and implemented.
- The Breeze end user interface is being configured.
- Preparation for Holy Week continues with production and printing of the bulletin, inserts and announcements.



Matt Bishop, Director of Music and Arts

- The Justice Choir of the Midwest held its spring concert on March 23 on the theme of Migrant Justice and raised over \$2,500 for Tapestry Farms, which went to provide legal services to a family from Nicaragua who had their asylum status revoked by the Trump administration without warning. Additionally, JCM sang on April 6 during Rev. Marta Pumroy's presentation.
- FPC hosted Ring of Kerry for their PAS concert on March 29, and they provided a wonderful evening of traditional Irish music. To produce the show, we purchased some additional microphones and mic stands. Jim Middleton worked at least 20 hours on this production – huge thank you to Jim!
- On April 13 we hosted the Nova Singers (who usually sing at St. Paul), who drew a large and enthusiastic crowd.
- At the time of writing this report, I am preparing for Holy Week, specifically the Good Friday service that will feature the Sanctuary Choir, Vesper Bells, and chamber orchestra.
- Looking ahead to the May 18th Mental Wellness concert – I have established connections with NAMI and Free Mom Hugs, and Kristine Oswald and Malinda Velasquez have gathered additional resources that will aid in what will be an extraordinary concert that will feature the Sanctuary Choir, Chamber Chorale, Vesper Bells, and Quad Cities Youth Choir.
- Also looking ahead to the Flamy Grant Concert on May 31/June 1 and working with Clock Inc., Main-Stream.org, Free Mom Hugs, and Affirming Congregations of the QCs (whose meetings I attend every month) to promote the event.
- Clock Inc. has asked me to direct a Pride Pop Up Choir, that will rehearse in May and June and sing a few pieces on the evening of June 6 at the Pride Festival at Schwiebert Park – signups are currently underway.

- I continue to work closely with ACFEA in final preparations for our Italy tour in July. There will be 52 people participating in this tour.



Abby Schondelmeyer and Marty Bowles Edwards, Co-directors of Christian Education and Fellowship with Youth

Youth Group has enjoyed a close and regularly attending group of Youth and Adult Mentors, as they meet weekly. We used the Lent curriculum that is being used in worship and Sunday morning for Sunday School. We had a wonderful time hearing Rev. Marta Pumroy speak on April 6. Our last youth group of the school year will be May 4. We would appreciate another male mentor. If you are interested or have an idea please let us know. You get to hang out on Sunday evenings with some pretty awesome youth.

April 27 will be an intergenerational hands-on mission project, Kids Against Hunger, to be held at 4pm in the Fellowship Hall. It is being organized by the Deacons.

Sunday School enjoyed the Lent curriculum that was being used for Sunday worship and youth group. We appreciate the support of all involved on Sundays and the entire congregation. Our final Sunday School this school year will be held on May 4 with a party. The playground will be available all summer. We will have extra crafts and activities available.

In conjunction with Kathy Middleton, we will be hosting an end of the year party outside (weather permitting). It will include all families with children / youth.

VBS Compassion Camp: All God's Creatures will take place June 16-20 from 9am - 12:15pm. Come learn how God Created Me! God Created You! God Created Everything! And it is Good! Session Committee support for lunches will be requested and greatly appreciated. Meal suggestions include: Hot Dogs (Tuesday / Finance Committee), Chicken Nuggets and Fries, Macaroni and Cheese, Ham /Turkey and Cheese Sandwiches, Pizza (Friday / Music and Worship). Thank you to those that have already let us know.

We are working with the Fellowship Committee, and Worship and Music Staff for planning the next Manna and More Intergenerational Sunday. The next and final one this school year will be May 18th and will be a graduate and volunteer reception. Graduates and volunteers will also be recognized in worship that morning.



Kristine Olson, Director of Financial and Business Administration

- March 2025 Financials were provided to Finance Committee 4/11/2025. Assuming no changes, I will provide the FINAL March 2025 Financials to Session for the April Meeting.
 - o Session Committees meeting after April 15, will receive March Committee financials prior to their April meetings. Committees/Deacons who have already met will receive these approved reports for their May meetings. If you have any questions, please let me know.
- Breeze implementation has started. I will be working with Rev. Dr. Kris & Finance Committee regarding the online giving platform within Breeze. This will eventually replace Vanco, ideally before the next Stewardship Campaign begins.

- I have been working with Jim to obtain a QuickBooks Online Advanced license from TechSoup for \$170 this month. A draft of my summary QB Implementation Plan will be presented at the April Finance Meeting.
 - o Implementation will be an ongoing process that is expected to last at least through October 2025.
 - o Craig Foster and Jed Steckel have offered their assistance during the implementation and transition to QB Online.
- Per the Policies & Procedures Review, the Cash Count Procedures received a recommendation surrounding the timing of cash deposits. I will be presenting draft proposal for this change at the April Finance Meeting.
 - o The next Policies & Procedures Review will be for the Year 2024 and will be conducted in-house. This is anticipated to be in late April or May, pending availability of volunteers with audit, finance, or accounting background.
- Quarterly Giving Statements have been printed and Pam Paulsen has volunteered to assist me with stuffing envelopes. These will be mailed on Tuesday, 4/15/2025.
- I have a partial draft of the 2025 Birdies for Charities letter to be sent out this month. Tom Spitzfaden has offered to assist with this.
- As a reminder, please submit APPROVED expense reimbursements to the Finance Office by the 8th and 23rd of each month to ensure payment by the 15th and Last Day of each month, respectively. Unapproved expense reports may result in a delay in processing your reimbursement requests.
- I have scheduled PTO Wednesday, April 16, Wednesday, April 23, and the morning of Friday, April 18th.