

Churches of Des Moines Presbytery have much to Celebrate!

1. We are a combination of many different churches who have previously closed and that makes it very welcoming. We combine with other northside churches for some worship and choir events. We support schools in our neighborhood as well as Cross Outreach and the DMARC food pantry.
2. The church has been around for a long time and is friendly and tries to help our city needs, too.
3. We are active in local mission activities.
4. "Every year we have a fall festival. The festival includes a parade, games, live music, a vibrant auction, a snack shack open all day and a big
5. meal to end the day. It is a huge church activity that brings in several surrounding communities."
6. "We participate in the Dallas Center Ministerial Alliance.
7. We have let other ""not-for-profit"" groups use our facility at no (or at a reduced) charge.
8. We celebrated our centennial in 2019!"
9. We are doing more as a Congregation and reaching out to the Community.
10. "The youth trips, the many places for food donations/personal care items, activities open to the public, fine arts series, Anchor Coffee House,
11. LGBTQ - Partnership, Visual Arts displays, PW Circles + mission work, Men's group, Westminster Wednesdays."
12. Our new pastor is working so hard and wants to help us improve. She is on fire for the Lord.
13. We are committed to being open and affirming to the LGBTQ community.
14. We are comfortable with those who are regular attendees. Few are willing to get out in the community and invite others to visit. Our community has 25 churches for a very small population so people are spread thinly to all churches. However, there are many who are still non church goers who are disillusioned with church and while they may claim a particular church as theirs, they do not regularly attend. Our church just built an addition to our building with all commercial utilities thinking that we could host people who lack the ability to get well balanced meals. While we don't have the manpower to serve meals all by ourselves, we know of another church who will volunteer to help. Something exciting to look forward to when trying to follow Christ's words of "feeding the poor". While our folks are getting to be rather aged, we can still cook and wash dishes!
15. We have a "spirit" not seen in a lot off churches
16. We have a dedicated membership.
17. We are adding on a commercial grade kitchen to start a feeding program for our community.
18. Although we only have a membership of 63 people and most of the members are over 60, we have many activities and fundraising events with most of the members who are physically able participating. We do not have children and we have no new growth. I am truly afraid that our church can't survive without new members.
19. "We as the United Baptist Presbyterian Church in Mount Ayr, Iowa, already did question #19, to some good effect. However, the question still remains, is earthly success (butts in the pews, numbers in the bank, and a visible external service ministry) in our church's DNA or did we just forestall the inevitable, given our community's decline and our culture's social and economic shifts?"
20. We are using some endowment money to enlarge our kitchen, and are working with other churches n our town to feed hungry people.
21. We have hosted FEMA Disaster Recovery Assistance following the April and May tornadoes in Ringgold County and Decatur Counties (Greenfield)
22. We host the Veteran's Mobile Clinic Every other month.

23. Our Pastor is active in our local ministerial association, and we are one of two churches who regularly support the associations human needs ministry.
24. So for all our challenges, I feel as if we are doing our part locally."
25. We are "mission motivated" meaning we spend money regularly to support mission both in our community and abroad (we have local contacts in both Africa and Haiti/Dominican Republic). This money goes to these contacts directly, not to Presbytery.
26. We have a dedicated membership.
27. "We will be celebrating our 150th anniversary in June 2025!
28. We have had 3 new people start attending on a regular basis since Easter Sunday
29. We had a congregation member give a large donation for us to replace the church carpet
30. We see small signs of growth and pray they continue!"
31. Excellent music program, a lot of participation in various mission programs, our children's Sunday school program had died, but it has been resurrected and doing great.
32. We work hard to meet our community's needs.
33. Our pastor is excellent! My family and the congregation loves her.
34. We have diverse congregation and are open to new ways to bring in new members and reach out in the community.
35. Our church is very mission oriented. We do many events as outreach to our local community. Bible study groups are vibrant at our church.
36. Lay leadership during interim period.
37. "We sponsor refugee families. We have joined AMOS. We loan our kitchen to immigrant entrepreneurs. We welcome all with obvious signage and open arms.
38. Our worship is full of variety. Our sermons are topical and speak to justice."
39. We actively reach out to do good in the community.
40. Positive, engaging, community focused outlook. Attuned to the needs of the diverse community we live in.
41. The Youth group is out and about in the community each week the church members take part in community activities faith & grace garden packing backpacks Meals From The Heartland Wildwood Ranch in Winterset IA
42. We do not have a full time pastor currently, but hope to be filling the position soon! We have a musical church. Our WOW program started back up, trying to get the word out to our community and hope more join us.
43. We strongly support the food pantry and strive to be a presence in the community.
44. Very active although due to an aging congregation, fewer and fewer are able to help.
45. The sense of family in our congregation
46. We have a vibrant youth and family midweek program. We have an excellent program staff, and we have a foundation whose contributions to the church allow us to sustain our ministry into the foreseeable future. We have about 900 member and \$1.4m in revenue.
47. Mission oriented. Willing to try new things
48. We have been through some hard times, but we are still here.
49. We conduct a Food Pantry Dinner as a fundraising effort and donate the proceeds to the local neighborhood Outreach center.
50. Mission
51. WE try to have a meal, potluck, cookout once a month.
52. We are very friendly to all people and those who visit can feel that in our church.

53. "Mission committee active with helping new immigrants and local food banks
54. Pastor is positive, optimistic leader whose sermons are inspiring and relevant to today's time and temperament"
55. We are inclusive.
56. We are actively pursuing ways to contribute to the wellbeing of our community. Worship is beautiful, relevant, and empowering.
57. "We have a Presbyterian Women's group.
58. We have lunches after funeral services.
59. We had the Fourth of July community service at our church this year."
60. We have an extremely close church family, with one of the prettiest church's in our community.
61. Bright, educated, willing and open to new ideas and programs
62. We are a family
63. We are truly a family of Christ. We care for each other.
64. Extremely friendly and welcome new members
65. I feel God's spirit is moving and active in our church because even when we have had difficulties He has brought us through it. I know that He wants us here in this area because of this. There is work to do and support to give.
66. Church family is strong. We care for each other. We give back to our community, any way we can
67. Friendly and welcoming
68. "When a church function is happening. most people that are able are there to help out or help by giving!!
69. We have lost some Key people in the past years!! I am a fairly ""New"" member
70. So, there are questions that were ask
71. I was not sure how to answer!! I very giving and close Congregation we have!!"
72. We are small but mighty!
73. "Alternative Gift Market
74. Artisan Fair
75. Community Harvest Dinner
76. Strong leadership and vibrant worship"
77. Several are willing to help and do so, but we need more.
78. We have new member classes multiple times a year, and are good about getting new members involved in the church life right away.
79. We have a group called God's Girls that meet regularly and do fellowship and crafty things. It is strong part for our church,. and they go beyond our own church with service to the community and God!
80. We have an active group of ladies, known as "God's Girls." They do arts and crafts each week. They sell these items at our suppers and at yard sales. We relish the idea that we are a church family.
81. Placing our building on the Historical Building National Registry, and become part of the tourist industry in Winterset; it would likely increase the visibility of Presbyterian Church and add an additional outreach role.
82. We have a group of people who are active and energetic and doing God's work when needed. We have a group called God's Girls who amaze me by their commitment to doing good works. They have a nice group of mostly women but can solicit men to help when needed. our congregation is always "on call" and is helpful and ready to go to work when asked.

83. We are a strong church family that is aging rapidly. But if someone is in need, we all step up in whatever capacity we can muster. We are open to all who walk through our doors and work hard at being welcoming.
84. "Many things:
85. Active engagement by LOTs of members. Committees are active, adult studies have over 40-50 people participating (4 women's studies, 1 men's and adult Sunday School), fellowship is much appreciated before and after church and at other events, great choir (at least 12 each Sunday), great special music, etc. etc.
86. Strong involvement in Mission. Many members engaged in community mission (reading buddies, free clothing exchange sorting, prepping and delivering meals to YSS, Connection Cafe, food pantry, little food box), as well as support of El Salvador mission and PCUSA offerings
87. Well-developed Deacon's program for member nurturing/care.
88. Wonderful pastoral message each Sunday with great administrative skills and personal care as well."
89. Our Outreach Committee sponsors truck or treat on Halloween. We have amazing turn out.
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91. We love enjoying fellowship time with each other. We are an extremely friendly group.
92. "We have wonderful music and our youth, while small in number, are energetic and involved.
93. We are a family/strong sense of community."
94. More than 50% are retired, sandwiched between taking care of our elderly parents and providing care for our grandchildren
95. Our support of the canton in Corozal El Salvador
96. We will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the building this fall.
97. "Our church provides food three times per week using leftover food items from Grinnell College, Mayflower home and Kum and Go Stations to people who are in need or unable to prepare food on their own.
98. Our Mission Committee is actively supporting the Dakota Presbytery by providing funds for sewing machines and sewing supplies as well as materials to be used in the training of CRE's who desire to be ordained."
99. we devote 20% of all giving to mission, including local, regional, national, and worldwide
100. We have several missions both in our community and globally. In our community we are part of a group of churches who began feeding children in the summer when the schools quit halfway through the summer. This has gone on for several years now and out number increase every year. We received a grant this year to help with the purchase of some of the food. Very grateful for that. We also participate in providing Backpacks with schools supplies every year. Our church is the hub for the Appalachia Service project which was started by a member of our congregation decades ago. This project goes to the Appalachian mountains every summer to help provide the people with home repairs to make their home warmer, safer and drier. This involve adults and youth in high school.
101. We seem to be committed to walk the walk when it comes to being open and affirming.
102. "Excellent location in Beaverville which is centrally located in Des Moines and very close to Drake University. Lots of opportunities to grow membership. Church has an excellent pre school area and large space with kitchen for family activities.
103. The thriving congregations in the suburbs are strongly leaning into family and multigenerational activities to engage members. Westminster is not focusing their efforts on attracting new members and crafting relationships with the members they have."

104. We have taken it to be our mission to help with food insecurity in our community. We grow a mission garden each year that supplies white and sweet potatoes to our local food pantry. We also have an drive thru dinner which is very successful in the community that the proceeds go to support our local food pantry.
105. Have had a partner community in El Salvador for 14 years. Spend approximately \$10,000 per year on the El Salvador mission.
106. We have strong musical ability in our church but need younger people to carry it on, we do monthly food pantries that serve 300 people, we have a strong commitment to doing outreach and mission work, we have knowledgeable members in the realm of finance and investments, we have a beautiful church that has had ongoing improvements (new roof, new kitchen, newer bathrooms, new windows, new plumbing, newer sound system, new and improved heating and air conditioning, currently renovating Fellowship Hall and stage).
107. We actively support our local food pantry with an annual fund raiser and a mission garden where produce is donated to the food pantry.
108. "We sponsor an annual summer day camp for neighborhood kids.
109. Annual Trunk or Treat reaching several hundred children in the neighborhood.
110. Summer love lunches program providing over 1,000 free lunches each summer to children and families.
111. Mission partnership with Corozal, El Salvador.
112. Numerous other ministries to help the hungry in Ankeny and the metro area."
113. We are good at welcoming new people
114. Our children's ministry attendance is growing.
115. We continue to examine ways to serve God while recognizing change will continue to be with us as we move forward as a congregation.
116. Lots of involvement in "mission" type activity.
117. We house a food pantry. Our church is a safe place for all people in case of tornadoes, etc. It's safe place for local elementary school in case of emergency
118. Strong community and good traditional service, but children often move away and leave us with a shortage of younger members.
119. Mission based and seeking new ways to reach out in the community.
120. We are mission driven. We also have an active outreach. Committee that has a multi printed plan to contact and attract possible new members that includes mailings social media, neigh or hood activities and members inviting neighbors.
121. Mission and Music
122. Provide space for community groups to meet, strong support and participation with OSP and DJC, strong music programs, adjusted youth programs to Wednesdays for better participation than Sunday mornings.
123. Our outreach programs at YSS, TAKE, AMOS, LOVE LUNCHES, FOOD BANK, SCHOOL READING PROGRAM
124. We are mission-oriented and welcome all.
125. We are a very caring community of faith. Our Pastoral leadership is exceptional. Our members are very committed. We reach out into the community regularly and enjoy being part of the family of God.
126. We qualified for the legacy grant & used those funds to purchase backpacks and supplies for our students in our community. We have a few young couples with children trying hard to revitalize our

youth program. We have bible studies regularly, in addition to Lenten and advent studies. We are able to have Sunday School, but attendance is low.

127. We have, in general, great people who are members of our church.
128. We are active and seeking a full-time pastor to lead us in new Christian endeavors in our community.
129. A few families with young children are very committed to the church; Sunday School has been back for a few years now. Music ministry is vibrant. There is always a good response to requests for mission support.
130. There's a ton of love between the members.
131. Our church people are wonderful and care about others and always think about helping others!
132. Four new members and three infant baptisms in the last three months.
133. We are faithful. Almost everyone participates in the life and work of our church.
134. We are rural and population is small and elderly. We have children, and men attending Sunday School regularly being led by women.
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136. Our Pastor is extraordinary, strong in faith and a great leader.
137. Regular Sunday School
138. We have a shared ministry with lay people participating in Worship, Teaching, Governance, mission service, support for community improvement.
139. We have a relationship with El Salvador
140. "When a community, ecumenical service scheduled to be held outside on the court house square was moved to inside our church due to rain (July 2024) our sanctuary was FULL. It was amazing! The Lancaster Christian Church pastor gave the sermon and was so impressed with our sanctuary, he later brought his parents (who lived out-of-state) to see our pipe organ. He had never been in a church with a pipe organ and had never heard one being played before.
141. We have a lovely, well-maintained building.
142. Our congregation is small but loyal.
143. We continue to serve funeral dinners for the bereaved, even though our congregation is down to about 20 people."
144. The daycare that is housed in our church is thriving!
145. Improvement AV and sound
146. We have completed a six-figure capital improvement campaign, successfully funding all projects with enough funds to cover a few extra things.
147. Our church has started ministries for people with struggles from poverty: emergency and temporary shelter, job training, placement, food and furnishings - making them affordable. The newest thing seems to be ways to response to the climate crisis.
148. Even though we are still recovering from the covid shut down, we have gained new members each year. Our church thrives on evangelism, being active in the community, supporting missions and creating new missions for the church to participate in and to help provide for our community. I am very happy to be a part of such a loving and supportive church family.
149. We have a group of ladies called "Gods Girls", we do crafts for the elderly, we donate to the nursing homes and so on. We do gift cards for the food pantry in our town.
150. Everything is good and, relatively positive but, we are not getting many new members, not enough to offset those that die and, those that leave for other churches.

151. Our pastor is a progressive liberal who forces his agenda on the members, most recently, forcing a LGBTQ statement of inclusion on us. He did this through deception and guile.
152. We have a core of dedicated members who seek to live out our mission.
153. We participate in a lot of community outreach events and ministries - We have a wonderful piano / organ player and choir director
154. "Our congregation has traditionally had members who were/are visible and prominent leaders in our local community.
155. We are leaders in social causes."
156. We are mission focused and it shows.
157. We have many active women working at fundraising and missions within a for our community and surrounding communities. We are known to be a very friendly and welcoming church to visitors and potential new members and find they like the feeling of "family" with in the whole congregation.
158. This congregation is located near the heart of town and has an historical presence in the community. Although small, it remains committed to having an active presence and witness.
159. "The number of children in our congregation is growing.
160. Our mission ministries are vibrant and provide many opportunities for member participation.
161. Our worship attendance over the summer has increased by 32%."
162. "Harvest Festival is our money making event for the year and helps fill the budget.
163. VBS was a success this year with more youth than we have been having."
164. We have in the last three years focused our missional purpose to our community. Recently started End of the Month meals for the homeless with tow other churches.
165. Very strong and growing youth group!