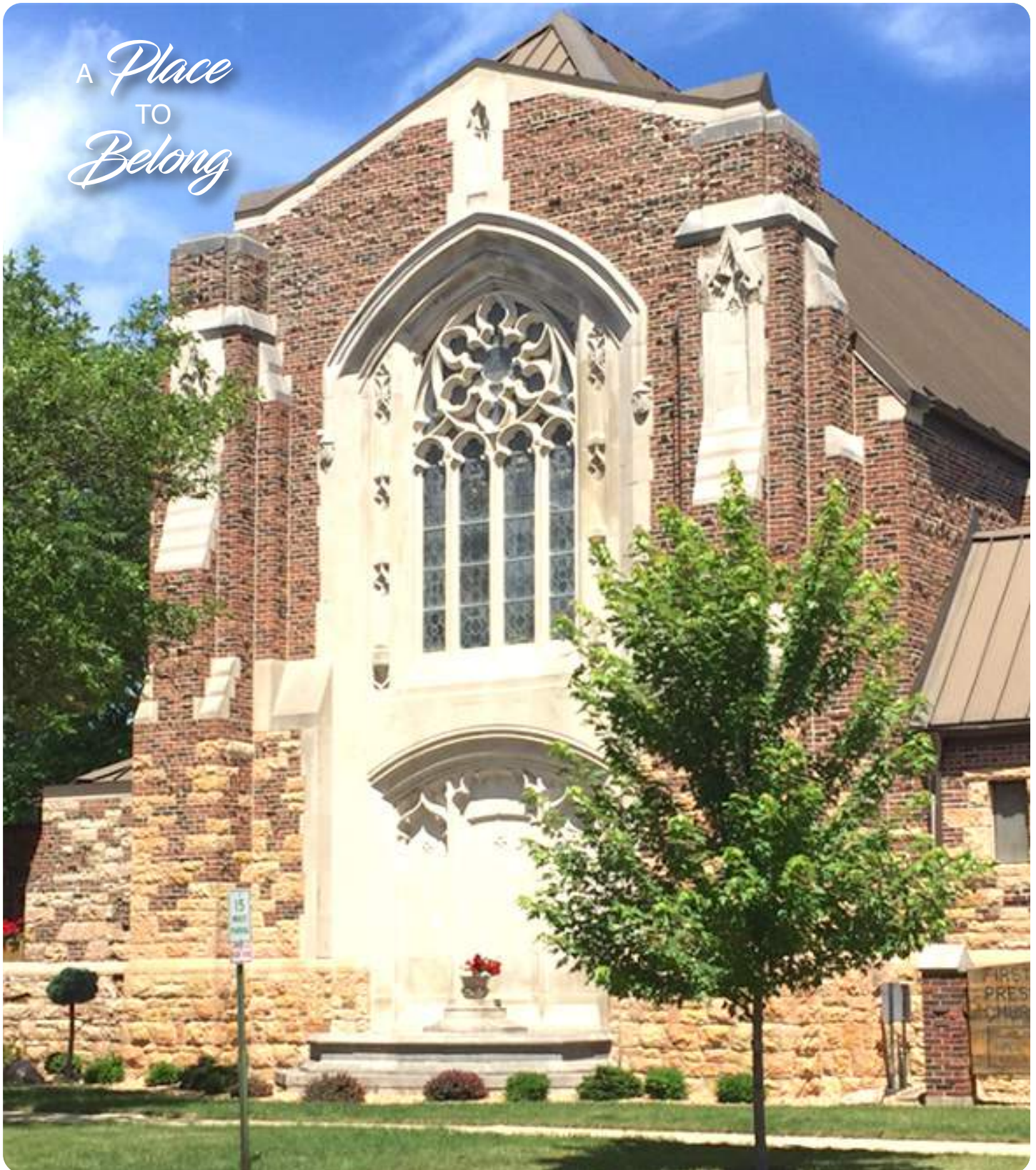


*A Place
TO
Belong*



First Presbyterian of Albert Lea Church Profile & Pastor's Job Description

308 Water Street, Albert Lea, MN 56007 • 507-373-2035

ABOUT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ALBERT LEA

Established in 1868, First Presbyterian Church of Albert Lea celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2018. For over 150 years, we've honored the past and strive toward the future. We seek to honor God and share the

truth, love, and salvation message of Jesus Christ. Through the generosity of our congregation we continue to make an impact through significant outreach in ministries, programming for all ages, and through special events..



OUR VISION STATEMENT

We BELIEVE that God loves
ALL people
and we are CALLED
to IMPACT our world
with the LOVE
and MESSAGE
of JESUS CHRIST.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Making disciples
to glorify God!

WHAT WE BELIEVE

We believe that Jesus Christ must remain at the center of our lives and make disciples of Jesus the core of our ministry.

We believe the Bible is the unique and authoritative Word of God which teaches all that is necessary for faith and life. The prominence of God's Word over our lives shapes our priorities, and the unrivaled authority of the Bible directs our actions to be in concert with Christ's very best for our lives.

We believe in living out the whole of the Great Commission - evangelism, spiritual formation, compassion, and redemptive justice - in our communities and the world.

We believe in calling people to the core of what it means to be the followers of Jesus - what "mere Christianity" is and does- and not fixate on the boundaries.

We believe identifying and developing gospel-centered leaders is critical for the church, and that a great leadership culture is risk-taking and innovative.

We believe our congregation should vigorously produce new missionary communities to expand the Kingdom of God.

We are part of a growing movement

With much prayer and consideration, First Presbyterian Church became a part of ECO in 2016. By an overwhelming decision, we became a part of the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians. A rapidly growing Presbyterian denomination serving the local church, ECO reclaims a sense of covenanted biblical community, flourishing to make disciples of Jesus Christ. We affirm the Essential Tenets of ECO.

*"Our purpose as believers
is to glorify God
and to enjoy Him forever."
Westminster Confession of Faith*

OUR COMMUNITY

Albert Lea, also known as "The Land Between The Lakes", is nestled between Albert Lea Lake and Fountain Lake. Albert Lea offers unique attractions; you'll learn about our area at the Freeborn County Historical Museum, and enjoy the Albert Lea Art Center and Marion Ross Performing Arts Center. With over 40 city parks, Myre-Big Island State Park and our lakes, recreational opportunities and green spaces abound.

This is a wonderful place to visit and to call home, with great schools and safe neighborhoods. Commerce here includes entrepreneurs and locally-owned industry. Albert Lea is made up of 82% White, 13% Hispanic, 3% Asian and 2% African-American people.

Breathtaking wildlife and beauty along the Blazing Star Bike Trail, the fountains at Denmark Park, Bayside Water Ski Shows, and scenic tours aboard the Pelican Breeze cruise boat all give Albert Lea its unique signature.

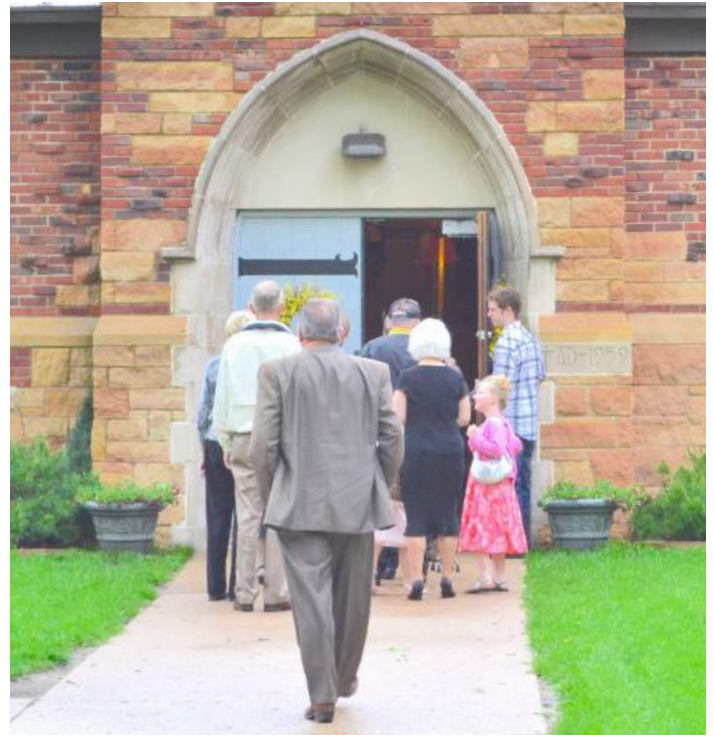
Annual festivals and events include the 4th of July Fireworks and Car Show, Land Between the Lakes Triathlon, Eddie Cochran Weekend, Wander the Lake Half Marathon, Rock-the-Lakes Bike Event, Big Island Barbecue Cookoff, Big Island Rendezvous, Freeborn County Fair and The Big Freeze. Historic Downtown Albert Lea hosts summertime Wind-down Wednesdays on Broadway, Thursdays on Fountain, with music, food and entertainment!



OUR FELLOWSHIP

Here at First Presbyterian Church, we make opportunities to come together to experience God's blessings and share both good and bad times. Our committees and staff offer events for congregation and community to gather for meals and other activities so we can enjoy getting to know each other better. We plan age-specific events throughout the year.

- Potato Bar
- Soup and Pie Supper
- Coffee Fellowship following Sunday Service
- Men's Breakfast the Saturday before Easter
- Easter Breakfast
- Women's special events
- Steak N Guys in September
- Choir
- Choir cantatas
- KidZone Christmas Concert
- Christian education for all ages on Sunday morning
- Bible studies
- Frontline & Highlife for youth on Wednesdays
- KidZone childrens' program on Wednesdays



OUR DISCIPLESHIP

First Presbyterian Church offers a number of educational opportunities for all ages.

SUNDAY MORNINGS

9:00 am – Education Hour

- Nursery as needed
- Sunday Adventures- preschool through 5th Grade
- Journey- 6th-12th Grades
- Faith Café - adults

10:00 am Worship

- Each week we offer either a children's sermon, or the kids are released from the worship service to go to Adventureland Kids (children's church) down in lower level chapel.

DURING THE WEEK

- **Men's Bible Study** - On Monday mornings staff leads men, chapter by chapter, verse by verse through the Bible. Fellowship, laughter, coffee and treats!
- **Women's Bible Study** - On Wednesday mornings, staff leads in discussions and studies of the Bible. These traditional studies are a highlight for the week.

- **KidZone** - On Wednesday afternoons after school, staff and volunteers nurture and shepherd K-5th Grade students in our community as they build friendships. Includes games, crafts, age-appropriate Bible lessons, snacks, rockin' worship music, and videos leading children on a lively journey of discovery, growing a generation who love God and want to learn more about His will for their lives.
- **Frontline/Highlife** - On Wednesday evenings, staff lead games, worship, small group discussions, which includes food / treats. This provides a fast-paced program focused on topics, issues and problems relevant to their specific age group. We believe our teens are faced with unique challenges and opportunities, and our goal is to help prepare them to make the most of these situations. We also have special activities beyond Wednesday evenings designed only for them: fun events, service opportunities, and mission trips.
- **PrimeTimers** - senior adults meet once a month for either a meal, a meal and program, or classic movie.

SUMMERTIME

- **Mission trips** for teens either locally, domestically, or internationally.
- **Vacation Bible School (VBS)** for K-5th Grade. Sometimes held over a week, sometimes over one Saturday.
- **G.Race On Wednesday (G.R.O.W.)** is contemporary family worship time held on selected Wednesdays in the lower level chapel.



OUR WORSHIP

Worship services at First Presbyterian Church are of major importance. We worship in our beautiful sanctuary featuring stained glass windows, utilizing large TV monitors to display videos, announcements, and hymn lyrics as we sing our praises. Our worship services are livestreamed on YouTube for shut-ins and also serve as a mission outreach to those beyond our congregation. Our pipe organ, grand piano, choir director, choir and praise band support our worship services with music. Before worship, we greet people at each door to welcome them. After the service, we have a large fellowship hall where the congregation and guests are welcome to visit over coffee and treats.

OUR LEADERSHIP & STAFF

Our governing body is our Session, comprised of 15 adult Elders serving staggered 3-year terms, and one youth Elder who serves a one-year term. Elders are nominated then elected by the congregation. They meet at church on the first Tuesday of each month. The Elders lead our committees. We also have 12 Deacons and 12 Visiting Deacons, who also serve 3-year staggered terms.

Our staff is well-rounded and brings a wealth of experience to our church.

- Diane Aysta, Office Administrator
- Dean Christianson, Christian Education Director
- Ryan Grimmius, Custodian
- Dan Jones, Technical Support/Programming
- Sue Jorgenson, Choir Director
- Steve Piper, Youth and Family Director
- Rebekah Sousa, Organist

OUR OUTREACH

First Presbyterian Church has taken seriously, the admonition to be Jesus' witnesses "in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth' (Acts 1:8). We work to fulfill this mission as we reach beyond our church family to connect with the community and world through service and ministry. Here are a few of the ministries we participate in or partner with:

- Ecumenical Food Pantry
- Compassion International (church families sponsoring children from Honduras)
- Operation Christmas Child
- Bolthouse Flying Medical Mission
- Jamaican Ministry (JACOM)
- Sudanese Ministry (sharing our facilities with a Sudanese congregation)
- Shinefest
- And many others....

OUR DEMOGRAPHICS

As of the end of 2019,
First Presbyterian Church
had 527 members.

ages 0-10	6%
ages 11-18	23%
ages 19-35	14%
ages 36-50	18%
ages 51-70	19%
ages 71+	20%

Average Sunday worship
attendance, before the
pandemic in 2019 was 186.

SENIOR PASTOR/HEAD OF STAFF JOB DESCRIPTION

Our congregation is seeking to call a Senior Pastor/Head of Staff who:

- has their beliefs rooted in Scripture
- exudes a love relationship with the Lord
- is devoted to the service of Christ and the church, faithfully giving oneself to pastoral work, truly feeling God's calling to our church
- preaches, teaches the Word of God and administers the sacraments
- shall lead the church to fulfill its mission statement of "making disciples to glorify God"
- coaches and disciples the staff and session to develop a team ministry
- willingly visits and counsels members of the congregation
- partners with lay leadership to empower church ministries to expand the kingdom of God
- enables the church to discern God's vision
- loves and practices making disciples
- participates in the Upper Midwest ECO Presbytery

Desired characteristics:

- **Strong Biblical Foundation** - knows and shares Scripture through academic study and personal application of God's truth
- **Prayful and wise** - submits to God's wisdom and guidance in everything
- **Persuasive** - good at convincing people to consider becoming transformed followers of Jesus Christ
- **Approachable** - easy to talk to and with
- **Bold** - shares Gospel with confidence and courage
- **Relational** - outgoing, initiating contact with people
- **Joyful** - exhibits seeds of trust and contentment in Jesus regardless of circumstances

Challenges to be addressed:

- Connecting with a younger generation
- Increasing involvement of our members in the ministries and programs of the church as well as various ecumenical ministries in the community
- Disciple making

Qualifications:

- Master of Divinity, or its equivalent from an accredited seminary
- Committed to Reformed Theology and joyfully embraces ECO's Essential Tenets and Confessional Standards
- Five years of successful experience as senior / associate pastor

Accountability:

The pastor, called primarily to the Word and sacrament, will be senior member and head of the church staff, responsible to First Presbyterian Church of Albert Lea and to the Upper Midwest ECO Presbytery. The role and responsibilities the pastor may be further refined from time to time as indicated by the needs of the church and by mutual agreement of the pastor and the session, so long as such agreement does not conflict with the provisions of the ECO Confessional Standards or the provisions of the terms of call.



WE INVITE YOU TO APPLY

We have witnessed God's abiding care for our congregation through the last 153 years. Our current pastor has been with us 28 years and is retiring. Now, we seek a new Senior Pastor and we trust God will continue to be steadfast. Thank you for reviewing our profile as an opportunity to learn more about our church and community. While this document cannot reflect every unique characteristic of our congregation, we hope it serves to introduce who we are and what we value. Thank you for your interest in First Presbyterian Church. We pray faithfully for our next leader and we are eager to see what God has planned for our future.

APPLICATION PROCESS

We request that all candidates submit the following in order to be considered:

- 1-page letter of introduction which describes the reasons you are looking into this position. Please address how you would support our church's mission of "making disciples to glorify God."
- Resume
- 3 to 5 references who can speak to your gifts, character, and/or ministry experience.
- Links to 3 to 5 recent sermons in video or audio format.

All information can be emailed, preferable in PDF format, to firstpressearchteam@gmail.com.

It can also be mailed to:

First Presbyterian Church
ATTN: Search Team
308 Water Street
Albert Lea, MN 56007

Any questions about the position, the church, or the community, please contact:

Joe Johnston
507-402-0870
firstpressearchteam@gmail.com



A *Place* TO *Belong!*

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(507) 373-2035
churchoffice@firstpres.us • www.firstpres.us