

*A Church in the Country ... for the Community*

# COLFAX CENTER

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCA)

PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

### CHURCH PROFILE

18935 K Avenue  
Holland, IA 50642  
319.824.5231



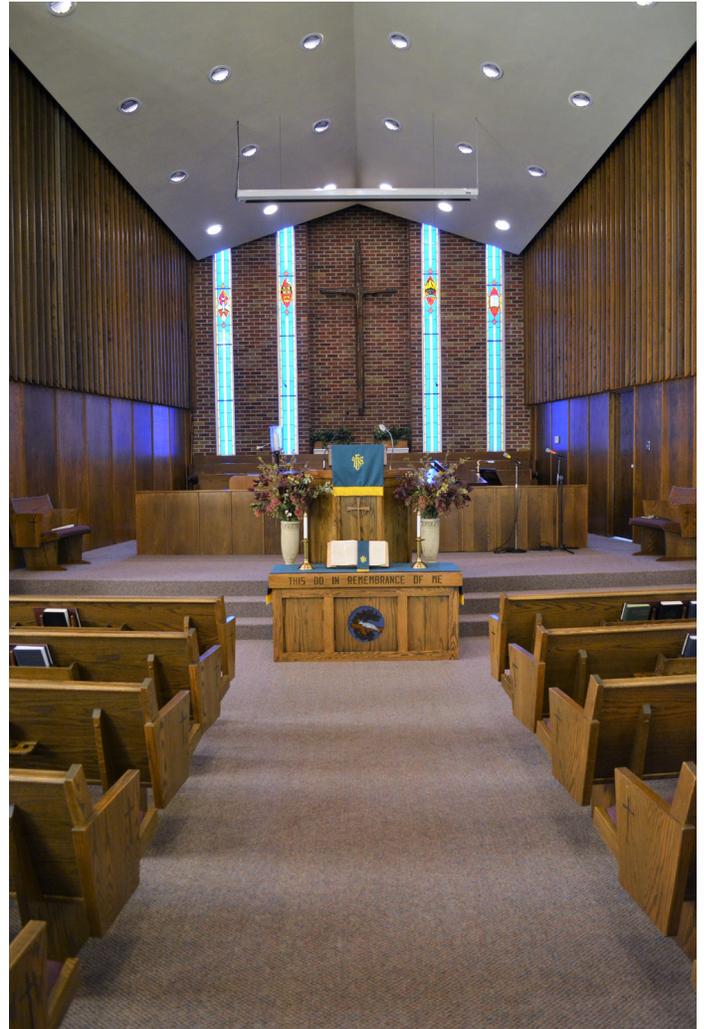
# Colfax Center Presbyterian Church

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## WELCOME *to* Colfax Center

### Introduction:

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Colfax Center Presbyterian Church, a member of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), is a faithful body of believers which by God's grace has enjoyed a rich spiritual heritage. We are grateful to God for the blessings our congregation has enjoyed from His hand over our 141 year history, and we humbly recognize that His spiritual blessings have been unmerited and are rooted solely in His mercy.

Colfax is committed to proclaiming and living the entire Gospel in its fullness without compromise. We declare God's sovereign grace as the only hope for a lost and dying world, and we earnestly seek His guidance in teaching the reached and reaching the lost. We affirm the theology that grew out of the Reformation as outlined in the Westminster Confession of Faith.

At this point in our church's history, we are a tight-knit community of believers, and are experiencing increased relational interaction. This deep love for one another is manifesting itself in an energy and enthusiasm for Kingdom service. We feel ourselves poised by God's providence for great mission and are preparing our hearts soberly and with diligence to receive the individual that God has chosen to lead us during this next season in the life of our church. The document that follows affords the opportunity to learn about Colfax in more detail, and we trust that these pages are an accurate reflection of both our history and our aspirations before God.

### Explanation of Current Pulpit Vacancy:

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Pastor Robby Grames accepted a call to fill the pulpit at Colfax Center Presbyterian Church in 2013. Pastor Grames and his wife Susie were both born and raised in the southern states, so bringing their family to the climate in Iowa was a bit of a shock to them. But he and his family served our church and community well over the next six years.

It was in the spring of 2019 that Pastor Grames received a call from a church in the state of Alabama, which is where he and

### Location:

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18935 K Avenue  
Holland, IA 50642

### Website:

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[www.ColfaxCenterChurch.org](http://www.ColfaxCenterChurch.org)

### Total Members: 207

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### Average Weekly Attendance: 98

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Susie began their ministry following college. Believing it was God's will to fill this vacancy in Moody, Alabama, and also having a secondary desire to move his family back to a warmer climate, he accepted the position. He concluded his service to Colfax Church in June 2019, creating our current vacancy.

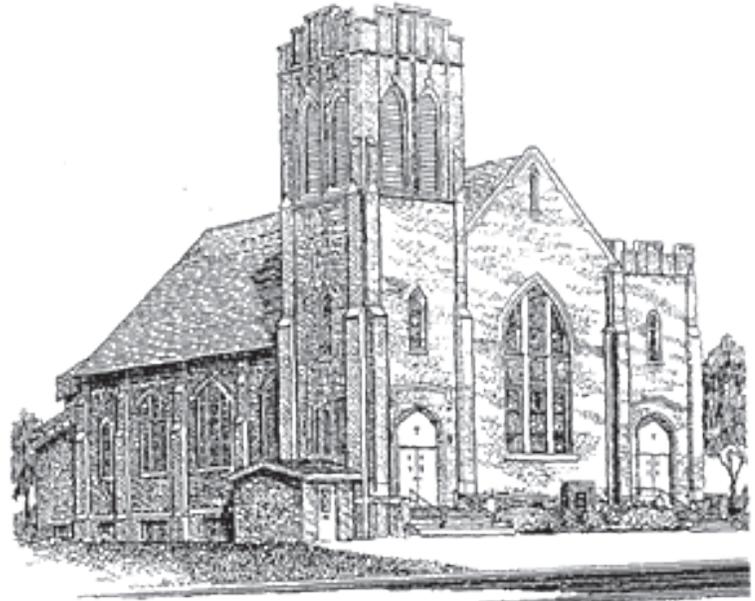
Pastor William (Bill) Massey has been serving as Interim Pastor since July 2019.

## CHURCH HISTORY *of* Colfax Center

One morning in 1870, two men, Poppe Meints and Klaas Kruger, set out on horseback from their homes in Grundy County Iowa's Colfax Township to travel nearly 15 miles to the manse of the East Friesland Presbyterian Church. Though neither knew the intention of the other, they had a common mission — to persuade East Friesland's pastor, Rev. John Vanderlas, to provide worship services for the growing community of German immigrants who were settling on farms in Colfax Township. He agreed, and soon services were being held on Sunday afternoons in the schoolhouse that had been built in the center of the township in 1869.

On June 11, 1871, the Second Presbyterian Church of Grundy County, later to be renamed Colfax Center Presbyterian Church (as it is located in the center of Colfax Township, across the road from the site of the schoolhouse where those first services were held), was organized with 30 members. Rev. Jacob Brinkema was called as supply pastor. Within two years, the congregation had built a church building and manse and had erected a cemetery.

The church grew from that humble beginning. Increased worship attendance required an addition to the original frame structure in 1900. In 1917, that structure was replaced with a brick sanctuary seating approximately 400. In 1967, the sanctuary was remodeled, and a new kitchen and 14-room education wing was added. Since then, the sanctuary has been air conditioned and carpeted, an elevator has been installed, and new audio-visual equipment added to enhance the current worship experience for the 100 or so who worship there each Sunday. In 2019, the church is currently remodeling the fellowship hall and kitchen.



The church has been served by 11 pastors. For 50 years it was a “flagship” church for the German-language Synod of the West within the denomination that we know of today as the Presbyterian Church (USA). Since the mid-1930s, however, the church's ministry has been carried out in English because the ethnic makeup of the church and community became more diversified. In 1981, concerned about some of the theological trends they observed in their denominational home, the congregation voted to leave and join the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), a denomination committed to Biblical authority and historic Presbyterian theology and polity.

## COMMUNITY PROFILE *of* Colfax Center

Colfax Center Church, within the Grundy Center School district, is located 3 miles west of highway 14 on D25 and approximately 6 miles from highway 20. Colfax is blessed with both a fabulous view of the rural Holland area and many nearby communities as well. Parishioners come from Holland, Wellsburg, Parkersburg, and Grundy Center to name a few.

Holland is a small community with a Post Office, ball diamond and park for residents and visitors. It also has a bike/ walking trail that leads you into Grundy Center.

Wellsburg is just a short drive to the west from Colfax Center Church. Wellsburg has a community pool, public library, Meadowbrook Golf Course, Post Office and, in the fall, hosts a corn maze. Wellsburg is also home to Timothy Christian School. To learn more about Timothy Christian School please visit their website at [www.timothychristian-school.net](http://www.timothychristian-school.net).

Parkersburg is located north of Colfax Center Church, off highway 14. This small city has many attractions to keep you busy. There is a swimming pool, public library, dance and karate classes, golf course and many boutiques. Need to unplug? Parkersburg also has a campground available.

Grundy Center is the largest community within a 15-mile radius. Just 10 minutes from Colfax Center Church, the Grundy County Courthouse and fairgrounds are located in Grundy Center. The city is also home to Grundy Memo-



rial Hospital, Kling Memorial Library, the Center Theatre, Town & Country Golf Club, an aquatic center, banks and many boutiques for shopping. If you need to take a break, stop in at one of the local restaurants or coffee houses for dining or refreshments!

There are many county parks within a short drive of Colfax Center Church: Wolfe Creek Recreation area (camping available), Herbert Gutknect Park, Grundy County Lake (camping available), Roadside Parks and Stoehr Fishing Area. These are great getaway locations for a quick picnic lunch, lovely afternoon in the outdoors or even a camping weekend.

Colfax Center Church has charm and beauty all its own, and the surrounding communities only add to its desirability.



MISSION STATEMENT *of* Colfax Center**Our Mission**

*At Colfax Center, we believe that we are called “to make disciples of Jesus Christ of all nations.”*

**Words of Explanation**

— **KNOWING GOD** by striving for worship that is intimate, personal, and joyful.

Proclamation of the Word of God is the heart of what we do. We have always held firmly to the conviction that the Bible is the inspired, inerrant Word of God. This is the main reason we changed denominations in the 1980's. We are convinced that because the Bible is the Word of God, all human beings are responsible to believe and obey what it teaches. The principle responsibility of our church is to proclaim its teachings and we should establish and maintain a number of programs that do that effectively.

The Word of God is a Word of Life. Men and women, from the days of our first parents, have chosen to turn from God to follow a path that leads to spiritual death. The reason God has given us his Word is that He loves us and wants us to turn from death to life. Therefore, the Bible is a message from God about life. It is not a book of rules to be followed; it is the story of how God in His love sent His Son to rescue us from our choices that have brought us death, and it explains how we can live our lives in gratitude to Him for what He has done. Therefore, the central message we proclaim is salvation by grace and living life under grace. It is always to be practical, touching on the way we live today.

— **GROWING A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS** of all ages to become mature disciples of Jesus Christ, connected to each other through worship, group fellowship, serving one another, strengthening men, women, youth and families.

Reaching out to others in love follows from our commitment to proclaim the Word of Life. The Word of God is a

Word of His love for mankind. We proclaim that love not only in what we preach and teach, but in the way we live.

There are many ways to reach out to others. We may reach out to others by praying for them, by sharing the gospel message with them, by providing for their material needs in times of crisis, by being their friend when they are lonely or grieving, by giving to the mission and benevolent work of the church, and by many other means.

— **GOING FORWARD INTO THE COMMUNITY** — bearing witness to the good news of Jesus with our words, neighborly love, and even into our work places and vocations.

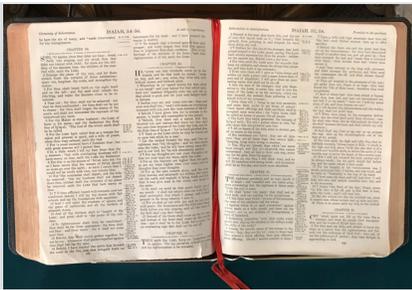
The primary target of our mission will be those in our personal networks. The “others” we reach out to may be other members of our congregation, other Christians of other congregations, or the unchurched. We may reach out to those we touch indirectly (people touched by church plants in Iowa, inner city missions, world relief agencies, missionaries on the foreign field, and other ministries we support), and we do not want to lose sight of the needs of the wider world around us. But the main people we must reach out to in love are those whose lives we touch directly (fellow church members, neighbors, co-workers, relatives).

Our mission should be so important to us as a church that everybody will be able to identify it by observing us. We want the day to arrive when everyone in our community will know us as the “the church where they are always talking about the Bible and where they really care about people and their needs.” Only God working through all of us can make this a reality.

## CORE MINISTRY VALUES *of* Colfax Center

Everybody has a set of values — principles that are so important to them that they affect everything they do. A church also has values. As the session has sought the Lord's direction, we have affirmed that the following principles should be central to the way we at Colfax Center carry out the ministry of our church.

**KNOWING** — Glorifying and communing with our God



*Exodus 15:2 "The LORD is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation; He is my God and I will praise Him."*

In accordance with the Word of God,

we approach worship of the Living God with both reverence and joy. We participate with praise, prayer, singing, confession of sin and of faith, thanksgiving, and petition. And we hear and respond to Bible-centered preaching. Regular worship has power to transform the people of God as they meet and see God's glory revealed in Jesus Christ.

**GROWING** — Christ-centered living, developing a community that is one body in Christ

*John 13:34-35 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another."*

Our constant goal is to hold forth the Word of God to a dying world and to always seek to be reforming according to the Word of God. Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He is at the center of our shared life as a congregation. We seek to be a Christ-centered, gospel-focused church in our faith and practice. The grace and truth of God in Jesus Christ is central in our preaching and teaching, in our worship, in our outreach, in our relationships, and in all we do.

Community among members is a high priority. Our culture tends to be self-reliant and individualistic, but God sees us as intimately connected to each other because we are all part of the body of Christ and enlivened by the Holy Spirit. Just

as the parts of our human body cannot function independently, so members of the church cannot function properly apart from community. We need each



other to grow and thrive. We minister to one another with the same compassionate grace that God has lavished upon us and spur each other toward maturity in Christ.

**GOING** — Gospel-centered Outreach, in response to the Great Commission

*Ephesians 2:10 "for we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."*

Salvation is completely by God's grace. We do not contribute to our salvation in any way. Yes, we respond to the initiative of God, but even that response of faith is by God's grace. We see reformed theology, as specified in the Westminster Confession of Faith and catechisms, as the best summary of the theology of the Bible.

*Matthew 28:19-20 "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* The great commission constantly calls



us to an outward orientation. Jesus the "Light For The Nations" must not be hidden under a bushel. In love, we will both speak and show the gospel as we reach those cap-

tivated by every form of brokenness, sin, and ignorance. We sacrificially support missionaries, both locally and around the world. We equip members to personally share the gospel and serve the local community with Christ-like love.

SESSION *of* Colfax Center

**Donn Anderson, Clerk of Session** Donn and Pam, his wife of 39 years, have three daughters, Lacy/Tim Kolder, Kelly/Chris Sandy, Leah/Steven Jenson. We have been blessed with five grandchildren. Donn and Pam have farmed in the Wellsburg and surrounding area for their entire marriage. Pam is also employed at MercyOne in Waterloo. They have been members at Colfax since 2001 and Donn has served as Elder multiple times. "It has been a blessing to be a member of such a great church family."



**Leon Johnson, Worship** Leon Johnson is married to Sheryl and they have five children and nine grandchildren. Leon has been a member of Colfax for 10 years, during which he served as elder seven years, sang in the church choir, served on mission team as the treasurer, and welcomed visitors as greeter once a month. Occasionally Leon has filled the pulpit or has done the openings for worship. Leon and Sheryl live on a farm near Aplington where they custom raise pigs, and raise corn and soybeans with his brother. Leon also drives semi-truck in his spare time.



**David Pruin, Christian Education** David and Victoria Pruin DeFrancisco were married in 2001, and live in Dike, Iowa. They have three daughters, Heather, Melissa and Katie, and five grandchildren. David has retired from the University of Northern Iowa. David joined Colfax in 2016 and is serving his first term as an elder.



**Dean Salo, Missions** Dean Salo and wife Kristie have worshipped at Colfax Center Church PCA since Fall 2014. They have one daughter, Megan, who resides in Washington D.C. Dean is a pilot for American Airlines. They live on an acreage just across the section from the Colfax Church property. A beautiful view of the church silhouetted on the horizon at sunset prompted Dean to pray for the ministry that goes on at Colfax and soon led to the conversations that blossomed into a friendship with Pastor Robby Grames. "Kristie and I have found a home here at Colfax and we both seek to serve the Lord and our brothers and sisters in Christ as best we can." Dean is serving his first term as elder, and has found a calling to fill the pulpit on occasion as well as assist in teaching adult Sunday School.



**Curt Tjepkes, Nominating Committee** Curt Tjepkes is a life-long member of Colfax Center Church. Curt has worked for Syngenta, a seed corn company, for the past 30 years. He married his wife Julie, an LPN, in 2001 and they live on an acreage near Grundy Center. Curt is serving his fourth term as an elder. He has also served as trustee, deacon, and currently manages the Colfax cemetery records.



## CHURCH STAFF *of* Colfax Center

### Church Staff and Responsibilities

#### Pastor

Sunday services including communion, baptisms, and officer installation.

Leads and attends community Lenten services.



Interim Pastor William (Bill) Massey

Leads services at Arlington Place, Grundy Care Center and Long Term Care (all in Grundy Center) as needed.

Visits nursing homes, hospitals, and shut-ins, and phone/ personal counseling, and family visitations.

Attends or leads various meetings including Session meetings and the annual congregational meeting. Leads an adult Sunday School class and holds meetings for those seeking information about Colfax Center Church.

Officiates at weddings and funerals.

Writes and edits articles for the Heartline newsletter, prepares information for the weekly bulletin and on-screen announcements.

Responds to letters, calls, and emails.

Prepares and leads youth meetings as well as reviewing/ evaluating possible Sunday School materials. Also, leads youth in the worship service when there are five Sundays within the month as well as the Son-Rise Easter Service. The services are pre-planned with portions assigned to the teens.

Assists with VBS one week each summer.

Assists various church committees as needed.

#### Church Secretary

Prepare, print and assemble the church bulletin every week, as well as mailing/ delivering bulletins to shut-ins.

Prepare, print and assemble the church newsletter.

Call members to serve coffee fellowships, serve in the nursery and other calls as necessary.

Projects as assigned by the pastor.

Sending surveys or other letters/ information to church members.

Responsible for updates of the church record book — additions, deaths, baptisms, weddings, etc.

Prepare program books for WIC.

Prepare tapes and DVDs of the church services. This includes ensuring tapes are available for church services, weddings, funerals, special services, etc.

Make funeral tapes for family members and families requesting special tapes.

Ensure attendance registers are available for each service.

Assist members of the church when requested.

#### Church Custodian

Under the supervision of the deacons.

Ensures that the church and educational building are kept clean at all times and are appropriately set up

for all events and services.

Grounds maintenance including lawn mowing and snow removal is managed by the deacons.

## MINISTRY TO MEMBERS *of* Colfax Center

### Women's/Men's Bible Study

Men's weekly Bible studies are organized and led by the Pastor or one of the elders. They are usually held in the evenings, once a week.

Women's Bible studies run for 10 weeks in the Fall and Spring, and are facilitated by members of the group. Times and locations vary according to the season. Check with the church office for current schedules. For more information, [Click Here!](#)

### Women in the Church (WIC)

The Women of the Church meet once a month for Bible study, prayer and fellowship. They also serve lunches following funeral services, as a ministry to our families.

### Christian Education

Children's Sermons — Children's sermons are regularly included in the Sunday morning worship hour, led by one of our elders.

Youth Group – 7th - 12th grade meet on Wednesday nights to study God's word. During the Fall and Spring, we have Mid-week opportunities for our youth to pray, learn and enjoy the Glory of God.

Reformed Youth Ministries (RYM) – RYM is a ministry designated to encourage students in their faith walk. Every summer, Colfax Center Presbyterian Church takes a group to camp. For more information on the organization, visit the RYM website ([www.rym.org](http://www.rym.org)).

Vacation Bible School – VBS is a week of learning about God and His Word offered

in the summer through interactive activities for kids preschool through 5th grade.

Christmas Program – Youth of the church help tell the Christmas story by presenting a drama with the use of costumes and singing.

Sunday School – Sunday School is for all ages from age three through adults. We believe that our children are a gift from the Lord. This means we are to constantly teach them about the Grace of the Gospel and the Word of God.



## OUTREACH *of* Colfax Center



### Mission Team

Colfax Church is known for its strong history and focus on missions. Colfax has a missions team consisting of five members who meet four to six times per year. Our congregation supports 30 missionary causes that range from MTW missionaries in 14 different countries, a Christian school, PCA administration causes, and congregational members' mission trip opportunities. Our congregation enjoys periodic visits from supported missionaries who share their experiences through sermons and/or presentations. This fosters personal relationships between those serving in the mission field and our congregation members who support them financially



### Care Team

The care team organizes the following activities:

- Host Diaper Showers for New Babies
- Celebrate Birthdays of Members 90 years and over
- Deliver Christmas Baskets for Shut-ins
- Host a Banquet for graduating High School Seniors
- Support Wings of Refuge Ministry, Iowa Falls, IA for victims of sex trafficking
- Collect Christmas gifts for a cottage at the Iowa State Training School for Boys
- Provide Transportation for those in need
- Deliver Worship Service DVDs to shut-ins

### Nursing Home Services

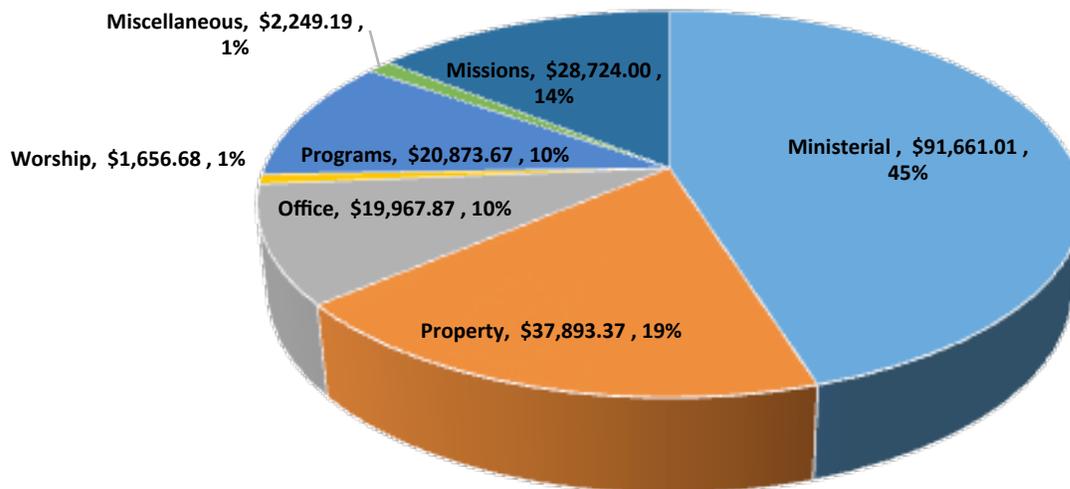
Colfax Church partners with other local churches to minister to those in area nursing homes. Members regularly accompany the Pastor to three facilities in Grundy Center, share in the short devotions, sing hymns with residents, and visit those unable to leave their rooms.

FINANCES *of* Colfax Center

Following is the 2018 budget and actual figures, as well as the 2019 proposed budget:

	2018 Budget	2018 Actual	2019 Budget
Ministerial	\$91,068.00	\$91,661.01	\$94,758.00
Property	\$38,520.00	\$37,893.37	\$38,974.00
Office	\$21,599.00	\$19,967.87	\$22,197.00
Worship	\$2,300.00	\$1,656.68	\$2,300.00
Programs	\$8,750.00	\$20,873.67	\$23,250.00
Miscellaneous	\$2,500.00	\$2,249.19	\$2,500.00
Missions	\$28,700.00	\$28,724.00	\$31,700.00
		\$203,025.79	\$215,679.00

**2018 Actuals**

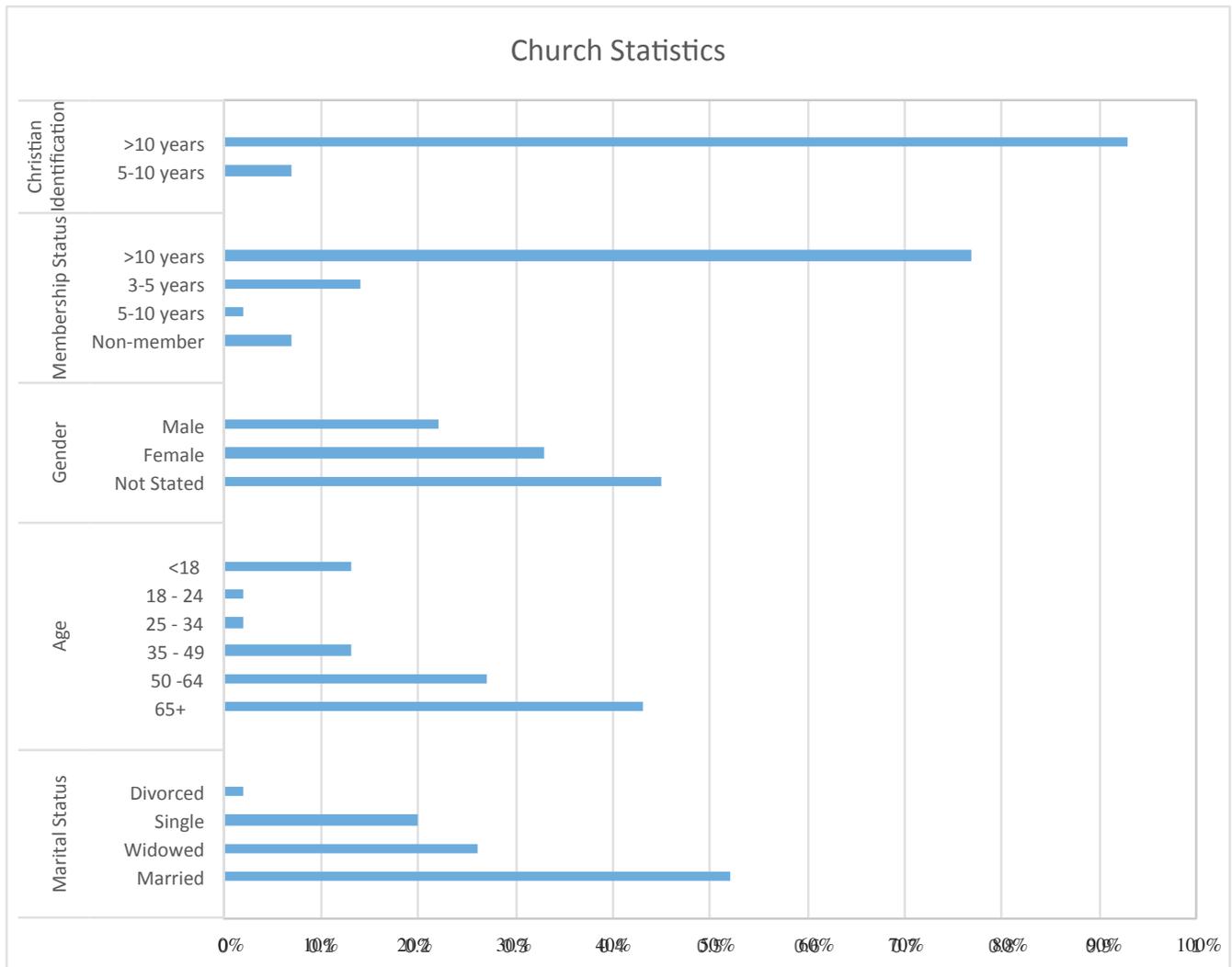


## DEMOGRAPHICS of Colfax Center

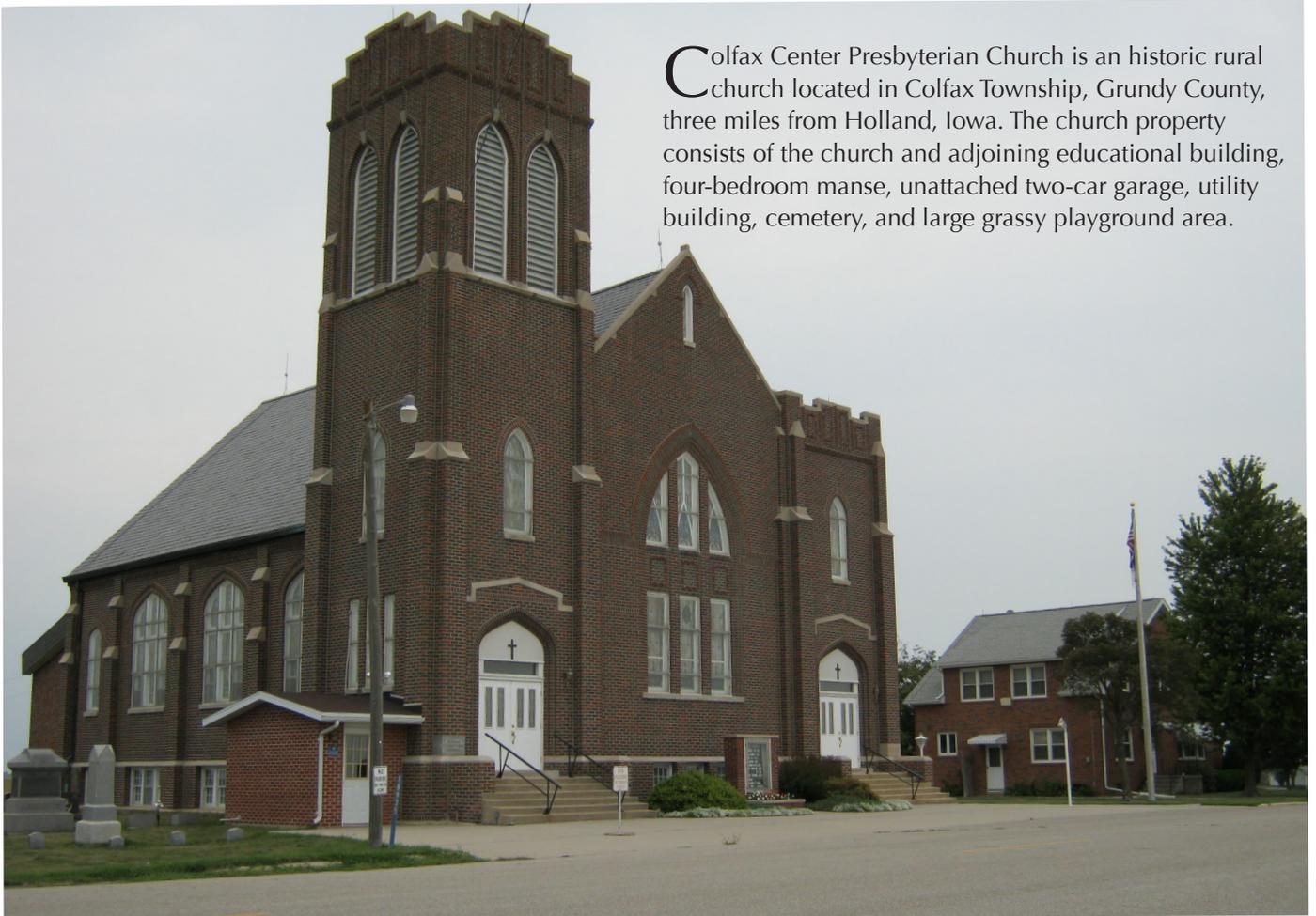
Colfax is a typical rural church with an aging population. In general terms, our greatest number of adult members is in the 65 and over bracket. The most significant gains in membership over the past few years have been Christians in the 45- to 75-year-old bracket,

relocating from one church to another, leaving great potential for recruiting young unchurched families in our area. The church is well-aware of the need to develop its ministry in such a way as to be more attractive to the younger demographic in the community.

*Statistics represent actual counts in categories. Inactive members are not included.*



PHYSICAL PLANT *of* Colfax Center



Colfax Center Presbyterian Church is an historic rural church located in Colfax Township, Grundy County, three miles from Holland, Iowa. The church property consists of the church and adjoining educational building, four-bedroom manse, unattached two-car garage, utility building, cemetery, and large grassy playground area.



Colfax Center Presbyterian Church, an aerial view of the 5.4-acre property.



The exterior of the Educational Building.

Physical Plant, Continued



Colfax Center Presbyterian Church sanctuary interior: *above*, facing the pulpit; *right*, facing the narthex.



The upper floor of the educational building (*left*) connects to the sanctuary and houses the pastor's office, the assistant pastor's office, the church office, the church library, the nursery, a music room, and storage rooms. The lower level has Sunday school classrooms and a lounge and connects to the fellowship hall beneath the sanctuary. A set of bathrooms is on both the upper and lower levels.

Physical Plant, Continued



The 2480 sq. ft. manse has four bedrooms, 2 and 1/2 baths, a den/office, living room, dining room, and kitchen.



The manse kitchen was remodeled in 2011, with all new cabinets, flooring, countertops, and appliances.



The manse living room. This home has central heating and air.