

Building God's Future Campaign Launched!

First Presbyterian Church stepped into its 176th year with an announcement of a \$1,150,000 capital campaign for renovation and upgrading of the current church building and grounds. More than 100 members and friends joined in a celebration on Sunday, August 28 to hear about the upgrades and changes coming to FPC.

If you missed this celebration, please take a look at the information in the narthex. A campaign brochure is available that fully explains our current situation and our plans for the future. It also outlines the types of gifts needed to succeed and the various options by which gifts can be made. There is also a campaign website with more information. This includes a video that provides an overview of our entire project and campaign. A link to this website can be found on our church website (FirstPresIowaCity.org).

Our campaign is designed to fix a number of maintenance needs that have been building at FPC for a number of years.

- Restoration of the Phelps Organ
- Resurfacing the parking lots and installing additional lighting
- Replacing the boiler and air handling system

Several upgrades will improve accessibility and functionality within the building to enable all members and friends to participate in all activities at FPC.

- An elevator will improve access to the choir loft and lower level rooms.
- New computer communication technology in Ryerson Hall will provide alternative spaces for families with young children, extend possibilities for intergenerational programming on Sunday mornings, and provide a variety of internet capabilities for youth programming.
- Additional chairs in the sanctuary will allow those who have trouble with our narrow pews an alternate option for seating.
- Technology in the sanctuary will reduce reliance on printed materials that some find distracting and burdensome.
- A remodel of the kitchen will make the space more convenient and efficient for all users.

Last, but not least, a tithe on the funds raised for our campaign will be dedicated to mission work. This amount will be divided equally between the Pasrur Christian Girls High School and a Habitat house in the local area.

Outreach to members and friends has already begun. This process will be led by a group of FPC volunteers. If you would like to become a volunteer



for this exciting endeavor, please fill out a volunteer card on the table in the church narthex. Volunteers will contact FPC members and friends to explain the project and campaign and invite their financial participation. All members and friends are asked to consider their own gift prayerfully. Commitment Sunday is scheduled for October 9. If our volunteers are unable to reach you personally before then, please consider giving your gift at that time.

Inside this issue:

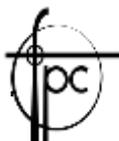
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WORLD COMMUNION HYMN FESTIVAL

Sunday, October 2, 10:30 am Worship

Join us as we celebrate Holy Communion with our global family in worship, song, and prayer. We are looking for leaders to read in foreign languages, help setting the communion table, and percussion players. Please talk to Leah Bergman if you would like to be involved with this worship service.



Dear sisters and brothers of First Presbyterian Church,

The peace of the Lord be with you!

I have a special and exciting announcement that I shared with some of you a few weeks ago in worship. I am including it here for those of you who couldn't be there.

Although I cannot give you the exact date, I received word this week that in the next two years we will be receiving a very special visitor. She comes from the World Council of Churches, and she is very well regarded in global Christianity. She is coming on behalf of her boss, who is in charge of the World Council of Churches and has global influence in all countries and with all peoples. When she arrives, you will recognize her for three reasons: Number one, she has scoliosis or arthritis or something of the kind that causes her to bend over and have to walk with a walker. Number two, she is of Middle Eastern descent and you can tell that due to the color of her skin. Number three, she always dresses in flowing white garb, or so I'm told.

I cannot tell you exactly when she will be showing up. We will have to keep our eyes peeled. But it is fortunate that we are engaging in this capital fund campaign and in the renovation of our building in preparation for her arrival. You see, we have our reputation for being hospitable and inclusive. It is a good thing that not only will our people greet her with an open heart (because after all, we are a warm and hospitable people), yet also we will have our building renovated. Allow me to take a moment to cast a vision of what our guest will experience when she arrives.

Doubtless, she will note first our very smooth parking lot. She may still be using a walker or she may be in a wheelchair by then. Because she is sensitive to disability, and because she is concerned about the well-being of older persons, she will take note that the surface of the parking lot is smooth. Here is an image from the prophet Isaiah: The prophet speaks of how high

places are made low and low places are made level. This is literally what is

about to happen with our parking lot! Furthermore, the lighting in the parking lot will allow for our people to be secure at night, which surely will give our new friend joy.

As she moves toward the front doors, which look very heavy, she will notice that all she has to do is press a button and the doors will open. How wonderful that our people are so visionary as to make sure that she has an easy entrance, in spite of the burdens that she bears in her own body. With the open doors she will notice, right away, either that it is cool or that it is warm, depending on the time of year. She will recognize that our boiler and the air handler are working perfectly because we had the sense to get new ones.

As she moves into our sanctuary, she will see immediately that the Lord's Table is on the same level that she is. She knows that this has theological relevance: The table on the floor tells all of us that our God approaches us, where we are, and that we have access to God. The table is also accessible to persons with disabilities.

She will look for a place to sit. Because her back is in pain she may be drawn to one of the new chairs. Because she is weak, she may be drawn to a seat with a pew in front of it so she can push



(Pastor's letter cont. on page 14)

Devotional Book Soon to be yours.

Forthcoming soon is a devotional book in coordination with our Building God's Future Campaign. This campaign is not only for the purpose of maintaining and updating a solid structure that will provide for us but it offers an opportunity to continue to build our future relationship with God. This devotional book will help facilitate a deepening conversation and love for our Creator.

Suggestions for using the devotional book will be in the book itself. It will include a new theme each week for 7 weeks. The theme will be reflected in a scripture reading, a hymn, a question or two to ponder and a place to write personal prayers.

Please use this devotional book in a way that will be memorable to your soul.

As soon as it is available, it will be distributed.

Your Prayer Committee
Sadie May, Mary Linn, Louise Gisolfi



Creative Giving Options

Gifts of Securities – Making a gift of securities is very beneficial due to the tax benefits that derive from such a gift. Donors receive a charitable tax deduction for the full market value of securities held a year or more. This makes giving securities a good alternative to a cash gift of the same value.

IRA Charitable Rollover – Donors over 70 1/2 who must take required minimum distributions (RMD) from IRA accounts may transfer all or a portion of their RMD to the church tax free.

Retirement Plan Designation – Owners of retirement plans may designate First Presbyterian Church of Iowa City as primary or contingent beneficiary of a retirement plan pursuant to their plan's appropriate designation procedure (i.e., specific forms).

Life Insurance – There are various methods by which a life insurance policy may be contributed, including transferring the ownership to the church or naming the Church a beneficiary of a current or new policy.

Charitable Gift Annuity – The CGA is a contract between the Church and a donor to pay an income for life to the donor and/or another person. Upon the death of the income beneficiaries, the dollars remaining in the account are distributed to FPC. The income to the donor depends on the donor's age and the amount used to fund the CGA. There are various tax benefits, depending on whether the annuity is funded with cash or other assets. FPC uses the Presbyterian Foundation as administrator of CGAs.

Charitable Remainder Trust – The charitable remainder trust is a separately administered trust established by the donor. It provides for payments to the donor and/or other named beneficiary(ies) either for life or a term of years, whereupon the remaining trust assets are distributed to FPC.

Personal Property: Consider giving valuable personal property like antiques, jewelry, artwork or collections.



Real Property – Gifts of real estate, including a residence, vacation home, vacant lot, undeveloped land, commercial property, or a farm can be excellent gifts for the donor and for the church.

Life estate - An individual may transfer title (i.e., remainder interest) to FPC to a personal residence, farm or other real estate, and the donor or other persons named by the donor may retain the use of the property for a term of years or the life of the donor/other persons (i.e., life estate).

Bequests - There are several ways to make a bequest that would include FPC as beneficiary of a dollar amount or a percentage of your estate, or as a contingent beneficiary.

For more information about these types of gifts, please contact any member of the Creative Giving Committee: Connie Richardson (319-541-1204), Larry Bruner (319-337-4245), Jim Claypool (319-330-4364) or Saira Steen (319-351-2660).

For these gifts and others, donors should seek the counsel of professional advisors for legal, accounting, investment, or other professional advice.

School Clothing and Winter Outerwear Distribution

This annual event is sponsored by the Consultation of Religious Communities, and conducted in conjunction with KCRG's "Coats for Kids," to help economically disadvantaged children prepare for school and to help people of all ages prepare for winter weather. Clothing will be distributed at three area sites on Saturday, October 15, at 9:00 a.m. until noon. Children must accompany parents to these sites.

Again this year, FPC will have a collection box in Ryerson Fellowship Hall on Sunday, September 2 through Wednesday, October 12.

Please Concentrate on donating WARM clothing.

- All items must be clean and in good condition.
- Donors should sort clothes by sex and size (infant/toddler, 4-6x, 7-14, and adult).
- Clothes should be appropriate for school wear.
- Adult-size clothing should be appropriate for high school students.

Needed items: coats, snowsuits, hats, scarves, gloves, mittens, boots, heavy sweaters, hooded sweatshirts. We are also accepting winter blankets and Halloween costumes.

Clothing items can also be brought directly to our assigned site on Thursday, October 13 (10 a.m. – 5 p.m.). This site is the:

Iowa City distribution site:

The Kingdom Center / Dream Center

611 Southgate Ave., Iowa City (corner of Southgate & Keokuk)

FPC will be taking the donations we receive by October 12 to this site.

Helpers are needed at the Iowa City site during the day on Thursday and Friday, October 13 and 14, including assistance with set-up at 9:00 a.m. until finished on the 14.

Further questions about FPC donations can be directed to John Barr at 319-541-3213. For questions about helping at the Iowa City distribution site, please contact Ruth Dawson at dawsonrb2@gmail.com or 319-351-4823.



NAMI Presentation Sunday, September 25, 2016 11:45 Coover Lounge

Don't miss our own Jamie Helmick sharing her experiences of the national NAMI (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill) convention this past summer in Denver, Colorado. A portion of Jamie's expenses were joyfully covered by the Servanthood Ministry. Jamie sings in our choir, has a cat named Buffy and loves squirrels! She also is intelligent, talented, creative and a caring person. She is knowledgeable about NAMI and is a valuable resource for those with mental illness, family members or concerned friends. We are all touched by mental illness. Don't miss this discussion!



Flu Vaccination Clinic

The VNA will be at
First Presbyterian Church:

**Sunday, October 2
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

The clinic will offer:

- **Flu Shots QIV**
- **High Dose Flue (for ages 65+ years)**
- **Pneumonia vaccine—(PPSV23 & PCV13)
Available upon prior request. Call the VNA
at 319-337-9686 ext 1155 to reserve a
dose.**

The VNA will directly bill your insurance company, Medicare B or Medicare Replacement Policies. Please bring your current medical insurance card with you. Vaccine will be available at no charge to children enrolled in Medicaid or children who do not have insurance. We do not need a doctor's order for children.

*Please note: Medicaid for adults
will not be accepted this year.*

First's Family

If you have a news item for the First's Family News, please submit it for publication by October 1 to tammy.foster@firstpreswoacity.org. Thank you!



Happy Birthday!

September 15-30

15	Maggie Mowery	23	Mick Hammer
15	Dave Gier	25	Steve Spangler
16	Eric Scholtz	25	Ruth Gier
19	Steve Smith	26	Eric Forsythe
19	Ann Finley	27	Joyce Stochl
19	Anita Burnett	27	Sam Massey
19	Gabrielle Wadsworth	28	Elliot Suh
19	Garrett Forbes	28	Jacob Stolz
19	Elliot Newbold	28	Katie Stolz
20	Amy Johnston	29	Shirley Pate
22	Fred Harris	30	Joey Summerwill
22	Alex Schultz	30	Juda Robert Cargill
23	Marguerite Morey		

October 1-15

1	Al Wicks	10	Brent Foster
1	Jerry Stamp	12	Ken Miller
3	Shari Cole	12	Xander Newbold
3	Tyson Neubauer	14	Karen Nicklaus
4	Joan Maxwell	14	Emily Feagins
5	Edmond Bigaba	15	Marvin Bergman
6	Chad Greimann	15	Steve Hurt
7	Judy Whitford	15	Taylor Dengler
8	Bill Rubright		
8	Temple Hiatt		
9	Anna Sheetz		
10	Rachael Nicholson		

Congrats!

Billie Mae Feagins, born to **Emily and John Feagins** will be baptized on September 25.



Known to have been Hospitalized:

Virginia Hall, John Phipps and Ann Finley,



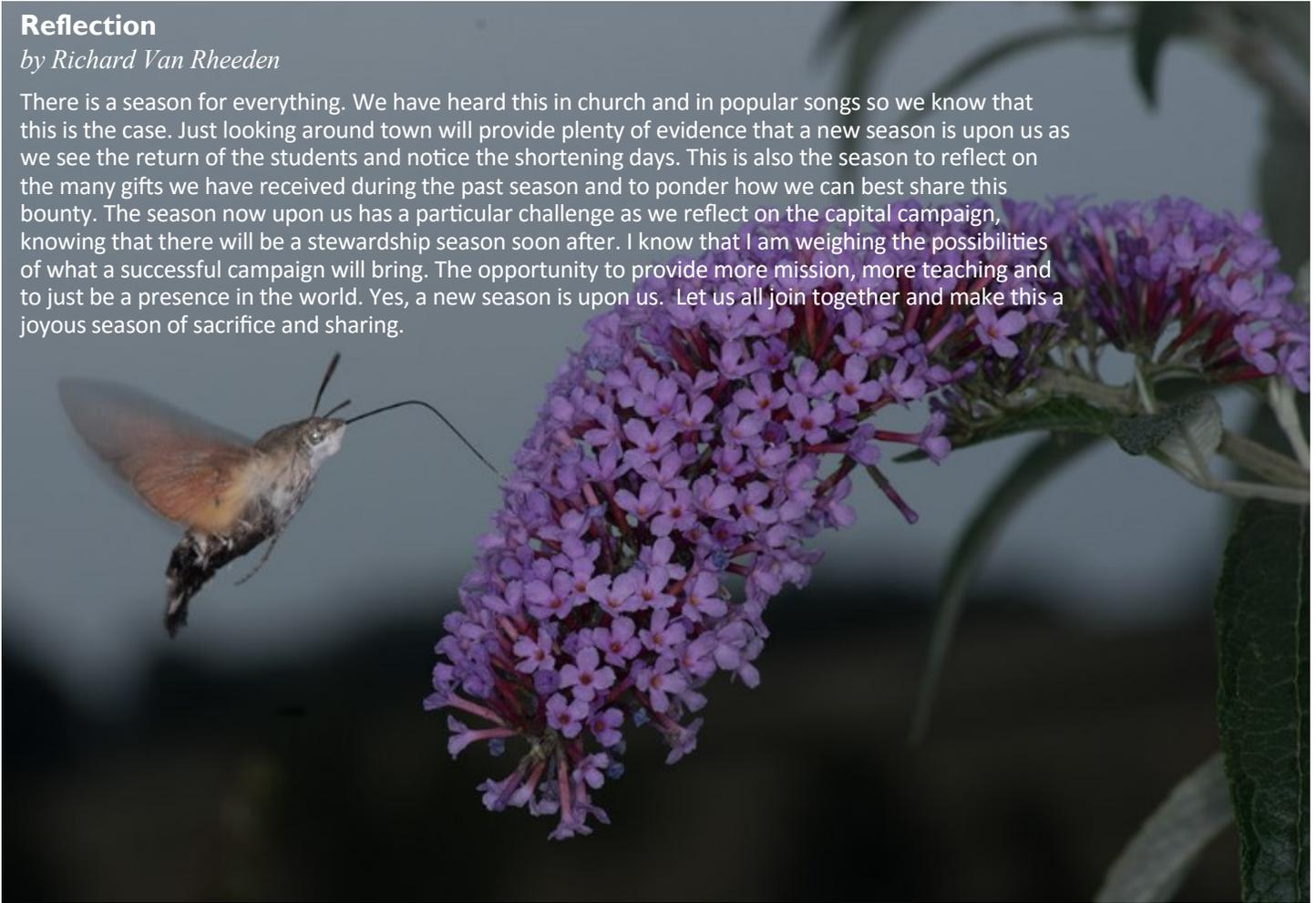
During This Time of Loss

We extend our sympathy to **Wayne Patton** on the recent death of his brother.

Reflection

by Richard Van Rheeden

There is a season for everything. We have heard this in church and in popular songs so we know that this is the case. Just looking around town will provide plenty of evidence that a new season is upon us as we see the return of the students and notice the shortening days. This is also the season to reflect on the many gifts we have received during the past season and to ponder how we can best share this bounty. The season now upon us has a particular challenge as we reflect on the capital campaign, knowing that there will be a stewardship season soon after. I know that I am weighing the possibilities of what a successful campaign will bring. The opportunity to provide more mission, more teaching and to just be a presence in the world. Yes, a new season is upon us. Let us all join together and make this a joyous season of sacrifice and sharing.



MONEY MATTERS

Larry Bruner, Treasurer

	Contributions	Misc. Income Building Use, Walker Trust, Bank interest, etc.	Total Income	Total Expenses	Over/Short
January-June	\$337,471.35	\$34,870.97	\$372,342.32	\$303,200.74	\$69,141.58
July	\$33,583.19	\$199.23	\$33,782.42	\$50,091.30	-\$16,308.88
August	\$30,904.76	\$200.00	\$31,104.76	\$49,367.89	-\$18,263.13
2016 Totals	\$402,799.30	\$35,270.20	\$438,069.50	\$402,659.93	\$35,409.57

EQUIPPING MINISTRY

FPC Men's Spiritual Formation Group Resumes

The First Church Men's Spiritual Formation Group has resumed meeting on Wednesdays at 7–8 a.m. in Ryerson Fellowship Hall. Our core group of 6–8 men meets for meditative readings, discussion of contemporary societal and religious issues, fellowship, and a light breakfast. Related activities during the fall of 2015 / spring of 2016 included providing leadership for FPC participation in the pre-Christmas "Gift for Parents" program, a funding donation to the Project Holiday food program at the Crisis Center, and ushering for one of our late services.

This fall we will be completing our reading of Joyce Rupp's *Open the Door – A Journey to the True Self* (published by Sorin Books; available on Amazon) as the focus for our meditation and reflection. Please consider joining us and getting to know other FPC members.

Question can be directed to John Barr at BarrJohnO@sau.edu or 319-541-3213.

Covenant Bible Study 3 Coming Soon!

On September 19 Covenant Bible Study 3 will begin from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in the Youth Room. If you couldn't work out coming to the other two classes, here is another opportunity. Join Jeremy Fletcher for the first 8-week segment of a 24-week in-depth Bible Study. The first week will be an overview/sample for you to see if this is the right study for you. The next day all those who commit will start receiving daily Bible readings by email, and of course you always have the option of reading it in your own Bible. You also will be given a lesson book for each segment (Creating the Covenant, Living the Covenant, and Trusting the Covenant). The class is limited to 12 participants, so email/call Judy Whitford to let them know you are coming



Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Wednesday Morning Bible Study has resumed meeting from 9:30 – 10:30 in the Coover Lounge. The group is continuing to study the Book of Revelation. The class is led by Sadie May and Pastor Sam Massey. **New members are welcome.**

General Assembly Experience Shared

Join Becky and Perry Ross on Sunday, September 18 at 11:45 in Coover Lounge as they share their experiences from the 222nd General Assembly in Portland, Oregon last June 18-25. Perry went as one of our Presbytery Commissioners. Becky went as an Overture Advocate for Fossil Fuel Divestment.



Love. Grow. Serve. Women's Retreat Coming Soon! Fifth Annual Laughter and Latte Retreat – Lite October 29, 2016

A survey of Presbyterian congregations revealed a simple truth: people became faithful worship attendees if they know someone cares whether they are at worship ... or not. Hmmm! Are you wondering if anyone cares if you are here? Well, we care.

Take a giant step in faith and get to know some awesome women of First Presbyterian Church. The Fifth Annual Laughter and Latte – Lite Women's Retreat will be held on Saturday, October 29 in Ryerson Fellowship Hall at church from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. That's right — at the church. A \$15 registration fee includes a light breakfast and lunch. Join us for a fun time of personal and spiritual discovery no matter your stage of life. Mark the date on your calendar now and look for the sign-up sheet in fellowship hall.



New Member Class

This class begins September 25, 9:00 – 10:00, in Room 14 on the lower level. Pastor Sam

will be leading an 8-week class on interpreting church membership as part of our journey of faith. Those wishing to join the church will be received Sunday, November 20.

Contact Sam (sam.massey@firstpresioiwacivity.org) or Tammy Schroeder (tammy.schroeder@firstpresioiwacivity.org) if you have questions or would like to sign up.

Please RSVP by September 18 so materials can be prepared.





EQUIPPING MINISTRY

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”
-Matthew 18:20

What is “Koinonia?”

That’s the name for our new intergenerational Sunday School format. Koinonia is a Greek word that means “to be in community with other Christians.” Join us at 9 am on Sundays to learn about God as a community of all ages (0-100)! We will sing, pray, create, have fun, and much more!

In September we’ll learn about what it means to be a part of our community both locally and globally.

October will be focused around global music, worship, games, and mission.

★ NEW ★ Sunday School Format
Koinonia
Every Sunday from 9-10:15 am

The Way 4th-6th grade Youth Group

Thursday, September 15

6–8:30 p.m. Amazing Race Kick-Off event
(Bring a dish for a potluck dinner. Stay for a fun Amazing Race themed event!)

Thursday, September 22

6:15–8:30 p.m. Dinner, Youth Group, Big Game

Thursday, November 10

6:15–8:30 p.m. Youth Group

Thursday, December 22

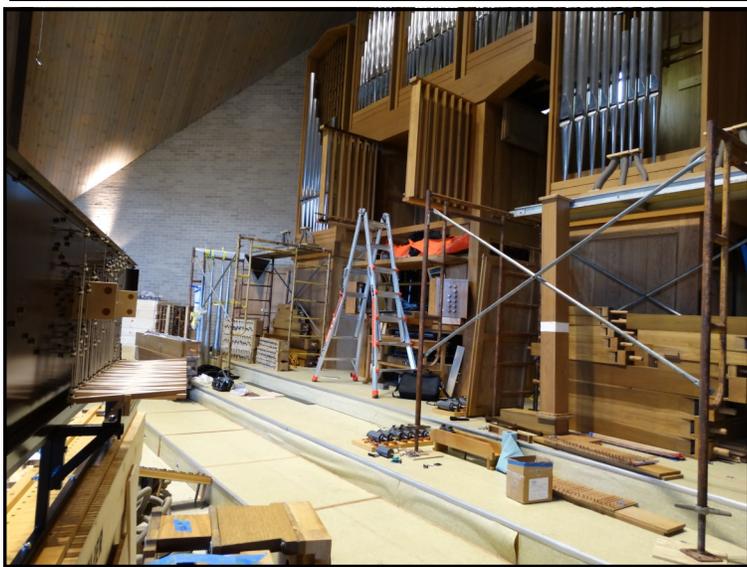
6–8:30 p.m. Christmas Eve rehearsal,
Christmas Party!

Sunday
October 16
3:00 p.m.



Meet at Wilson’s Apple Orchard at 3:00 p.m.
We’ll pick apples, do hay rides, and you can pick out a pumpkin for Halloween!

If you need assistance with transportation or have other questions, please contact Leah Bergman at 319-351-2660 or leah.bergman@firstpreswiowacity.org.



Update on the Organ

Work on the Phelps Organ refurbishment continues. Some pipes have been sent for repair to the Casavant company in Canada. Most of the other pipes have now been removed from the box for cleaning, repair, and replacement of seals to prevent further collapsing and bending. Along with our local technician, a technician from the Casavant company will be on site for the next several weeks to repair structural problems, clean and lubricate the entire instrument, and rebuild the tracker system. The goal is to have the organ ready for worship leadership by Advent 2016. During the interim, worship will be led by piano, and we will strive to give you timely updates.



Dates to Remember!

THE ROCK: Thursday, September 29; 6–8:30 p.m.

Let's have some fun at Colonial Lanes! Each student is asked to bring \$6 for shoes and mini-golf. Anna will need two parent volunteers to get the youth to the bowling alley. Parents — please remember pick-up is at Colonial Lanes bowling alley at 8:30 p.m.

The EDGE: Saturday, October 1, 8 pm–October 2, 8 a.m.

Come be locked-in at the church from 8 p.m. on Saturday – 8 a.m. on Sunday! This will be a great time of goofiness, messiness, sleeplessness, and super-fun-ness! Please RSVP to Anna by September 25 so she can plan activities.

WINTER FAMILY FUN



Mark your calendars for a family winter trip January 13–15, 2017 to Camp Wyoming! Look for more details coming in October!



Calling all super-sleuths! There's been a murder at Ravenwood Castle! Can you figure out whodunnit?

The Edge youth group invites FPC adults to a spooky, yet entertaining night of crime solving on Saturday, October 29 from 7:30–9:30 p.m. Come dress up, act out, and use your wits to find the murderer before the time is up! There are only 18 guests invited so it is first come, first serve. Please call Anna or email her at anna.sheetz@firstpresbiowacity.org to reserve your spot!

Fellowship and Fundraising on October 9

On Sunday morning, October 9, Presbyterian Women will be serving lunch immediately following the 10:30 worship service. The Women's Group helped send four of our youth to Camp Wyoming this past summer. Free-will donations accepted at lunch will allow us to continue providing these scholarships for more youth next summer. Our menu will feature some of the fall harvest available at the Iowa City Farmers' Markets. All food will be provided by PW. Just bring yourselves and your appetites. You can help support our church's "green efforts" by bringing your own table service.





*Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth.
Worship God with gladness;
come into God's presence with singing.*

Highlight on a Hymn

Glory to God Hymn 283, *Come, O Holy Spirit Come, Wa wa wa Emimimo*

Author: Nigerian song; trans. I-tō Loh (b. 1936)

First Published: Oral tradition; trans. *African Songs of Worship* (Geneva, 1986)

Composer: Nigerian melody; taught by Samuel Solanke; transcribed by I-tō Loh

This energetic gathering song comes out of the Church of the Lord (Aladura), an African-initated denomination whose name means “The Praying People.” Founded in western Nigeria in the early 20th century, this movement similar to Pentecostalism now has more than 3 million adherents worldwide.

The language of the original text is Yoruba, one of the three principal trade languages throughout Nigeria. It is a tonal language with three pitch levels (high, medium, and low), which are reflected in the pitches of this song. *Wa* is the imperative form of the verb “to come,” and adding an *o* to it (as in *Wao* in the last phrase) is a means of intensifying the petition, much as written English does by using exclamation marks in place of periods.

In Nigerian practice, people often accompany the singing of this song with appropriate hand gestures. These involve raising the arms above the head, then motioning downward with the hands in coordination with the music.

Excepted from *Glory to God: A Companion* by Carl P. Daw Jr.



Children's and Youth Rehearsal Schedule

Beginning:

September 22

5:30–6:15 p.m. Junior Choir (Gr. 2–6) in Creation Station

September 22

7:30–8:30 p.m. Youth Choir (Gr. 7–12) in Choir Room

(This fall, Youth Choir will be meeting on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month beginning September 22.)

Thank you to summer musicians

We are grateful to those of you who shared your musical gifts in worship over the summer. Your willingness to offer your time and talent in this way enriches our summer worship experience while providing our music ministries staff and volunteers a time of rest and renewal. Those who provided special music during the summer were: Ben and Charlie Faden, Sarah Klemuk, the FPC Brass, David Carlson, Alice Atkinson, Victoria Rose Bishop, Dane Frandsen, Toni DeRyke, Malikka Huynh, and Mia and Laurie Thedens.



Thank you for your music ministry!

I want to hear from you!

While I'm not really new to this congregation, First Presbyterian Church has changed a lot since I was last here. I want to know how I can best minister to you and your family. What kind of events would you like to see for your family and your children? What kind of support can this church give you as a parent? Are there resources that you would like to see the church provide that we might not think of? Grab me after church, give me a call, send an email, or drop by for a visit and let me know how we can help!

Blessings,

Leah Bergman

*Minister of Worship, Music, and Children's Programs
319-351-2660 / leah.bergman@firstpresiwacity.org*

HALLOWEEN PARTY!

Friday, October 28, 6–7:30 p.m.

Dress up in your Halloween costume and come for activities, games, and treats from Halloween traditions around the world!



Deacons Bench



The **Burgundy Neighborhood** enjoyed a picnic lunch in Coralville at the S.T. Morrison Park. It was gorgeous weather and great food. The only problem was some very intrusive ducks!

Needed...people who listen!

When asked to be a Care Buddy, people will often say, "Oh, I don't think I'm any good at that." Really? Well, here is the one and only requirement. Can you listen? You don't have to solve problems. You don't have to give advice. You do have to listen and be a friend to someone hurting, lonely or scared. If you want to learn more, do not miss church on September 25, Care Buddy Sunday. You are going to love to hear about this valuable ministry and you might, just might, want to come join us! If you have questions, call Maeleen Thorius (319-622-3074) or ask any of the Deacons. They can tell you all about it.

Advance Care Planning Conversation on October 4

The Health Ministry Team invites FPC members to Join the Advance Care Planning Conversation on Oct. 4. "Honoring Your Wishes," an advance care planning initiative led by Iowa City Hospice, is hosting two events.

The first, a professional conference, "Honoring Health Care Preferences through Caring Conversations," will be held on Tuesday, October 4, 8 a.m.–12:00 p.m., Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, 1301 5th St., Coralville, Iowa. Dr. Angelo E. Volandes, a physician and noted expert on advance care planning, will be the keynote speaker. A faculty member in the General Medicine Unit at the Massachusetts General Hospital and Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, Dr. Volandes leads a group of internationally recognized researchers who create and study video decision aids to empower patients and families to make informed decisions at the end of life. This conference will highlight best practice methods and clinical benefits of advance care planning.

Cost: \$25 for Allied Health Professionals, Health Educators, Public Health, and Students; \$50 for Physicians. CEUs and CMEs provided.

To review the brochure and to register, please go to

www.medicine.uiowa.edu. Scroll down to October events. Registration deadline: September 28.

The second event is a part of the Iowa City Book Festival. Community members are invited to join Dr. Angelo E. Volandes as he discusses his book, "The Conversation: A Revolutionary Plan for End-of Life Care," on Tuesday, Oct. 4, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Coralville Center for the Performing Arts. You may register for this free event at www.medicine.uiowa.edu.

If you have questions or require an accommodation in order to participate in these programs, contact Jane Dohrmann by e-mail at jane.dohrmann@iowacityhospice.org or call Judy at Iowa City Hospice at 319-688-4213.

Thank you to the following sponsors who make these events possible: Iowa City Hospice, UNESCO City of Literature, University of Iowa Health Care, University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine, University of Iowa College of Public Health, Oaknoll, University of Iowa Center on Aging, Lensing Funeral and Cremation Service, University of Iowa College of Nursing, Iowa City/Johnson County Senior Center, Hills Bank and Trust, Mercy Iowa City, US Bank, and the Coralville Center for the Performing Arts.

August 2016, Session Highlights

submitted by Nancy Weber, Clerk of Session

The session met August 16, 2016 in Coover Lounge at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Sam called the meeting to order and lit the Christ candle. Elder Ed Cranston led us in singing the timely “Let There Be Peace on Earth,” and followed with prayer. New staff members Leah Bergman, Minister of Worship, Music, and Children’s Programs, and Anna Sheetz, Minister of Youth, Adult, and Servanthood Programs, were introduced.

Clerk read a thank you note to FPC from Catholic Worker House for a donation of \$100.

The death of Herb Neubauer on July 24, 2016, was noted. The funeral was July 28 at FPC, officiated by Pastor Sherry Lohman. The August 1, 2016 death of Dick Feddersen was noted, whose memorial service Aug. 4 at Oaknoll was also officiated by Pastor Sherry Lohman.

The financial report, presented by Larry Bruner, was received. Larry reported that it may take a little time to learn to read the new software documents, but things are working well so far.

Minutes of the June 21, 2016 stated session meeting were approved.

Pastor Sam has been asked that FPC allow a NAMI-based mental health support group to meet here on a regular basis. He will talk with Maeleen Thorius about this and report back next session meeting.

A motion from Servanthood that Compeer be able to use all of Room 12 in the FPC lower level was approved. The family resource center will be moved to a new location on the lower level. During discussion it was decided that a lock would be placed on the Compeer door and a key given to their staff, as well as our staff. It will help to know their schedule so that FPC staff knows when to expect them there. Pastor Sam will follow up on this.

New staff member Leah Bergman gave a presentation on the new Sunday program beginning this fall, entitled Koinonia, which will be Sundays from 9:00-10:15 a.m. September 11, 2016 will be the kick-off date, involving introductions and a breakfast. Community building exercises will be held the following two weeks, and a four-week thematic program will begin in October. The theme will change each month, and each month will have a mission component. At Elder Ulch’s suggestion, session members were encouraged to intentionally invite everyone to the kick-off.

Elder Carol Ulch elaborated on the REALM planning reports. More information will be coming in the future.

Pastor Sam extended by a month – to September — the due date for ministry progress reports. Some ministries had not yet turned in their reports on how they are

progressing on their 2016 long-range planning goals.

Elder John Barr reported on the status of the capital funds campaign. Five key infrastructure committees have been formed, along with a very detailed schedule. Elders Ken Fisher and Barr are co-chairs of the committee to meet with potential donors. The advanced phase of the campaign, when contact is made with those who might be able to make a substantial donation, should last about a month. The next phase may involve asking some elders to help with requests within the congregation and the community. The entire formal campaign will wrap up the first week of November 2016.

Session discussed the question of whether FPC staff members should be invited to the first part of session meetings. Staff would stay for whatever pertains to them, perhaps through Special Orders. A motion allowing Pastor Sam to take up this notion with staff was approved.

Pastor Sam distributed a request for an alternative schedule for Ministry budget preparation, with October 17, 2016 being the due date for ministries to submit their budget requests — that should be consistent with their planned goals – per the planning process for 2017. This is instead of October 1.

A motion stating that Pastor Sam may begin the process of working with Pastor Sherry Lohman on her approval as a Presbyterian Commissioned Ruling Elder was approved.

A motion allowing Elder Ann Grosscup to submit a photo of the new staff to the Presbytery newsletter “Out and About,” and Pastor Sam to share prayer concerns with them as well, was approved.

Elder Grosscup reported that Holy Jerusalem Pentecostal Church held its conference here at FPC August 13–14, 2016. The conference went well, with lots of kids, dancing, and music.

Elder Grosscup also reported that there would be a meeting Wednesday, August 17, 2016, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. here at FPC to address Johnson County refugees’ status and needs. Representatives of many local and state groups would be giving brief talks about their interest and involvement in refugee services, and input will be solicited.

A motion adjourning with sharing of joys and concerns, followed by prayer was approved. Elder Dale Kraus closed the meeting with prayer.

The next session meeting will be held September 20, 2016, at 7 p.m. in Coover Lounge.



Medical Check-ups for Students

Katie is a friend of our church and a member of Friends of Pasrur. For several years, Katie has been donating to facilitate medical check-ups and medical education at the Pasrur School in Pakistan. This is a memorial for her daughter, Kelley Lind, who worked in the medical field, in Child Life.

Now this wonderful program is spreading to all the PEB (Presbyterian Education Board) schools. PEB is working with the mission hospitals in Sialkot and Taxila to organize this program in all the PEB Schools at an affordable cost. It is a great benefit to hundreds of students and their families.

Martha Circle will be meeting on Wednesday September 21

Please join us!

Our program will be given by Carol Tippe. She is going to tell us all about the Johnson County Hospice House that opened this year. At 9:30 we have a social time with refreshments. At 10:00 we have our business meeting, which is usually fairly short, and then our program. We are always done by 11:30 and sometimes earlier. **Hope to see you there.**

Needles, Hooks and Yarn

Mark your calendar to join us at Legacy Senior Living from 9 – 11 a.m. on Saturdays for the weekly gathering of this lively group who knit and crochet.

More info: Tammy Schroeder 351-2660 or Carol Macon 351-3847



FPC Book Club Invites You to Join Us

The book club will meet in Ryerson Fellowship Hall from Noon - 1 p.m.

September 28: *A New Kind of Christian: A Tale of Two Friends on a Spiritual Journey* by Brian D. McLarsen

October 26: *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah

Bring your lunch and share in the fellowship.

For more information, contact Jan Walker at 358-6737



(Pastor's letter cont. from page 2)

her way up to stand at the conclusion of worship. In either event, she has seating options for which she is grateful.

Because she cannot bear great weight, she will not be able to handle the Bible or our hymnbook: They are too heavy. Because she has arthritis in her hands, she cannot easily handle the bulletin paper. Although one large central screen in the chancel area — that can be seen from the back easily and yet not cover the cross — is not physically possible, she will nevertheless note gratefully that we have technology in the sanctuary. This technology allows her to see the words and see images without having to hold anything. She even sees that the images of song include musical notes! Then she remembers that the Presbyterian hymnbook comes with video technology that displays the musical notes as well as the words. This same technology allows services to be broadcast in Ryerson Fellowship Hall for young families who don't want to be in the sanctuary. Clearly, our guest will say to herself, this is a congregation that values all of her people: people who are aged, people who have disabilities, young children, youth, and those who appreciate not having to hold books or paper.

I have been told that our visitor coming so soon values music: all music. So she appreciates the intricacies and the skills that come with playing an organ. She looks forward to hearing ours since she received instruction to come visit us. Because she is knowledgeable of such instruments, she appreciates that not only must there be annual maintenance, yet also every decade or so the entire instrument must be torn out, deeply cleaned, and deeply repaired in ways that would not be possible otherwise.

No doubt she will decide that she will want to examine the organ more closely. She will enter Ryerson Fellowship Hall and look to her right to see an elevator. She will go to it, enter it and go to the balcony. There she will see the organ. It is a beautiful and rare instrument that glorifies God. She will step back into the elevator and decide that she also wants to see the lower level of the building. She has heard that we have opened our doors to persons from another congregation that worships there. She has heard also that in the lower level is where we have free offices for nonprofits like COMPEER that run on a shoe-string budget. It is also a place where we take care of babies, young children and youth. She is grateful that she does not have to take stairs in order to see other parts of the building. She knows of congregations so insensitive to the needs of their neighbors and the expectations of the wider culture that they don't bother installing an elevator. This alone tells her how special and open to the call of God is this congregation: We seek to be hospitable to all people.

She will return to the level of Ryerson Hall and she will see, across the room, the kitchen. She comes from the developing world and she knows the importance of

hospitality in her Middle Eastern culture. She values the Lord's Table and she values the means by which fellowship can flourish between people in a church. She has heard that the kitchen is quite special. Not only is it used to serve the needs of our own people: it also is open to other groups who need a kitchen in order to have fellowship. She's heard of our Congolese friends using our kitchen for a funeral reception and conferences. She's heard of St. Andrew church using our kitchen during their renovation. She will cross Ryerson Hall to go to the kitchen and to see how it looks. What joy she will experience when she realizes that the kitchen has been remodeled to make it accessible to people like her! Indeed, a number of people can spend time in the kitchen together and enjoy each other's fellowship.

She will return to Ryerson Fellowship Hall. Here she will finally sit to rest again. She will be served coffee during a mission program about Pakistan. The video screen will be viewable by her even when there is bright sunlight outside. With cup of coffee and small plate of food, she will observe and take joy from the pictures of Pakistan that she witnesses. She will understand that every Sunday morning children and youth and adults are served breakfast in this space. How much the Lord must appreciate this! The image shifts from Pakistan, where the congregation has supported the creation of new classrooms, to an image of a newly built Habitat House a family can now enjoy because First Presbyterian Church.

Friends, if you have not yet guessed it, the visiting woman is the one from our Scripture lesson (Luke 13:10-17). We find her on the margins, yet Jesus puts her right in the middle, and there he ministers to her.

This campaign is not about something that's exciting or sexy or anything of fluff. This capital campaign is about making this building accessible to women and men and youth and children and persons who are disabled, just like this woman. Jesus tells us she is important to us and that to welcome her is to welcome him. The boss to whom the woman is answerable is Jesus Christ himself, the risen Christ. Were you expecting somebody more important than the risen Christ to be concerned about the shape of our building? Tell me: who is more important to you than the risen Christ? This renovation is something for which God has given us the financial resources. Some of us have deep pockets and some of us are already giving as much as we possibly can, even the 10%, and more than 10%. Yet all of us are invited to hear the call of Jesus Christ to make for, and to practice generous hospitality toward, this woman who is coming soon.

With love, Your pastor,
Sam



After much discussion and planning, the parking lot repair is in progress. Work began on Tuesday, September 6. The east driveway from Rochester Ave. will remain open as long as possible. Please be patient as this work progresses, as we strive to make the parking lot as safe and usable as possible. Efforts will be made to keep the church as accessible as possible. Thank you for your understanding

seek • serve • follow

Nomination of Elders and Deacons

It is time to begin the process of nominating Elders and Deacons for the term beginning January 2017. The Congregational Nominating Committee is seeking suggestions from the congregation for nominations to these positions. Elders and Deacons are elected church officers and represent both God and all church members. Therefore it is important and encouraged that the congregation bring suggestions for nominations to the Congregational Nominating Committee's attention.

Your input is very important to the work of the Congregational Nominating Committee. Please share your suggestions and thoughts for possible Elders and Deacons on or before the second Sunday in September. Self-nominations are acceptable. All nominations will be considered prayerfully by the CNC. You may contact any of the Nominating Committee members directly or leave your suggestions in the church office in Elder Ann Grosscup's mailbox.

Nominating Committee: Jeremy Fletcher; Mary Ann Pedde; Don Ross; Becky Ross; Judy Terry (Elder, 2017); Ann Grosscup (Elder, 2018), chairperson; David Carlson (Deacon, 2017)

Current church officers are listed below (Class of 2017 term ends December 31, 2020.)

ELDERS	DEACONS
<u>Class of 2016</u> John Barr, Ed Cranston, Sue Dallam, Ken Fisher, Amy Fletcher and Dan Thedens	<u>Class of 2016</u> Anita Burnett, Louise Gisolfi, Mary Linn, Pauline Miller, Maeleen Thorius, Chitoka Guerrero-Webb
<u>Class of 2017</u> Jim Claypool, Vern Dengler, Dale Kraus, Ben Nicholson, Judy Terry, Richard Van Rheeden	<u>Class of 2017</u> Stephanie Brentner, David Carlson, Liz Bolin, Moses Kasiriba, Cedric Lee, Sue Olson
<u>Class of 2018</u> Nancy Gardner, Ann Grosscup, Andreas Soemadi, Carol Ulch and Bob Youngquist	<u>Class of 2018</u> Aziza Bigaba, Rhonda Barr, Mary Helen Kennerly, Tom Martin, Cory Morris and Sue Van Duyn-Phipps



Nominations of Elders and Deacons

Submit suggestions to the church office for Ann Grosscup

My suggestion for:

Elder

Deacon

Comments:

First Presbyterian Church
 2701 Rochester Ave.
 Iowa City, Iowa 52245

Public Office Hours:
 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday
except holidays or when announced
 Ph 319-351-2660
 www.firstpresbiowacity.org



If you telephone the church office sometime between 12 noon and 1 p.m. and are directed to voicemail, please be patient. Staff takes 30 minutes a day for shared food, fellowship, and team building, so the actual time varies according to the needs of the church. At other times we may be on another line or in another part of the building addressing a ministry need. We will return your call!

And if you can volunteer to help answer the phones, that would be an answer to prayer.

First Presbyterian Church Staff

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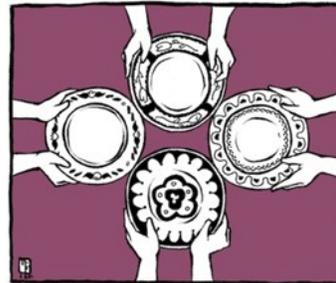
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PASTOR
Sam Massey
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Groups of 6+



For those interested in a smaller community here at First Presbyterian Church, consider joining a Group of 6+. This is an adult small group meant to connect and build friendships! This year, there are a few twists to what we've done in the past!

First, there is a list below of various interests. If you are interested in joining a group built on common interest, please circle what you enjoy doing and we will work to group people in this way. If interested in a traditional dinner group, please leave blank.

Second, since Anna is organizing this and is still learning about the members of FPC, please fill out one form per each couple. If a couple wants to join separate groups, please fill out one sheet per person.

Name(s): _____

Best way to contact: _____
Provide e-mail, mailing address, best phone number

_____ I would like to be a facilitator and organize the first meeting

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Wine & Cheese | <input type="radio"/> Musical Concerts |
| <input type="radio"/> Gardening | <input type="radio"/> Book Reading/Sharing |
| <input type="radio"/> Movies | <input type="radio"/> Board games |
| <input type="radio"/> Hiking | <input type="radio"/> Baking |

Forms are due September 25. Please place them in the narthex in the box marked 'Groups of 6+', mail this back to the church or place in Anna's mailbox in the office. Groups will be formed and notified by October 2. Please contact Anna at anna.sheetz@firstpresbiowacity.org with questions.