



Don't Miss Out! Come One! Come All! 2017 Take Away Hunger

(formerly known as Kids Against Hunger)

Saturday, January 21, 8:00–Noon

**We Need Your Help
for Our Food Packing Event
All Ages ... Join Us**

Sign up in Ryerson Fellowship Hall

FPC has supported this mission (formerly known as Kids Against Hunger) for the past several years. Don and Sandee Fields became the first Kids Against Hunger packaging distribution center coordinators in Iowa in March of 2003. Over the ensuing years they have directed the operation, and millions of meals have been packaged and subsequently distributed worldwide to feed hungry people. In 2016, they rebranded their company to use the name "Take Away Hunger." Their mission remains the same: feed the hungry and show the love of Jesus.

This year FPC families and friends will gather in Ryerson Fellowship Hall for another "Packing Party." This event will include several teams of 10 to 12 people of all ages who have decided to make a difference! The FPC team will package approximately 1,728 meals in about 45 minutes at a cost of 25 cents per meal. AND you will have fun doing it!

Save the date on your calendar. Then after the holidays there will be an opportunity for you to sign up to be a part of a team and have some fun. Don't miss out.



Shake off the winter blues

Join us for a PASTA LUNCH on January 29, after 10:30 Worship



Lunch will be hosted by youth and their parents to benefit our summer youth mission trip expenses.

The congregational meeting for receiving reports, asking questions, and deciding the pastor's terms of call will be held after worship on Sunday, January 29. Come meet and eat!

Happy New Year from all of us to all of you!

Dear sisters and brothers of First Presbyterian Church,

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you! And Happy New Year!

Birthdays and New Year's Day tend to be moments when we take time to think about time. So important are they, we actually count them. In September I will reach a ripe 60 years of age. In a couple of weeks, it will be 2017. I don't count trips to the recycling center with the same zeal.

A recent article in *Scientific American Mind* reflected on how people in different cultures see time differently, although almost always in spatial terms. For example, we Americans tend to see the past as behind us and the future in front of us. We also see the past lying to the left (think of a calendar) and the future lying to the right. Doesn't everybody?

Apparently not. The article noted that in cultures impacted by the Hebrew Scriptures, time moves from a rightward past to a leftward future, paralleling the written language. For those impacted by Mandarin Chinese, the movement is from the past above to the future below, likewise mirroring written language.

Simple enough! Yet among the Aymara in South America and the Vietnamese, the past is what you face and the future is beyond you. This makes sense: Don't we have a clearer vision of the past than of the future? Hindsight is always 20/20, as we sometimes claim. For the Yupno of Papua New Guinea and the Tzeital in Mexico, the past is downhill and the future is uphill. For the Pormpuraaw in Australia, the past is east and the future is west, tracking the sun.

Scientists surmise that this equation of time with space must have deep evolutionary roots. Perhaps the parts of the brain where we humans reflect on time and space get mixed together. Should we wonder at Einstein's insistence on time and space being inextricably tied to each other? Maybe he was just confused?

Or perhaps we learned early in primordial history that time is measured by whether or not we are where we want to be, in a specific space: migrating across frozen tundra in the quest for food, or snug as a bug in a rug warmed by the campfire at home, surrounded by loved ones, and tossing down that last piece of mastodon.

We know that sometimes time can be relative. As we sit in the doctor's office or lie in a hospital bed, time can feel interminable. A weekend spent with my wife and boys before they go on their adventures feels instantaneous: *tempus fugit*.

Traditionally speaking, western culture has tended to see time moving from past to future: We want to see progress! In other cultures, time has been viewed circularly, recurring, as in reincarnation. A few cultures see time expressed as a motion toward becoming, a fulfillment that is apart from an explicit sense of a timeline.

Of course, on the quantum level – the lowest common denominator of being experienced physically by us – there is no time at all. All exists in an eternal now. So peculiar is this



finding, some scientists suggest that time is merely a human construct, not real but imposed by us on creation as if real.

I find time quite bewildering! At those times that I contemplate time, such as when I peer into the fog of the new year, I am forced on to the wisdom of Ecclesiastes 3:1-8:

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

The author does not advocate any particular time, yet urges us to recognize that every time comes when due, wanted by us or not. So the wise person appreciates the good times and endures the bad ones, and perhaps even perceives how thoroughly good and bad times are wrapped up with one another. The author also bids us understand that all of time is God's time.

So I leave you in a different time and place than when we started, yet in some ways it is a recurrence of the same. "God is with you, no matter what life brings" (Joshua 1:9), and in whatever direction time travels. Later gator.

Blessings, your pastor, Sam

Pastor Sam

ATTENTION to All Retired Folks!

“We’re not done, yet!”

Are you retired; maybe newly retired? Do you feel like you may be in a sort of “no man’s land,” at a loss for direction and purpose? Are you looking for what’s next in your life, and, if so, is it with excitement, surprise, expectations, or none of the above.

Would you like to be a part of a new, small group, with folks sharing experiences of this particular time in their lives? Or maybe you have been retired for awhile, feel your life is full. Perhaps you have something to share with this group. I’d like to meet once a month, to be decided by the consensus of the group.

Whatever the case may be, I would like to invite you to join in with this new, small group, for sharing, for caring and in anticipation of what God has in store for you. I have three books that could lend direction to living to our full potential, courageously and vulnerably. Brene Brown’s book, “*Daring Greatly*,” Elizabeth Gilbert’s book, “*Big Magic*,” and Rob Bell’s book, “*How to Be Here*.” Will you need to read the books? No—it’s not a book group. But we may pull from these teachers.

Interested? I hope so! Let’s get going—it’s not too late to set something up for January. Looking forward to seeing you! Call me (Sherry Lohman 621-1828), or email: sherry.lohman@firstpresbiowacity.org

Free Lunch Team News

Our Free Lunch team enjoyed the help of two new members at its December serving day on December 15 — Anna Sheetz, our Minister of Youth, Young Adult and Servanthood Ministries, and Diane Mattila, a new visitor to our church. We served our guests a meal of meatloaf, macaroni and cheese, colorful stir-fried vegetables, cumin roasted sweet potatoes, green salad, applesauce, orange wedges and huge chocolate chip cookies. Some of the food was purchased with funds provided by our Presbyterian Women. Some of it came from Table to Table and the Free Lunch pantry stock. The cookies were generously provided by Hae-Won Song, a dedicated volunteer who comes in quietly each month to stir fry our vegetables. Earlier in the year she asked if she could bake desserts for our team, and each month our team eagerly waits to see (and taste) what she has brought. December 15 was a very cold day and the guests appreciated the warm meal and hospitality.

If you would like to volunteer with our Free Lunch team, please contact Carol Kirsch at 319-325-2559 or carolkirsch52@gmail.com. If you would like to find out a bit more about the Free Lunch Program, please visit <http://www.icflp.org>.

Deacons Bench

Part of the role of Deacons is to foster relationships within our church family and nurture those relationships through various caring ministries. Each person in the congregation has been assigned two Deacons. These Deacon contacts are meant to supplement but not replace the need for pastoral care. We hope to ensure that everyone will get to know their Deacons, and feel comfortable contacting them when there is a need for information about resources available or caring ministry services.

With the New Year, the Deacons will be re-assigned to the Deacon Neighborhoods that were formed last year. There are nine geographical neighborhoods, each with a color name: Burgundy, Blue, Yellow, Orange, Red, Purple, Teal, Green and Fuchsia. In the coming weeks, your newly

assigned Deacons will be contacting you by email, phone call or at church to introduce themselves to you. In most cases, your Deacons will live near you.

If you need assistance in the meantime, please contact the office. Staff will forward your request to the appropriate Deacons. You are also welcome to contact your 2016 Deacon Pair, and they will direct you to the appropriate Deacons. If you have any questions, please contact Rhonda Barr at jobtennis@mchsi.com.



Braking Traffik Recognized as Recipient of FBI Director's Community Leadership Award for 2016

FPC's Justice Committee introduced the Iowa City community-at-large to Braking Traffik with a human trafficking awareness conference in the fall of 2014. Speakers included Braking Traffik Founder Maggie Tinsman, Braking Traffik Executive Director Cathy O'Keefe and FBI agent Brian Endrizal. The Committee then co-sponsored a billboard with Braking Traffik to advertise the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline (888-373-7888).

From FBI Springfield, Special Agent Marshall Stone, December 16, 2016: Sean M. Cox, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Springfield Division, announced that Braking Traffik, a program of Family Resources of the Quad Cities which serves both Northwest Illinois and Southeast Iowa, has been selected as the recipient of the FBI Director's Community Leadership Award for 2016.

This special award, presented on behalf of the Director of the FBI, was formally created in 1990 as a way to honor individuals and organizations for their efforts in combating terrorism, cyber crime, illegal drugs, gangs, and other crimes leading to violence in America. Braking Traffik is one of 56 individuals or organizations around the United States who will receive this award this year. Braking Traffik is being recognized for its programs that provide training through education and direct services to survivors of human trafficking.

Braking Traffik is a leader in Illinois and Iowa dedicated to ending human trafficking. It provides community

outreach and education, legislative advocacy, and comprehensive services to survivors of human trafficking.

Braking Traffik's "Any Kid Anywhere" is a program that targets middle and high school students. The program's curriculum teaches students and teachers about what human trafficking is, risk reduction, and how to end the demand. This program is currently being conducted throughout the United States. Braking Traffik is proud of its "Hotel/Motel Project," where they partner with area organizations to provide training to hotels and motels to raise awareness of human trafficking and to advise on effective responses to suspected incidences.

Braking Traffik was founded by Maggie Tinsman in 2008, and 2011 served as a turning point for the organization. They needed someone who could grow the non-profit, and that is when Cathy O'Keefe was hired as Executive Director for Braking Traffik. Mrs. O'Keefe has been working for the organization since 2011.

James B. Comey, Director of the FBI, will present the Director's Community Leadership Award to Braking Traffik during an official ceremony held at FBI Headquarters in Washington, D.C. in April 2017.

Screening of Documentary Film *Being Mortal*

Honoring Your Wishes, a program of Iowa City Hospice, invites the public to the screenings of the PBS documentary film *Being Mortal* on the following occasions:

Sunday, January 29, 2017, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Sanctuary Community Church, 2205 East Grantview Drive, Coralville
Sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Society of Iowa City

Wednesday, March 1, 2017, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.
The Senior Center, 28 South Linn Street, Iowa City
Sponsored by the Senior Center

In conjunction with Dr. Atul Gawande's widely acclaimed book, *Being Mortal*, the film follows renowned New York writer and Boston surgeon Dr. Gawande as he explores the relationships doctors have with patients who are nearing the end of life. The film sheds light on how a medical system focused on a cure often leaves out the sensitive conversations that need to happen so a person's true wishes can be known and honored.

Following the screening, audience members will be invited to participate in a discussion about the film. Tips on how to have conversations with family, friends, and health care professionals will be presented, and community resources will be identified.

First's Family News

Newsletter DEADLINE

The newsletter is designed to keep the congregation aware of church events and church life. The 1st of each month is the deadline for publication covering the 15th of the current month to the 15th of the following month. Articles no longer than 400 words should be submitted to tammy.foster@firstpreswoacity.org. Thank you!



January 15-31

1/20 Mary Linn
1/22 Elizabeth Woodburn
1/22 Vivian Adams
1/22 Ruth Selmer
1/22 Sawyer Selmer
1/23 Mary Roberts
1/23 Mike Farran
1/23 Deb Minot
1/24 Helen Chadima
1/24 Keith Brown
1/25 Will Massey
1/26 David Carlson
1/26 Jim Bradley
1/27 Michelle Bessman

1/28 Kathy Maxey
1/28 Logan Schroeder
1/29 Dwight Shaffer
1/30 Evelyn Greimann
1/31 Carol Macon
1/31 Herb Wilson
1/31 Betty McNeal
1/31 Ann Grosscup
1/31 Chris Greimann
1/31 Roslyn Cargill

February 1-14

2/1 Steve Schomberg
2/3 Diana Evers
2/4 Pam Ehrhardt
2/5 Tina Stolz
2/7 Kristin Summerwill
2/7 Alex Jacobus
2/8 James Winegarden
2/8 Laura Jacobus
2/10 Tammy Schroeder
2/11 Paula Sanan
2/12 Daissy Owen
2/14 Linda Morris
2/14 Alex Marsh

With Sympathy

To **Dorothy Seebohm and family** on the death of **Paul**, who died January 8. Pastor Sam led the service on January 12 at Lensing Funeral & Cremation.



**Known
to have been
Hospitalized:**

**Joan Maxwell, Earline Moll,
Chitoka Guerrero-Webb,
Ann Feddersen and Cynthia
Chou-Liang**



Worship & Celebration Ministry

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



Youth Choir Grades 4-12 January–May Schedule

*Youth Choir rehearsals start back on January 19.
Generally there will be 2 rehearsals per month.*

Thursday, January 19

7:30-8:30 p.m.

Thursdays, February 9 and 16

7:30-8:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 26

9:30-11:30 a.m., Youth Choir sings in 10:30 worship

Thursdays, March 23 and 30

7:30-8:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 6

7:30-8:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 13

Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 15

Easter Vigil Service, 7:00 p.m.

Thursdays, April 20 and 27

7:30-8:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 11

7:30-8:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 14

Youth Sunday, 10:30 a.m.

Jesus, Holy Thief

In the middle of Advent, I watched a short video interview from *The Work of the People* of Nadia Bolz-Weber speaking about Jesus as a “holy thief.” She discussed the early Advent lectionary texts such as Matthew 24:36-44, when Jesus will come like a thief in the night: “Two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left.” Looking toward Christmas, Bolz-Weber presented the idea of instead of making a Christmas list of things we want Santa to bring us, we instead make a list of things we need Jesus as Holy Thief to rob us of. I have been meditating on this through the Christmas season and into this new year with all the hopes, demands, and resolutions the turning of the calendar pages often requires. What do I need to let Christ rob me of this year? What do you need the Holy Thief to make off with in the night? As a church, what are we called to let go of and give up to God? Let us use this quiet time between Christmas and Lent to pare down, go back to the essentials, and let Christ lead us forward with only what we really need.

Happy New Year

-Leah Bergman



Children’s Organ Concert

Did you know that this year we are celebrating the 40th birthday of the FPC organ? As part of the celebration, Melissa Moll is putting on a special organ concert geared toward children on **Saturday, February 18th at 10:00 a.m.**

Be on the lookout for more information about this concert and other events throughout the year celebrating the 40th anniversary of the newly refurbished Phelps organ.

Director of Instrumental Music Dennis Pedde has been faithfully serving First Presbyterian Church for over 20 years. This year marks 40 years for him of serving God through music ministry.

On **February 12**, the 10:30 a.m. worship service and fellowship hour will celebrate Dennis’s many years of offering his gifts to God through music.

Read more about Dennis’s 40 years in music ministry on p. 13.

Equipping Ministry



“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

—Matthew 18:20

Koinonia Every Sunday, 9–10:15 a.m.

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.”

January

Theme: “Bible Blitz!”

Jan. 15 Break-Out sessions
Jan. 22 Mission
Jan. 29 Break-Out sessions

February

Theme: “I am the church, you are the church ... “

Feb. 5 Learning and Exploring all together in Ryerson Fellowship Hall
Feb. 12 Break-Out sessions
Feb. 19 Mission
Feb. 26 Break-Out sessions

Mark your calendars!

Vacation Bible School at FPC will be June 12-16. Join us for an exciting superhero themed week! Look for more information coming soon!



The Way 4th–6th grade Youth Group

Thursday, January 12

6:00–8:30 p.m. Dinner, Youth Group, BIG GAME

Thursday, February 9

6:00–8:30 p.m. Dinner, Youth Group, BIG GAME

Thursday, March 9

6:00–8:30 p.m. Dinner, Youth Group, BIG GAME

Thursday, April 13

7 p.m.. Maundy Thursday Worship

Thursday, May 18

7 p.m.. End of the school year potluck and celebration

Toys Needed!

The nursery is in need of some more toys. If you are interested in donating one or more of these items, please contact Leah Bergman to make sure the item is appropriate.



Items needed:

- Toy vehicles
- Fisher Price Rollin’ Ramps car garage
- Dollhouse
- Dolls and furniture for dollhouse
- Duplo Legos
- Riding and push toys
- Stacking, Lacing, and Sorting toys
- Baby-specific toys (washable, for 3–24 mos.)

For more information:

leah.bergman@firstpreswocacity.org or 319-351-2660

Baby Music Class

Suzuki music class for babies and toddlers,
from birth through age 3, with a parent

When: Tuesdays 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Beginning January 17

Where: First Presbyterian Church

2701 Rochester Ave
Iowa City, IA 52245



Songs, rhymes, stories and rhythm instruments are used to teach musical concepts, language and pre-reading skills, numbers, physical coordination, social and emotional skills, and much more!



Suzuki approach emphasizes positive communication and repetition, within a calm, nurturing environment



Parents learn to be active observers of their child's learning process, and build a repertoire of lullabies, action songs, and rhymes, with techniques for using them at home.



Class is ongoing - new students may join at any time.



Try out a class for free at any time!

For more information: www.firstpresioiwacity.org
leah.bergman@firstpresioiwacity.org
319-351-2660

Nursery

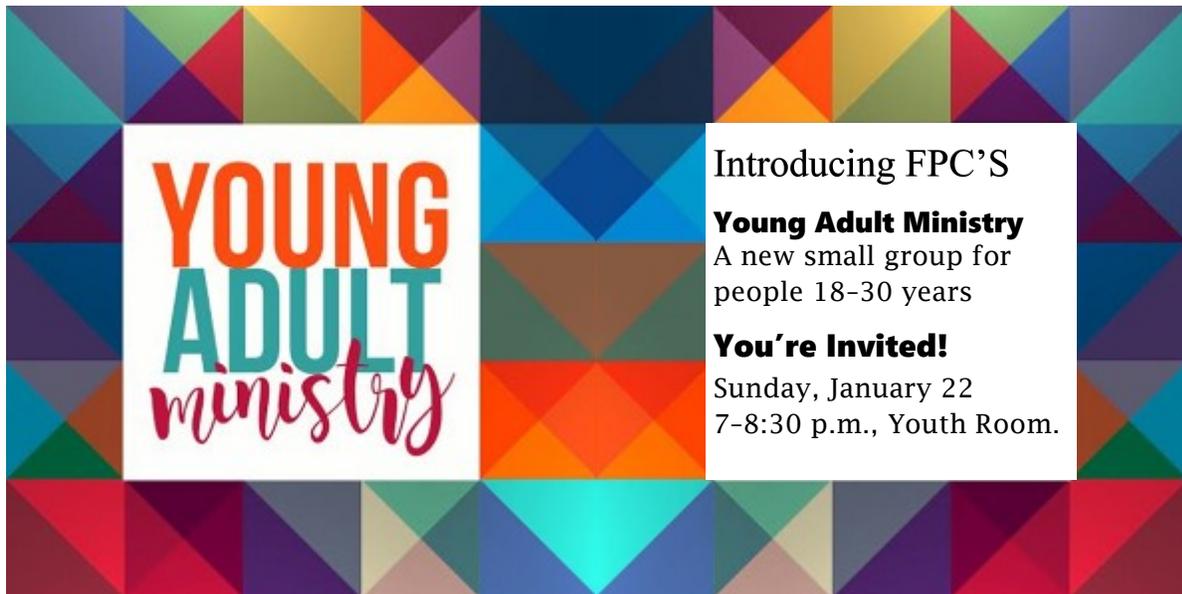
PLAY
TIME

Hours

Starting Monday, January 9, the church nursery will have weekly open playtime hours between 8 a.m. and noon. Come with your children to play in First Presbyterian Church's sunny nursery space, explore the toys and art supplies, and visit with other parents and children.



Equipping Ministry



**YOUNG
ADULT
ministry**

Introducing FPC'S
Young Adult Ministry
A new small group for
people 18-30 years
You're Invited!
Sunday, January 22
7-8:30 p.m., Youth Room.



Introducing a new "Senior Seminar"
This will be a 5-meeting small group for
high school juniors and seniors. There will be
guest speakers who can teach about
student loans, time management, study habits, etc.
Our first meeting will be
Sunday, February 5 from 7-8:30 p.m.

Dinner Help is
needed. Please consider
making dinner one
Thursday. We have a lot
of fun and would love to
experience your family
recipes and for to join us.
Please let Anna know if
you would like more
details.

EAT OUT GROUP

Invites you to join us at Iowa City's
newest Mexican bar & grille
(located in the old Okoboji Grill space)

Thursday, Jan. 19 at 6 p.m.
Hosts: Andreas & Val Soemadi
319-354-1219



Equipping Ministry

Youth Ministry Happenings!

January 19, 6-8:30 After we learn about Shalom, we learn about Resurrection and what it might mean for justice. **First Youth choir of 2017 meets from 7:30-8:30.**

January 22, 7-8:30 Young Adult Ministry Kickoff! A new group for people ages 18-20; meet in the youth room.

January 26, 6-8:30 Layne and Jamie will teach about a different type of Resurrection. Come learn and play a Big Game.

January 29, 11:30-2 EDGE youth group Congregational Meeting Lunch Fundraiser

February 2, 6-8:30 In February, we'll explore relationships. First up are family relationships. **Youth Choir meets from 7:30-8:30**

February 5, 11:45-1 The first Confirmation Class! Parents should have received an email with information.

February 5, 7-8:30 The First "Senior Seminar"; check out the announcement for more information.

February 9, 6-8:30 Our Potluck Night! Parents and all youth groups meet. We'll learn about relationships with ourselves. **BIG GAME NIGHT**

February 12, 11:45-1 Confirmation Class Meets

February 16, 6-8:30 Youth Group meets to talk about dating relationships. **Youth Choir meets from 7:30-8:30.**

Welcome to FPC Youth Ministry!

We have three youth groups ranging from 4-12 grades. They are called:

The Way 4-6 graders. This meets once a month on our Potluck Night.

The Rock 7-8 graders. Meets every week.

The Edge 9-12 graders. Meets every week.

We also have a **Parent's Class** that meets once a month during our Potluck Night.

Our Thursday night typically looks like this:

6-6:40 Delicious Dinner in Ryerson Fellowship Hall

6:45-7:30 Lesson in Youth Room

7:30-8:30 Youth Choir in the Choir Room or a **BIG GAME**, starting in Youth Room

This is a great environment to grow, learn, and have fun! If you are a youth, please come join us! If you are an adult, we are always looking for leaders and volunteers to donate and join us for dinners.

If you have any questions, please contact Anna Anna.Sheetz@firstpresiwacivity.org or Leah Leah.Bergman@firstpresiwacivity.org

Pasrur Update

Jane Cranston, Friends of Pasrur



Stuffed Animals Arrive at Pasrur for Christmas

When Veda was here, she took all the stuffed animals we had collected for the girls. They filled two huge suitcases. She gave them to the girls before Christmas from all of us at First Presbyterian. The girls were utterly thrilled. This will be a Christmas to remember for them. It is a nice way for the girls to have a little stuffed friend while they are away at school. Many thanks to everyone who donated stuffed animals.



Scholarships for 2017

The Friends of Pasrur sent the last letters out for scholarship donations. At this writing, we have not reached our goal for scholarships for all the girls. If you planned to donate but haven't gotten around to it, please let us know. All contributions are appreciated. We hope to have scholarships for all 100 for the coming school year. Please keep the girls in your prayers.



December 2016 Session Highlights

~by Nancy Weber, Clerk of Session

The session met December 20, 2016 in Coover Lounge at 7 p.m. Pastor Sam called the meeting to order and lit the Christ candle. Elder Nancy Gardner read a humorous story about Christmas expectations and led us in prayer.

A 3-month report on website traffic was attached. It compared the previous three months (September 2016 – November 2016) with the three months prior to that (June 2016 – August 2016). Also included was an analysis prepared by Lara Marsh on some of the insights that might be found by looking at this information.

Correspondence concerning the per capita rate was given to Larry Bruner, and a request for donations from the Menaul School in Albuquerque, NM was noted.

Judy Kolsrud's death on December 4, 2016 was noted. Her funeral was held December 12 in Clinton.

Finance chair Larry Bruner stated that there is a \$34,000 balance in the black presently. Elder Ken Fisher asked if costs related to the capital campaign could be identified and monitored in the software. Larry said that is in the plans.

Minutes of the 11-15-2016 stated session meeting, the 11-27-2016 special session meeting, the 11-20-2016 special session meeting to welcome new members, and the 11-13-2016 congregational meeting were approved.

Already approved via email was the following motion: Sadie Mae wishes to use Burianek money (either from that amount not yet designated from reception a year ago by the church, or as part of the \$27K due this year and yet to be received by the church before year's end) to send Anna Sheetz and Leah Bergman to the January APCE conference. They needed to register by December 2 to get the lower rate.

Pastor Sam's proposed 2017 Officer assignments were approved, as was Worship & Celebration's list of proposed 2017 Communion dates.

Pastor Sam announced both Judy Terry and Dale Kraus would be having surgery the next day. Sam gave them each a prayer shawl.

Pastor Sam gave farewell gifts and sincere words of thanks to each departing officer: John Barr, Sue Dallam (not in attendance), Ken Fisher, and Dan Thedens.

The new class of session members in attendance, Cathie Franz, Sherry Lohman, Sharon Raffensperger, and Michelle Bessman, introduced themselves.

A motion to create a special program fund line to track donations for the Boys School at Pasrur was approved.

Elder Dan Thedens distributed "Staff Salary Market Information," a document that will be useful when working up salaries for FPC staff. All salaries are to come

directly from the budget, not endowment or other sources.

Elder Richard Van Rheeden gave a report from the Stewardship Committee on the campaign. 63 individuals had not returned pledges. Over \$301,000 had been pledged so far. The committee will meet again in January. We are short of our budget goal at this time, probably because bad weather on Sundays has not been good for attendance and there has not yet been any follow up for non-pledgers since pledge Sunday. Delayed pledges coming in should be anticipated.

Elder Dale Kraus gave a report from Finance on the 2017 budget. He was guardedly optimistic.

Elder John Barr spoke about the Renovation Task Force. A document stating a motion and support statement for the motion was distributed. The motion from Elders Barr and Kraus was put forth – That session accept with gratitude, as a restricted donor gift to the Capital Funds Campaign and in honor of First Presbyterian's historic commitment to Pasrur, the full payment by the donor of the 5% slated to go to Pasrur - calculated on the monies raised and received by the congregation to address FPC capital needs, and that has been previously designated by session to go to Pasrur – as well as an additional financial gift by the donor to the campaign that will raise the total going to Pasrur to \$100,000. Because the current need in Pasrur has been redefined by PEB through representative Veda Gill working with the donor (restoration of a house in disrepair is no longer on PEB's agenda), session also understands that the money will now most likely be used to expand the education facilities for the Christian Girls High School to accommodate boys' education as a way to supplement the Girls High School funding. The motion was approved, with one negative vote cast by Elder Ed Cranston.

Pastor Sam gave his hearty thanks to Elders Ann Grosscup and Ed Cranston for their work involving the refugee assistance meeting held at FPC December 14, 2016. It was especially noteworthy that refugees at the meeting expressed that they felt safe here.

Elder Ed Cranston expressed his thanks to Elder Dale Kraus for the stand he made for the Bible in the sanctuary.

Pastor Sam expressed thanks for the good meeting concerning racial justice in the Iowa City/Cedar Rapids Corridor region that was held at FPC Saturday night, December 17, 2016, during a blizzard.

Pastor Sam spoke briefly about our successful capital campaign, thanking elders for their work on the capital campaign and with the congregation.



Elder Judy Terry expressed thanks for those who work to keep the building up.

Elder Richard Van Rheeden again spoke about the trunk sale, and wondered how we might show off our updated organ.

A Presbytery meeting to be held here at FPC has been scheduled for February 15, 2016. Help with this event will be recruited at the next session meeting.

Elder Grosscup said that online access to the Christmas Eve services would be available.

Elder Vern Dengler said we might have motion sensors on the indoor stair lights soon. A question was posed about the carpet going downstairs being disorienting. B&G and Vern will look into it.

Pastor Sam closed the meeting with prayer.

The next session meeting will be held January 17, 2017 at 7 p.m., in Coover Lounge.

40 Years of Music Ministry

Dennis Pedde

At the age of 20 years old, I got on a Greyhound Bus to Chicago to move there to study music at the American Conservatory of Music, and to study trumpet with Chicago Symphony brass players. I was also trying to “leave my past” – a childhood filled with years of witnessing domestic violence, followed by the divorce between my parents. With next to no kind of parental support I moved from place to place and worked several part-time jobs while completing a BM degree (and later, a MM degree) in trumpet performance at ACM. After graduating, I started attending services at the historic Moody Church and heard a sermon by Pastor Warren Wiersbe on John 21:15-18 where Jesus is asking Peter, “Do you love me? Feed my sheep.” During that sermon I felt God’s call and started looking for a church so I could use my musical gifts. In February 1977, with no experience and little choral training I began serving the Irving Park Baptist Church as choir director. Mary Ann moved to Chicago about that time, and we met at IPBC, and were married there a short time later. We moved to Louisville Kentucky for me to further my training in church music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. I completed a Master of Church Music degree while serving St. Mark’s Methodist as choir director. Our daughter, Meredith, was born in Louisville.

After graduating, we moved to Georgia, where I served as Minister of Music for First Baptist of Hazlehurst, and then First Baptist of Carrollton. We then moved to Iowa, where I served a United Methodist church. In each church I led children’s choirs through adult choirs as well as brass and instrumental ensembles.

In 1990 we moved to Iowa City for trumpet performance doctoral work. We started visiting First Baptist on Clinton Street, a very small congregation. The Pastor introduced himself to us, and told me the church was looking for a Choir Director. I asked what they were looking for and he said, “Someone with a pulse”! I said, “I think I qualify”! I served there for over five years and then noticed an announcement at the UI Music Building that FPC was looking for a handbell choir director. I decided to try one more time, and have had a great experience being here for now over 20 years!!

After all of the difficulties in my life, including some of the churches I have served, I am so fortunate to be at a church like ours, and to be on staff with a SUPER Pastor like Sam Massey, who has helped me in so many different ways. I am also thankful for the opportunity to serve God thru music at FPC. May we all continue to “LIFT HIGH THE CROSS, THE CROSS OF CHRIST PROCLAIM”!

We will celebrate his years in ministry in the 10:30 worship service on February 12.



Valerie and Arielle Soemadi will be joining a group from St. Andrew Presbyterian Church to help the IMPACTO Mission in Guatemala this coming March 12-19. Each worker pays for transportation, food and lodging while in Guatemala as well as the cost of the on-site mission projects (medicines, building supplies, food, and clothing items).

You have the opportunity to enjoy a delicious **Chili Lunch at 11:30 a.m., Sunday, January 22.** It will warm your stomach and your soul during this cold Iowa winter! There will be a **Free Will Donation** to help defray mission trip costs.

Thank you for your prayers and support!

For more information contact Valerie Soemadi at soemadi1219@msn.com

Update from FPC Capital Campaign Implementation Taskforce

Submitted by John Barr

At the November meeting of Session, John Barr was selected to convene the *Building God's Future* Implementation Taskforce (now termed the Capital Campaign Implementation Task Force; CCIT) and authorized, in consultation with the Buildings & Grounds (B&G) and Finance Committees, and the pastor, to select other members to serve on the Task Force. The CCIT was charged to work with the bodies of the church to keep the congregation mindful of the need to continue giving to the campaign, to give others and new members an opportunity to pledge to the campaign, and to direct the renovation of the building and application of the Mission tithe, in consultation with Session.

The CCIT held its initial meeting on 11/29/17, with the following participating: John Barr, Larry Bruner, Vern Dengler, Amy Fletcher, Tammy Foster, Dale Kraus, Tammy Schroder, & Lee Tippe. Judy Whitford and Pastor Sam were unable to attend. Our group discussed administrative issues, reviewed the status of projects and their estimated costs, and developed a preliminary prioritization for project completion, as noted below. John was invited to the B&G meeting on 1/4/17, where more specific details of the projects were discussed, also as enumerated below. As of 1/5/17, \$1,185,000 has been pledged to the Capital Campaign, and donations totaling \$532,261 (including \$100,000 designated for the kitchen and \$200,000 for the elevator) have been received. The current status of our projects, in priority order, is:

#1 – The organ has been refurbished and it was joyously back in service on Sunday 12/4. Thus far, \$104,077 has been expended on the estimated \$150,000 cost for this project.

#2 – The parking lot was restored, including restriping, before the end of November. \$70,482 covered the work completed to date. Further water & electrical line installation in relation to the parking lot will be completed in the spring of 2017. The estimated total cost for this project remains \$75,000.

#3 – After reviewing FPC's calendar of events, work on renovating the kitchen to a sturdy, serviceable residential quality (not commercial) was discussed. Future uses of the kitchen could include FPC events, weddings, funerals, fundraising, cooking lessons for refugees, mission opportunities, etc. In follow-up to preliminary design considerations discussed early last year, B&G has recommended that a subcommittee be formed to work with a designer to formulate specifications and to secure bids from contractors and suppliers. Ideally, renovation would begin by June of this year. Estimated cost for this renovation is \$60,000 to 100,000.

#4 & 5 – The boiler / air handler and elevator, respectively. Given the potential overlap of issues related to both of these project, B&G has recommended going with a single design professional to develop specifications for these projects that would be used to secure contractor bids. B&G's Lee Tippe will draft a scope of services agreement covering qualifications and services required so that bids can be secured from multiple design professionals. The design professional will be hired in the spring of 2017. Estimated cost for the boiler / air handler is \$400,000, and \$250,000 for the elevator.

The following projects were not assigned a priority number, since they could be worked in at any time based on further general donations, a targeted donation, or overages from other projects.

Projects related to updated technology in Ryerson Fellowship Hall and the sanctuary will be combined. A subcommittee comprised of key FPC staff and members with technical expertise will be formed to address specifications and costs. Richard Van Rheeden and Ed Cranston have already been working with Anna Sheetz and Leah Bergman on interim technology enhancements for FPC's Koinonia program in Ryerson Hall. The estimated cost for enhancing technology is \$80,000.

The Congregational Health Ministries Team will be asked to formulate a plan for replacing additional pews with chairs matching the ones already in use. Up to \$20,000 has been allocated to this project.

Plans for the Mission tithe, not discussed at the CCIT meeting on 11/29, will be more completely reviewed at the next meeting on 1/9/17.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study



Join us in Coover Lounge from 9:30—10:30 a.m. We are continuing to study the book of Revelation. The class is led by Sadie May and Pastor Sam Massey.

New members ALWAYS welcome.

Have no fear... if you missed the last New Member Class, another one begins February 12. For more information, contact Pastor Sam at sam.massey@firstpreswacivacity.org or Tammy Schroeder at tammy.schroeder@firstpreswacivacity.org or by calling the office at 351-2660.



FPC Book Club Invites You to Join Us

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

Jan. 25, 2017: *The Light between the Oceans* by M.L. Stedman

Feb. 22: *The Witches: Salem 1692* by Stacy Schiff

Bring your lunch and share in the fellowship.

For more information, contact Jan Walker at 358-6737.



Needles, Hooks and Yarn



This small group comes together to share each others' company while we knit and crochet. If you would like to join us, we would love to have you; we meet at Legacy Ridge from 9:00—11:00 on Saturday mornings. For more information, contact Tammy Schroeder at tammy.schroeder@firstpreswacivacity.org or by phone 351-2660

Enjoy the Adult Satellite Library, Coover Corner.

This new library center was created with comfort in mind, new seating with a footrest, a side table to set your beverage on and a reading lamp, all designed to allow you a space to relax and reflect.

One book shelf includes multiple Bibles, reference material, and FPC history, and the other has current novels, self-help and relaxing Mandela coloring books and supplies.

Please take time to stop in and enjoy this wonderful addition to Coover Lounge brought to you by Equipping Ministry, financed by an Endowment Grant.

Direct library suggestions to Anna Sheetz at anna.sheetz@firstpreswacivacity.org



Covenant Bible Study



Starting on January 9, Covenant Bible Study 3:2 will start its second 8-week segment, "Living the Covenant," and on January 11 Covenant Bible Study 2:3 will start its third and final 8-week segment, "Trusting the Covenant." We are looking to start a new Covenant Bible Study in September 2017 which would conclude in the spring of 2018. The full study takes 24 weeks. Ruth Westfall has agreed to lead this study.

If you are interested in talking to someone who has taken the class, talk to Anita or Gary Burnett, Cathe Franz, Michelle Bessman, Nancy Ross, Sally Rickey, Amy or Jeremy Fletcher, Liz Bolin, Judy Terry, Dale or Rose Kraus, Travis Martin, Tammy Schroeder, Ruth Westfall, Tony or Nancy Warren, or Judy Whitford.

If you want to be notified when we are starting this new class, email me at judy.whitford@firstpreswacivacity.org, and I will put you on the contact list for September.

First Presbyterian Church

2701 Rochester Ave.
Iowa City, Iowa 52245



Public Office Hours:

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday - Friday
Ph 319-351-2660 www.firstpreswiowacity.org
Except holidays or when announced

First Presbyterian Church Staff

MINISTER OF WORSHIP, MUSIC
AND CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Leah Bergman

leah.bergman@firstpreswiowacity.org

DIRECTOR OF INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Dennis Pedde

dennis.pedde@firstpreswiowacity.org

ASSISTANT TO MINISTER OF WORSHIP,
MUSIC AND CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Erin Landsee

erin.landsee@firstpreswiowacity.org

ORGANIST

Melissa Moll

melissa.moll@firstpreswiowacity.org

MINISTER OF YOUTH, ADULT &
SERVANTHOOD PROGRAMS

Anna Sheetz

anna.sheetz@firstpreswiowacity.org

ASSISTANT TO MINISTER OF YOUTH,
ADULT & SERVANTHOOD PROGRAMS

Judy Whitford

judy.whitford@firstpreswiowacity.org

MINISTRIES COORDINATOR

Tammy Schroeder

tammy.schroeder@firstpreswiowacity.org

NURSERY SUPERVISOR

Debbie Torrens-Semler

dtorrens-semler@mphawks.org

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Saira Steen

saira.steen@firstpreswiowacity.org

CHURCH MANAGER

Tammy Foster

tammy.foster@firstpreswiowacity.org

SEXTON

Gerald Hill

gerald.hill@firstpreswiowacity.org

CARE ASSOCIATE

Sherry Lohman

sherry.lohman@firstpreswiowacity.org

PASTOR

Sam Massey

sam.massey@firstpreswiowacity.org