

Divining

[discovering or locating something, such as water]

Lent begins February 14

Ash Wednesday

Worship at 7:00 p.m.



Join us for the 2018 Wednesday Evening Lenten Series "Divining: Stories of Faith" on February 21, 28, March 7, 14 and 21. Come at 5:30 to Ryerson Fellowship Hall for a soup-supper followed at 6:00 with worship, the sharing of faith stories by a few of our members and discussion. We will finish at 7:00. Watch the weekly bulletins for announcements of who will be sharing each week. Hope you will plan to take this time to hear others stories and contemplate your own.

Lenten Worship:

Ash Wednesday, February 14, 7:00 p.m.
Sundays 10:30 a.m. (Lent I is February 18)
Palm Sunday, March 25, 10:30 a.m.
Maundy Thursday, March 29, 7:00 p.m.
Great Vigil of Easter, March 31, 7:00 p.m.
Easter Sunday, April 1, 10:30 a.m.

This Lent, we will help each other search for the divine in our world during this season of journey, preparation, and contemplation. Starting with Jesus in the barren wilderness, we go in search of the baptismal water found in our celebration and renewal of baptism at the Easter Vigil. What do you use as your divining rod? How do you search for water? Where do you find the divine?



The congregational meeting for receiving reports, asking questions, and deciding the pastor's terms of call will be held after worship on Sunday, February 11. Come meet and eat!

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Join us February 11 for a Youth Group Lunch Fundraiser, **Favorite Family Recipes**. We're excited to share our favorite family recipes with you! All funds raised will go to transportation costs for the Mission Trips!



Dear sisters and brothers of and First Presbyterian Church,

As I reflected on this past year, with all of its joys and challenges, I found this blog posting from *Creating Sacred Communities: How our families, religious organizations and neighborhoods become sacred*. It captured my mood perfectly.

I want the church to feel like church.

A sermon

A Table

A Baptism

A Cross at the center and a Bible in the pulpit.

A Robe and Stoll

A Chancel

A Pew

Silence

Reverence

Liturgy

I want the seasons: Advent, Epiphany, Baptism of the Lord, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Transfiguration, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, Pentecost, Christ the King Sunday, Ordinary Time

I want the church to feel like church.

I want to look over and see the young couple, newly married, talking to the elderly man, recently widowed. I want the row of church ladies who sit in their same pew every week and save a seat for Maxine and Myrna. I want the children with their baggies of Cheerios and the parents with their cups of coffee. I want the men in ties and coats sitting next to the teenagers with ripped jeans and tie dye shirts. I want the prayers for those in the hospital and the shared news of the child being deployed. I want the embrace of the college student home over break and the thrill of the new baby in the stroller. I want the safe place to talk about suicide and abuse, job loss, and depression. I want the disagreements over politics and discussions over culture. I want the feel of the bulletin, the smell of the candles, the order of worship, the confession of sins and, above all, I want laughter.

Laughter at our humanity. Laughter at the joy of being together. Laughter at the ways we take ourselves so seriously. Laughter at the celebration of life. Laughter at the profound privilege of being able to worship and sit in the presence of God. I want to be so overwhelmed by the joy of being in the presence of God, that we cannot help but laugh as Sarah did and sing as Mary did and pray as Hannah did and wrestle as Jacob did and argue as Moses did and weep as Jesus did and confess as Paul did and preach as Peter did.

I want to sing and believe that a weary world can rejoice. I want "Merry Christmas" to mean "Jesus

Christ is born in you." I want "Happy Easter" to mean "He is Alive." I want an authentic place of prayer and spiritual enlightenment, a place where you can walk in the door and lay your cross at the door, and come in and sit and cry and think and be without fear of judgment. Just come and be yourself.

God, I love the church. I love it for all of its quirks and crazy. I love it for trying so hard to get it right. I love it for its downfalls and pitfalls and struggles and history. I love it for its desire to be the Kingdom of heaven on earth — a truly unobtainable mission statement, and yet one that it strives for, without delay. I love it for its desire to be Jesus — to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visited the imprisoned, welcome the stranger. I love it for its confession that it fails and its repentance to start over.

God, I love the church. I love it for the saints who have gone before. I love it for the saints who played the organ and taught Sunday school and put oil in the candles and set the Table. I love it for the ministers who have served and retired or have entered the Kingdom of Heaven. I love it for their sermons they preached and the hands they held and the meetings they ran and the divisions they tried to mend. I love it for all of the ways in which we have almost killed it, but somehow, by the grace of God it is still alive.

I love that in the next day, all around the world, people will make their obligatory twice a year pilgrimage to church and sit in their winter coats, crammed into the pews their grandparents faithfully sat in every Sunday and the little white candles will be passed down the row, and the flames will shine on their faces and I have a view from the front and I see that the light does indeed shine in the darkness and the darkness shall not overcome it.

Come, Lord Jesus. Be born in us today. Let your church live.

In this past year we have witnessed hurricanes and fires, earthquakes and volcanoes erupting, acts of disorganized terror and the organized terror of war, flagrant lying and the public's numbing to lying and actively choosing to dumb down in the name of Jesus.

The aforementioned blog post reminds us that 2018 is the year for us intentionally to be the church of Jesus Christ, to remember who we are:

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

(Continued on page 3)



Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy. (1 Peter 2:9,10)

When we are united, focused and determined, the gates of hell cannot prevail against Christ and his church. Of all years we have faced over the long decades, since the founding of our country, this is the year our national life needs the church to be the church. I don't mean for all Christians or even for all Americans. I mean for all people, including the widow,

the orphan, the sick, the poor, the oppressed and the immigrant. I do not mean for the sake of misguided nationalism and militarism mistakenly called patriotism, but for the sake of God's gifts of faith, hope and love.

Beneath all differences by which despots seek to manipulate and divide us, we have one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and parent of us all: So let us all be the church in the service of Jesus Christ.

Prayerfully and with love,

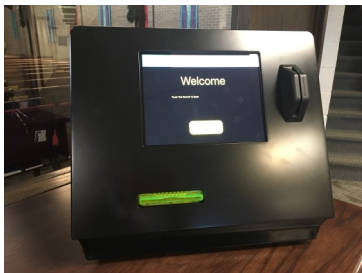
Your Pastor, Sam

Congregational Health Ministry

Members of Congregational Health Ministry (CHM) provide **blood pressure checks on the second Sunday of the month**. Look for our table in Ryerson Fellowship Hall prior to the 10:30 worship service. Elevated blood pressure or low blood pressure can indicate more serious problems. It is important that you are aware of your blood pressure readings and can share those readings with your health provider. In addition, members of CHM also check the Automatic External Defibrillator located on the wall outside the sanctuary to ensure compliance with safety regulations.

Last spring the CHM provided two educational offerings related to Alzheimer's Disease. This spring, the CHM is exploring the possibility of offering two more educational offerings on "End of Life Decisions." If you are currently or have been a health professional in the past, we would love to have you join this ministry. We meet as needed and conduct most of our business via email, although of course we would appreciate more folks to provide monthly blood pressure checks. Consider joining us! Let Jan Wicks, Rhonda Barr or Maeleen Thorius know of your interest. Thank you!

Deacon's Bench



Self-Service Giving through our Kiosk

Our giving kiosk provides the convenience you're looking for with a simple iPad touchscreen and a secure debit/credit card reader.

- Give when you don't have cash or a checkbook
- Contribute to one or multiple funds
- Print a receipt and a donation slip

If you would like to give electronically, visit our kiosk or contact the church office.

Coffee is Going Green on January 21!

We're turning our personal mugs into a communal mug tree to lower our paper waste! If you wish to keep your mug personal, there will still be a place set aside in the kitchen for you! If you have mugs at home that need a new home—bring them and we will hang them on our new mug tree! Please contact Layne Sheetz if you have any questions at Layne@SleuthCoffee.com



Note from Pastor Sam:

Jesus' prime directive is summed up in Matthew 6:33: **Strive first for the kingdom of God and God's righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.** In Matthew 23:23, he amplifies what he means by righteousness in an encounter with the religious right of his day, the Pharisees: Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe the mint, dill, and cumin, and have neglected **the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. It is these you ought to have practiced without neglecting the others.**

As session budgeted this year, available resources suggested this would be a good season for focusing on the right relationships of Jesus' mandate. My encouragement to our staff is that all of our programs have built into them a time for reflection and articulation to one another of how we feel God works in our lives, and a time to deepen our relationships with each other.

The best means to accomplish these ends will be small group fellowship and one-on-one conversations. As we build the internal relational fabric of our congregation, I am hoping prayerfully that we will also simultaneously do what is exceptional for many congregations: to grow beyond charitable giving and to build relationships with persons in substantially different circumstances than our own. From these relationships we can then determine together the best uses for our monies that are to be shared with our community.

These are my goals for our staff leadership, yet also my hopes and prayers for our congregation in the New Year. Because I can only accomplish these ends with our faithful staff and you, please consider them my resolutions for 2018. God bless you all and Happy New Year!

At its December session meeting,

session reorganized position descriptions for Leah Bergman, Minister of Worship, Music and Children, and Anna Sheetz, who has been serving as Minister of Youth, Adult and Servanthood.

In the new pattern, responsibility for Servanthood Ministry has been returned to Pastor Sam. Anna will be responsible for Equipping and Youth Ministry. Leah will be responsible for Worship and the Arts. It is hoped that narrowing the focus for Leah's and Anna's positions will better honor their gifts, empower them, build on their fine example of teamwork and encourage the growth of our congregation's ministries and missions, to the glory of God. We are excited about the possibilities represented by these alterations in position descriptions.

We thank all those who have supported our 8 a.m. worship service. Our session has suspended this service due to attendance.

Please see the announcement on page 7. about [SPACE]: Faith in a whole new way.

New Prayer Center Opening Sunday, February 18

Beginning on the First Sunday of Lent, there will be a new prayer center on the lower level at the end of the hall to the right. During Lent, the prayer center will follow the theme of "Divining," exploring desert, water, and searching for the divine. The focus of the prayer center will change with the liturgical season. All are welcome to use the prayer center whenever and however they need to. Help and ideas for the prayer center are always welcome. Let Leah Bergman know if you are interested in being a part of this process. leah.bergman@firstpresbiowacity.org or 319-351-2660.



Covenant Bible Study



The second segment of Covenant Bible Study 4 will be January 18–March 8 from 7:00–8:30 p.m. This segment is called "Living the Covenant." It focuses on how the community lives out their Covenant in faithful love—how it's applied to actual relationships in everyday life. Thinking of participating in a Covenant Study but find 24 weeks is too long? Join us for this 8-week segment. Ruth Westfall will be leading the group in discussions of such topics as faithful love, leadership, discernment, reconciled, act like a Christian, doing the right thing. Contact Ruth at rwestfa@yahoo.com if you have questions or want to come to the class. Everyone is welcome.

First's Family

Newsletter DEADLINE

The 1st of each month is the deadline to submit newsletter articles that are no longer than 400 words to tammy.foster@firstpreswiwoacity.org. Thank you!

January 16-31

1/16 Jean James	1/26 David Carlson
1/16 Kip Neubauer	1/26 Jim Bradley
1/18 Conner Graves	1/27 Michelle Bessman
1/20 Gabe Orris	1/28 Kathy Maxey
1/20 Mary Linn	1/28 Logan Schroeder
1/22 Vivian Adams	1/30 Evelyn Greimann
1/22 Ruth Selmer	1/31 Carol Macon
1/22 Sawyer Selmer	1/31 Herb Wilson
1/23 Mary Roberts	1/31 Betty McNeal
1/23 Mike Farran	1/31 Ann Grosscup
1/23 Deb Minot	1/31 Chris Greimann
1/23 Ryan Bingham	1/31 Roslyn Cargill
1/24 Helen Chadima	
1/24 Keith Brown	
1/25 William Massey	

February 1-15

2/1 Steve Schomberg	2/11 Paula Sanan
2/7 Kristin Summerwill	2/12 Daissy Owen
2/7 Alex Jacobus	2/14 Linda Morris
2/8 James Winegarden	2/14 Alexandra Marsh
2/8 Laura Jacobus	2/17 Audrey Kunangika
2/9 Diane Mattila	
2/10 Tammy Schroeder	



To **Pat Dustin**, family and friends of **Dick Dustin**, who died January 16, 2018. His funeral service was at First Presbyterian.



Known to have been Hospitalized:

Ann Feddersen, Dick Dustin, Mary Ann Clemons, Jeanette Carter and Shirley McFarland



Congratulations to Barb Stanerson:

"New addition to the family on Christmas morning! Grandbaby Brielle Lynn, 4 lbs. 10 oz. and 19 in. Best Christmas present ever!"

Jocelyn and Bradley Hamilton welcomed Lucille Mae Hamilton into the world on December 27.

Dennis and Mary Ann Pedde are PROUD grandparents of Beatrice Ehrlich Pedde born January 6, 2018, in Colorado. Mom and Dad are doing great!

Layne and Anna Sheetz welcomed Oliver Layne Sheetz into the world on January 14. Grandpa Mike Sheetz is as proud as can be.

Thank you to First's Family ...

For your love and support for Toni during her cancer fight,

For your participation or attendance at her memorial service,

For your concern during my hospital stay and helpfulness during my recovery,

For helping celebrate my 90th birthday at the party,

Also thanks to Pastor Gary for conducting the funeral in NW Iowa,

And to Pastor Sam for conducting the memorial service at FPC.

Jake De Ryke



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

YOUTH CHOIR

Youth Choir is open to 4th–12th graders interested in singing and leading worship through music. We work throughout the year to sing, play, and read the Word of God so that the youth can lead worship several times throughout the year. Rehearsals are held Thursday twice a month through the fall from 7:30–8:30 p.m. Contact Leah Bergman at leah.bergman@firstpresbiowacity.org or call the church for more information.

Youth Choir Schedule

(Grades 4-12)

January–May 2018

Thursdays, January 11 AND 18
7:30-8:30 p.m.

Thursdays, February 1 AND 15
7:30-8:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 18
9:30-11:30 a.m. Youth Choir sings in worship

Thursdays, March 1, 8, AND 22
7:30-8:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 31

6:30-9 p.m. Youth Choir sings and leads at Easter Vigil service

Thursdays, April 5 AND 19
7:30-8:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 10
7:30-8:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 13
9:30-11:30 a.m. Youth Choir sings and leads worship for Youth Sunday

Youth Choir will not meet during the summer. Rehearsals start up again in September.

Baby Music Class

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

Winter session runs January 9–March 27
Join any time during the session!

When: Tuesdays 9:30–10:30 a.m.
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!

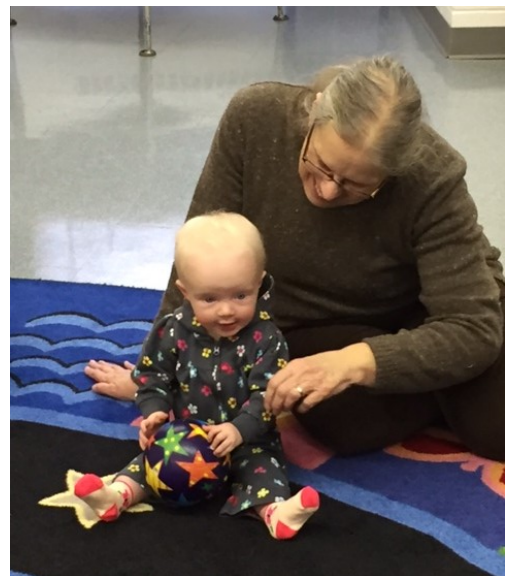
Suzuki approach emphasizes positive communication and repetition, within a calm, nurturing environment

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.firstpresbiowacity.org, leah.bergman@firstpresbiowacity.org, 319-351-2660



TRY SOMETHING NEW

Check out what's new on Sunday Mornings!

[SPACE]

Faith in a whole new way.

We've listened to your feedback, concerns, and hopes...

We've created a new **SPACE** for you.

Join us for breakfast on Sunday, January 21 at 9am to learn how we can make [SPACE] for faith in 2018.

Reaffirmation:

A New Class for Youth and Adults
Sunday Mornings from 9-10:15am
Ryerson Fellowship Hall

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Sunday, January 21 | Welcome to SPACE |
| Sunday, January 28 | What is the Bible? |
| Sunday, February 4 | The Story of the Bible |
| Sunday, February 11 | Literary Styles of the Bible |

First Look

A new curriculum for Preschoolers
Sunday Mornings from 9-10:15 a.m.



February's theme is *Sweet Shop*. Preschoolers will learn about how Jesus wants to be our friend forever. Jesus loves everyone and no matter what we do, Jesus will never, ever, ever stop loving us!

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| January 21 | Welcome to SPACE |
| January 28 | Catching Fish |
| February 4 | Women at the Well |
| February 11 | Zacchaeus |
| February 18 | The Unloved Woman |
| February 25 | Peter's Denial & Restoration |

FPC Kids

A New Curriculum for K-5th Graders
Sunday Mornings from 9-10:15 a.m.



February's theme is *Rewind: Kindness Deserves a Replay*. K-5th graders will learn that because of God's great love for us, we can be kind to everyone. Jesus didn't just suggest it, he commanded it!

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|--------------------|---------------------------|
| January 21 | Welcome to SPACE |
| January 28 | Who Do You Say that I Am? |
| February 4 | God was Kind to Us |
| February 11 | Ruth & Boaz |
| February 18 | Least of These |
| February 25 | Love your Enemies |



Thursday, January 18

Both Junior and Senior High will review the year of Mission Work so far. We want to know what you've learned, what you want more of, and process how justice looks in our faith. Youth Choir will meet from 7:30–8:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 25

POTLUCK NIGHT & MISSION NIGHT! United Way will join us. We'll make reading bags for a local school. A BIG GAME will follow.

Thursday, February 1

A Baby Send-Off to Anna! Parents and youth are invited to have a Game Night to celebrate Anna going on maternity leave. Youth Choir will meet from 7:30–8:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 8

Senior High will begin their College Seminar series, talking about resumé building. Junior High will explore Luke 1–2. A BIG GAME will follow.

Birthday Invitation

Herb Wilson would like to extend an open invitation to FPC members to his 90th birthday celebration at Oaknoll Retirement Community on Sunday, January 28, 2–5 p.m.

Urban Immersion Service Retreat

Minneapolis, MN

June 10-13

For Junior High and High School students under 16 years old

We will be fully immersed into the cycle of poverty through interactive activities. We'll pack up lunch and head into the city; working with meaningful organizations, such as food shelves, shelters, and other agencies. This Sunday–Wednesday trip is longer than normal but we are so excited to spend some time really learning the complexities of poverty.

Please RSVP by February 4, 2018.

Deposit is \$100. Please write a check to "First Presbyterian Church, of Iowa City" with "Urban Immersion Service Retreat in the memo OR choose "Urban Immersion Service Retreat" on our new kiosk outside of the Sanctuary. Please speak to Tammy Schroeder for an information form.



Houston Flood Relief Intergenerational Trip

Houston, TX

June 23–July 1

For high school students (16 years old and older) and all adults

This trip will be for all youth (16 years old and older) and adults. We'll be working with the Fuller Center for Flood Relief. We learned last year about needing "flexibility pants" on a mission trip so we'll be flexible. We will do whatever the Fuller Center needs for us to do! We look forward to offering an opportunity for parents to serve alongside their youth.

Please RSVP by February 4, 2018.

****20 Spots available for this trip****

Deposit is \$100. Please write a check to "First Presbyterian Church of Iowa City" with "Houston– Fuller Center" in the memo OR choose "Houston– Fuller Center" on our new kiosk outside of the Sanctuary.

Please speak to Tammy Schroeder for an information form.

First Pres children are invited to church for an evening of food and fun while the parents take a break! We'll start with a simple supper. Then little kids will play in the nursery while older kids enjoy a video, games and activities. The evening will be well-staffed with highly qualified volunteers.



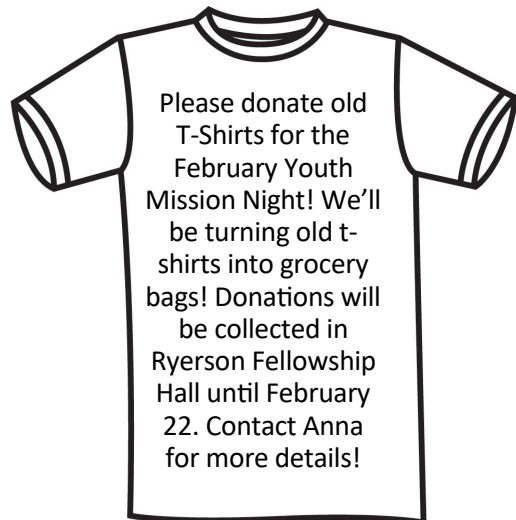
Who: First Pres kids ages 0-10

When: Friday, February 16, 5–7:30 p.m.

Cost: FREE

RSVP: Please email Nancy Gardner at nancy.hayes.gardner@gmail.com by February 14.

Volunteers needed! Would you enjoy getting to know some of the children and young families at First Pres? We are looking for some kind and nurturing individuals to volunteer to staff this event. Volunteers will help supervise First Pres kids up to ten years old while the parents take a break! If you're interested, please contact Tammy Schroeder. Thank you!



The **Wired Word** will continue to meet from 9–10:15 a.m. Check out Fellowship Hall Announcements for the next week's topic!



Have no fear ... if you missed the last New Member Class, we will be holding a 1-day session on Sunday, February 18 from 12–3 p.m. in Coover Lounge. A light lunch will be served and childcare will be provided. Please RSVP by February 11 for class material preparations and if childcare is needed. To reserve your spot or for more information, contact Pastor Sam at sam.massey@firstpresiovacity.org or by phone at 319-351-2660.

Eat out Group



900 E 2nd Avenue, Coralville
River Landing

Thursday, January 25 at 6:00 p.m.
Host: Val Soemadi 319-541-7451

December 2017 Session Highlights

-by Nancy Weber, Clerk of Session

The session met December 19, 2017 in Coover Lounge at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Sam called the meeting to order and lit the Christ candle. Elder Judy Terry read Matthew 2:7, concerning the Wise Men. She passed around a small box containing nuggets of gold, frankincense and myrrh, and told us where they came from and what they symbolized. She then led us in prayer.

John Barr and Lee Tippe from the Capital Campaign Implementation Taskforce gave a report and presented a motion, which was approved, that First Presbyterian Church (FPC) move forward with Part B (Construction Document Phase) of the 6/30/17 professional services agreement with design consultants Walker, Coen & Lorentzen (WCL), Architects, Inc., emphasizing the following stipulations:

1. That construction contract documents be prepared for replacement of the existing boiler, with upgrades to the air handling system and installation of digital controls as noted in reports accepted by our Building & Grounds (B&G) committee.
2. That bid and construction services for the boiler, air handler & digital controls may be modified by mutual agreement with WCL during related negotiations.
3. That construction-ready contract documents and a detailed cost opinion be prepared for installation of an ADA compliant elevator (capable of carrying an upright piano). Upon satisfactory completion of the preceding, one of the following will occur:
4. If FPC has sufficient funding to proceed with elevator installation, this agreement will be amended to include bid and construction phase services for installing the elevator.
5. If FPC does not have sufficient funding, this portion of the agreement will be closed out.
6. If sufficient funding is available at a future time, FPC will provide WCL the opportunity to enter into a

separate agreement for elevator bid and construction phase services.

Compensation of WCL for Part B of the professional services agreement will be promptly negotiated by the B&G committee, and approved by both the CCIT and Session.

Treasurer Larry Bruner reported that an unexpected \$25,000 donation had been received. This will help us come close to balancing the 2017 budget. Finance moderator and elder Dale Kraus made use of a flip chart to give an explanation of the projected 2017 year-end budget.

Minutes of the November 21, 2017 stated session meeting, and the November 19 and December 17, 2017 special session meetings to welcome new members were approved. The 2018 Communion dates were approved.

Session approved two spring fundraisers: (1) Lunch in conjunction with the Annual Meeting (late January or early February as session decides; menu of youth family favorite casseroles prepared by the families), and (2) Lunch in conjunction with Pentecost (May 20 after worship; menu to be chili cook-off, "Tongues of Fire," to celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Session approved two Summer Mission trips: (1) June 10-13, 2018 for youth ages 13-16 through the Minneapolis Urban Immersion Service Retreat, and (2) June 16-24, 2018, Intergenerational trip for youth over age 16 years of age and adults to Houston, TX to assist with hurricane recovery. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance suggested All Hands (<https://www.hands.org/>). Session also approved a mission project for youth to solicit old t-shirts from the congregation to make sustainable shopping bags.

Pastor Sam gave a fond farewell to retiring officers Judy Terry, Ben Nicholson, and Jim Claypool, thanking them for their service.

Pastor Sam distributed a document explaining his plans to reconfigure

staffing duties. Questions arose and were discussed. Session approved a motion to make staff, working collaboratively with elders, the conveners of the ministries of Worship (Leah Bergman) and Equipping (Anna Sheetz) and Servanthood (Pastor Sam) as a temporary measure in preparation for upcoming organizational changes to be advocated by REALM Planning. The accountability ministries – Administration & Personnel, REALM Planning, and Support (Finance, etc.) – will still be left to laypersons to convene. This will be for a 6-month trial period with full accountability to session, including these staff members, Anna Sheetz and Leah Bergman, attending session meetings.

A motion was presented and approved to suspend the Sunday 8 a.m. worship service, as presently constituted, leaving Sunday morning prior to 10:30 a.m. fertile ground for creating programming.

Concerning the 2018 Budget, the * following motion was presented: Finance Committee recommends to the session an initial budget of \$540,000 be adopted for 2018, which consists of \$433,000 for Personnel and \$107,000 for Operations. Finance moderator and elder Dale Kraus presented a flip chart, showing where money would be spent. (\$605,000 had been requested.) The following motion was offered as a substitute for the previous motion: Approve the proposed budget for Personnel, Administration, and Building & Grounds, with the balance of ministries to be approved in January 2018.

Personnel:	\$ 433,000
B&G :	53,500
Admin:	37,733
Other :	<u>16,000</u>
	\$540,233

The substitute motion was approved and became the main motion (approval of the substitute motion received one No vote, from Elder Carol Ulch): Approve \$540,000 for 2018, with the Personnel (\$433,000), Administration (\$37,733) and B&G (\$53,500) set, plus

\$16,000 for other expenses.

A motion was approved to assign Jeri Smith and Judy Terry to the board of Deacons until they can be elected at the next congregational meeting.

A motion to place the names on a distributed list on Inactive status was approved.

Also approved was a motion stating

that Endowment will fund from Endowment earnings already earned \$68,000 to be used to pay for fundraising costs related to the capital funds campaign (these earnings are already banked).

The idea of hosting a supper, such as a chicken noodle soup supper, as a fundraiser was raised. Perhaps it might be a Robert Burns party, complete with

bagpipes, haggis, etc. to make it a unique event. Discussion of this will be on the January 2018 agenda.

Elder Amy Fletcher closed the meeting with prayer. The next session meeting will be held January 16, 2018 at 7 p.m., in Coover Lounge.

*More news on revision to the numbers next month.

Monthly Mission Drive

Brrr....it's cold, better cover your butt in January

It's a month of Sundays, "Undie Sundays."

NEW underwear, all sizes, all genders are needed.

We ask that you spend about \$10. Please bring your "undies" to church and place them in the box in Ryerson Fellowship Hall.



Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Join us in Coover Lounge from 9:30–10:30 a.m. We are continuing to study the Book of Romans. The class is led by Pastor Sam Massey. **New members ALWAYS welcome.**



Needles, Hooks & Yarn

Mark your calendar to join us at Legacy 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



FPC Book Club Invites You to Join Us

January 31 *La Rose*
by L. Erdrich

We meet the last Wednesday of the month
from 12–1 p.m. at 1095 Silvercrest Circle #223 (Legacy Senior Living)

Bring your lunch and share in the fellowship

For information, contact Jan Walker at 358-6737

Updated Photo Directory
is available for pickup. They are located
in the narthex; please take 1 per
household.



Note: the contact
information listed in
the back was
accurate as of
August; some
changes have
occurred.



Friends of Pasrur

As of this writing, the Scholarship Fund for our 100 Christian girls at the boarding school in Pasrur does not have enough funds to support all the girls attending school this year. If you have been meaning to send in your scholarship contribution and have not gotten around to it, it's not too late. We hope to have enough funds to re-enroll all the girls in school by February. Please join us in prayer for the continuation of the girls' education.

PW Allocates Mission Funds for 2017

The PW Coordinating Team met on December 7 to decide how to disburse year-end mission funds. Funds are raised throughout the year by various PW efforts — most notably the annual Cookie Walk and Bazaar; the annual book sale; funeral receptions; Eve and Martha Circle member pledges; and the fruit turnover project.

Our Presbyterian Women have generously supported many causes in 2017. The missions selected by Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Eastern Iowa (PWPEI) received \$900. The Take Away Hunger event received \$2,700. The Free Lunch Team received nearly \$1,000 for the purchase of food for our monthly serving days. We donated \$200 to the Lucas Elementary Book Fair Project so that all students could purchase a book. One hundred dollars was given to ToGather Together, a school supplies funding project. At our last meeting of 2017 we determined that we had \$2,500 available to disburse to local social service agencies. One thousand dollars was given to the Crisis Center's Common fund; \$500 was given to the Bird House; \$500 was given to the Domestic Violence Intervention Program; and \$500 was given to the Mayor's Youth Empowerment Program.

PW is proud of our mission giving. We are grateful for all the volunteers who support the fundraising efforts and for the congregation's support of the Cookie Walk and the Book Sale.



A congregational meeting is called for Sunday, February 11, immediately following 10:30 a.m. worship in Ryerson Fellowship Hall in order to elect Jeri Smith (2018) and Judy Terry (2020) to the Board of Deacons and consider the pastor's terms of call (unchanged for year 2018). The Youth Group Lunch Fundraiser: Family Favorite Recipes will be held at this time.

The Peace & Global Witness Special Offering at First Presbyterian Church, Iowa City, Iowa

First Presbyterian Church of Iowa City, Iowa, received its Peace & Global Witness special offering on October 1, World Communion Day. From this offering, \$479 was directed to the city's Inside Out Reentry Community (IORC), which serves individuals returning to community life from incarceration. The mission of the IORC is to reduce the social stigma facing individuals returning to society. Services provided by the IORC include: mentoring for support, companionship and accountability (e.g., a returning individual is paired with an individual who previously reentered society); a drop-in Resource Center to help individuals meet basic needs; community meetings; and an educational support group.

2017 has been a productive year for the IORC, helping returning citizens find jobs, housing and resources, and striving to educate and engage the wider community in understanding the challenges these individual face.

Over 80 individuals left behind incarceration and connected with Inside Out in 2017. The IORC presented Welcome Back a community-wide Re-entry Forum in April, and our county's first ever Parole Simulation in October. Community participants recently shared the following thoughts about the IORC:



"This is not my first time getting out of prison. I have never seen anything like the Inside Out. Your guys help with everything and don't pre-judge anyone."

"I have always told people who work in prisons on social justice that their programs are incomplete. Without a bridge into society, the goal is only half met. What you do (at Inside Out) is an indelible part of that equation."

A local newspaper feature



IORC staff and volunteers

The Crisis Center Thanks You

Your financial help enabled The Crisis Center to complete the following in 2017:

- Raise \$45,000 to match UICCU's contribution to our food bank warehouse expansion project (construction expected to begin this March)
- Distribute 1,562 Project Holiday meals in just 5 days, sponsored by MidWestOne
- Provide over 450 locals in-person counseling while they faced emotional crises and suicidal thoughts
- Answer over 30,000 crisis intervention calls and chats

*Thank
you*



This groundhog is praising God and doing a victory dance for you, shadow or not!

Due to very tight spending and extra generosity by church members, in 2017 we ended up "in the black" financially by about \$1,800. God bless you for your giving and prudent spending in 2017! Thanks also for your pledges for 2018. Please turn in your pledge card if you haven't already, and please be as generous in your giving as possible! The hope is to fully fund our programs and missions this year.

Your pastor, Sam

Christmas Joy Offering

First Presbyterian Church participated in the denomination's annual Advent offering during December. The FPC offering totaled \$2,449.08 this year.

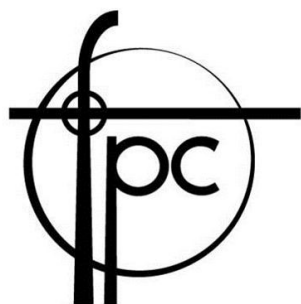
The offering will be equally split between providing opportunities for racial ethnic leadership development and providing financial support for current and retired Presbyterian church workers in their time of need.

Thank you for supporting the Christmas Joy offering!

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First Presbyterian Church

2701 Rochester Ave.
Iowa City, Iowa 52245



Public Office Hours:

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday - Friday
except holidays or when announced

Ph 319-351-2660 www.firstpreswacivacy.org



Any time that the Iowa City Community School District delays or cancels school and events due to weather, the church office will also be closed and any scheduled activities cancelled. When possible, we will advise you of cancellations by email and/or by changing the church's outgoing voice mail message and on FaceBook. In addition, cancellations of church activities will be posted on our website www.firstpreswacivacy.org, and will be posted on KCRG-TV and KCRG.com.

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