



Join us for the **#bestweekever** this summer at our **"AMPED"VBX (Vacation Bible eXperience)** on **August 6-9 from 6:30–8:30 p.m.**

NOW OPEN FOR EVERYONE!
See page 9 for new offerings.

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SAVE THE DATE!
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16



On **Sunday, September 16**, we will kick off our fall programming at FPC. Come and check out all of the exciting opportunities that we will have through an interactive ministry fair! All of the ministries of the church will have tables set up to share with you all their plans for the fall.

Watch and listen for more information about a fun and joyful "Kick-Off" Sunday!

To the Movies with Pastor Sam

"It's one thing to talk to Jesus. It's another thing when Jesus talks back to you.... That's called mental illness if I'm not correct. Hearing voices." Joy Behar on The View

"Liberalism is a mental disorder." Title of book by conservative commentator Michael Savage.

Dear sisters and brothers of First Presbyterian Church,

The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

Oh, dear. I wish I was writing at a happier time. As a Christian of conscience, over the past 10 years I have been caught in the crossfire between two groups embodied in the quotations above. Behar claims a personal Christian faith and I don't doubt it, yet I know fairly secular folks who judge all people of faith as mentally disturbed. (Truth in advertising, I am medicated for depression, so I have some sense of how people diminish those of us with mental challenges, quite apart from our Christian faith.) Yet personally I am also sometimes accused of being liberal or progressive, although my accusers usually confuse political categories with biblical scholarship and theological education. This latter group proves the aphorism that "if you only have a hammer in your tool box, you judge everything you see to be a nail."

Lots of blame goes with the charge that something is awry in the old mental attic. The secular left attributes to Christians a mental illness that creates injustice, and the politically right attributes to persons with a "progressive mindset" a form of mental illness that is either immoral or naïve. Put in terms of our southern border, the left sees Christians as having too rigid of borders while the right judges compassionate Christians to have no borders at all.

How wonderful that people like me, and perhaps you, too, create such unity of negative opinion across such disparate members of our culture! Yet as one who has felt that he mystically encountered the Risen Christ and who once heard his voice, while simultaneously being commanded to seek justice, practice mercy and walk humbly with God . . . it is a darned awkward period in American history.

If you want to see a dark yet provocative cinematic presentation of this conundrum, you might appreciate seeing the movie *First Reformed* starring Ethan Hawke as a Dutch Reformed pastor whose son was killed in Afghanistan and whose wife has left him. Hawke pastors the eponymous First Reformed Church. It is a congregation of a dozen attendees. Hawke's salary is paid by a megachurch that maintains the original church building as a tourist destination and souvenir shop, the continuance of worship lending the building ambience and authenticity. This megachurch is also supported by corporate interests in town, which means corporate avarice contributes indirectly to Hawke's salary. Hawke goes through the motions of ministry as he prepares for the 250th anniversary of the congregation. He consoles himself with alcohol and a diary in which he records his despair as he asks the big questions of life. Hawke lives in the church's manse, one with peeling walls and devoid of furniture. His surroundings symbolize his profound loss.

So numb is he to his surroundings, Hawke is surprised when a young woman wants him to counsel her husband. The young man is a depressed atheist devoted to environmental justice, his struggle finding focus in his animus toward the local corporation's chief executive. The young man asks this question: "Will God forgive us for

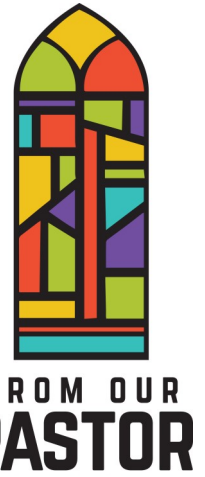
destroying his creation?" As he counsels the young man, Hawke finds the man's argument and his passion compelling. Hawke too feels lost: Nevertheless, as a pastor Hawke cannot totally surrender his faith. Yet he finds no comfort in the faith boasted by the pastor of the megachurch (played amiably by Cedric the Entertainer). The rest of the movie I will leave to your viewing pleasure. I can say that although painful, the movie does not end in despair but in rebirth.

For this reason I see the movie as a morality play about congregations like ours: Hawke incarnates the "old line" church. The story he embodies is one writ large in the Gospel itself. For example according to Matthew 16:21-27:

From that time on, Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!" Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns." Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.

I draw two major lessons from Jesus' words above for these times. I think these lessons find expression in the movie.

First, Jesus distinguishes between God's concerns and human concerns. The depressed young atheist
(Pastor's message continued on page 15)



Deacons Bench

Submitted by Rhonda Barr, Moderator of Deacons,
May 30, 2018



FPC Sanctuary Seating Project Update

The replacement of select pews with chairs began four years ago. Due to the need for flexible seating, i.e. seats with back support and arm rests that can be moved or removed to allow room for wheelchairs, we removed the back two pews and part of the front fifth pew and replaced them with chairs. These have become very popular with many from our congregation.

Over a year ago, in planning for the capital campaign, we decided to investigate the need for more flexibility in seating and adding more chairs. The following steps were taken to determine our needs:

1. We surveyed the congregation over a 4-week period, utilizing the bulletin and newsletter, in March-April 2017. This resulted in mostly favorable responses for the removal of more pews and replacement with more chairs. A few concerns were expressed for discomfort of people of short stature and not liking the looks of chairs compared to traditional pews.
2. We consulted with Buildings and Grounds regarding the possibility of re-anchoring pews once removed. This is not possible, nor safe. Many of our pews are not anchored safely and are not safe to use as handholds to assist people in rising to standing. Therefore, for maximum aesthetics, it was decided to remove the front pews instead of two in the front and one or two in the back. This leaves a large symmetrical block of traditional pews.
3. We consulted with the Worship Council on several occasions regarding the removal of pews, concerns about the loss of seating capacity, and the need for back book pockets instead of book racks (under the seat, like our current chairs) for ease of retrieval by persons with limited mobility.
4. The Congregational Health Ministries team approved the proposal, and it was sent to the Deacons for action on May 8, 2018. The Deacons discussed the proposal and approved the motion with recommendations to have both the back book pockets and the under chair book racks. The proposal was approved by Session on May 15, 2018.
5. The chairs have been ordered and are being manufactured. The estimated date for the pews to be removed and chairs to be delivered is mid-August.

Specifics of the project:

- We purchased another 66 chairs (40 chairs without arm rests, 26 chairs with arm rests) with back book pockets, card pockets, under chair book racks and communion cup holders, in the same fabric as our previous order of chairs.
- We purchased four more foot rests for people who need them due to short stature.
- We purchased a cart to more easily move the chairs.
- The front four rows of pews on each side (and short pew in row five) will be removed and donated or sold.
- We will maintain an open, reserved "wheelchair seating" area in the back of the Sanctuary.
- We will keep the remaining pews in the middle of the Sanctuary to preserve the symmetry and traditional aesthetics and for those who prefer pew seating.
- Due to the flexible nature of the seating, the total seating capacity will vary. However, with all the chairs in place the maximum seating capacity in the Sanctuary will not change.
- The total cost for the pew replacement is under \$6,000. The Capital Campaign budget allowed for \$20,000 for this project.

While we hope that everyone will be pleased with the changes being made, we are aware there are a few who are still opposed to this. However, with a large block of traditional pews available, there is room for everyone to have a comfortable seat and to have a choice of where to sit regardless of their mobility limitations. We are hoping these changes will allow more people to actively participate in worship, regardless of their physical abilities.

Lastly, we are thankful to everyone who has assisted in this project, and especially grateful for all of our generous donors to the Capital Campaign that has made this possible.

If you have questions or concerns regarding the Sanctuary Seating Project, please contact: Rhonda Barr (Moderator, Deacons) JOBTennis@mchsi.com or John O. Barr (Chair, Capital Campaign Implementation Taskforce) BarrJohnO@sau.edu

Capital Campaign Implementation Update

Submitted by John Barr, CCIT chairman

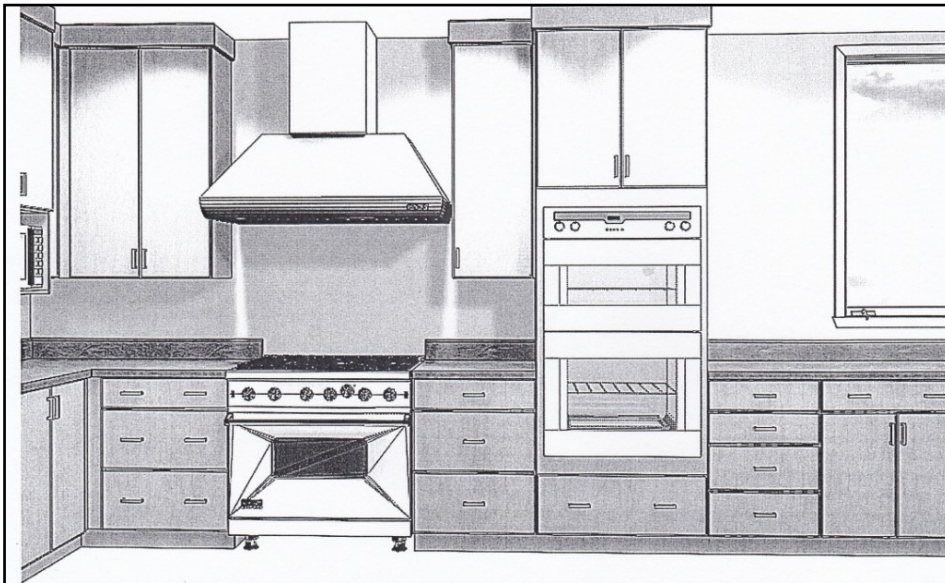
As a follow-up to the letter you received in April, the Capital Campaign Implementation Taskforce (CCIT) offers this summer update.

At the end of May, as part of the technology enhancements for Ryerson Fellowship Hall, a new retractable screen and video projector were installed by Conference Technologies.

On Sundays throughout June this system displayed FPC announcements and upcoming events, and it was effectively utilized at the Refugee Sunday forum and luncheon on June 24. Participants are able to sit within a few feet of the screen without casting their shadow on the projected image.



Renovation of the kitchen, under the supervision of general contractor McCreedy-Ruth Construction, is to begin in early August and will be completed by mid-September.



The all-electric kitchen will feature: a 36" range with externally-vented hood, three convection / conventional ovens, a microwave oven, individual refrigerator and freezer units, a non-chemical commercial-grade dishwasher (with 2 minute cycle time), an icemaker, a coffee maker / hot water dispenser, and a swing-away lower section of the island that will permit seated work.

At its meeting on May 15, Session approved the Congregational Health Ministries' proposal to purchase 66 additional chairs for the sanctuary. Please refer to their report in this newsletter.

On June 19, Session approved Winger Contracting Company of Fairfax, Iowa, as the contractor for installing the new boiler and air handler system. Work on this project, to begin in mid-August with completion by the end of October, will not interfere with our air-conditioning system.

Since April, we've received one additional pledge to the Capital Campaign, bringing our total to \$1,140,725. While this certainly is to be celebrated, we need an additional \$221,270 in order to successfully complete the implementation of our projects by the end of 2019. This includes further technology enhancements in Ryerson Fellowship Hall, the sanctuary, and the narthex, and installation of an elevator. Please recognize that after the Stewardship Campaign has concluded this fall, the CCIT will be reaching out to FPC members for further pledges to the Capital Campaign. Your prayerful consideration of our remaining need is greatly appreciated.

First's Family

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

July 19-31

7/19 Rachel Edwards
7/21 Valerie Soemadi
7/21 John Morgan
7/22 Sarah Swisher
7/22 Kayla McKibben
7/23 Alisha Bingham
7/23 Gloria Kasiriba
7/23 Glory Kasiriba
7/24 Angel Kasiriba
7/24 Mahala Smith
7/25 Dwight Miller
7/25 Jordan Kolarik
7/25 Courtney Hurt
7/27 Kitty Forsythe
7/29 Wayne Patton
7/29 Chase Burtness
7/30 Brenda Dodge
7/30 Grant Forsythe



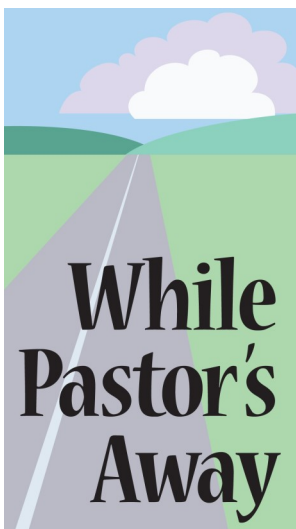
August 1-15

8/1 Janet Cochran
8/1 Rhonda Barr
8/1 Anne Dengler
8/4 Henry Edwards
8/5 Nick Thedens
8/6 Rose Kraus
8/6 Sally Rickey
8/7 Louise Larew
8/7 Margaret Ketterer
8/8 Nancy Powers
8/8 Janet Wicks
8/8 Mia Thedens
8/12 Thomas Boysen
8/12 Nile Franz
8/14 Judy Terry
8/14 Pam Kautz
8/14 David Scott
8/14 Shay Raffensperger
8/15 Gary Olson



Known to have been Hospitalized:
Jan Wicks, Earline Moll, Diane Mattila and Mary Roberts

Please keep Dennis Pedde and the family of **Mary Ann Pedde** in your prayers. MaryAnn passed away July 6. Services were held at First Presbyterian on July 12.



Pastor Sam's Time Away

Pastor Sam will be out of the pulpit and out of pocket from July 15 through August 15 and for sanity's sake he will be "unplugged." Emergencies should be directed to 911. Urgent matters should go to Tammy Foster (operating as Head of Staff in Sam's absence) or Tammy Schroeder in the church office: 319-351-2660. On call pastoral care July 15–July 21 will be handled by Minister of Equipping Anna Sheetz: 319-325-3726, backed up by Pastor Paul Akin: 319-594-5567. July 22–August 4, Pastor Paul will be on call, backed up by Pastor Sherry Lohman: 319-621-1828. Pastor Sherry will be on call August 5 through the following next two weeks, with Anna as backup. We are richly blessed by gifted staff persons, members and friends who love First Presbyterian Church while Pastor Sam takes a breather. We give thanks to God for all of you!

Equipping Ministry



BEACH DAY

Saturday, July 28, 10–2 p.m.

Beach Day at Lake McBride! Bring your swimsuits and a picnic lunch to enjoy some surf and sun!

LET'S SING-A-LONG!

Join us in FPC's Lower Level in the heat of the day to stay cool with some rocking tunes! We'll watch a favorite Disney movie and sing, dance, and play together! Be sure to bring any toys and wear any costumes that might go with our movie of choice!

Saturday,
August 11
1–3:30 p.m.



Join us for PHASE 1: Summer 2018. In a Universe of Marvel movies, we want to start near the beginning ... with the first Avenger; Captain America. Join us select Wednesdays this summer, bring a potluck dish to share, and join the Earth's Mightiest Heroes.

Wednesday, July 25: 6 p.m.

Avengers: The Age of Ultron

Wednesday, August 15: 6 p.m.

Capitan America: Civil War

Special Summertime Event



Monday, August 20

8 a.m.–7 p.m. *Meet at FPC*

\$45 per person

(includes lunch ticket)

Youth must have medical form

* Must have check to Anna by
August 1*

SAVE THE DATE

**Youth Group kicks off
THURSDAY, AUGUST 23
See you at 6 p.m.!**

Reconciliation Ministry

SAVE THE DATE!



Reconciliation Ministry will hold a mission fundraiser to support:

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM



Please bring this page or show an electronic version from our Facebook page to the cashier when you place your order. Panera will donate 20% of your purchase to DVIP! Share the flyer with all you know!

WHERE 1646 Sycamore Street, Iowa City, IA 52240

WHEN Mon, Aug 13th

FROM 4:00pm - 8:00pm

Bring this flyer or show an electronic version to the cashier when you place your order and we'll donate a portion of the proceeds from your purchase.*

Ordering Online for Rapid Pick-Up or Delivery?*

Enter **"FUND"** as your Promo Code to have a portion of your proceeds donated to your organization.

Learn more at PaneraBread.com/fundraiser

*Gift card purchases and catering orders are excluded and will not count toward the event. Rapid Pick-Up and Delivery only where available.

Awareness
education on
Sunday, August 12
DVIP will educate
worship attendees
in Ryerson
Fellowship Hall.

Pentecost Offering 2018 Generosity

The Pentecost offering for 2018 totaled \$818, which is an increase of \$123 from 2017. **Thank you!**

Of this offering, 40% was split equally and forwarded to 2 local service providers serving at-risk youth.

Four Oaks and United Action for Youth each received \$163.60 from the Pentecost offering.

Four Oaks assists children to become successful adults despite economic, environmental and behavioral challenges. FPC's Book Sale supports this organization, as well.

United Action for Youth provides education specifically for teenagers 12–18 years of age to encourage safe, healthy choices.

The remaining Pentecost offering dollars were forwarded for Presbyterian Church (USA) use to support young adult volunteer worldwide programs, youth ministries and child advocacy.

While each of these ministries are important, please know that 40% of your Pentecost Offering directly benefited Johnson County youth!

Again, thank you for your generosity!

2018 Trunk Sale

The 2018 Trunk Sale was held Saturday, June 9. The weather kept us inside initially but the sun shone brightly thereafter! This year's sale netted nearly \$400 to install a water collection system on the shed to save rainwater for use in the labyrinth. More green initiatives will be coming! In addition to raising green initiative funds, the sale provided the opportunity to re-purpose items through Habitat for Humanity Restore, Goodwill, Artifacts and Houseworks. Thank you to Richard Van Rheeden, organizer, assisted by Judy Terry and all the FPC members and staff who helped.



Worship & Arts Ministry

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



Summer “Drop-In” Choir

Are you interested in singing in choir but don't have the time to commit during the year? Have you wanted to give it a try but feel intimidated? Do you want to try something new and creative with a low commitment this summer? Come on the first Sunday of the summer months to the FPC summer “Drop-In” choir!

When: Sundays August 5, and September 2

Time: 9:15 a.m.

How: Just show up on the first Sunday of the month at 9:15 a.m. We will learn an easy, fun, accessible piece of music and then sing it during worship that day!

Who: Anyone willing to give this a try. Ages 10 and up welcome!

Bring friends and family and have fun making music with one another!

Labyrinth



Did you know that the church has a labyrinth and meditation garden located at the bottom of the parking lot?

Consider making a ritual of visiting and walking the labyrinth this summer. If you live close by, make it your mid-week devotion. Or, in the absence of pre-worship activities this summer, come early on a Sunday and ready yourself for worship by walking the labyrinth.

Not sure what to do?

How to Walk a Labyrinth

1. *Enter the space slowly, calming and clearing your mind.*
2. *You may choose to use a repeated prayer, mantra or chant.*
3. *Open your senses and focus on the process of taking slow and deliberate steps.*
4. *Bring to mind a prayer or spiritual question to contemplate during the walk to the center.*
5. *Reaching the center, pause to reflect, pray, listen for an answer or for deeper revelation.*
6. *Now begin the return journey.*
7. *Pray or reflect further.*
8. *Upon exiting, use further reflection, prayer, or journaling to absorb the experience.*

BACK TO SCHOOL BACKPACK BLESSING



Sunday, August 19, 10:30 a.m.

All students, educators, or those wishing for a blessing going into the fall bring your backpacks and book bags on Sunday, August 19 to receive a back-to-school blessing during the worship service. Along with a blessing from your church family, you'll receive some goodies to put in your bag to remind you of God's love to carry you through this new year of learning!

Equipping Ministry

Join us for the **#bestweekever** this summer at our
"AMPED" VBX (Vacation Bible eXperience) on August 6-9 from 6:30–8:30 p.m.

NOW OPEN FOR EVERYONE!

Announcing ...



PARENTING THROUGH THE PHASES

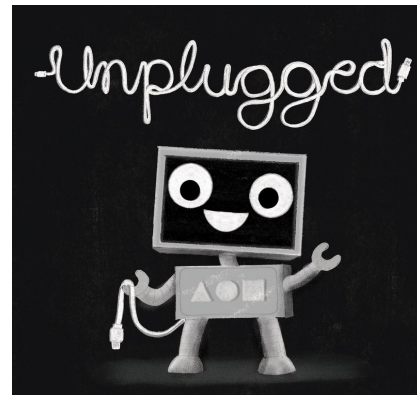
You have approximately 936 weeks from the time your child is born until he or she moves on to what's next. It goes by fast, and kids change quickly.

Join other parents during Vacation Bible eXperience for a small group developed just for you!



**Feedback: A Space for
Adults to Feedback
about this whole ...
Church thing.**

No pressure, no judgment, just
community.



Youth: Unplugged

A VBX Small Group for youth starting 7th–12th grades! Invite friends to a summer event—youth group: unplugged.

Please contact Anna at anna.sheetz@firstpresio.wacity.org

Or

Go to makespaceforfaithFPC.com Event Registration AMPED VBX

June Session Highlights

~submitted by Nancy Weber



The session met June 19, 2018 in Coover Lounge at 7 p.m. Pastor Sam called the meeting to order and lit the Christ candle. We welcomed Capital Campaign Implementation Task Force's Lee Tippe. Elder Bob Youngquist led us in devotions and prayer. Bob has found the Bible to be full of music and the arts. He read a number of verses celebrating God's creativity, and spoke of the art expressed in our congregation and worship service to praise and glorify the Lord.

Ken & Edna Mae Fisher's transfer of membership to Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Asheville, NC was approved.

The recent website report was attached.

Treasurer Larry Bruner reported that we no longer have a deficit due to the Walker trust coming in above projected amount (\$50,000). The pledged income is a concern at this point. It is a bit below the expected amount, yet the spreading of pre-pays from year-end 2017 over the entire 2018 year impacts this number.

Session approved the minutes of the May 15, 2018 stated session meeting.

Requests for six columbarium niches, for John/Rhonda Barr plus their sons Gregory, Thomas and Evan, and for Cullen and Logan Schroeder were approved.

A motion to change the date for Communion from June 17 to June 24, 2018 was approved via email.

The recent Presbytery meeting report by Judy Terry was received.

Session approved a contract in principle with Millie and Bob Youngquist for them to serve as coordinators of endowment development (one position), and approved funding the position from unrestricted endowment income at the rate of \$6,000 per year salary plus \$1,500 operational budget. The detailed contract will be emailed out to session for final approval.

Elder and Finance Moderator Dale Kraus spoke about a suggested reorganization of the Endowment and Memorial Committee. At-large membership has been at three, but the committee wants to increase to four at-large members plus the Chairperson of Finance to sit on Endowment. If approved, the new committee will consist of four at-large members, plus the Chairperson of Finance. Session approved a motion to ask the congregation to alter the by-laws to allow for the election of four at-large Endowment and Memorial Committee members from the congregation, plus the Endowment and Memorial Committee to include the Chairperson of Finance.

Session approved the 2018 Trunk Sale funds to be used to install a garage watering collection system at the shed for the labyrinth.

Session voted to accept Elder Andreas Soemadi's resignation from Session due to his new teaching position out of town, with thanksgiving to God for his service and the Clerk of Session to write him a letter of thanks from session.

The following motion was approved: To approve First Presbyterian Church, Iowa City, IA being a community of love, hospitality and fellowship by:

1. Offering space at FPC for community education events;
2. Financially supporting the Center for Worker Justice and the Eastern Iowa Bond Project;
3. Providing tangible items and offering physical presence / help at other churches who are offering sanctuary to immigrants and their families;
4. Providing public witness by both issuing an FPC public declaration of human rights support for pro-immigrant policies as well as advocating for policies promoting immigration and human rights.

(Note outside of motion: It is understood that developing and advocating means for enacting these priorities will come mainly through Reconciliation Ministry.)

Youth leader Anna Sheetz spoke about the FPC junior high Youth trip, which had just returned from St Paul, MN. The kids were excited and worked hard. She saw Christ in their presence. She thanked Session for being able to be an advocate for them.

Pastor Sam gave thanks for congregation members' participation in Pride week and for lay person leadership of Refugee Sunday. He found it all quite moving.

It was approved that A&P submit the following sections to be added to the staff policy handbook:

1. All staff members will receive training in procedures for making purchases, including the voucher system. Staff members are required to follow the voucher system, including receiving signed approval from the convening Elder for all purchases. Staff members not following these procedures may be required to pay for items personally.
2. All staff assigned to a church computer are required to provide notice to the Minister of Stewardship and Management with their updated password each time there is a change.

It was reported that it may be necessary to spray a "hidden" area near the labyrinth. Weeds are growing there.

Elder Vern Dengler mentioned he is concerned about the electricity bill, which has increased rather dramatically

recently. The decision to take better care of the organ since its renovation through consistent climate control of the sanctuary, plus weather extremes, may be partly to blame.

Elder Kraus gave Session an update regarding changes with the Walker Trust (Trust).

“FPC is one of six remaining beneficiaries of the Trust, i.e. receiving 14.6% of the Trust’s annual income distribution. FPC’s annual distribution is deposited in the General Fund. The annual distribution varies year to year based on the income the Trust generates. The amount of the 2018 distribution (\$52,250) was significantly higher than in recent years (2017 - ~ \$31,100, 2016 - ~\$33,400) due to several factors. These factors include the last individual beneficiary dying and FPC percentage of the distribution increasing, the Trust changing from a trust to a private foundation and new rules regarding distributions applying, and a small amount of new income from wind electricity generation being received by the Trust. The Trust consists of 997 acres of farm real estate in 12 parcels, various mineral rights, utility leases and other assets (commodities, cash/money market funds, stocks and equity funds). The Trust’s estimated

ending market value on December 31, 2017 was ~ \$8.7 million.” This shows the impact an endowment can make on a budget and a congregation’s service.

Elder Ann Grosscup passed around a sign-up sheet for help with church opening and closing while Pastor Sam is away.

Elder Vern Dengler mentioned that on Sundays, Hamburg Inn #2 is giving 10% off the cost of your bill if you present your church bulletin.

Elder Nancy Gardner reported briefly about Johnson County Interfaith Cluster. They’ve enjoyed doing interviews, and are progressing in the program.


Elder Grosscup had a question about day care mentioned in the Equipping minutes. The idea of holding a day care or preschool here at FPC is beginning to be explored for possibilities. After looking into physical facilities requirements, however, it may not be a possibility.

Elder Sharon Raffensperger closed the meeting with prayer. The next session meeting will be held August 21, 2018 at 7 p.m. in Coover Lounge.

MONEY MATTERS

Larry Bruner, Treasurer

	Contributions	Misc. Income <small>Building Use, Walker Trust, Bank interest, etc.</small>	Total Income	Total Expenses	Over/Short
1st Quarter	\$121,464.86	\$683.77	\$122,148.63	\$144,112.58	-\$21,963.95
April	\$39,089.11	\$356.33	\$39,445.44	\$51,770.16	-\$12,324.72
May	\$47,224.14	\$52,520.41	\$99,744.55	\$42,563.52	\$57,181.03
June	\$42,961.51	\$3,061.80	\$46,023.31	\$54,210.43	-\$8,187.12
2018 Totals	\$250,739.62	\$56,622.31	\$307,361.93	\$292,656.69	\$14,705.24



**FPC Book Club Invites
You to Join Us**

August 29, 2018
Killers of the Flower Moon
by David Grann

We meet the last Wednesday of
the month from noon to 1 p.m. at
1095 Silvercrest Circle #223 (Legacy Senior Living,
Scott Blvd.). Bring your lunch and share in the
fellowship. For more information, contact Jan
Walker, 358-6737.

**Wednesday Morning
Bible Study**

Join us in Coover Lounge from
9:30–10:30 a.m.
Starting September 26.
The class is led by Pastor Sam.

**We are studying the
Book of James**

**New members are
ALWAYS welcome.**



**The next NEW MEMBER CLASS
will begin on September 30.**

Watch for more information in upcoming
bulletins and newsletters.

Do you have questions?

Do you want to be the first to sign up?

Contact Tammy Schroeder at tammy.schroeder@firstpreswiowacity.org or by
phone at 319-351-2660.

**The Friends of Pasrur recently received this thank you note
and would like to share it with the congregation.**

Friends,

I am writing to thank you for your recent gifts of 100 boarding
scholarships and Christmas gift money for the girls at the school
in Pasrur. Your church is among our most faithful and most
generous partners in this enterprise. Your gifts are making an
enormous difference in the lives not only of the girls, but of their
families and their communities. I simply cannot thank you
enough for your generosity.

Gratefully,

Stuart Baskin, Friends of PEB board member



Parents' Night Out



Who: Parents of children, 8 years of age or younger

What: An evening of free childcare so you can enjoy some “me time”!

When: The third Friday of every month beginning **Friday, September 21 from 5:00–7:30**

Where: Lower level of the church

Wait! Really??? Yes, really! Every third Friday of the month, adult volunteers will supervise young children in fun activities along with a light supper. To reserve a spot for your child(ren), email Nancy Gardner at nancy.hayes.gardner@gmail.com by Friday, September 14.

Adult volunteers are always welcome to join in the fun! If you'd like to help out, email Nancy at the above address.



Needles, Hooks and Yarn Summer Schedule

(meet once a month June–August)
Mark your calendar to join us in Ryerson Fellowship
Hall at 9–11 a.m. on Saturday Aug. 4
(We will resume meeting weekly September 8)



For more info, call Tammy
Schroeder at 351-2660



Mark your calendar to join **TeamFPC** for the Iowa City

Walk to End Alzheimer's on Sunday September 16 in Lower City Park.

To sign up or for more information, contact Tammy Schroeder at 319-351-2660.

Registration at 12:30 p.m.; Ceremony at 1:30 p.m. with Walk at 2 p.m.

Route Length: 2 miles; 1 mile shortcut

Memory Café—Brought to you by the Alzheimer's Association

What is a Memory Café?

Memory Café provides a gathering place for people with dementia along with their care partners to relax and enjoy socialization, refreshments, discussion and entertainment. This unique program gives care partners time to focus on the relationship, not on caregiving. Memory Café is FREE and walk-ins are welcome.



2nd Friday of the month from 10-11:30 a.m.

Iowa City Senior Center, 28 S. Linn St., Iowa City

For more information, please contact Ann Drobot at 319-294-9699 or adrobot@alz.org



"Wonder Women of the Bible: Women of Yesterday, Inspiring and Empowering Us Today"

FPC Fall Women's Retreat

Saturday, October 13, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Are you interested in getting to know women of the Bible as well as some women from our community? Join us for a day of fun, food, fellowship and learning here at the church. Mark the date on your calendar now. Invite a friend. More info coming soon!

For more info, contact Nancy Gardner, Mary Linn or Judy Whitford.

Reflections from a Pastoral Counselor . . .

(The Community Pastoral Counseling Service – CPCS — was founded and is still supported by First Presbyterian Church of Iowa City, along with five other congregations. At Pastor Sam's request, The Rev. Bruce D. Williams, pastoral counselor/licensed mental health counselor at the service – will be submitting articles for our benefit and reflection. CPCS is located at the Congregational United Church of Christ, 30 N. Clinton St. in Iowa City. Appointments can be scheduled at 319-337-2519. For more information, visit the CPCS website at <http://www.cpcsofiowacity.org>.)

With mid-term elections about 4 months from now, we may be hearing politicians talk about "traditional family values," often leaving the impression that one size fits all. Yet some parts of tradition can be pretty troublesome for some people. According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have been a victim of some form of physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime. NCADV adds that on a typical day there are more than 20,000 phone calls placed to domestic violence hotlines nationwide, while an average of 20 people experience intimate partner physical violence every minute, which equates to more than 10 million abuse victims annually.

Further, the Huffington Post reports from 2001–2012 U.S. troops in Afghanistan suffered 6,488 deaths, while 11,766 women were murdered by their current or ex male partner in the U.S. during those same years. The statistic gives new and sinister meaning to "home sweet home." Studies indicate anywhere from 20 to 33% of female teens have experienced violence while dating.

So, it may be beneficial to ask those who affirm "traditional family values" if they favor leaving behind the violent aspects of our tradition.

Bruce

(Pastor's message, continued from page 2)

in the movie can only see his own concerns for the world, without reference to God. The megachurch can only see its own concerns for its own institutional form of religion, without reference to the world. Jesus preached a different, third way altogether. He taught a new way for the world to be organized that he called the kingdom or realm of God. This realm is filled with people who love God in their worship and who love neighbor in their service, including neighbor earth. In the chaos of our times, the true citizens of the realm of God have neither given up on God nor lost confidence in God's redeeming purpose for all of creation (Romans 8:18-24). They express God's first priorities, God's true concern.

Yet, Jesus' second point is that for our members to follow Jesus – or, for that matter, for any members of any congregation to do so — we must be willing to die to our attachments. We know to what we cling: to the past, to our anxious embrace of our possessions, to our attachments to political partisanship that insists on winning over love and justice, to our self-centered idolatries, even to how we have used the church to hide from our calling to glorify God. Ethan Hawke, by losing his son, wife, paycheck and ultimately position in the church and community, finally found a new life. We even witness his crucifixion and his resurrection into love. So I believe in our current age we are seeing the death throes of much of the old line church, yet even as we die I believe we see God raising our own congregation and others to new life.

The way forward lies in the midst of four vertices. First, we worship as God taught us to do thousands of years ago, prior even to the writing of Scripture. Yet we do so with forms and tools with which God has gifted us today. Second, we respond to the personal and global crises that wrack God's beloved creation with our words and deeds. These words and deeds constitute our witness:

They are God's Word, through us, to the world. Third, we offer warm hospitality that invites and embraces all of God's children. Fourth, and this is the one vertex that supports the others, we equip our people to worship, to serve and to create the beloved, reconciled community. Holding the vertices together, holding us together, is the Spirit of God.

The name of the movie is *First Reformed*. Perhaps the title is meant to be a pun that urges us to look at our own conundrum with some humor. It is not mental illness that afflicts us (at least not solely): It is our understanding that to be faithful to God we must first reform, that is, in obedience to God's Word to us. Reform comes when Christ, the Living Word, is heard clearly! The secular left needs reform: The values of justice, mercy and trust in the future have always been gifts from the transcendent Living God, and not mere human inventions to be manipulated on whim. The political and religious right needs reform: The prophets and Jesus did not espouse a dead code or a dormant doctrine relevant long ago. Rather, the prophets and Jesus taught, and by the power of the Spirit still teach, that first we must embrace that God is the Wholly Other actively pursuing justice. Only then can we comprehend

- what it means to be a faithful church that walks humbly with God and
- the quality and proper role of mercy (that may aid — yet is no substitute for — justice).

It is not mental illness that afflicts us but our commitment to the truth. We offer the foundational and only true reformation that God gives: to set aside all that burdens us and walk in the third way of Jesus.

Love and blessings, your pastor, Sam

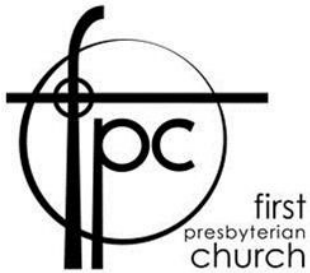


Martha's Circle Celebration!

Martha's Circle recently made its second mailing of bras to "Free the Girls"! Thanks to the generous response of First Presbyterian members, we were able to mail 200 bras to the national headquarters for "Free the Girls" in Indiana. In addition, we were able to donate one dollar per bra, thanks to the financial support of some very generous folks in our faith community, to pay for shipping costs to Africa and Central America. For those of you who are unfamiliar with this extraordinary mission project, "Free the Girls" provides safe economic opportunity for women who have escaped the terror of sex trafficking. They are afforded the opportunity for education, holistic reintegration and the ability to earn a safe income selling bras in a second-hand marketplace. Programs exist in El Salvador, Mozambique, and Uganda. Women have safe housing, access to better health care; three women have bought or rented a house on their own. One hundred per cent of the children are in school and 65% have moved up the poverty scale in Mozambique. Watch for our "Free the Girls" donation box (for gently used or new bras). Should you wish to donate money for the shipping costs, speak with Helen Sheets, Sharon Raffensperger or Maeleen Thorius or any member of Martha's Circle! We are happy to tell you all about it and how you can become involved!



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



Summer Public Office Hours:

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

Ph 319-351-2660

www.firstpresidiowacity.org

Prepare for the CRC Winter Clothing Drive

It's not too early to begin preparing for the annual Winter Clothing Drive & Distribution, sponsored by the Consultation of Religious Communities (CRC)! This year's event will be held on Saturday, October 13. Contributions of winter coats, hats, gloves, scarves, boots and other used winter clothing for all ages that is in good condition will be needed. So...it's not too early to begin sorting through these items that you've stored away or can collect from friends and relatives during your summer travels.

Collection boxes will be available in Fellowship Hall by late September. Information about volunteer opportunities on October 11–13 at the Iowa City distribution site (The Kingdom Center / Dream Center, 611 Southgate Ave.) will be shared in early September. Questions can be directed to FPC members John Barr or Perry Ross, coordinators for this site.



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