

So is it . . .

Welcome back? Or . . .

Where are you?



Kickoff Sunday is or was September 16! This promises to be a special year, made even more special by your presence at [space] on Sunday morning, followed by worship. There are so many additional activities to challenge and inspire you! To quote from an old Arlo Guthrie song . . .

*Standing at the threshold of a moment in my life
Looking far into the ceaseless wonders of this day
Calling from the mountain top
"Come give to me your hand
Touch me and we'll go along our way"*

What do you think? Isn't it time to come down and come home, to touch a hand and then go wherever God takes us as the community of First Presbyterian Church? If we haven't already, we hope to see you soon!

Peace and Global Witness Special Offering

On October 7, we will celebrate World Communion Day by also receiving the Peace and World Witness special offering. This denominational offering is taken annually to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness.

Worldwide offering dollars have been used to fund the following programs:

- ◆ Work with young people transitioning out of prison or homelessness;
- ◆ Give funds to HIV education/prevention programs;
- ◆ Help fund educational assistance for veterans;
- ◆ Train peer counselors in peacebuilding in refugee camps in war-torn countries;
- ◆ Support programs aimed at ending human trafficking.

The largest share of the denominational offering supports the Presbyterian Office of Public Witness, the public policy information and advocacy office of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Its task is to advocate, and help the church to advocate, the social witness perspectives and policies of the Presbyterian General Assembly. Ministry in Washington, DC, offers a chance to translate the church's deep convictions about justice, peace and freedom from words into reality.

Thank you for prayerfully considering your support.

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Dear sisters and brothers of First Presbyterian Church,

The peace of the Lord be with you!

Here it is again: August in Iowa! Warm, humid days get punctuated by pop-up lightning storms. The plants get leggy, with flowers bleached out by sun. Personally, I have grown lazy, letting the weeds go until cooler weather allows for less strenuous removal. "The grass withers, the flower fades . . . yet the word of our God stands forever" (Isaiah 40:8). Responding to the word, we return from summer pursuits to take our place back at church . . . or so it is hoped and prayed!

Our denomination's General Assembly – a national meeting of elected teaching elders (pastors) and ruling elders — has been busy over the summer. It was the 223rd meeting of that body. Rather than voting to divest Presbyterian Church (USA) resources totally from companies relying on fossil fuels, the General Assembly voted to stay with a strategy of continuing prophetic engagement. It took up business related to battling sexual misconduct and abuse, as well as advocating for family leave. Violence in Palestine between Israelis and Palestinians caused the Assembly to call for both sides to take responsibility and make peace with justice. Capital punishment was condemned, concerns about gun violence were expressed, and the spotlight was put on Puerto Rico, race and the painful disparities being experienced by black girls and women in society. The General Assembly also did housekeeping: It approved a reorganization that will allow for more equitable balancing of decision-making and less infighting over resources—at least that is the hope.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter from Birmingham Jail," a communication that called the white church of his era to walk the walk and not just talk the talk, is now under consideration for addition to our Book of Confessions. Its criticism of the church's silence and inaction in the face of racial injustice seems relevant for our time. As I have said on occasion, we need to distinguish boldly between the true church of Jesus Christ and current ideological streams that have twisted the cross into a symbol of racism, xenophobia and violence. This initiative may be a step in the right direction. It should at least generate conversation about religion and race in America.

General Assembly adopted a teaching document for Presbyterians to weigh regarding the times in which we live. Keep in mind that the General Assembly does not speak *for* the church but

rather *to* it. I share this with you for your own reflection, prayers and possible advocacy.

For Such A Time As This: A Proclamation of Kin-dom Values

As confessing Christians, we trust God, whom we know through Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray as others pray in other names.

We are obligated to declare our concerns about the direction towards autocracy that our country is taking.

We say Yes to God's power of love and justice for the neighbor as well as the self, and we say No to demonic power that urges hate of the other, scatters blame, and creates civic discord.

We say Yes to our imperfect democracy with one person, one vote, and No to any corruption of our elections.

We say Yes to universal health care and No to care based on the ability to pay.

We say Yes to safe schools, houses of worship, and public gathering places; and No to civilian access to assault and/or military-style weapons.

We say Yes to core human values and No to dividing our humanity by ideology and partisanship.

We say Yes to bridges and preservation of families and No to walls.

We say Yes to affirming and celebrating the full spectra of human identity and No to discrimination and bigotry.

We say: "In life, and in death we belong to God."

(The 223rd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) affirmed this declaration and offers it as a resource to congregations)

It is good to know where the 223rd General Assembly of the PC (USA) stands. Yet, where do you and I stand and what will we do about it?

Ah, autumn comes! Leaves falling, pumpkins carved, cider drunk, advocacy made, votes cast . . .

With love, Your pastor,

Sam



First's Family

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

September 15-30

9/15 Maggie Mowery
9/16 Eric Scholtz
9/19 Steve Smith
9/19 Ann Finley
9/19 Carol Ulch
9/19 Anita Burnett
9/20 Amy Johnston
9/22 Fred Harris
9/23 Marguerite Morey
9/23 Mick Hammer
9/24 Caroline Ruyle
9/25 Steve Spangler
9/25 Ruth Gier
9/26 Eric Forsythe
9/26 Peter Dunbar
9/27 Joyce Stochl
9/29 Shirley Pate
9/30 Joey Summerwill



October 1-15

10/1 Al Wicks
10/1 Jerry Stamp
10/3 Tyson Neubauer
10/4 Joan Maxwell
10/5 Edmond Bigaba
10/6 James Liang
10/6 Chad Greimann
10/7 Judy Whitford
10/8 Bill Rubright
10/8 Temple Hiatt
10/8 Anna Sheetz
10/10 Sherry Lohman
10/10 Rachael Nicholson
10/10 Brent Foster
10/11 Norma Carlson
10/12 Ken Miller
10/14 Karen Nicklaus
10/14 Emily Feagins
10/15 Marvin Bergman
10/15 Steve Hurt
10/15 Taylor Dengler



Known to have been Hospitalized:

Jan Wicks, DJ Massey, Rebecca Blair, Carol Macon, Norvall Clemons and Jack Perkins.

We extend our sympathy to the friends and family of **Carol Macon**, who died August 26. Her memorial service was held at FPC on September 17 and led by Pastor Sam.



Deacons Bench



Flu season is coming! Congregational Health Ministry will once again offer flu shots on September 30. The Visiting Nurses Association will be giving the vaccination

on that Sunday before and after worship, 9 a.m. until noon. They will file with Medicare or accept cash or a check. Do not kid yourself, influenza is deadly so whether you get one at church or elsewhere, we urge you to have one. It protects yourself and the world around you. So, remember, cover your mouth when coughing, wash your hands and get a flu shot!



Your Legacy ...

It has been said that “your legacy is the indelible mark you leave behind when you make a difference in the life of another.” In 2015, the First Presbyterian Church of Iowa City celebrated the 175th anniversary of its founding. Many past congregations have left us a legacy that has continued to help our church share Christ’s message with the world. Among their many gifts to us is an endowment, which has been designed to support our ministry and ensure its outreach for years to come.

Some of you might ask, “What is an endowment?” An endowment is a portfolio of assets from gifts that are kept intact with only the income that is generated being used. To put it differently, the FPC Endowment is a permanent fund; the value of the original gifts (the corpus) is not spent. Only the income that is generated is used. The principal of these gifts is held in perpetuity with the investment income made available for ministries of the church. The FPC Endowment provides a way for persons to make gifts that provide for the long-term future of the church.

Our church encourages members to augment their Christian stewardship of annual giving by making both outright and planned gifts to benefit FPC. An endowment gift may be made at any time and is frequently made in honor or memory of an individual or as part of an estate plan. Types of gifts most frequently used for endowment are cash, bequests from wills and estates, marketable securities, stocks and bonds, tangible personal property, real estate, life insurance, charitable gift annuities, charitable trusts, life estates, and retirement plan designations.

Unless otherwise restricted by the donor, most estate gifts are placed in the unrestricted portion of the permanent endowment.

All gifts with restrictions named by the donor will be used for the donor’s named purpose. Donors wishing to designate a gift for a specific purpose are encouraged to discuss the restriction with a member of the Endowment and Memorial Committee or Pastor Sam to ensure that FPC can use the gift in accordance with the donor’s

wishes.

The Presbyterian Foundation put it very well. “Endowment gifts are theological statements which demonstrate one’s belief that we are never ultimately proprietors, owners, but only stewards, lifetime guardians entrusted by God to use wisely what God has placed in our hands. When an individual creates an endowment gift for the church during or beyond their lifetime, it declares to the present and future generations the importance of our faith and trust in God. We have each drawn water from the wells we have not dug; we have sat under shades trees we did not plant and we each have a wonderful opportunity to provide the means for the church to have a strong and empowering ministry for generations to come.”

What will your legacy be? Creating a gift to benefit your church is a transforming experience, and a wonderful example of Christian stewardship.

If you have any questions, please talk with us or with any of the members of the Endowment and Memorials Committee: Sam Massey, Ken Miller, Jan Wicks, Tammy Foster, Tony Warren.

Bob and Millie Youngquist
Endowment/Memorial Coordinators
Endowment@firstpresoiowacity.org

Contribution or Commitment?

A farmer awoke one morning with a taste for ham and eggs for breakfast. He went to his barn and found his best hen and his best hog and said, “How about it? I would like ham and eggs for breakfast.” The hen responded immediately by delivering up two fine eggs. But the hog hesitated. The hen turned to the hog and asked, “Hey, what’s the hold up? The farmer takes care of us, he feeds us, he provides us with safety and shelter. The least we can do is give him ham and eggs for breakfast.” “Well, that’s easy for you to say,” replied the hog. “All he wants from you is a contribution, but from me he wants a real commitment.”

What does God want from us in response to the abundant blessings that have been bestowed upon us? A contribution or a real commitment of the gifts and talents that have been poured out upon us by an extravagant God? That is one of the questions we will be exploring in our **First Things First** Stewardship Campaign kicking off on Sunday, October 7, and culminating on Celebration Sunday, November 4. Plan now to be with us each and every Sunday as we celebrate the extravagant love of God at work in our lives, the remarkable and growing ministries of First Presbyterian Church, and the opportunity we have to respond in gratitude through the giving of our gifts, our talents and our lives.



*Worship God with gladness!
Come into God's presence with singing.*

Thank you to summer musicians

We are grateful to those of you who shared your musical gifts in worship over the summer. Your willingness to offer your time and talent in this way enriches our summer worship experience while providing our music ministries staff and volunteers a time of rest and renewal. Those who provided special music during the summer were: Members of Holy Jerusalem Pentecostal Church, David Richardson, The ABC Flute Trio (Alice Atkinson, Rose Bishop, and David Carlson), Laurie and Mia Thedens, Hudson Lourenço, Bill and Cathy Follows, Mary Jo Keith, Janie Schomberg, Doris Preucil, Oriana Ross, and Lee Tippe. Thank you also to those who participated in the summer drop-in choir. This was a great success and we can't wait to do it again next summer! Thank you for your music ministry!



BREAD FOR THE WORLD Worship on Sunday, October 7

World Communion Sunday is October 7, and we want to celebrate with bread from different cultures. You can help in two ways:

1. Bake bread from a recipe from your cultural background or one that you admire. Bring the bread to the church kitchen (write a note on it that it is to be used for World Communion) during the week of October 1-6. Bread will be used for communion on October 1st during worship.
2. Share a favorite bread recipe and/or a story about what that bread means to you. These recipes and stories will be collected and distributed.

Help celebrate Christ's meal with our brothers and sisters across the world!

Contact Leah Bergman with any questions,
leah.bergman@firstpreswacivcity.org



Baby Music Class

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

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



WHY WE WELCOME LITTLE CHILDREN TO WORSHIP...

At the time of baptism, parents, godparents and the whole congregation promise to bring children to worship. Not to do so would be like sitting down to the family evening meal but excluding the kids. Sure their manners might be far from elegant, but we welcome them because they are part of the family. Being with family is how we learn to be family. Worship is no different. Young people giggle, they poke, they ask questions and they swing their legs because they are young children. Children learn about worship and how to participate by experience, by how they are welcomed into the community, by what they see big people doing.

WHAT IS WORSHIP? Worship is how we respond to God. When we gather in worship we all come together to encounter Christ, and we watch together for God's presence in Scripture, our own lives, and the world around us. When we worship God, we are reminded that we belong to God's love, and we are empowered by the Spirit to participate with God in loving and healing the world.

HOW DO YOUNG CHILDREN LEARN TO WORSHIP?

- By being taught they have a place in the community of the church.
- By seeing, hearing, feeling, even smelling, the sanctuary as a place of welcome and worship.
- By being around other children in the worship space.
- By watching how their significant adults sing and make prayers and offerings.
- By sharing prayers, communion, and worship leadership alongside adults.
- By being given ways to watch for God's presence in their own lives and being encouraged to share where they notice God and how they participate in God's love.

ADULTS LEARN TO WORSHIP by "becoming like a child" (Mt. 18:3). Children notice, absorb and feel deeply. They respond freely. Children perceive God. Children learn to worship from adults, and adults learn to worship from children. Bringing a child to church can be frustrating. Their behavior can make it hard for parents and others to worship. Then again, many facets of parenting can be challenging. It's the rewards that make it all worthwhile. While we do not want our children to be disruptive or hamper the worship of others, all of us together need to be reminded that children are not the church of the future. They are the church of the present and are to be treasured as such. Children and adults alike are able to watch for God and participate in God's love and healing.

SUGGESTIONS FOR ADULTS WITH CHILDREN

When possible, arrive in time to find a good place to sit. Let them sit next to the aisle, near a work station or in the front pews. Even let them stand on the pew next to you so that they can see.

Tell them before they come in what will happen in worship. Show them the parts of the service where they have an active role, and the parts where we all listen or watch others quietly.

Take advantage of the worship supplies and materials available at the door when you arrive, and bring them to your seat. Return bags and supplies to their place when you leave.

Worship with your child, guiding her or him through the service so they can feel what it is like to worship together.

Worship at home through saying Table Grace together, or Bedtime Prayers, or even "God bless you." Ask your kids questions about how they noticed God's love in their day, and how they shared in it.

Remember that sometimes children just plain need to run around and play. That's why we provide a bright and safe Nursery space for your young child at any time during worship. Gather them back with you for Communion so they can experience God's blessing.

SUGGESTIONS FOR ADULTS WITHOUT CHILDREN

Be helpful to parents of small children by not making them feel awkward or unwanted.

Acknowledge children by smiling, or nodding in their direction, to show your appreciation of them.

In fact, make a child's presence a part of your worship by inviting their family to sit next to you, praying for them, taking an interest in them.

Make a special point of sharing the Peace of Christ with them when everyone else is greeting.

Find a young child before or after the service, make eye contact, introduce yourself, tell them you are glad to see them and will be looking for them next week. You might just be the reason that family returns.

(adapted with permission and gratitude from pew insert by Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, St. Paul, MN)





FALL REHEARSALS

All Music and Arts Rehearsals Schedule

Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.	Youth Choir (Gr. 4-12) in Choir Room
Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary Choir fall rehearsal
Sundays at 11:40 a.m.	FPC Brass Group
Mondays at 7:30 p.m.	FPC Woodwind Ensemble
Sundays at 8:00 a.m.	JuBELLation Handbell Ensemble

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 start Thursday, August 30 at 7:30 p.m. and will be held twice a month through the fall. Contact Leah Bergman at leah.bergman@firstpresbiowacity.org or call the church for more information.

YOUTH ORCHESTRA

NEW this fall! Many youth have expressed a desire to play in an instrumental ensemble made up of the youth at church. This group will be open to 5th–12th graders who play any instrument. If you are interested, please contact Leah Bergman at leah.bergman@firstpresbiowacity.org or call the church. The schedule will depend on those who are interested. Consider this fun opportunity to play music with one another and for the glory of God!

Youth Choir September–December Schedule

Generally rehearsals will be on the first and third Thursdays of the month.

Thursdays, September 6 AND 20

7:30–8:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 4

7:30–8:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 7

9:15–11:30 a.m., Youth Choir sings in 10:30 worship for World Communion Sunday

Thursday, October 18

7:30–8:30 p.m.

Thursdays, November 1 AND 15

7:30–8:30 p.m.

Thursdays, December 6, 13, AND 20

7:30–8:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 16

5:00–8:00 Worship at Oaknoll with pizza after

Monday, December 24

3:45–5:30 Youth Choir sings at 4:30 Christmas Eve Worship

Rehearsals will begin again Thursday, January 10



JUNIOR CHOIR

Pre-K–4th Grade
Sunday Mornings

Beginning Sept. 23



Junior Choir is made up of all children grades Pre-K–4th. This group will sing and play together on Sunday mornings at the beginning of the [SPACE] break-out times. If your child is interested in singing, come on Sunday mornings before church for education time and music! This group will sing occasionally in worship during the year. Contact Leah Bergman for more information!

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>.)

If one saw a neighbor in their garage using an electric drill on their tooth with a cavity or if a colleague came to work on a Monday morning with 2x4s held together by duct tape around a broken arm after fall off a ladder, one might think, why didn’t you go to a dentist or a physician? Seeking an outside intervention under those

circumstances would be seen as a sign of wisdom to assist healing, not an indication of inadequacy.

Yet, when it comes to a “decayed thought” or a “broken feeling,” we are often expected to solve them on our own. This double standard frequently leaves people suffering emotionally—needlessly and in isolation. Just as a dentist or doctor has knowledge/skills/training/ facilitative angle for a beneficial intervention, so, too, a mental health professional can offer expertise along with an objective perspective. The relief that can come from such an intervention is life-enhancing, not a reflection of deficiency.

Expecting ourselves to be totally self-sufficient is not only unrealistic but also can be detrimental.

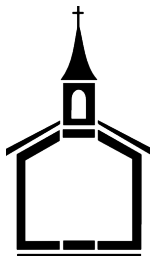
Bruce

MyFirstPres

Join us with this exciting new communication tool ...

1. Go to FPC website, <https://firstpresiowacity.org/>, click on **MyFirstPres** circle .
2. You will be asked to enter your first name, last name and email. Enter this info and click “Find Me.”
If the system can’t find you, you may not have an email in the system—call Tammy Schroeder (351-2660).
3. You should see a note congratulating you on setting up your account.
4. Once you see that note, check your email for your username and temporary password.
5. You will be able to change password once you login.

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
2nd Quarter	\$129,274.76	\$55,938.54	\$185,213.30	\$148,544.11	\$36,669.19
July	\$34,337.81	\$754.00	\$35,091.81	\$58,727.10	-\$23,635.29
August	\$39,123.77	\$20,316.76	\$59,440.53	\$42,565.93	\$16,874.60
2018 Totals	\$324,201.20	\$77,693.07	\$401,894.27	\$393,949.72	\$7,944.55

August 2018 Session Highlights

Clerk of Session Pro-tem, Ann Grosscup

The session met August 21 in Coover Lounge at 7 p.m. Pastor Sam called the meeting to order and lit the Christ candle. Elder Ann Grosscup led us in devotions and prayer. Ann read “Passing the Baton – Equipping Emerging Leaders of Today and Tomorrow,” an address given to church leaders by Tom Smith, Reformed Church of America synod president. The address spoke to the pain and privilege of passing church leadership from Baby Boomers to Millennials.

The July 8 baptism of Lucille Hamilton, daughter of Bradley and Jocelyn Hamilton, was noted, as was the June 30, 2018 birth of Sullivan Edward Johnston, son of Amy and Taylor Johnston. Mary Ann Pedde died July 6, 2018. Her funeral was held at FPC on July 12 and led by Pastor Sam Massey, with interment in the FPC Columbarium. Mary Roberts died July 17, 2018. Her funeral was held July 22 at Gay and Ciha, officiated by Pastor Paul Akin, with burial in Memorial Gardens. The death of Dwight Shaffer on July 22, 2018 was noted. His funeral was held at FPC on July 30, and officiated by Pastor Paul Akin.

FPC Treasurer Larry Bruner reported that pledges are coming in slowly and expenses remain stable. Moderator and Elder Dale Kraus will share a financial update with the congregation, reminding them to fulfill pledges, via the bulletin and the newsletter. A motion was approved to go ahead and transfer the \$20,000 (previously budgeted) from Endowment income to the general operating budget.

Minutes of the June 19, 2018 session meeting were approved. Session approved Dennis Pedde’s request for Columbarium interment for himself and Mary Ann. Session approved, via email, the contract with Robert and Millie Youngquist to consult with Endowment.

A motion was approved to participate in the following fundraiser—Join Team FPC for the Walk to End Alzheimer’s on Sunday, September 16. Signup in Ryerson Fellowship hall began August 26. FPC’s team goal is to raise \$1,000. All money raised will go to Alzheimer’s Association for research and to enhance care and support for all those affected by this disease. The walk will be held in Lower City Park.

Session approved the Dodekah Program, which is in development, to be incorporated into the long-range plan for the sake of creating potential travel plans, promoting the program, researching various fundraising sources, and other logistics. The trip is tentatively planned for 2020, pending raising the anticipated needed funds, estimated currently to be up to \$70,000. Session will need to pre-approve specific fundraising events.

Elder Carol Ulch, REALM Planning co-chair, gave an update on the 2019 planning and preparation for the stewardship campaign. Carol and co-chair Jeremy Fletcher are looking at the Garden Project as a project for the entire church with specific plans and congregation communication to come. Pastor Paul Akin will be working on a brochure to inform the congregation of the ministries’ exciting program plans for 2019 and years beyond. Pastor Sam expressed appreciation to both Carol and Jeremy for their hours of planning work.

Presbyterian Education Board of Pakistan’s Veda Gill is scheduled to preach at FPC on Sunday, March 31, 2019.

Elder Nancy Gardner gave an overview of Administration and Personnel Ministry’s stewardship budget request.

Elder and Finance moderator’s Dale Kraus encouraged ministries to dream big as he noted our great staff and sees a bright future for FPC.

Elder and Building and Grounds’ moderator Vern Dengler reported the old boiler has been removed and three new boilers were to arrive later in the week. Installation is expected to be finished by October 2018. The kitchen remodel is underway and is to be finished by September 15, 2018. Sanctuary chairs were expected to arrive August 22, 2018.

Elder Nancy Gardner updated Session on Johnson County Interfaith Cluster. She shared a graph showing the social injustice themes that were the results of FPC one-on-one interviews. This information will be shared with the congregation and JCIC. FPC Core Team leaders are training other churches in conducting one-on-one interviews. Pastor Sam commended Nancy, Bob Goodfellow and Barb Stanerson for their CIC leadership.

Anna Sheetz gave an update on VBX and the positive outcomes. The parents’ group wants to continue to meet into the fall.

Leah Bergman updated Session on summer worship, thanking Pastor Paul Akin and Sherry Lohman for their work, both seen and behind the scenes. The Ministry Fair will be held September 16, 2018.

All were encouraged to check “My First Pres” which can be accessed via the FPC homepage. The front page of the current newsletter gives step-by-step instructions. Kudos to Tammy Schroeder for setting this up.

Elder Amy Fletcher closed the meeting with prayer. The next session meeting will be held September 18, 2018 at 7 p.m. in Coover Lounge.

So what's the Deal with [SPACE]?

[SPACE] is a play on the expression of making space or holding space for another person. At FPC, we call our Sunday Morning Education [SPACE] because we want our members and visitors to make [SPACE] for faith. We try and make this easy.

- ⇒ 9-9:30 a.m., we have breakfast and community.
- ⇒ 9:30-10:15 a.m., we head to one of FOUR options.



Kids from 4-10 will learn through crafts, music, and storytelling.

New! Junior Choir will meet from 9:30-9:45 a.m! This meets in the Creation Station.

reAffirmation

REAffirmation is a class with you in mind! We know that you may be new to faith, questioning faith, or just trying to figure it out again. This is for you! Designed for 7th graders to adult – join us for a weekly discussion on the elements of our faith and what makes us Christians. This meets in Ryerson Fellowship Hall.

If you're curious about the intersection of ancient Bible Times and the world we live in, this is the class for you.



This covers this weeks' news stories and allows us to wrestle with how to be faithful in 2018. This meets in Coover Lounge.



IT'S JUST A PHASE

This new class is back by popular demand! First begun at VBX this summer, this was such a supportive group, we decided to bring it back full time! This meets in the Movie Room on the Lower Level.

Students entering 7th grade and older are invited to join Confirmation this year. The first meeting will be after church on Sunday, September 23. Please email Anna at anna.sheetz@firstpresidiowacity.org to enroll today!



WE'RE NOW ON INSTAGRAM!

Find us at @FPCIC for the most up-to-date announcements, reminders, encouragements, and some pretty incredible #TBTs!



The Youth Group News

Thursday, September 20; 6–7:30 p.m.

Who is God? Come wrestle it through!

Youth Choir at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 27; 6–8:30 p.m.

We'll finish our conversation about God. BIG GAME to finish the night off.

Thursday, October 4; 6–7:30 p.m.

What does it mean to be religious? Come chat it through!

Youth Choir at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 11; 6–8:30 p.m.

Prepare for Pumpkins! A BIG GAME will follow

Thursday, October 18; 6–7:30 p.m.

What is the balance between religious and spiritual?

Youth Choir at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 25; 6–8:30 p.m.

Family Potluck & Mission Night!



Join us!

On Saturday, September 28, join those camping at the First FPC-Family Camping Trip at Lake MacBride State Park! We will go to Wilson's Orchard apple picking during the day, have a potluck meal for dinner, and then a campfire talent show! You don't need to camp to join in the fun!

If you would like to join us overnight, please speak to Anna Sheetz today!

**MARK
YOUR CALENDAR!**

**Mark your Calendars with our Fall
Community eXperiences!**

FPC Pumpkin Party
Join us Sunday, October 21 at 6 p.m. for some Fall Pumpkin Fun! Bring friends and family for some awesome fun!

Pie for Breakfast
Yum! Yum! Yum! We'll celebrate fall's bounty at [SPACE] Breakfast on Sunday, November 18!

XMAS Festival
Join us at [SPACE] for FPC's Festival and Pageant!

**CX events are made for all ages and
perfect for the whole family!**



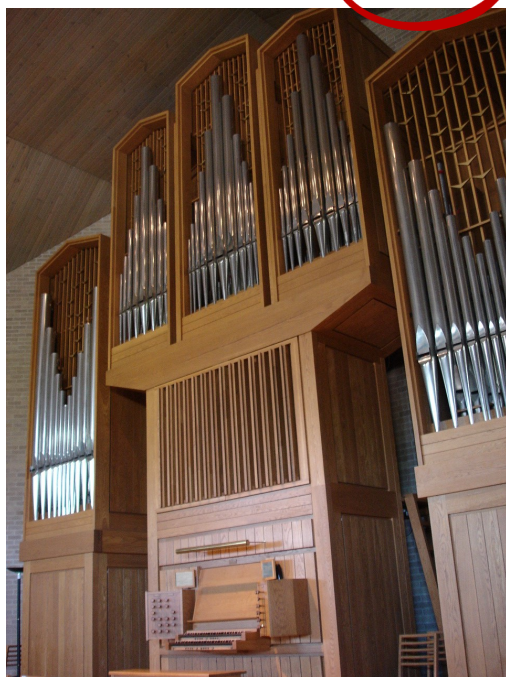
Songs of Joy

Organ music and poetry to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the refurbished Phelps organ (rescheduled from last fall)

Melissa Moll
organ
Leah Bergman
cello

Sunday, October 28
6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church
2701 Rochester Ave,
Iowa City



Works by Bach, Muffat Rheinberger,
Phillips, Hakim

Snap Shot of Ecumenical Towers

A few notes from Ecumenical Towers: the residents of Ecumenical Towers were invited to join the Board of Directors the afternoon of August 16 for pie and ice cream. The apple, cherry and peach pies were purchased from Ila Miller of Kalona. Coffee and iced tea were served with the pie and ice cream. Thirty-six residents attended along with 6 Board members, who served the refreshments. Barb Smith, who is the Social Chair, distributed a questionnaire to the residents who attended. She collected the questionnaires and will write up a story based on the results of the questionnaire. There is an artist who lives at Ecumenical Towers. She has paintings for sale, some of which are on display at the Lasansky Corporation Gallery. She offered to sell to the Board a couple of paintings at half price. One large and one smaller painting were purchased by the Board to hang in the lobby of Ecumenical Towers. The residents have access to a hair salon, deliveries from Table to Table, blood pressure clinics, deliveries from Grinnell Farms (CSA), and one-on-one tech support. In addition, the Crisis Center has selected Ecumenical Towers as a mobile food pantry site once a month. I have tried to give you a picture of the life at Ecumenical Towers. I hope I have succeeded! Bonnie Bender, FPC Representative on the Board of Directors for Ecumenical Towers.

FPC and Lucas Elementary Kick-Off 7th Year of Operation Backpack



Since the 2012/13 school year, FPC volunteers have been delivering bags of food to eligible Lucas Elementary students on Fridays to supplement their weekend meals. Over the years, we've served between 25 and 55 children each week. Our volunteers have been as young as 5 and as old as ... well, much older! We meet once per month for about an hour to pack and store 4 – 5 weeks' worth of food and then one or two people deliver

the food each Friday. Would you like to join us? Or just learn more about it?

Come join our kick-off pizza party on Monday, October 1! All are invited! We'll eat at 5:30 p.m. and then start our usual food packing at 6:30 p.m. Please let Lara Marsh (marshlara5@gmail.com) or Carol Kirsch (carolkirsch52@gmail.com) know if you can attend so we get enough food. Hope to see you there!



Needles, Hooks and Yarn

Mark your calendar to join us at FPC 9–11 a.m. on Saturdays

for more info contact Tammy Schroeder 351-2660.

Guiding Board Suspend

The last Guiding Board was held July 1 until the church organization of Holy Jerusalem Pentecost Church (HJPC) has progressed to the point that re-instating the Guiding Board will be productive. In the meantime, Pastor Sam as well as Nancy Weber and Becky Ross will continue to meet with HJPC individuals to assist with church organization, English and sewing classes, respectively. Tammy Foster will continue as staff liaison; Ann Grosscup will continue as a point of contact for accessing needed community resources.



DVD's Wanted

November 3, there's a group going from our Church to visit the Pasrur Christian Girls School in Pakistan. We will be having some special time with the girls in the boarding house.

We are planning to take some gifts for girls. If you have any old **DVDs that are PG/PG13 rated DVDs**, that you could donate, it would be greatly appreciated. It helps the girls to learn English and learn about the world. Also, it's nice for them to have some relaxing entertainment in the evening when there are away from home.

Just put them on the Mission table in Ryerson Hall or bring them to the church office.

Thanks in advance!

Jane Cranston, Friends of Pasrur

FPC Book Club Invites You to Join Us

Sept. 26 *The Soloist* by Steve Lopez

Oct. 31 *The Curious Charms of Arthur Pepper* by Patrick Phaedra



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 information, contact Janet Walker at 358-6737

Wednesday Morning



Join us in Coover Lounge from 9:30–10:30 a.m.

Starting September 26. The class is led by Pastor Sam.

We will be studying the Book of James.

New members are ALWAYS welcome.

EAT OUT GROUP

September 27, 6 p.m.



Hosts: Steve & Kathy Smith

1-608-343-2168



**FaithWorks
begins September 30,
room 14
on the lower level.**

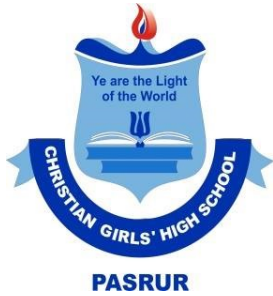
Have you struggled with big
questions of faith?

Are you looking to do justice and live with mercy?

FaithWorks is the class for you!

Contact Pastor Sam for more information

sam.massey@firstpresiowacity.org



Would you like to help make a difference in the lives of these young people?

This is the group for you!
Join Friends of Pasrur.

We'd love to have you!

Why are Friends of Pasrur so passionate about their mission?

Listen to what they say...

In 2009 I returned to FPC IC after 17 years living out of state. Friends of Pasrur was familiar to me already because I continued receiving FPC's newsletter during those years away. Our work is grassroots peacemaking that builds bridges to a more peaceful world. FOP helps us remember that we are part of a much bigger picture than our sphere of daily living. *Anita Burnett*

I believe this is the most important mission work of our congregation. Because of our financial help, we have educated hundreds of girls who might never have had the opportunity to go to school. Think what the numbers are when we add all the people who have benefited from these girls as they have passed on the magic of a good education. It is stunning! *Sue Dallam*

What this group has accomplished through the years is remarkable. Knowing that I am part of a group that is making such a contribution to girls'—and now boys' education—is VERY significant to me, and I will continue to support it as long as I can! *Jane Skinner*

When my idea to create a library was introduced at Pasrur, it was a "new concept" in their education world. The growth and use of the library at the school fills me with pride. In my world, reading—in ANY form—is the key to most learning. A good library fills that niche. *Nancy Ross*

Educating young Christian girls in Pakistan is a way I can make a positive impact on the world. These girls will be the strong, educated women of the future who will work for peace and contribute to the well-being of their families, communities, and country. The extent of our work here is far-reaching, life-changing, and ever-lasting! *Nancy Gardner*

We stay involved because education at Pasrur is working—it is breaking the cycle of illiteracy! Girls appreciate school, go home over breaks to teach their families, pay for siblings to attend school, continue school after graduation, and can make informed decisions as adults. Everyone we know has had the opportunity for an education. These girls and young women deserve the same opportunity. To us, it is a small cost for such enormous benefits. *Nancy and John-Mark Stensvaag*



I am grateful to be a part of a local mission effort that has had such wonderful results for girls in Pakistan as well as the friends I have made such as Veda Gill. I am inspired to continue the work over the years because we have such close connections with Pasrur Christian Girls School and have seen it grow to include a boys' school as well. *Katie Lind*

As a retired teacher and mother of girls, I have a "built-in" interest in the education of girls. After hearing about the Pasrur school and its desperate needs, I was called to act. Over the years I have seen remarkable changes. The energy of the group is wonderful; the tasks may be small (writing thank-you notes) or large (organizing an event), but working with the members of Friends of Pasrur has been and remains a joy. I feel the Holy Spirit is acting through us. I know that I am making a difference for our Pasrur students, for Pakistan, and for the world. *Mary Linn*

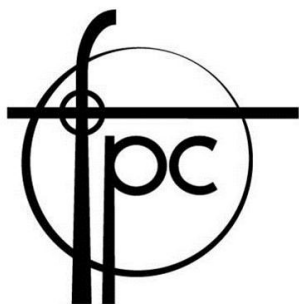
Through Friends of Pasrur, I have the opportunity to help Christian girls in Pakistan receive an education that can change the course of their lives and provide them with hope for a bright future. As a former teacher, it gives me great joy to know I can continue to have an impact in education by working to support these girls and their families. *Leann Graves*

Being involved in the Friends of Pasrur has been a great experience. I've valued working with other women who have become dear friends, I have enjoyed learning about and visiting Pakistan, but most of all I've appreciated being a part of something that does such important work for young girls. We make the difference between barely surviving and having a chance at a good life. We get to witness miracles. *Jane Cranston*

More information: Leann Graves graves@mchsi.com, 319-621-7020 or Nancy Gardner nancy.hayes.gardner@gmail.com 319-325-2674.

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.firstpresioiwacity.org

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

Pasrur Christian Boys School Progress

The construction of the Pasrur Christian Boys School (PCBS) is well underway. ZOR engineers have set a target date to complete the roof work for the end of August. The walls are up, the roof has been poured and everything is on schedule. A group from our church and the Presbytery will go to Pakistan in November for the dedication of the new school. PCBS was built with contributions from Amy and Dave Nicholson, through the Wilson Family Trust, and also through a campaign by the Presbytery of East Iowa Pasrur Boys School Commission. Jane and Ed Cranston are coordinating the Pakistan trip.

~Jane Cranston



First Presbyterian Church Staff

MINISTER OF WORSHIP AND ARTS

Leah Bergman
leah.bergman@firstpresioiwacity.org

DIRECTOR OF INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Dennis Pedde
dennis.pedde@firstpresioiwacity.org

ORGANIST

Melissa Moll
melissa.moll@firstpresioiwacity.org

MINISTER OF PROGRAMMING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Tammy Schroeder
tammy.schroeder@firstpresioiwacity.org

MINISTER OF EQUIPPING PROGRAMS

Anna Sheetz
anna.sheetz@firstpresioiwacity.org

ASSISTANT TO MINISTER OF EQUIPPING PROGRAMS

Judy Whitford
judy.whitford@firstpresioiwacity.org

NURSERY SUPERVISOR

Debbie Torrens-Semler
deb.torrens-semler@firstpresioiwacity.org

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Saira Steen
saira.steen@firstpresioiwacity.org

MINISTER OF STEWARDSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

Tammy Foster
tammy.foster@firstpresioiwacity.org

SEXTON

Gerald Hill
gerald.hill@firstpresioiwacity.org

PASTOR

Sam Massey
sam.massey@firstpresioiwacity.org