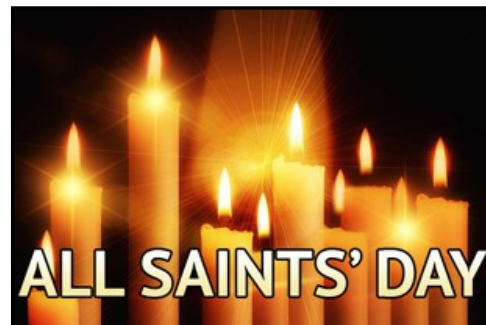


The Communion of Saints—Sunday, November 3

Who are the saints of the church? That is the question we will explore this **All Saints' Sunday, Nov. 3**. Though we especially remember those saints who are no longer with us on earth on this day, we are also reminded that we are living saints—embodiments of Christ to and for one another—here and now. We all have unique gifts and talents to share with the world to enrich the lives of those around us and become saints to one another.

On All Saints' Sunday, we lift up the lives of those children of God who have died in the past year, giving thanks for their lives and faith. We remember their lives and those of other faithful believers who have been examples of what we are called to be and do. During a time of remembrance we will have an opportunity to **light a candle in memory of or in honor of a saint** who has had an impact on our lives.

As we commemorate these saints, we are reminded that we, too, are invited to be communicants with Christ Jesus' body, both the body that is the church and the resurrected body. We are called to join those believers in witnessing to God's action in our lives. They become one of the "Cloud of Witnesses" who run the race of faith in this time and place and with this people, as well as beyond all times, places, and peoples in order to bring about the Realm of God on earth.



The Pumpkin Patch Is Here!

First Presbyterian Church is once again hosting the Pumpkin Patch.

When you purchase a pumpkin or gourd, you are supporting both the Dodekah Program and Pumpkin Patch Fundraisers USA – whose website says this:



"We have our farming operations on the Navajo Indian Reservation in Farmington, NM. In cooperation with the Navajo Nation; we grow 1,200 acres or approximately 2 square miles of pumpkins and employ over 700 Native Americans during our harvest months of September and October. We also have a full-time off-season NM staff that is comprised entirely of Native Americans. This has a positive and lasting impact on a region with 42% unemployment."

We have added to the FPC's fundraiser this year locally sourced soy candles with autumn scents. The candles are created in Cedar Rapids.

The Dodekah Program is an intergenerational Bible Study, Research Group, and International trip to Israel/Palestine in June 2020.

**The Pumpkin Patch is open:
Monday–Friday, 3–7 p.m.,
Saturday & Sunday, 12–7 p.m.**

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Dear sisters and brothers of First Presbyterian Church,

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all!

I mean this literally: I wish you peace. In recent weeks I have been hearing about young people struggling with a variety of emotional challenges. One of my colleagues wrote a church newsletter article about it. Curious, I searched and found the following note at medicalnewstoday.com:

The American Psychiatric Association ran a poll on 1,000 U.S. residents in 2017, and they found that nearly two thirds were "extremely or somewhat anxious about health and safety for themselves and their families and more than a third are more anxious overall than last year." Anxiety in the U.S. may be impacting millennials most. They also noted that millennials [my note: ages 20 to 40, approximately] were the most anxious generation. In 2018, the same poll was repeated. Anxiety was shown to have risen again by another 5 percent. Millennials were revealed to still be the most anxious generation.

While there are always individual reasons for people to struggle with anxiety and depression, our current culture of ugly speech and hot debate can exacerbate the natural proclivities with which any one of us can struggle. Also contributing to our anguish is the widening economic chasm in our nation. According to the Marketplace program on NPR, never have rich and poor been as far apart as they are right now, i.e., since the government began measuring this gap. If, as a consequence, the conscientious wealthy are not experiencing pain, the despairing poor are not feeling afflicted, and the middle class do not feel trapped in the middle, it would be very odd.

My aforementioned colleague, recognizing the divisive times in which we live, observes our historic Christian calling to be agents of reconciliation. As Christians, we refuse to break fellowship and dialogue with each other in spite of our deep differences. She is correct: Our refusal to live comfortably with permanent social separation—from those with whom we are in conflict—marks our spirituality.

Yet my own conclusions call for more explanation. Theologically, reconciliation names a process that begins with forgiveness (forgoing vengeance and leaving that to God), yet also involves confession, repentance and reparations. Reconciliation means both sides paying the painful cost to move toward healing the breach. Frankly, I am not sure I see sufficient humility and generosity of spirit in the body politic for persons to seek reconciliation for the sake of the greater good.

So as our nation wrangles on, I remain concerned about the mental and emotional health of all of us who are whipsawed by a singular lack of emotional, as well as spiritual, intelligence exhibited in our culture. Here are some steps worth taking, in my estimation:

First, there are reasons for mental and emotional problems, and therapeutic help is worth pursuing. Getting help is a baseline for wholeness.

Second, exercise and diet can make a huge difference in our attitudes. Personally I have found that 20–30 minutes per day walking on an elliptical and giving up hormone-laden or artificially preserved meat have taken off some of my edge. Taking walks in the fields and woods also helps.

Third, when we replace perusal of social media—that is designed to get us to react—with prayer and meditation, these latter activities grant us both calm and an awareness of God's presence.

Fourth, we can find liberation through our recognition of what we cannot do to change the world: We have limitations over the choices that many people make because we are not they and not God.

Fifth, we can discern those places where we can make a difference and throw ourselves into those efforts that represent meaning and hope for us. Volunteering politically and faith-based community organizing for justice are good places to focus the energy of our concerns. We are not God, yet God calls us to pitch in.

Sixth, depressed people internalizing pain deserve our empathetic presence, yet we have to be careful to not be swallowed up by their suffering or else we can be of little assistance to them.

Seventh, toxic people externalizing pain need to be kept at a distance, yet we have to be careful to not break contact with them altogether, lest our studied avoidance of them becomes their continuing control over us.

Eighth, each one of us ultimately needs to stop blaming others for our situations and take responsibility for healing our wounds and giving our lives new directions: Others see that this is true of us more clearly than we can see it in ourselves.

Ninth, change and sorrow are inevitable; the goal is not to avoid change but to learn to grieve who and what are no longer here. We do so for the sake of shedding regret and opening our hearts and minds to new possibilities.

(Continued on page 3)



The Growing in Faith Stewardship Campaign was introduced in worship on Sunday, October 13.

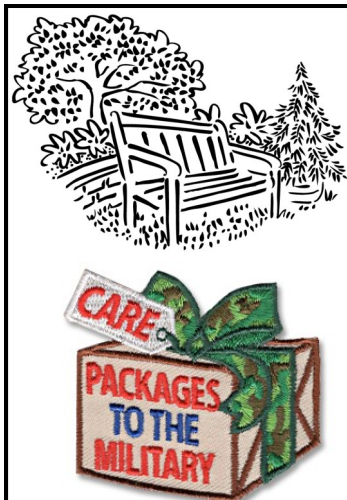
The campaign is based on this challenging teaching of Jesus, found in Luke 10:25-28, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength." Over the course of the next 4 Sundays (Oct. 20, 27, Nov. 3, 10) we will explore what it means for us to grow in our faith and in our love for God. The campaign will conclude on Celebration Sunday, November 10, when pledges in support of the church's ministries for 2020 will be received. Please make it a point to be in worship every Sunday.

A packet of materials with information about the campaign and details about the vibrant and growing ministries of our church will be mailed to every household during the week of October 14–19. Each packet will contain a pledge card and a return envelope that

you are asked to prayerfully fill out and bring to worship with you on Celebration Sunday, November 10. Should circumstances prevent your being in attendance that day, you are asked to mail your pledge to the church in the return envelope provided.

Growing our faith; truly loving God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength: what a challenge Jesus presents to us. But with every challenge comes opportunity—the opportunity to draw nearer to the God who blesses us with all we have and to grow by responding with faithful discipleship. Plan now to share with us as fully as you possibly can over the course of the campaign.

Paul Akin, 2020 Stewardship Campaign



Deacons Bench

Care Packages for members who are away at college or serving in the military.

Twice a year, boxes of practical and not-so-practical items let those who are far from home know they're being thought of. If you would like to include your family member on our care package list, please e-mail the name with postal address to Jeff Orris (jorris@mchsi.com), by **Sunday, November 10.**



(Continued from page 2)

Tenth, reconciliation often means being reconciled to the fact that some people no longer want to be in a relationship with us, separation must be accepted, and we must forgive ourselves and move on. In some circumstances, nothing more can be accomplished, however heroic our efforts. As my grandfather liked to say, "Do what is right and let them howl."

Do you have your own list? Let us pray for those

suffering this time of year and in this political season with depression and anxiety. As people of faith we live in the tension between trusting in the future and wrestling with the troubles foisted upon us and our loved ones today (Matthew 6:34).

With faith, hope and love,

Your pastor,

Sam



Just Lunch! **Coming Again on October 24**

It's happening again: Just Lunch! will be at noon on Thursday, October 24 in Coover Lounge.

Top 5 reasons why you should come to Just Lunch! this month:

5. There is no agenda.
4. There are no officers.
3. You can come and go as you like.
2. It's a lot of fun; just bring your lunch and talk with people.

And the number one reason you should come to Just Lunch!

#1 We all get to sit at the "cool table"!



JCIC (Johnson County Interfaith Coalition) Update

On Sunday, September 22, members of our FPC Core Team met with core team members from The Kingdom Center. These get-togethers are a valuable means to develop relationships across congregations as well as to learn first-hand why our work with JCIC is critical to addressing issues of social justice.

Your FPC Core Team Leaders
 Nancy Gardner, Bob Goodfellow, and Barb Stanerson

First's Family

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

October 15-31

10/15 Marv Bergman
10/15 Steve Hurt
10/16 Ed Mason
10/16 Dwight Younkin
10/17 Dorothy Hoak
10/18 Darlene Bergman
10/22 Bonnie Neubauer
10/22 Jeff Franz
10/23 Audrey Van Roekel
10/23 Faryle Nothwehr
10/23 Dan Thedens
10/24 Sally Staley
10/24 Andrew Franz
10/28 Bob Mikelson
10/28 Jerry Thorius
10/28 Janet Walker
10/30 Jane Skinner
10/30 Greg Muilenburg



November 1-16

11/3 Jeanette Winegarden
11/3 Del Disselhorst
11/3 Louise Gisolfi
11/3 Carol Spangler
11/3 Sara Schwartz
11/4 John Staley
11/4 Nancy Weber
11/4 Heather Youngquist
11/5 Dorothy Seebohm
11/6 Dan Katalinich
11/7 Andreas Soemadi
11/8 Duane Thompson
11/8 Alyssa Selmer
11/11 MaryEllen Stamp
11/13 JJ Deryke
11/16 David Stochl



Known to have been Hospitalized:

Dallis Meier, Jan Walker, Gerry Lowry, Helen Chadima, Richard Van Rheeden and Janice Baumbach.

Please keep **Dorothy Hoak** and the family of **Greta Reynolds (Hoak)** in your prayers. Greta passed away September 11. Services were held at Parkview Church September 21; **Norvall Clemons** and the family of **MaryAnn Clemons**, who died October 15. Her service will be held at FPC on October 21.



On September 29 we said "thank you and farewell" to Dennis Pedde.



Dennis served FPC in music ministry in various forms for over 20 years. This summer, he moved to Chicago to start a new form of ministry at Lydia Home, a Christian organization that works with children abandoned by their parents to transition them into foster care.

We wish Dennis all the best in his new venture!





*Worship God with gladness!
Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth.
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 every Sunday from 5-6 p.m. Contact Leah Bergman at leah.bergman@firstpreswacity.org or call the church for more information.

Important dates:

Sunday, October 20: Sing in worship

Sunday, November 17: Sing in worship



JUNIOR CHOIR

Pre-K–4th Grade
Sunday Mornings

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!

Suzuki Baby Music

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

**Tuesdays 9:30-10:30 a.m.
or 5:30-6:30 p.m.**

First Presbyterian Church
2701 Rochester Ave
Iowa City, IA 52245

Try out a class for free at any time!

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

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

Or visit us on facebook
at Suzuki Baby Music Iowa City!



rebuilding hope in New Orleans since Katrina



an outreach ministry of St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church

Students completing 9th–12th grades are invited to a Summer Mission Trip to RHINO; Rebuilding Hope in New Orleans from Sunday, July 5–Monday, July 13.

“RHINO abides by the work hard, play hard philosophy Monday morning through Friday evening. Groups have breakfast together at St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian, then depart for volunteer work sites. They eat a sack lunch on site. After the workday ends, there are a few hours of free time before dinner at St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian. There are evening worship activities scheduled Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and a prayer tour on Tuesday night. Thursday night groups go to a church members home for a home-cooked meal.”

Check out RhinoNola.org for more information.

Save the date now, more details coming soon!

Winter Weekend Getaway

You're Invited!

In the Winter, FPC takes a trip to Camp Wyoming for a weekend getaway. This is a relaxed, easy peasy trip where everyone can recover from the holidays. This trip is highly encouraged for families, but it is a hit for all ages! Our trip this year is [Friday, February 7—Sunday, February 9](#). The Owl's Nest (where we're staying) can accommodate 30 people so LET'S FILL THOSE BEDS!

The cost of the trip is \$30 per person per night (children under the age of 5 are free). Scholarships ARE available; cost should not deter you or your family from this awesome opportunity. Contact Anna for more information.

Breaking Free

Breaking Out

Breaking Away

A Retreat on Authentic Faith

January 10–12, 2020

Camp Wyoming, Wyoming, Iowa

\$75 per person

Includes meals from

Friday night dinner– Sunday lunch

Please RSVP to Anna or Layne with a \$25 deposit by Sunday, October 27.



**Here at FPC, there are
TWO youth groups.**



4th-6th Grade Youth Group

(46YG): Sunday Nights,

2nd and 4th Sundays, 6-7:30 p.m., snack included

Junior & High School Youth Group (J&HYG): Wednesday Night, weekly, 6:30-8:30 p.m., dinner included.

- **J&HYG, Wednesday, October 16, 6:30-8:30 p.m.** – Week 2 of TBD series. Please bring Bibles.
- **J&HYG, Wednesday, October 23, 6:30-8:30 p.m.** – POTLUCK DINNER (bring a dish to share). Please wear leaf raking clothes and dress warm. We're going raking!
- **46YG, Sunday, October 27, 6-7:30 p.m.** – We're going to learn about the beginnings of Halloween, All Saint's Day and more. Please bring Bibles to class.
- **J&HYG, Wednesday, October 30, 6:30-8:30 p.m.** – Week 3 of the TBD series. Please bring Bibles.
- **J&HYG, Wednesday, November 6, 6:30-8:30 p.m.** – Our final week of the TBD series. Please bring Bibles.
- **46YG, Sunday, November 10, 6-7:30 p.m.** – We'll pick back up on our exploration of the Bible and what it means to love God with all of our heart. Please bring Bibles to class.
- **J&HYG, Wednesday, November 13, 6:30-8:30 p.m.** – POTLUCK DINNER (bring a dish to share). A night totally devoted to the Garden Project, please bring clothes that can get dirty.

SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK CLUB

Review of Summer 2019, Layne Sheetz

"Eye-opening, informative, provocative ... and all in a non-threatening atmosphere. This class helped me to see my life, my privileged life, in a new light."

Our summer book study on Debbie Irving's *Waking Up White* really woke us up. How do we present ourselves, in our whiteness, to our neighbors? As individuals? As the church?

"As a person of privilege, I must accept Christ's calling to do for my neighbor as privilege has already done for me."

As we seek to better understand our neighbors we realized, in many ways, we have to first understand ourselves. Whiteness is not a neutral state void of culture, but rather the beating heart of American culture that drives the decisions that the systems of this country make.

In order to communicate and take action, we not only must talk to those who might look differently than us but also communicate with our neighbors who look the same but believe something completely different.

*"For me, reading and discussing *Waking up White* with other people willing to have a dialogue about racial injustice in our community and our nation has been an important first step in what I hope will be an ongoing process."*

The process of discussion does not complete our journey but rather begins it. As we move into a new book series, reading *So You Want to Talk About Race*, we continue to set our sights on trying. As individuals we hope to enact change on a larger scale through individual acts of anti-racism. As a church we hope to engage everyone and live up to our mantra that *All Are Welcome* by challenging even small ways we represent ourselves that may not live into that call. As the PC(USA), the call is already out in the form of committees and grants. At FPC we hope this coming year will be a year we get to interact with those bodies on a larger scale to bring the issues and the individual calls on our hearts to the Church. It is something we should have done a long time ago.

"It's a step that I realize I should have taken long ago, as it is now painfully clear that everything I discovered this past summer was simply hiding from me in plain sight. All I had to do was be willing to accept something that of course I already knew."

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.

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

We want to express our appreciation for your generosity in support of Holy Jerusalem Pentecost Church. We are honored and blessed of your kindness, without givers like you, our church couldn't have grown to impact our community as we are today. Your support of hosting us for five years was incredibly helpful and allowed us to reach many goals. Your assistance means so much to us. Thank you from all of us, God bless you.

Holy Jerusalem Pentecost Church,
Pastor Moise Byizigiro, moisebyizigiro@yahoo.com



Check out the Congregation Health Corner!

The corner is full of easy-to-read health & wellness-related information.

Contact Rhonda Barr at
jobtennis@mchsi.com
for more info.



Beloved, with gratitude to God for all of you, I ask that you keep our stewardship campaign in your prayers this year. First Presbyterian has many ministries and missions worthy of our joyful generosity. Every pledge and gift arising from an open heart pleases God, strengthens our congregation and makes a larger space for God to dwell in our lives. I see joyful children on Sunday mornings, Habitat volunteers showing up, eager consumers of Bible study, joyful staff collaboration and much else that I celebrate on a daily basis. The Spirit of God is at work in our midst: Let us continue to be lively in God's Spirit through the sharing of our financial resources, as well as our other gifts. Love and blessings, Your Pastor, Sam

The Holidays: A Mixture of Love and Pain

Thanksgiving and Christmas are coming. Despite the lights, decorations, family gatherings and music, it can be difficult for many people. Congregational Health Ministries is sponsoring a grief support group after Worship during

November. If your loss is recent or years removed and you find yourself struggling with this time of year, we would love to see you join our group. We will explore new ways to cope with the holidays. The group will be facilitated by Sue Van Dyn-Phipps, Louise Gisolfi and Maeleen Thorius. Sue is a retired school counselor; Louise is a retired psychotherapist; and Maeleen is a retired psychiatric nurse practitioner; all have experience in grief work. We will have a sign-up table in Ryerson Fellowship Hall after worship. If you have questions, please talk to one of the three facilitators or call 319-541-3161 (Maeleen). Please consider joining us.

Grief through the Holidays

Estate Plan Seminar Follow Up

Billy Graham once commented that “God is just as concerned about what you are going to do with your possessions after your death as He is with what you are doing with them right now.”

Twenty of our church members attended the Estate Planning Seminar on September 31⁰ in Ryerson Fellowship Hall. The program was offered to the church by the members of the FPC Endowment/Memorials Committee and presented by Travis Cavanaugh of Simmons Perrine Moyer Bergman PLC law practice. The seminar covered many of the basics of estate planning, and attendees left with materials designed to help them in this process. Those wanting a copy of the full PowerPoint that was shown that evening should contact Bob or Millie Youngquist at endowment@firstpreswacacity.org.

During the seminar, it was mentioned that estate planning is often thought to be more the concern of older adults. However, as those in attendance soon discovered, such planning is deeply important for everyone regardless of age – especially those with children. There is always the need to appoint guardians for minor children – especially for those with blended families (second marriage situations).

Of course, those with significant assets need to create and file an estate plan as part of their tax planning. This is also true for those with domestic partners, second marriages and beneficiaries other than spouse and child.

Many scenarios were discussed during the seminar, but we were also reminded that those who want to remember their church and other charities at their death must designate this in their will or estate plan. Remembering to provide for the church at the end of one’s life is a wonderful thing to do; however, intentions only become legal directives if they are listed in a will or



estate plan – which is signed by two witnesses.

Estate plans can always be revised as life moves on and situations change. Some have said it is even good to review estate plans every two years. It is certainly important to review estate plans at the birth of a child, right before and after a marriage or divorce and when property is inherited.

If you have made plans to include our church in your estate plan, please let us know so we can thank you with membership in **The 1840 Legacy Society**. A brochure about FPC’s **1840 Legacy Society** is available among the pamphlets in the church narthex. The brochure lists how one becomes a member as well as the current members of this society – several of whom have become new members this year.

To make a confidential inquiry about **The 1840 Legacy Society**, please contact:

Bob and Millie Youngquist, FPC Endowment/Memorial Coordinators, 319-653-4673 or endowment@firstpreswacacity.org

Or Pastor Sam Massey, 319-351-2660 or sam.massey@firstpreswacacity.org

FPC Book Club

Oct. 30 *The Hummingbird* by Stephen P Kiernan

Nov. 20 *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover

We gather together at Legacy Pointe (1020 S. Scott Blvd.) on the last Wednesday of the month from Noon to 1pm.

New members WELCOME!

Bring your lunch and join in the conversation.

For more info, contact Jan Walker at 358-6737





The FPC Honoring Your Wishes facilitators have completed the program with the FPC leaders and are offering this service to the rest of the congregation. We will begin contacting FPC members (18 years and older) by neighborhoods, starting the end of October. We will be contacting individuals by email, phone, or in person to schedule a first conversation about plans for an advance directive. We would like to meet with everyone, even those who already have an advance directive, to make sure your plan meets your current situation. This is a service we are offering to all our members, with no obligation to complete an Honoring Your Wishes document.

If you live in the Purple, Red or Burgundy Neighborhoods, we will be contacting you first!

FPC Honoring Your Wishes Facilitators:
Rhonda Barr, Cell: 319-936-5998, Email: JOBTennis@mchsi.com

Sue Van Duyn-Phipps, Cell: 515-205-3576. Email: susanvdphipps@gmail.com

Maeleen Thorius, Cell: 319-541-3161, Email: mthorius@southslope.net

A BIG THANK YOU to all who donated and participated in the 2019 Walk to End Alzheimer's.

TeamFPC, along with friends and family raised over \$1,200, making us members of the **Champion Club** for the second year in a row!

I am very honored to be a part of a community that supports awareness and research of this terrible disease.

Sincerely Blessed ~ Tammy Schroeder



*News from Endowment Memorial Coordinators
Bob and Millie Youngquist*

A Reminder to Submit Grant Proposals

The deadline is quickly approaching to submit proposals for Endowment Funding for 2019. Please submit your application and supporting materials to us, via this email address (endowment@firstpresbiowacity.org) by November 1, 2019. Our committee will meet later in November to review the proposals. Application forms are available in the church office at the main entrance to the office and on the church website. Electronic submissions to the email listed above are preferred.

If you have questions, please contact Bob or Millie Youngquist or any member of our committee: Dale Kraus, Aimee Meardon-Orris, Ken Miller, Ben Nicholson, Tony Warren or ex-officio members Larry Bruner, Tammy Foster, Sam Massey.

Guidelines, excerpted from the endowment governing documents, are below:

Who may request funding. The Session; the councils of the Church; a special Church committee or task force; ministerial or professional staff members; or a group, agency or charity not affiliated with the Church, if sponsored by any of the above.

Statement of purpose. The members of First Presbyterian Church honor the gifts and bequests of those who have gone before us by dedicating the spirit and income of the Endowment to the mission and needs of our church, our community, and our world.

Goals. Distributions from the Endowment shall be used to advance the presence and mission of the church in the lives of people locally, nationally, and globally. To that end, distributions shall be designated for major, long-term, recurring and/or special projects and ministries:

1. Within our local church and congregation, including the maintenance, repair, renovation, and new construction of facilities; and the acquisition of special equipment and supplies;
2. Within our local and regional community, including support for the victims of natural disasters, relief for the poor and destitute, and assistance to ecumenical needs and projects; and
3. Within the global community, with special emphasis on responding to poverty, neglect, abuse, homelessness, illness, malnutrition, exploitation, and crime; education, including Christian education; recognizing and nurturing gifts and attributes; and nurturing the faith.

September 2019 Session Highlights

Clerk of Session, Ann Grosscup

Due to Pastor Sam's time away for study, Stated Clerk Rebecca Blair called session to order at 7 p.m. Tuesday, September 17, 2019. Amy Fletcher opened with devotions followed by prayer.

Reconciliation Ministry member Perry Ross requested session endorse and support the Paris Pledge as a gift to the future.

Capital Campaign Implementation Taskforce chair, John Barr, plus members: Lee Tippe, Amy Fletcher and Vern Dengler reviewed the Task Force's recommendations and answered numerous questions regarding the elevator, technology upgrade and status of Capital Campaign funds.

Year-to-date general budget financials were reviewed. Giving is 6% short (\$28,000.); 94% - 97% of pledges do come in by December 31. Spending is \$37,804.65 more than income. Discussion followed concerning the need to let the congregation, in general, know plus kindly remind those who are behind in their pledges.

MOTIONS APPROVED:

The Treasurer will compile a list of those behind in fulfilling their pledge and report back to session next month.

August 2019 financials.

Minutes of stated session meeting August 20, 2019

Equipping Ministry, on behalf of the Dodekah Program Ministry, to fundraise through serving concessions during winter season games at Carver Hawkeye Arena.

The Congregational Meeting Sunday, November 17, 2019, immediately following worship to elect officers to be ordained / installed January 2020.

While we (session) support the Paris Pledge idea, the motion to endorse and support the Paris Pledge is sent back to Reconciliation Ministry for an implementation plan, which is to be presented to session when the plan is completed.

The Capital Campaign Implementation Taskforce request to spend up to \$8,300 for RCTech (Lisbon, IA) to install components that will enhance FPC's IT backbone, related to improving technology in Fellowship Hall & Sanctuary.

The Capital Campaign Implementation Taskforce request to contract with McCreedy-Ruth Construction (Riverside, Iowa) as the general contractor for installation of a three-level externally sited elevator at FPC.

This motion solely chooses the elevator contractor. The lawyer will review the contract prior to session's approval of the contract. Approval of the contract will be another future motion.

Dodekah Business Partnership - Equipping Ministry, on behalf of the Dodekah Program, is authorized to work with local restaurants to have a percentage of the day's profit be

donated to FPC on behalf of the Dodekah Program. The funds raised from these events will be used to help in funding the Dodekah program for the first year and will help to build community with restaurants in the area along with the neighbors.

Dodekah Business Sponsorship - Equipping Ministry, on behalf of the Dodekah Program, is authorized to work with local businesses to donate scholarships to this program. This opportunity would allow local businesses to become a "Star Supporter" of the program by donating \$500/1star, \$1000/2 stars and \$2000/3 stars. The businesses would be able to use their donation as tax credit and they would get their name on a list/plaque at FPC. An informational sheet about the program/trip would be drawn up with professional and Biblical language that all Dodekah participants could use if they wished.

Agreement Reinstatement, Amend and Extend the Consultant Agreement (through 12.31.2019) with Millie and Robert Youngquist as forwarded by Endowment and Memorial Committee.

Other business:

Pros and cons of training were passionately voiced after an update on ALICE training was given. Session chose to take no action.

Pastor Anthony Smith, New Creations International Church (NCIC), and Nancy Gardner will begin outlining the expectations of the Lil Creations Academy Advisory Committee.

A new nursery supervisor has been hired.

Administration and Personnel approved to expend \$320 to establish a dedicated connection for live streaming of the service. This expenditure and installing components to enhance FPC's IT backbone (session approved motion earlier in the meeting) work together.

Anna Sheetz thanked those who helped clean up the Youth Room, now conducive for youth interactions.

Due to Larry Bruner's expectation to retire from service as FPC Treasurer, a Task Force comprised of Ken Miller, Tony Warren and Larry Bruner is tasked with developing a job description for the FPC Treasurer. Dale Kraus reviewed the multitude of ongoing vital commitments which Larry has graciously fulfilled during his years of dedicated service.

Sharon Raffensperger closed with prayer.

Session's next meeting: October 15, 2019, 7 p.m. in Coover Lounge.

Dale Kraus opens with devotions; Nancy Gardener closes with prayer.



Hallelujah! Prayers are Answered!

I'm writing to give you an update on the progress of funding for the Gill-Nicholson Pasrur Boys School roof. You may recall that because the building site had to be moved, there were some unforeseen construction costs involved in building the Boys School. Because of the extra costs, the waterproofing for the roof was not completed at the time of the completion of the rest of the school.

To waterproof the entire roof costs \$25,000. The hope was to raise the funds sometime before the monsoon season in order to avoid water damage to the new building.

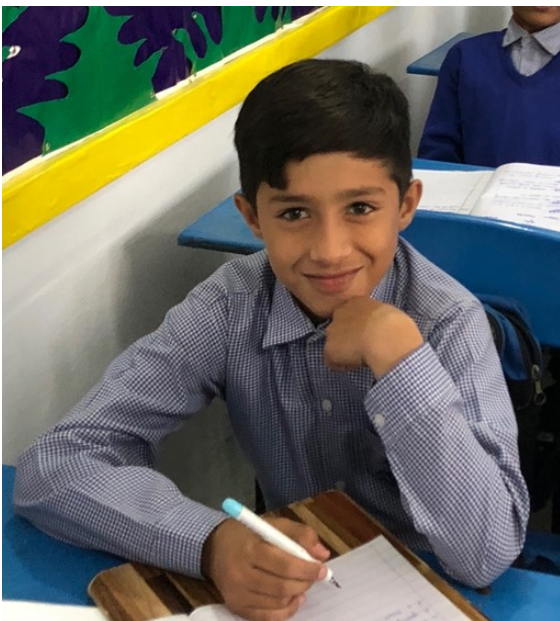
We contacted churches in the East Iowa Presbytery to let them know the situation in the hope that they

might wish to contribute to the roof waterproofing. The staff in Pakistan at the PEB (Presbyterian Education Board) told us that if they had \$10,000 they could at least waterproof the classrooms that are now in session and do the other half of the roof later.

When I last reported to you, \$5,000 had been raised. However, since then money has come in from other churches in our Presbytery, from our own church, and from anonymous donors.

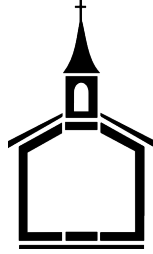
\$23,300 has now been raised. It is wonderful, amazing news. Hallelujah! With pledges from other donors there will be enough money to complete the whole roof. The work of waterproofing the roof will begin soon. Hallelujah!

Friends of PEB Christmas Campaign: Outfitting the Boys School



There are many costs involved in making the school fully functional. Desks, computers, science equipment, repairing the boundary wall, and more grading to the site needs to be done before the school can be fully utilized. To this end, the Friends of PEB (FOPEB) in the US will conduct a Christmas fundraising campaign. FOPEB has relationships with a wide network of churches throughout the country who are donors to PEB schools. They hope to raise the \$110,000 needed to complete these projects. PEB board members have personally pledged \$23,000 toward completing the boys school needs. It is wonderful to know that so many individuals and churches across the country will be supporting these projects for the Gill-Nicholson Pasrur Boys School.

MONEY



MATTERS

Larry Bruner, Treasurer

	Contributions	Misc. Income <small>Building Use, Walker Trust, Bank interest, etc.</small>	Total Income	Total Expenses	Over/Short
Jan–June	\$271,636.17	\$68,184.06	\$339,820.23	\$327,048.66	\$12,771.57
3rd Quarter	\$101,887.36	\$670.59	\$102,557.95	\$151,749.27	-\$49,191.32
2019 Totals	\$373,523.53	\$68,854.65	\$442,378.18	\$478,797.93	-\$36,419.75

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>.)

Some people have a favorite person and/or story from the Bible—other than the ultimate leading character! Perhaps it is Ruth from the Old Testament and her faithful connection to her mother-in-law Naomi. Her loyal support may be a source of inspiration. Maybe it was one of the Old Testament prophets who stayed on message despite the loneliness that such a stance generated. Some identify with the passion of the psalmists, whether expressing their enthusiasm or anguish.

Henri Nouwen wrote that the key story in the New Testament was the prodigal son, which has multiple participants with very differing agendas. Perhaps you resonate with the younger son's profound conversion as he became—in Nouwen's words—"aware of his unawareness." Maybe it's the father who captures your interest with the deep-seated joy he experienced as the relationship with his son is restored. The older son also has his followers since he felt fairness had been forgotten.

Perhaps the skepticism of Thomas or the young man who says to Jesus, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief" catches your attention. Then there's both the fear and perseverance of Peter. Of course, the intellectual capability of the one who wrote over half of the New Testament comes through with the Apostle Paul's theologizing. Although he has no name in scripture, mention the Good Samaritan and people know immediately the reference to selfless care.

With whom do you most relate in scripture? How come? Has it always been that person/story or has it changed over time? Just as we go through developmental changes, so can our faith. Like scripture, our own journeys offer the opportunity to encounter a variety of personalities.

Bruce

Parents' Night Out is Fun for All!

A record number 15 children attended September's Parents' Night Out event. And, with our eight childcare volunteers, that made for a very fun evening indeed! Thank you to the following volunteers for making PNO possible: Sharon Raffensperger, Jane Cranston, Mary Linn, Jim Linn, Steph Brentner, Ryan Brentner, Brayden Brentner, and Nancy Gardner.



Making friends



Enjoying dinner



Bryce performs karaoke

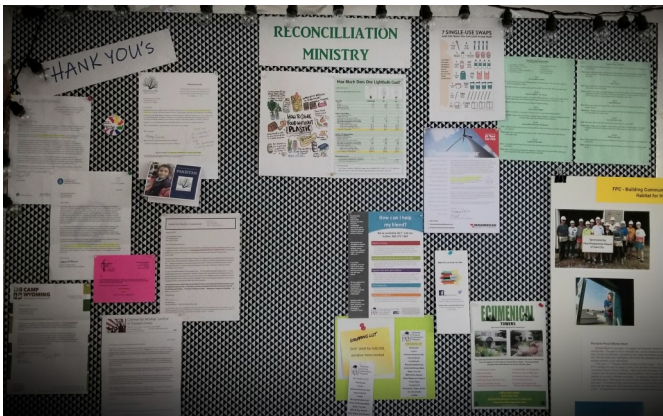
Our next PNO will be held on Friday, October 18, from 5–7:30 p.m. Parents of children from birth to 10 years of age are welcome to register their child for an evening of fun, including a light supper. While our volunteers keep your kids entertained, you can spend your free time any way you wish! Please register your child by Tuesday, Oct. 15 with Nancy Gardner (nancy.hayes.gardner@gmail.com). Adult volunteers are always welcome to join in! Just email Nancy. (November's PNO will be held on Friday, November 15.)

Did you know ... Reconciliation Ministry

has a bulletin board in Ryerson Fellowship Hall, sandwiched in between the Community News and the Equipping Ministry boards? The board is filled with helpful information on

- How to be Green
- How to help Local Organizations
- And a whole section of Thank You Notes.

Stop by, take a look and see what Reconciliation is all about.



**For more information, contact
Ed Cranston or Michelle Bessman**

Mission Drive

It's a month of Sundays



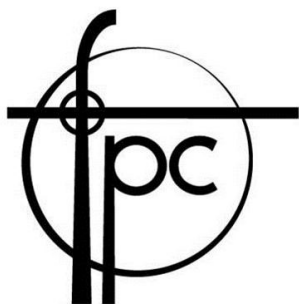
"Undie Sundays."

NEW underwear, all sizes, all genders are needed.

We ask that you spend about \$10.

Please bring your "undies" to church and place in the box in Ryerson Fellowship Hall.

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

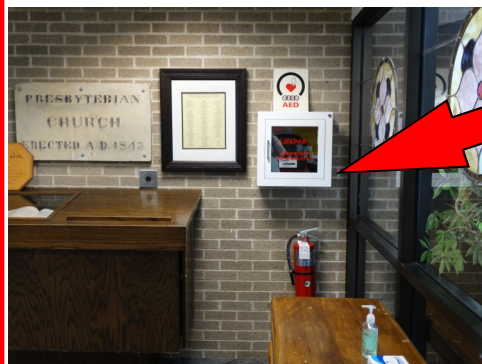


Public Office Hours:
9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Monday—Friday
except holidays or when announced
Ph 319-351-2660
www.firstpreswacacity.org

Did you know that FPC has an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator)?

Do you know where the church's AED is located?

IF NOT, take a moment to find it; someone's life could depend on it. **The AED is located outside the sanctuary, in the narthex, on the tan brick wall, above the fire extinguisher and the glass wall.**



MyFirstPRES LETS YOU:

- Update contact/photo info
- See financial gifts & Give online
- See & print directories
- See calendar of events
- Lay leadership can connect with members of their small groups

CHURCH LIFE phone App LETS YOU:

- Locate member contact info (church directory at your finger tips)
- Text, email and get directions
- See calendar of events
- Give online



MyFirstPres and **CHURCH LIFE** are two different things. **MyFirstPres** is a portal on the website that allows you access to several member options. **CHURCH LIFE** is a downloaded app on your phone, that allows you to have a church directory and calendar in your pocket. **You MUST sign up for MyFirstPres before you can download Church Life.**

GET CONNECTED — STAY CONNECTED

Contact Tammy Schroeder for more information.

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