

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday: April 18

7:00 pm *Worship with
Communion, Tenebrae*

Holy Saturday: April 20

7:00 pm *Celebration of Light,
Word, Water, and
Holy Communion*

Easter Sunday: April 21

9:00 am *Community Potluck
Breakfast*

10:30 am *Celebration of the
Resurrection*



Join us Easter Sunday, April 21 at 9 a.m. for a Resurrection Potluck Breakfast.

If you last name starts with A—M, Please bring something savory.

If your last name starts with N—Z, Please bring something sweet.

Please note that the Easter Egg hunt has been changed to Saturday in order to invite the community.



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AN INVITATION

Dear sisters and brothers of First Presbyterian Church,

The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you! The blowing wind on this sunny day reminds me of a Robert Frost poem, *Two Tramps in Mud Time*. Here is an excerpt below:

The sun was warm but the wind was chill.
You know how it is with an April day.
When the sun is out and the wind is still,
You're one month on in the middle of May.
But if you so much as dare to speak,
a cloud comes over the sunlit arch,
And wind comes off a frozen peak,
And you're two months back in the middle of March.

April's chill winds and showers introduce a flowering of activities at First Presbyterian Church!

During April we welcome Veda Gill of the Pakistan Education Board into our pulpit. This will be on Palm Sunday, April 14, at 10:30 a.m. Holy Week will lead to an April 18 Maundy Thursday Communion Service and Service of Shadows (Tenebrae) being observed solemnly, beginning at 7 p.m. Easter Vigil, with Affirmation of Baptism and The Lord's Supper, will be celebrated on Saturday night at 7 p.m. (and don't forget the Easter Egg hunt earlier that afternoon at 1 p.m.!). Easter Sunday's 10:30 a.m. worship, following breakfast, will be a joyfully raucous one.

So what do you do after a wild and wooly Holy Week, one filled with news both exhilarating and disturbing? Some of Jesus' disciples went to decorate his grave. Others went fishing or hiking. The resurrected Jesus caught up with all of them.

Where will Jesus find you and me when we finally slow down? Below is an opportunity for spiritual refreshment beginning Sunday, April 28 that I hope 10 of you will embrace as the next step in your spiritual growth (if we get more than 10 signing up we will know to schedule a second event).

The loving grace of God embraces the light and shadow of our personalities, the parts that chill out and the ones that get pretty heated, the joys we experience in community and the challenges that burden us in our mission to those experiencing brokenness. You are invited to RSVP below and bring all parts of you to a precious time of fellowship with the Risen Christ in a small group setting.

With love and blessings,
Your pastor,

Sam

Weary of the Noise and Chaos?

"Come away by yourselves to a quiet place, and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. Mark 6:31



- Come to rest with a small group 5-week exploration of silence and contemplative prayer. Explore the process and practice of stillness and silence. Discover the peace of Christ at the center of yourself and the world around you.
- This class will include simple instructions for contemplative prayer, reflection on some Eastertide scriptures about the Risen Christ, faith sharing, and mostly silence.
- Sundays at 1:00 pm for an hour in the Sanctuary. April 28-May 18, and June 2. (We will skip Memorial Day weekend.)

The class will be taught by Rev. Loretta Ross, Spiritual Director and founder of The Sanctuary Foundation for Prayer. She has authored several articles and led numerous retreats.

Space is limited. Please let us know if you want us to hold a place for you. Register by emailing lross@fromholyground.org or by phoning Loretta Ross at 785-230-0365, or you can contact Pastor Sam at sam.massey@firstpresbiowacity.org.

*Sitting still is a way of falling in love with
the world and everything in it.*

— Pico Iyer, *The Art of Stillness: Adventures in Going Nowhere*

**Beginners and experienced
sitters are welcome!**

Capital Campaign Building Project – Reaching New Heights

The final major construction project of our Capital Campaign is the installation of an elevator, which will permit access to all three levels of our building, from lowest level (classrooms & nursery) to the choir loft. This will allow easy transport of people and equipment. Position of the elevator shaft at each level is noted by the yellow box with an “X”. The schedule for this estimated \$345,000 project appears below.

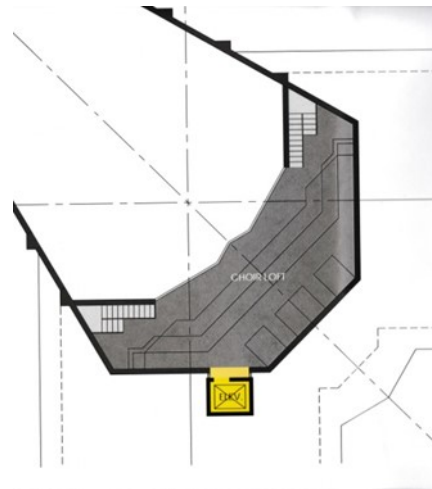


An informational meeting will be scheduled to further describe this project and to answer questions.

Other projects that will be completed after the elevator is installed include further technology improvements in the sanctuary and Ryerson Fellowship Hall, electricity and water to the garage (part of the parking lot project), and the final installment of our Mission Tithe directed to Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity.

If you have not yet made a financial contribution to the Capital Campaign, please consider doing so. Sincere thanks to the FPC members who have already fulfilled their campaign pledges. Those of us with remaining pledge balances are encouraged to make final contributions before the end of 2019. Finally, your prayers and patience during the disruptive process of installing the elevator will be most greatly appreciated!

Choir loft level



Sanctuary Level



Lowest level – Classrooms & Nursery



Elevator Project Schedule for 2019:

March 18	Review project design & proposed costs
April 1	Contractor bid document ready for release
April 17	Pre-Bid Meeting
April 22	Begin organ protection installation
May 1	Contractor bids due; contractor selection
May 5	Session meeting to approve contractor
May 6	Notify selected contractor
May 20	Begin elevator construction
November 1	Construction completed; removal of organ protection begins
December 1	Resume use of organ

From the Deacon's Bench

Prayer requests submitted through the FPC website are automatically sent to the deacon moderator, who then sends it to all of the members of the Prayer Chain distribution list. These members will receive the prayer request where they can include these requests in their own prayers to God.



One of the ministries of the Deacons is the Prayer Chain. The mission of the Prayer Chain is to provide support through prayers for individuals who are going through difficult times or prayers of thankfulness and praise when individuals have joyful news. To submit a prayer request you can go to the FPC website www.firstpreswacivcity.org and select the link **Prayer Chain** at the bottom of the page.



On Sunday, April 28 we will celebrate Earth Day with a paperless worship service. We will celebrate by singing, speaking, listening, and exploring ways to praise God's beautiful creation. Come to worship at 10:30 a.m. ready to think about how to care for God's world.

Parents' Night Out — Friday, April 19



Enjoying a karaoke performance.

Want to enjoy an evening of "you" time while your children have some fun at church? Then be sure to register for Parents' Night Out to be held on Friday, April 19, from 5:00-7:30. Children ages infant to 10 years of age are welcome to join our adult volunteers for fun games, activities, and a light supper. You get to decide how you want to spend *your* time!

Register by Monday, April 16 by emailing Nancy Gardner at nancy.hayes.gardner@gmail.com.

We are always looking for adult volunteers to join in the fun! Just let Nancy know at the above email address. A shout out to last month's volunteers: Debbie Beermann, Judy Whitford, Katie Zahs, and Nancy Gardner.



Dinner with friends is always fun!

First Pres Drum Circle, Sunday, May 19

Lunch at 11:45 a.m.

Drum Circle from 12:15-1:15 p.m.

Come and try your hand(s) at drumming after worship on May 19. We will Welcome Tereasa Evans from West Music to guide and teach us this wonderful art.

Lunch will be provided after worship to participants. Then we will begin drumming at 12:15 p.m.

Sign-up will be available starting on Easter Sunday, April 21. You can sign up on the sheet in Ryerson Fellowship Hall or by calling or emailing Leah Bergman at 351-2660 or leah.bergman@firstpreswacivcity.org.

This will be just the beginning of an exciting new venture for First Pres. Those who are interested in this will have the opportunity to continue drumming in worship and in the community as we purchase our own set of world drums. This activity is for people of all ages! No music/percussion background needed! Come see what it's all about!



First's Family

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

April 15-30

4/15 Maeleen Thorius
4/16 Calvin Martin
4/16 Graham Scott
4/17 Candace Wiebener
4/18 Betty Lacina
4/19 Jamie Helmick
4/19 Phoenix Skyles
4/21 Gerianne Schaefer
4/22 Bruce Guither
4/22 Tyler Fay
4/23 Jenny Kirschling
4/23 Rachel Marsh
4/24 Matthew Morgan
4/26 Ann Muilenburg
4/28 Erin Suh
4/30 Bill Preucil

May 1-15

4/30 Vern Dengler
5/2 Kevin Keith
5/4 Kory May
5/6 Larry Bruner
5/6 Robert Ketterer

5/6 Kate Degner
5/7 Kathy Clifton
5/7 Leah Bergman
5/7 Aurora Kennerly
5/9 Sharon Van Dusseldorp
5/9 Debbie Torrens-Semler
5/10 MaryAnn Clemons
5/10 Susan Van Duyn-Phipps
5/10 Mike Phelps
5/10 Jim Jacobus
5/11 Barb Stanerson
5/11 Ashley Nicholson
5/12 Darin Schroeder
5/13 Janet Bain
5/13 Cynthia Chou-Liang
5/13 Sully Steen



**Known
to have been
Hospitalized:**

**John Raffensperger
and Shirley Pate**

Our condolences to:



Bill Rubright, whose wife, **Karen Rubright**, died March 17. Pastor Sam led the funeral service on March 22 at First Presbyterian Church.



The Chili Cook-Off was such a successful youth group fundraiser last year that we are doing it again! Youth are hosting the 2nd Annual Great Bowls of Fire Chili Cook-Off Sunday, May 5 right after church!

Come participate yourselves with your best, tongue-taming chili to share!

**Do you think that you have the best chili in town?
PROVE IT!**

Sign-up begins Easter Sunday, April 21.

What Are You Drinking?

FPC Green Team

The earth seems to have an abundance of water and we take it for granted. Bottled water is expensive and not very environmentally friendly. Water from your tap is just as good if not better and dramatically cuts down on the cost.

- Bottled water is not typically safer than tap water. In fact, more than half of all bottled water comes from the tap.
- Buying bottled water is like pouring money down the drain. Bottled water costs from \$0.89 per gallon to \$8.26 per gallon, compared to fractions of a penny for water from your tap. That makes bottled water thousands of times more expensive than tap water.
- Water bottle garbage is a major source of pollution.
- Buying a reusable bottle is an easy way to save money and help the environment.



The FPC Honoring Your Wishes Program is part of a community-wide program through Iowa City Hospice. This is a program to offer assistance in making health care decisions about the kind of health care one would choose if facing a sudden catastrophic illness or injury, one that would require loved ones to make important but difficult decisions on your behalf. It is about defining what is most important to you, talking with your loved ones, documenting and honoring those wishes.

“Death is inevitable but a good death is not. In general, we are death illiterate, death phobic and unprepared for death ... living well, living better, is based on our values, what we find sacred, and how we want to write the chapters of our lives—whether it’s the last chapter, or the last three.” Yogesh Shah, M.D., Des Moines Register, March 24, 2019.

Here are some important questions about which to reflect and pray:

- What makes life worth living? What is most important to you?
- Do you have beliefs about when life would no longer be worth living?
- What are your hopes for living life to the fullest, on your terms, until the end of life on earth?
- What fears do you have about becoming sick, or needing medical care?
- If you were very ill, are there specific kinds of medical treatments that might be too much for you?
- Do you have any beliefs that guide you when making medical decisions?

If you have an advanced directive, such as a living will, that is great. BUT we would still like to have a conversation with every adult over the age of 18 years — to make sure your wishes are clearly identified and in writing, as well as communicated with those who love you. We encourage you to contact one of us to schedule a one-hour conversation. We are considering this a gift to you, and from you to those you love.

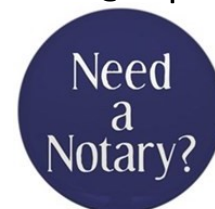
FPC Honoring Your Wishes Facilitators:

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

**FPC is now offering Notary Public services.
Contact Tammy Schroeder to schedule an
appointment at 319-351-2660 or
tammy.schroeder@firstpreswiowacity.org.**



FPC and the Kingdom Center: Teaming Together for Social Justice



Judy Terry (left) and Becca Morgan (center), along with members of The Kingdom Center, enjoy time getting to know each other.

Members of our FPC Core Team for the Johnson County Interfaith Coalition (JCIC) hosted the core team from The Kingdom Center on Sunday afternoon, March 31. Discussion focused on the need to continue conducting one-to-one interviews between the two groups. By developing deeper relationships among team members and gaining insight into issues of social injustice, together we can strengthen the impact of JCIC to bring about change. For more information on how you might become a part of our FPC Core Team, contact one of the team leaders: Nancy Gardner, Barb Stanerson, or Bob Goodfellow.



Jeff Orris from FPC explains his thoughts on an issue to members of the group.

Worship & Arts Ministry



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

Choir Schedule for May

As we wind down to the end of another season of singing, all of the music ministries will begin enjoying a well-deserved summer break. Thank you to all our music ministry volunteers for your faithful service throughout the year.



Sanctuary Choir

The Sanctuary Choir will sing through May 19. Final Wednesday rehearsal will be on **Wed., May 15** at 7:00–8:30 p.m. Thereafter, please consider joining the “Drop-in” choir, meeting one Sunday per month during the summer and providing special music during summer worship services.

Youth Choir

Will have their **final rehearsal on Thursday, May 9** at 7:30–8:30 p.m. They will sing for worship on Youth Sunday, May 12. Thereafter, please consider joining the “Drop-in” choir, meeting one Sunday per month during the summer and providing special music during summer worship services.

Summer soloists

Our singing and instrumental choirs graciously provide worship leadership from September through June. For the Sundays from June 16–Sept. 1, they will get a well-deserved vacation. During that time we welcome



soloists to provide music each Sunday for our 10:30 a.m. service. Adults who have musical gifts you'd like to share, whether vocal or instrumental, college students home for the summer, children and youth who have appropriate repertoire for worship—all are welcome to sign up for a Sunday of music leadership. There is a sign-up sheet on the choir room door (down the hall near the bathrooms), or you may contact Leah Bergman at 351-2660 or leah.bergman@firstpreswacivcity.org.



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 (with the exception of June—that month we sing on June 9th) to the FPC summer “Drop-In” choir!

When: Sundays June 9, July 7, August 4, and September 1

Time: 9:15 a.m.

How: Just show up on Sunday morning 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!

Youth Sunday, May 12

We celebrate children and youth in our congregation EVERY Sunday, but on Sunday, May 12 youth grades 4–12 will lead us in the worship service. They have created and written parts of worship for the day as well as providing music, the sermon, and leadership. Younger children will also be receiving Bibles during worship.

Come and celebrate!



Equipping Ministry



Mark your Calendars!

Youth Sunday is Sunday, May 12. This is a service totally led by the youth group and youth choir. **Youth participating should be here by 8:30 a.m.**

FPC Kids will look at the Bible on Sundays April 28 and May 5. All students in 2nd grade and older will receive a gift Bible from FPC on Youth Sunday, May 12.



Thursday, April 18: Church potluck at 6 p.m. and Maundy Thursday Service at 7 p.m. Parents, please be prepared to pick youth up by 8 p.m.

Saturday, April 20: Join us from 11–2:30 p.m. for lunch, egg hiding and the Community Egg Hunt.

Thursday, April 25: We will begin with Tough Topics as a large group from 6:45–7:45 p.m. Then we will split and continue the conversations in our Small Groups until 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 2: We will work with Leah to begin planning Youth Sunday.

Youth Choir meets at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 9: We will polish up our Youth Sunday preparations.

Youth Choir meets at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 16: We will have a Small Group Wrap-up from 6:45–7:45 p.m. From 7:45–8:30 p.m. we'll have the large group reflection and wrap-up.

Thursday, May 23: THE BIGGEST GAME YET! Please bring a potluck dish to share and running shoes! Families are welcome to participate!

Check It Out!

Check out The Scoop for all the latest Education Opportunities that FPC has to offer!

These can be found in the narthex, on the table outside the sanctuary!

Summer opportunities are in the March edition.

THE SCOOP
March 2019

Spring Time is Around the Corner!

Dust off the cold, ice and snow! Winter is leaving shortly and spring will be spring before you know it! For all the latest Equipping Updates - including SUMMER Time activities - check this out!

Lent Challenge: Walk to Jerusalem

Join us as First Presbyterian Church tries to move 6333 miles to Jerusalem this Lent! Beginning on ash Wednesday, March 6, begin to track (or guess at how many miles you walk, run, hike, exercise - whatever you do - each day).

- Each day or week email Anna Sheetz at expressive@fpcny.org your miles.
- Fill out a "Walk to Jerusalem" on Sunday.

Totals will be announced each Sunday on the Ryerson Hall Fellowship Slideshow.

Take a walk with your friends, your family, or even your dog! (If of miles x # of people = 11)

Tailor for RACER and track the miles on your bike.

Swim some laps and send us the meter!

Let's get active!

FPC Kids will look at the Bible on Sundays April 28 & May 5. All students in 2nd grade and older will receive a gift Bible from FPC on Youth Sunday, May 12.



δώδεκα • (do'-dek-ah) • Twelve

The Dodekah 2019-2020 Program is still accepting participants! There are three more slots available for this discipleship opportunity. We'll meet over 12 months, and then take a 2 week trip to Israel/Palestine. We're working with a PC(USA) missionary so this will surely be a great way to learn about the Bible, the Holy Land, the PCUSA, Denominationalism, yourself and your community. Please talk to Anna Sheetz or Tammy Schroed for more information.

There's lots of happenings in Lent:

- **Ash Wednesday, March 6:** service kicks off the Lenten Season! Join us after our first soup and sharing night for a simple 7pm service around the Communion Table. We look forward to having you with us.
- **Join us Wednesdays of Lent at 5:30pm for soup and sharing.** Each week, a different person from our congregation will share a bit of their faith story. It is time of listening, sharing together, and thinking about what legacy our lives will leave.
- **Holy Week is April 14-21!**

Palm Sunday, April 14: Veda Gill will preach about the Church's Mission in Pakistan and the Friends of Pasur will provide after worship snacks.

Tuesday, April 16: A Special Session Meeting for Confirmands at 6pm! Confirmands, Parents, and Mentors will join Session for a session provided potluck dinner. We will hear all about the Confirmands journey through Confirmation.

Maundy Thursday, April 18: A Church Wide potluck beginning at 6pm before we head into the Service at 7pm. Parents should be prepared to pick their youth up by 8pm.

NEW THIS YEAR:

Special Youth Group Event: On Holy Saturday, April 20, youth from 4-12th grades are invited to join us for lunch in the Ryerson Hall at 11am. We will eat lunch and hide eggs before the Community Easter Egg Hunt.

Holy Saturday Community Easter Egg Hunt! Join us Holy Saturday for a Community Easter Egg Hunt on First Presbyterian grounds! The hunt will begin at 1pm and snacks will be provided by 1:30pm. All children up to 3rd grade are invited to participate! (No Rain Date)

Easter Vigil Service, Saturday April 20: Travel with us from dark to light with a service beginning at 7pm. This family favorite service is where we welcome our latest members - the Confirmation class of 2018-2019! (Students, mentors, and families should arrive by 6:15pm for pictures in Coover lounge)

Easter Sunday, Sunday April 21: Join us for Easter Service to celebrate the Resurrection! Please bring a potluck dish to share for a community breakfast beginning at 8am.



News from Endowment Memorial Coordinators

Bob and Millie Youngquist

June 1 deadline for the **William B. and Sharon P. Oglesby Scholarship at The University of Iowa**

In 2002, William and Sharon Oglesby, members of FPC, made a gift to The University of Iowa Foundation to establish a scholarship for deserving UI students who are members of First Presbyterian Church in Iowa City. The Oglesbys believe in the power of education to live life joyfully and faithfully. The application form is available in the church office.

Eligibility Criteria:

- The applicant must be a member of First Presbyterian Church, Iowa City, Iowa.
- The applicant must be attending The University of Iowa in 2019-20.
- The applicant must have a minimum GPA of 3.0.
- Application must be made using the form available in the church office.
- The scholar(s) will be recommended by the FPC Scholarship Committee to The University of Iowa Foundation. The grant will be awarded by The University of Iowa Financial Aid office.
- The application and all supportive documentation must be post-marked or delivered to the church office (2701 Rochester Ave., Iowa City, Iowa 52245) no later than June 1, 2019.

All applicants, recipients and those not receiving a scholarship award will be notified no later than the last Friday in June. One or more scholarship will be awarded.



Come learn about the Biblical women you have never heard of and learn about the Mother God who loves you!

The "Pirate's Cove; X Marks the Spot" Vacation Bible eXperience this year is created by Anna and Layne Sheetz for FPC Iowa City. Layne's brother is writing the music, and the Youth will illustrate the stories, and **it's all... about... WOMEN!**

The adult class will offer a different look at the Biblical woman and discuss modern feminist and womanist issues.

Youth will have a justice-oriented class with a Lock-In on Wednesday, August 7 and Mission Day on Thursday, August 8.

Mark your calendars: August 5–8, 5–7:30 p.m.

Dinner will be provided at 5 p.m.

VBX will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Be sure to grab a CD of the VBX Original songs on Easter Sunday in the children's corner of Ryerson Fellowship Hall!



**The Church Office will be closed:
Good Friday, April 19, Monday, April 22
and Tuesday, April 23 in
observance of Easter.**

FPC — Building Community with Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity

As part of our Capital Campaign's "Mission Tithe" since 2017, First Presbyterian Church (FPC) has contributed \$45,000 to Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity to help fund both Interfaith and Women Build projects. This spring we will be mobilizing FPC members and friends to volunteer for the following two building projects and to participate in a run / walk fundraising event.

The Interfaith Build

On Saturday, March 30, a total of 13 FPC members, joined with others from Christian, Muslim and Hindu Faiths in two shifts to begin building walls for the Interfaith Build home at 2774 Blazing Star Dr., Iowa City.

As each of the major religions is organized around common values of love, kindness, justice, and service, partnering with Habitat for Humanity is an ideal way to put our faith into action.

For more information about the Habitat Interfaith Committee, go to: <https://www.iowavalleyhabitat.org/interfaith-committee.html>

To register as Interfaith volunteer builder, go to <https://build.iowavalleyhabitat.org/charities/5390/volunteer>



The morning shift work crew



Dale Kraus & Tammy Foster inspect wall construction



The Doris Preucil Women Build

Women Build program to engage and empower women in construction. The goal is not to exclude men, but to include women who may not feel comfortable volunteering at a male-dominated construction site. Women Build also highlights and honors the talented and hard-working women in our community.

This year's 11th Women Build honoree is Doris Preucil. An active FPC member for over 50 years, Doris is the founder of Iowa City's renowned Preucil School of Music. After more than 60 years of teaching children with the family-centered Suzuki Method, Doris knows that stability is crucial to children's success. "I've always supported Habitat for Humanity since I first heard of it from former President Jimmy Carter," she says. "It's a family thing, and we know the more that the children's lives can be organized, the better they will do in school and out in the world." A supportive home environment is important for childhood stability.

The groundbreaking ceremony for this home at 2629 Blazing Star Dr., began at 9 a.m. on Thursday, April 4. Wall build shifts were from 10–12 and 1–5 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help with construction throughout the spring and summer.

For more information go to: <https://www.iowavalleyhabitat.org/women-build.html>.

To register as a Women Build volunteer builder go to: <https://build.iowavalleyhabitat.org/charities/5390/volunteer>.

The Christine Grant 5k Run / Walk

The Women Build committee is hosting this event on Saturday, May 4, beginning at 7:30 a.m. at Terry Trueblood Park (check-in at shelter 2). Proceeds will support construction of the Women Build home honoring FPC member Doris Preucil.

In 1973, Dr. Grant became the 1st women's athletic director at the University of Iowa. She is perhaps best known as fighter for gender equity in athletics, which included testifying before Congress and serving as a consultant to the Civil Rights Title IX Taskforce.

Opportunities to support this event include being a volunteer, a run / walk participant, a sponsor or a donor. Donate by going to: www.giveeffect.com/campaigns/9980-2019-christine-grant-5k

Register as a Run / Walk participant at: https://secure.getmeregistered.com/get_information.php?event_id=131664



March 2019 Session Highlights

Clerk of Session, Ann Grosscup

Session met Tuesday, March 19, 2019, 7 p.m. Written reports were provided by Pastor Sam, Equipping Ministry, REALM Planning, Reconciliation Ministry, Building and Grounds Cluster, Endowment & Memorial Committee and the Commissioner to the Presbytery of East Iowa.

Richard Van Rheeden opened the meeting with devotions followed by prayer. He read from Jeremiah 18, likening the work of session to developing ideas to the perfecting of pots.

The Clerk's verbal report highlighted special fellowship and education offerings: Take Away Hunger All-Church Packing Party, Free Lunch fundraiser and Congregational Health Ministry held 'Being Mortal' education for end-of-life decision. The written report noted other items of significance.

February 2019 financials were presented. Approval was not recommended as software issues continue to be under review. The Walker Trust revenue has not been received yet. The year's budgeted amount for snow removal has been spent due to unusual snow fall; a different snow removal vendor has been secured.

Pastor Sam Massey will be presiding over memorial service for a personal friend.

MOTIONS APPROVED:

- Recommend Chitoka Webb for inquirer status to be taken under the care of the presbytery.
- Chitoka Webb, currently serving as a deacon, shared her faith and sense of call to ministry. Elders posed questions prior to motion. Pastor Sam Massey reviewed the purpose of inquirer status, describing the varied rigors of seminary's academic coursework, real-life pastoral care experiences and holistic assessments in the years ahead.
- Approved minutes of stated session meeting February 19, 2019 with date correction of anticipated Burns Dinner from Saturday, January 25, 2019, to January 25, 2020.
- Session affirmed 2018 Statistical Report electronically received February 13, 2019.
- Not approved by e-vote Reconciliation Ministry motion to apply for three City of Iowa City grants February 25, 2019. No Special session meeting called by February 27, 2019.
- Church of the Nazarene, Iowa City, letter of support following vandalism was hand delivered on March 6, 2019.
- From Endowment and Memorial Cluster: FPC commit to the Equipping Ministry, to be used exclusively for church members involved in The Dodekah program, a one-time expenditure up to a total of \$12,000 from the FPC Endowment Fund, with the amount allocated to each individual First Presbyterian church member not to exceed \$1,000, with any contribution from the Burianek trust or other source, excluding the Equipping Ministry budget and Session-approved fundraisers, leading to a reconsideration of the expenditure from the Endowment by the Cluster that might need future approval by Session.
- Background was given and questions answered by Dale Kraus and Tammy Schroeder. Trip cost is \$4,000 per person.
- From Reconciliation Ministry: Spend budgeted \$7,000 for Unified Mission Pledge.
- From Equipping Ministry: Approve the Child & Youth Protection Policy.
- From Equipping Ministry: Approve the Dodekah Ministry.
- From Equipping Ministry: Approve the Pumpkin Patch Fundraiser on FPC grounds during the month of October, 2019 for the Dodekah Ministry.
- The physical demands which will necessitate more help this upcoming October was expressed.
- (RE: the Child & Youth Protection Policy) Session requests Equipping Ministry come back to session with an implementation strategy by April session meeting, if the way be clear.
- Session detailed concerns to consider in developing the implementation strategy. Presbytery of East Iowa's Safe Gatherings (<https://peia.org/safe-gatherings/>) was again mentioned as a resource. PEI staff could be asked to do a Safe Gathering presentation.
- Ask Administration & Personnel to come up with a means of an electronically called meeting.
- Requested e-vote of motions discussion preceded this motion. Pastor Sam Massey reviewed the situations in which an e-vote has been used and reminded a Special Session meeting can be called by an elder or Pastor Sam Massey, or at the written request of ruling elders.
- Commission comprised of Nancy Gardner, Michelle Bessman and Richard Van Rheeden to examine for deacon ordination of Becca Morgan.
- Special Session meeting called for final review of elevator installation on Sunday, May 5, 2019, after Chili Cook-off.

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

- Architect is providing estimate for a visual representation of the elevator at the request of the Capital Campaign Task Force.

Dale Kraus alerted to email and phone scams requesting varied types of assistance. Please note FPC officers contact information is publicly available on website.

Nancy Gardner updated Johnson County Interfaith Coalition (JCIC) activities. Four members attended a local social justice seminar recently. The next meeting will be Sunday, March 31, 2019, with the Kingdom Center members. An invitation was extended to join now as training will be again offered.

Parents' Night Out continues to attract more young families with children! Nancy Gardner stated she needs

more volunteers to meet the need, eliciting elders' assistance. She will also make a church-wide announcement prior to the next event Friday, April 19, 2019.

Friends of Pasrur is looking at ways to increase support although the scholarship goal was successfully met. Veda Gill will be at FPC Palm Sunday.

Dale Kraus closed with prayer.

Next meeting will be held Tuesday, April 16, 2019, for necessary business 8 p.m. – 9 p.m. in Coover Lounge, following 6 p.m. dinner with an examination of 2018 – 2019 Confirmand class.

Michelle Bessman opens with prayer following Confirmands Dinner; Tony Warren closes session meeting with prayer.

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>.)

How do we go about living in relationships in which everyone gains some sense of satisfaction from those relationships?

Some years ago, during a college summer camp job, I went exploring on a day off. I came upon a medium-sized small town and was struck by the simple but appealing architecture of many buildings. In particular, several of the churches were lovely. There was a groundskeeper working outside at one of the churches, so I stopped and we conversed. I explained how I appreciated the appearance of his and other churches in the area. He then informed me there were nine churches in this town, all of the same denomination. Each had broken away from a prior congregation!

Such were the dynamics throughout most of the Church's history, more recent merger efforts notwithstanding. Presumably each new start signaled that a new church could convey the faith better than the former congregation could.

Families and organizations are built on relationships. How do we allow for individuality and freedom among people, while also facilitating connection and community through our relationships? In diversity and unity, uniqueness and commonality, lies the complexity . . .

Bruce

Home Communion Time

Pastor Sam has begun this spring's twice per year blessing of sharing the Lord's Supper with the church's pillars and saints who are no longer able to attend worship regularly. Please email Pastor Sam at sam.massey@firstpresoiowacity.org, or leave a telephone message for him at the church office (319-351-2660) with one of the two Tammys (Pastor Sam can't always hear your messages left on his phone) if you, or another church member, would like to receive communion at a residence. Please share your name, address and telephone number if you are the one to receive communion or please share the same information of the person whom you believe should be contacted about receiving the Lord's Supper. Thank you!





Visit the Prayer Center

Located on the lower level at the end of the hallway to the right, the prayer center is open to all who are seeking a calm environment for prayer and reflection. It is available any time the church is open for anyone who needs a few moments of quiet, guided prayer and meditation, or ideas to take home to pray.



Needles, Hooks and Yarn is a small group who come together to share each others' company while we knit and crochet.

If you would like to join us, we would love to have you; we meet at FPC from 9–11 a.m. on most Saturday mornings.

For more info contact
Tammy Schroeder
at 319-351-2660.

Green Team News



Please check out our display in Ryerson Hall. The display has information about plastic pollution and ways you can start to eliminate plastic from your life. The Green Team will be putting up different displays throughout the year.

Monthly Mission Donations April Showers

Items used with taking a shower: towels, washcloths, soap, shampoo, razors, toothpaste, toothbrush etc.

Please place donations in the blue tub in Ryerson Fellowship Hall.



FPC Book Club

April 24 *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis*
by J.D. Vance

May 29 *A Long, Long Way,*
by Sebastian Barry



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

New members WELCOME!

Bring your lunch and join in the conversation.

For information, contact
Jan Walker at 358-6737.



picture by Ed Cranston

Session approved deacon Chitoka Webb to be commended to the Presbytery of East Iowa for status as an Inquirer for ordained ministry to Minister of Word and Sacrament. This is the beginning of a process involving seminary education, training and testing. God bless you, Chitoka! We are proud of you!



δώδεκα (do'-dek-ah) **Twelve**

Program begin April 29

12 months; 1 life-changing experience

Dodekah is a new 12-month discipleship program designed to build community, educate, and culminating in a 2-week trip to the Holy Land in June 2020.

This program will transform the Bible into vivid reality and will make Scripture a life-changing experience.

There are 2 openings left; if you are interested, contact Anna Sheetz or Tammy Schroeder at 319-351-2660.



Based on the interest of the ReAffirmation study this winter, Layne Sheetz is considering leading a Book Study on Debby Irving's Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race. In the introduction, Debby Irving says this:



"In the state that is somewhere between fear and indifference lies an opportunity to awaken to the intuitive voice that says, 'something's not right.' 'What's going on here?' 'I wish I could make a difference.' In my experience, learning to listen to that voice is slowly but surely rewiring my intuition, breaking down walls that kept me from parts of myself, and expanding my capacity to seek truths, no matter how painful they may be. Learning about racism has settled inner conflicts and is allowing me to step out of my comfort zone with both strength and vulnerability in all parts of my life. Racism holds all of us captive in ways white people rarely imagine."

We need your input! If you are interested, please let Anna or Layne Sheetz know. You can find a form below. Please return it to the church office or to Anna or Layne on Sunday mornings. Details will be finalized and put into the May newsletter. If you fill out one of these forms, you will receive direct information.



I am interested in the Summer Book Club for Debbie Irving's Waking Up White. I am available on these days:

____ Sunday ____ Monday ____ Tuesday ____ Wednesday ____ Thursday ____ Friday ____ Saturday

These are 1.5 hour-time slots:

____ In the Morning (9–12) ____ In the Afternoon (1–4) ____ In the Evening (5–9)

Do you need child care? ____ Yes ____ No

My name is _____ My Email : _____

First Presbyterian Church

2701 Rochester Ave.
Iowa City, Iowa 52245



Public Office Hours:

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday – Friday

Ph 319-351-2660

www.firstpreswacivacy.org

Except holidays or when announced

Have YOU ever wished you could:

Stay connected

Always be able to put a name with a face

Know what's happening with your church family

For personal and on-the-go convenience

Go green by saving paper

Make it easier to get involved

Make communication more efficient

Serve God by serving others

You CAN by using MyFirstPres:

View and update your/family member profile

View and print membership directories

View the church calendar

View your giving history, scheduled gifts and contribute

Register for future events

Create, view and join activities, classes and small groups

Print, view or email members of your small groups

Search, review and submit interest in serving opportunities

You can do all these things and more on **MyFirstPres**, but several of you haven't signed up yet. Simply head over to our website homepage and click the **MyFirstPres** circle to get started ...

Once you are logged in; check out the Serving section to get connected.

For even MORE convenience – download the app: **Church Life**, for up-to-date FPC calendar and events info, as well as photo directory in your pocket!



If you have questions or run into trouble, call the church office, 351-2660. We can get you on your way to having FPC at your fingertips.

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