

April 22 is Earth Day!

To celebrate Earth Day, the Reconciliation Ministry team and I sat down to plan a special service with creation-centered prayer and music for April 23. We're excited to have Becca Morgan leading us with special music, Sue Van Duyn sharing a special creation stewardship story (and some flowers to take home and plant) with the kids, Jane Cranston's written prayers, Becky Ross's liturgical leadership, and a colorful celebration of our wishes for the future. Come and worship!

Peace,
Nathan



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Meet Your Neighborhood Deacons on Sunday, May 7

The Deacons would love to see you during fellowship time on Sunday, May 7 in Ryerson Hall to meet your neighborhood Deacons and share a snack or refreshment. We would like to get to know you better! You can take this opportunity to share with your neighborhood Deacons any joys and concerns or thoughts you may have on how we can stay engaged and better serve you. If you wish, you can also represent your neighborhood at church on Sunday, May 7 by wearing accessories matching your neighborhood's color. We would be delighted to see you there!

Not sure who your neighborhood Deacons are, or what your neighborhood's color is? Deacons will be updating name tags with colored stickers to match your neighborhood color soon. Also, the Iowa City area map on display in Ryerson Hall depicts the neighborhood boundaries, so you can see which is your color-coded neighborhood. Deacons will be sending out letters of introduction soon to say hello and to invite you to the Meet Your Deacons event on May 7. Be sure to WATCH your postal mailbox for this! This letter will also let you know of your neighborhood's deacons and color code if you didn't already know. We hope to see you soon!

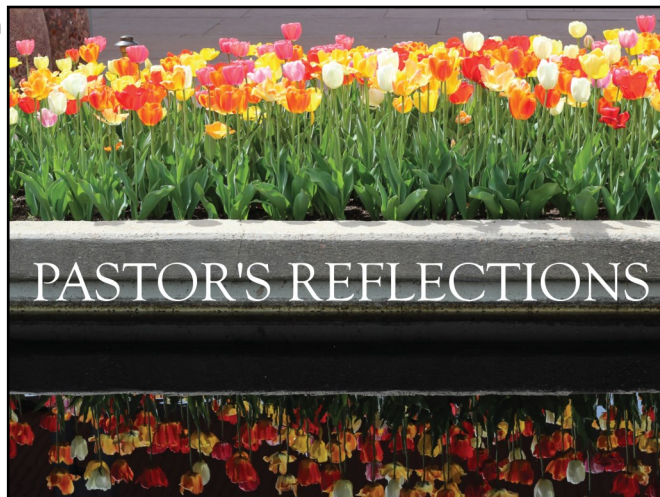
Blue:	Meg Dehner and Sue Van Duyn
Burgundy:	Mary Linn and Jean Mafirira
Fuchsia:	Rick Boland and Deann Claypool
Green:	Kathy Follows and Kristin Marrs
Orange:	Becca Morgan and Ruth Westfall
Purple:	Pam Kautz and Jeanie Wade-Nagle
Red:	Ann Grosscup and Dan Thedens
Teal:	Cynthia Chou and Dan Thedens
Yellow:	Linda Couch and Mary Helen Kennerly

Happy Easter! Because, after all, we have fifty whole days of the Easter season before Pentecost!

It was wonderful to work with all the saints of the church who were so inspired by the Lenten journey to Easter that they joined in making a meaningful Holy Week. It was a privilege to hear the ways that worship services can touch the lives of church members from the time of their confirmation through their 90th year of activity. During the special meeting of the Session set aside for examining the confirmands, Dave Van Dusseldorp, Jane Cranston, and Doris Preucil all shared recollections of their own confirmations. These were a diverse set of memories — Dave's, a tale of remedial Old Testament sessions, Doris', of unexpected wartime luxury, and Jane's, of a surprisingly physical confirmation ceremony.

Listening to those stories of spiritual journeys, and sharing in the reflections of people before and after our Holy Week services reminded me again that an institution consists of the united stories of its members—while we each possess individual memories and stories and feelings, it is only when we share them and seek God in the midst of them that we discover who we have been as a church, and who we might be in the future. One of the challenges to churches in a Covid-informed world has been breaking people out of the silos that we created or fortified so that we could keep functioning during a period of chaos and fear. In many churches, including FPC, we can see small signs of those silos on a weekly basis, and we are sometimes surprised to hear about the good work done in Christian Education, in Music, in Reconciling Ministries, or of the pastoral needs of people who have gone into and out of the hospital. After a long period of remote worship and new habits, we aren't always sure who the church is, who the people are who have come or gone from it. We aren't sure what it means to welcome people into worship or how to collect the offering.

At the core, all of these reflect some uncertainty about our mission: as a church, what are we trying to do in the world? We say that we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to share the Word of God through Jesus Christ and to live lives of justice, mercy, and faith. What does that look like? How are our lives changed by living that mission, and how do we know when we are doing it? Finding the answers to these questions is going to take some time and effort, especially when we face bodies and spirits that simply do not want to be "church" in ways that we



have been before. Those moments will be sad, but they will also be hopeful. Every time we can honestly say, "this is not an activity that brings me closer to God, and I cannot see how it helps us to live a life of justice, mercy, and faith any longer," it gives us the opportunity to ask, "what is?"

In the Easter season, we celebrate resurrection knowing that as long as we tell the story, we will never lose the church that was. From that sure ground, Christ frees us to imagine what the church might be in the future, to set a course, and to follow through on it, adjusting as we go. What do you want to be different in yourself, in the church, or in our community as a result of our actions as a church together in the next year?

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Nathan



To EVERYONE who donated to
Menstrual March for CommUnity.
FPC donated over a dozen boxes of
product and 33 pounds of food.

THANK YOU FPC!

Our next theme will be **Baby items** for
the April brings Baby Showers
campaign.

FPC Spring Outdoor Work Event – Saturday, May 20

Join other FPC members and friends on Saturday, May 20, 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon for our annual Spring Outdoor Work event to help clean up our grounds and mulch garden beds. Bring your own rake and garden bed tools, gloves, etc. We will gather at the main entrance to form our work groups. (The rain date is June 3.)



If interested or have questions, please contact Bill Follows at 319-351-1999 or kfollows@gmail.com.

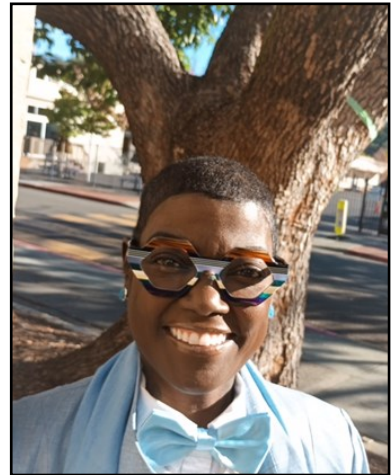
Special Offering to Support Chitoka Webb

Chitoka Webb, a member of our church family, has been a student at the San Francisco Theological Seminary since January 2020. She will be graduating on May 20, 2023 with her Master of Divinity degree. As her sponsoring church, she is “under our care.”

While in seminary, Chitoka has endured many hardships: evacuations from fire, the pandemic, and progressive deterioration of her health and many hospitalizations, due to an auto-immune disease. She is patiently waiting for a liver transplant as a result of this condition.

Chitoka remains hopeful and full of gratitude to God and her church family. In March, Session approved a Special Offering to support her on-going financial needs and to celebrate her graduation. Please prayerfully consider contributing to this offering between April 16 and May 7, so she receives this before her graduation.

To make a contribution, please make a notation on your check “Chitoka Webb” or contribute on the FPC website under the “Giving” tab.



Congregational Health Ministry Event

June 27, 2023: 8 a.m.–5 p.m., Mental Health First Aid Training, with certificate and CEU's; limited to 30 people. Sponsored by Compeer of Johnson County. Includes lunch, no fee.

For more information, watch the daily emails and church bulletins.

Of the 5 Ws, the “Why” is the One that Matters

~Nancy Gardner, Moderator, Stewardship Committee

Early in my high school journalism class, we were taught the importance of asking the key questions when reporting an event, or conducting an interview. You know them: Who, What, Where, When, and Why (And, yes, you can add in How, if you must).

The response to each of these “W questions” provides essential information in communicating something important: Who did it? What happened?, and so on. But, could one of these “W questions” cause us to think a bit more deeply than the others within the realm of Stewardship?

It’s the “WHY.” Why do you give to First Presbyterian Church? Why do I give? That really is the key question. We could ask anyone in the church and we’d hear a multitude of reasons, each one tremendously

meaningful to the person speaking. And, along with what we hear

from others, deep down we each have our own very unique reasons for giving, too.

We’ll get into hearing about the “Why” from some of the members at FPC in the near future. But, for now, I urge you to ask yourself this same question. Go ahead, give it some thought. The answer could awaken what’s truly important to you.



Christ is risen! Alleluia, alleluia!

He has trampled down death, and bestowed life and light upon all. Thanks be to God! To celebrate over the coming weeks, music at FPC will be light, joyful, and focused on the new life available to us through the risen Christ. Our choir put in such diligent, hard work the past several weeks offering some rather challenging music, appropriate for the 40 days of the Lenten trial. In the current season of new life, however, we will be celebrating with music from a variety of traditions, and rehearsing in a way that the music will be easy to learn and sing. I invite anyone who has been interested in trying choir to join us on Wednesday nights from 7-8pm! If you cannot make evening rehearsals, no worries—join us on Sunday mornings at 9:45am—I promise, you will be able to learn the music in one rehearsal. I would also like to formally invite any youth to join us; the sanctuary choir is not strictly for adults! This would be a great season to try and see how you like it, before summer break comes around.

On Sunday, April 23, we will be celebrating an Earth Day service with a variety of musical offerings by Becca Morgan. We are very blessed to have folks willing and able to participate in Sunday worship in unique ways. The JuBELLation ensemble (which has recently grown) is still ringing strong every Sunday morning and will have a piece or two for services before summer. Like the choir, this is not a closed group! If you are interested in learning more about handbells, you may contact me or Rhonda Barr, our resident handbell extraordinaire.

After Pentecost Sunday, we will enter the summer season and music will again be different. I want to go ahead and give you a heads-up, because I want to hear from you about any interest you or someone you know may have in offering special music during the summer months. I will be posting a sign-up sheet on the music room door where you may write your name and contact info (email address, phone number, whatever you prefer), then we may discuss what you would like to do and what dates may work for you. I would love to have a full sign-up sheet when the time comes, so do not be bashful!

Lastly, I have heard interest in getting some instrumentalists in our congregation together to form an ensemble. This would be a casual commitment, but it would be fun, I think, to get a group together that could offer some music every-so-often. At the very least, it would be a great fellowship opportunity, and I would once again like to invite youth that play in a school band or orchestra to consider playing with us. If anyone of any age finds interest in this, please contact me at my email address (kyle.coleman@firstpresio.wacounty.org), and we can take some steps forward on making this happen.

Blessings to you this happy season, as your spirit blesses me each time we gather in Jesus’ name!



First's Family

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

April 15-30

4/17 Candace Wiebener
4/19 Jamie Helmick
4/21 Geri Schaefer
4/22 Bruce Guither
4/23 Jenny Kirschling
4/23 Rachel Marsh
4/26 Ann Muilenburg
4/30 Bill Preucil



May 1-15

5/2 Kevin Keith	5/10 Susan Van Duyn
5/4 Kory May	5/10 Mike Phelps
5/6 Robert Ketterer	5/10 Jim Jacobus
5/6 Kate Degner	5/11 Ashley Nicholson
5/7 Kathy Clifton	5/12 Darin Schroeder
5/7 Leah Bergman	5/13 Janet Bain
5/7 Aurora Kennerly	5/13 Cynthia Chou
5/9 Sharon Van Dusseldorp	5/14 Devin Smith
5/9 Debbie Torrens-Semler	



*Known
to have been
Hospitalized:*

**Brian Kleis, Kathy
Follows, Joe Graves,
Ann Grosscup and
Jamie Helmick.**

Join the FPC Book Club

May 30 for a discussion on
The War Librarian by Addison
Armstrong

In person in Coover Lounge or
via Zoom. For more
information contact Mary Linn at
jmLnn@aol.com.



We extend our deepest sympathy:

To the family and friends of
Janice Wilson, who died
April 4, 2023. Funeral service
will be held at 11 a.m.,
Saturday, July 8 at St.
Andrew Presbyterian
Church.




Eat Out Group

Thursday, April 27 at 6:30 p.m.




Located between Coralville
and North Liberty
3266 Crosspark Rd.,
Suite 101, Coralville

Hosts:
Perry and Becky Ross
319-321-8107



Youth Sunday will be on Sunday, May 14 at the 10:30 a.m. service! Please let Anna know if there are children in 2nd grade and older that have not yet received a Bible from FPC. These students will be given Bibles on Youth Sunday.



The Christian Education Ministry is planning NOW for next School Year's class and ministry offerings. If you have a specific topic, skill, or interest that you would like to see at First Pres, please let us know! We are hoping to provide enriching classes, either taught by lay leaders or staff! We want to hear from YOU! **Please simply email Anna at Anna.Sheetz@firstpreswiowacity.org today.**

UPCOMING EVENTS!

5th–8th Grade Youth Group Schedule:

Sunday, April 23, 4–5 p.m.

We'll begin preparing for Youth Sunday, which will be Sunday, May 14. Dinner will be hosted from 5–6 p.m.

Sunday, April 30, 4–5 p.m.

We'll keep working on Youth Sunday, which will be Sunday, May 14. Dinner will be hosted from 5–6 p.m.

Sunday, May 7, 4–5 p.m.

We'll put it all together and see what we've come up with for Youth Sunday!

Sunday, May 14, Youth Sunday!

No Youth Group — Happy Mother's Day

Sunday, May 21, 3–4:30 p.m.

Prepare yourself for the BIGGEST GAME YET! Our last regularly scheduled Youth Group — we'll see who will conquer the others in a game devised by Anna herself! Potluck meal from 5–6 p.m.



The PreK/K Sunday School class reenacts waving their palms as Jesus enters Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

Summer ACTIVITIES

Check back in next month's newsletter for what **AWESOME** stuff is happening at First Presbyterian this summer!



Save the Date!

Twists & Turns Vacation Bible Xperience at FPC RSVP Today in Ryerson Hall

**Sunday, July 30–Thursday, August 3
5–8 p.m. Each Night**

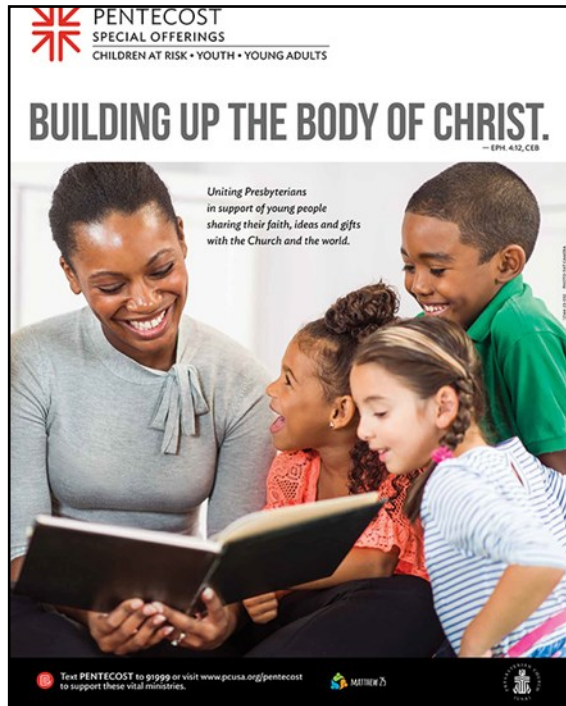
Join us at Twists & Turns™ to spin the spinner, beat the clock, skip ahead, level up, and play to win! Twists & Turns is a fantastical celebration of games of all kinds. From classic tabletop games to strategy games to video games and more. Kids will play their way through VBX in fun locations such as the Bible Study Game Room, Wild Card Crafts, Multi-player Missions, and Skip Ahead Snacks! But more importantly, they'll see Jesus through the eyes of one of His closest friends and discover that trusting Jesus as Savior and following Him changes the game entirely! Register now at First Presbyterian Church!

**Do you want to be involved in VBX this year?
Consider using your gifts to make this the best VBX yet!**

- **VBX Planning Team—Needs two teams**
- **VBX Decorating Team**
- **VBX Rally Team**
- **VBX Group Leader Team—Needs Eight teachers**
- **Dinner Team—Five dinners needed**

Interested? Please consider talking to Anna Sheetz or connect at Anna.Sheetz@firstpreswacivcity.org.

The Pentecost Offering — Setting At-Risk Youth on the Road to Success



The Pentecost Offering is the second of four Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) annual special offerings. At Pentecost, we celebrate that God offers more than we can plan. Our gifts to the Pentecost Offering connect with God's hope and future, supporting ministries with children, youth and young adults by building a life of faith.

Helping youth achieve their God-given potential is what the Pentecost Offering is all about. Not only do gifts to the Pentecost Offering benefit at-risk children and youth through the "Educate a Child, Transform the World" national initiative, but the Offering also encourages, develops and supports the church's young people through the Young Adult Volunteer program and the Presbyterian Youth Triennium.

We retain 40% of funds raised to support programs for young people in our community, such as United Action for youth and Dream City, and to support our youth attending the Youth Triennium. The remaining 60% is remitted to the Presbyterian Mission Agency, for use with the programs previously mentioned.

Donations accepted though Pentecost Sunday, May 28, can be made via our website at <https://firstpresbiowacity.org/donate-online/>

or by check payable to First Presbyterian Church, with Pentecost Offering in the memo line. Donation envelopes will also be available in the pew racks beginning on May 7. Please give generously in supporting our young people at the local, national and international levels.



Session Meeting Highlights

Clerk of Session, Jim Claypool

The past two session meetings have given us the opportunity to discuss the future of this church. On March 21, Nancy Gardner led us in an exercise to imagine how we might incorporate our church mission into more of our church activities, publications, and discussions. Pastor Nathan challenged us to ask ourselves to name one thing we'd like to be different about our church or community as a result of FPC's actions. And we authorized a fundraiser for Chitoka Webb, pursuing her call to be a minister of the gospel even in the midst of serious health concerns.

On April 4, we gathered for a special session (in spite of weather threats) to feed our confirmands (and their families) and be fed by them as they shared their statements of faith and answered our probing questions about their future role in the church and the development of their discipleship. So it was with joy that we presented them for church membership at our Easter Vigil Service.



Confirmation Class 2023

After graduating from their confirmation journey, First Presbyterian Church welcomed six new members into the congregation. From left to right:

Carter Hand, mentored by Ames Molsberry (parents, Kayla McKibben and Travis Martin);

Molly Molsberry, mentored by Stephanie Stamp (parents, Amanda and Ames Molsberry);

Vivian Adams, mentored by Lara Marsh (parent, Jen Adams);

Soren Miller, mentored by Perry Ross (parent, Amy Siedel);

Ella Everhart, mentored by Jen Adams (parents, Cari and Bob Everhart);

Thomas Morgan, mentored by Anita Burnet (parents, Becca and Brent Morgan) and their delighted teacher, Director of Christian Education, Anna Sheetz.



The Nominating Committee will begin meeting in May.

As we begin considering possible Elders, Deacons, and members of the Nominating and Endowment Committees for 2024. We welcome suggestions from the congregation for all these positions. Please consider a self-nomination as well! Contact one of the committee members with your potential candidates. The 2023 Nominating Committee: Rhonda Barr, Anita Burnett, Perry Ross, Mary Ellen Stamp, and Leann Graves (moderator)



?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

Besides being known for his proverbs about wise living, King Solomon was knowledgeable in other fields including which of the following?

- A. Zoology, including ornithology and ichthyology
- B. Botany
- C. Herpetology
- D. Songwriting
- E. A and C
- F. B and D
- G. All of the above



Answer: G (See Kings 4:29-34.)

Community Prayer Post

Spring is here. What a great time to let worries melt away and sing praises to God! Stop by the Prayer Post and do just that.

Pray More ... Worry Less





Plant a Seed - Create a Legacy The FPC Endowment and Memorials Committee

Bob and Millie Youngquist, Coordinators

A Legacy is an expression of gratitude and thanks

The word “Give” appears 921 times in the Bible — almost as many times as “Faith,” “Hope” and “Love” combined.

Giving can be an expression of your faith in God, your hope for the future, and your love for others. Please consider a legacy gift to our church.

“A legacy speaks not about how we died, but how we lived. It speaks about the things that move us in life, the things that matter to us. A legacy is an expression of gratitude and thanks to God for all that has been given and enjoyed in life.” (Stewardship.org.uk) What will your legacy say about you?

What kinds of mindful choices are you making today? Are you purposefully investing your time, skills, and money in ways that make the people and places around you better both now and for the future?

Numerous studies have shown that churches have a positive economic, social, educational, and physical impact on their communities. You can be a part of that positive influence for years to come by making a gift to the church.

Because of legacy gifts made to churches, kids have been able to go to youth camp, the hungry have been fed, and missions have thrived. What will a gift from you accomplish?

What part of church life means the most to you? Is there a ministry or program that has made a difference in your life, or a family member’s life? A legacy gift to the church can keep that vital aspect of our community growing so it can bless others in the future.

Generous living is about approaching each day with an open heart, an open mind, and an open hand. What can you do today to live more generously? What generous living choices can you make today that will make a difference in the future?

The FPC endowment is a vehicle through which you can support the future of our church. Large gifts, although a blessing to the church, are the exception. Our hope is that you put the endowment on your radar and get into the habit of giving to this wonderful sustaining fund. Join others in supporting our church throughout the years to come. Bob and Millie Youngquist are happy to meet with anyone considering gifts to the church. As usual, we suggest that you should work with your financial advisor if you choose to make any large financial gifts.

“Don’t hold back — give freely, and you’ll have plenty poured back into your lap — a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, brimming over. You’ll receive in the same measure you give.” Luke 6:38

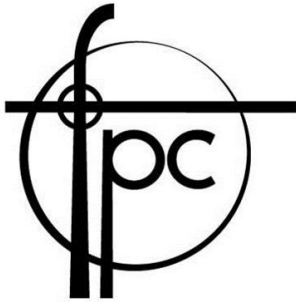


It’s easy as 1, 2, 3

1. Go to Facebook.com
2. Search for First Presbyterian Church, Iowa City
3. Click



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Iowa City, Iowa 52245



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