



April 15–May 15 2022 Volume 66 Issue 4

FPC will celebrate Earth Day on April 24 at our regular 10:30 a.m. church service when we will explore our planet's inspiration and challenges.

- Becca Morgan will provide specially selected music for her acoustic guitar.
- Green plants will be given to all the children.
- Our youth will bring their own special contributions.
- Jane Cranston will share the message.



This special service celebration is facilitated by the Reconciliation Ministry.

We hope you can join us for this Earth Day celebration!

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FPC is ready to move into Phase IV, or essentially "pre-Covid practices," with the caveat that everyone must continue to take whatever precautions they feel necessary at church. We must also continue to educate ourselves and each other and implement safe practices similar to what we do during flu season.

The following practices of moving forward were approve by Session:

- Masks will no longer be required during worship or elsewhere in the building.
- Fellowship after worship may include coffee and snacks.
- Communion will be conducted using intinction.
 Pre-packaged communion sets will still be available.



Consultation's Corner

FPC is a founding member of the Consultation of Religious Communities (CRC), a local network of faith communities, social service agencies, and advocacy groups. The CRC promotes interfaith dialogue, social justice, community service and dignity for all. The CRC "Common Fund" provides over \$35,000 in annual funding to CommUnity's *Emergency Assistance Program* for rent and utility assistance in Johnson County. CRC meetings at 10–11 a.m. on the 3rd Wednesday of each month include an interactive education program.

The March meeting program featured Rabbi Esther Hugenholtz, from the Agudas Achim Congregation in Coralville. Her informative and compelling presentation, "Antisemitism," explored the origins and impacts of this troubling topic and can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eZuF-ET9wl0



Brainstorming Ideas for Kindness!

The Congregational Health Ministry is gearing up for our Kindness Campaign in September 2022. We are excited, and we hope our excitement is contagious!

One of the activities of the month will be intergenerational service teams to provide acts of kindness to agencies or individuals. These teams will seek opportunities for kindness two weekends per month (Friday afternoon and Saturday morning). We encourage families to serve together for the best experience. We will be able to accommodate limitations in time and abilities so that we can have as many as possible be part of this amazing project!

We welcome any suggestions for activities to include in the Kindness Campaign.

Maeleen Thorius, 319-541-3161

Rhonda Barr, 319-936-5998

Let's Keep Stewardship in Mind Throughout the Year

By Bill Follows

As mindful agents of all that God has provided for us, it's important that we consider the importance of stewardship all year long. In the article below, Stewardship Committee Co-Moderator Bill Follows shares the following:

A recent statistic reveals that approximately 35,000 children under the age of five die globally every year, usually from poverty. It is proposed that 2.5 billion dollars per year could prevent most of these deaths. That is the amount that Americans spend yearly on CHEWING GUM.* These facts remind me of how spoiled we Americans might be in our hedonistic lifestyle.

FPC requires a certain amount of money annually to support church salaries, equipment, buildings and grounds, etc. Other church income is used for charitable purposes, both locally and beyond. Our work with the Consultation of Religious Communities is one excellent example of such a mission. Yet we all must donate generously in order to enable such causes.

We urge you to stretch your contributions so FPC can take on such programs and really make a difference. We believe this is what makes us Christians.

Bill Oglesby and I (Bill Follows) co-moderate the Stewardship Committee, and we are actively seeking the help of more members. If you feel called to join our work in promoting stewardship, please email us! (Bill Oglesby, william-oglesby@uiowa.edu; Bill Follows, kfollows@gmail.com)

*Barnett, Gordon, and Hendrix. *The Big Book of Presbyterian Stewardship*. Louisville, KY: Geneva Press, 2001.

Music in Worship this Summer

By Melissa Moll

Have a song in your heart and a willingness to share?

All singers, instrumentalists, pianists, individuals, and small groups are welcome to be part of our musical forces in worship this summer. Whether you have a piece in mind or just a glimmer of an idea, come add to the song.

To sign up or for questions, contact Melissa Moll (melissa.moll@firstpresiowacity.org)

How Are You Phasing Now!

By Nancy Gardner Interim Church Administrator

I, II, III, IV ... No, this is not a review of your Roman the Builders & Backers program. The goal of their numeral skills, but rather a celebratory acknowledgment that we have progressed into Phase IV of the church's re-entry plan! Yes, we can now "kinda" get right back to what we were doing pre-March 2020, with some educated precautions, of course.

So, what were we up to back then? Well, we did have a pastor, and a great one. We talked and laughed together during fellowship, our committees were meeting in person, and REALM had just started to create interest in promoting FPC's impact on racial justice in Iowa City.

And now? The Pastor Nominating Committee is in the process of matching us with a great pastor once again. Fellowship is up and running, and committees are meeting both in-person and online. So, what about Fletcher, Lara Marsh, Jeanie Wade-Nagle, John REALM? Is anything happening there? Yes, definitely! The church sponsored our two Venture School candidates, we've supported training for staff at Little Creations Academy, and continue to support additional programs at the childcare center. The team of Lara Marsh, Jeanie Wade-Nagle, and Nancy Gardner are examining the issue of high turnover of childcare workers in Iowa City through the support of

efforts is to make quality childcare more accessible to low income families.

If REALM can do all this during a pandemic, what can we do now as we enter into Phase IV, and a little more normalcy? How are you "phasing"? Do you have an idea that REALM can support towards racial justice? Any project, big or small, focused on the environment, education, finance, or any area you feel addresses the challenge of racial justice, REALM wants to hear from you! Come on, start "phasing" into what we at FPC do best ... taking care of each other and those around us!

(For more information, or to communicate with the REALM Committee about your idea, contact Jeremy Clark, or Nancy Gardner.)

FPC Spring Outdoor Work Event – Saturday May 14

Join other FPC members and friends on Saturday, May 14, 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon for this Spring Outdoor Work event to help clean up our grounds & mulch garden beds. Bring your own rake & garden bed tools, gloves, etc. We will gather at the main entrance to form our work groups.



If interested or have questions, please contact Sue Farran at: sue.farran@gmail.com or 319-325-1415

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Christian Boarding House, Pasrur Report on Distribution of Blazers and Christmas Gifts*

By Simon Jacob

New blazers and Christmas gifts were bought and distributed among the 103 students of Christian Girls Boarding House, Pasrur on November 24, 2021 and December 19, 2021. The House Parent, Principal of Christian Girls Higher Secondary School and Admin Team from PEB distributed blazers and Christmas gifts among the students.

Students' faces were shining and their hearts rejoiced for the great providence of God. The magnanimity of joyfulness was on their faces, and they were very grateful to the Presbyterian Church, Iowa City, Iowa, USA for their generosity, love and affection rendered towards the girl students of Christian Girls Boarding House, Pasrur.



Pasrur Christian girls pose proudly in front of their boarding house in their new wool blazers.

*This news was delayed but I thought you would still enjoy seeing it. The blazers were purchased with private FPC donations. Simon is part of the PEB team in Pakistan.

I was naked and you clothed me . . . Matthew 25:36a

Submitted by FPC Congregational Health Ministry Team

Since 2008, in partnership with the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Psychiatric Department, the St. Andrew Mental Health Initiatives (MHI) Ministry, along with the congregation, have donated clothing items to the UIHC Psychiatric In-patients. Many patients are without family support, come from long distances, and enter the hospital with only the shirts on their backs. In 2019, the SAPC Mental Health Initiatives Ministry transferred the physical clothing items support over to a UI Center for Advancement (formerly the UI Foundation) Fund, where monetary support continues to provide the psych units' clothing needs. MHI is now

expanding the clothing support to assist people in the CSU (Crisis Stabilization Unit) and, in addition, to provide shoes and weighted blankets for inpatients. Please consider participating in this new, expanded effort with a monetary contribution. UI staff say: *This will make a HUGE impact!*

Please make checks payable to: St. Andrew, memo: MHI and mail to St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 140 Gathering Pl. Ln., IC, IA 52246

Thank you!

Written by Marcia Murphy, MHI team leader

First's Family

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

April 15-30

- 4/15 Maeleen Thorius
- 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

March 19.

4/30 Vern Dengler



May 1-15

/2	Kevin Keith	5/10	Susan Van Duyn
/4	Kory May	5/10	Mike Phelps
	Larry Bruner	5/10	Jim Jacobus
/6	Robert Ketterer	5/11	Dixie Jurgens
/6	Kate Degner	5/11	Ashley Nicholson
7	Kathy Clifton	5/12	Darin Schroeder
/7	Leah Bergman	5/13	Janet Bain
/7	Aurora Kennerly	5/13	Cynthia Chou

5/9 Debbie Torrens-Semler

Sharon Van Dusseldorp 5/14 Devin Smith

We extend our deepest sympathy:

To the family and friends of **Eileen Gieswein**, who died on March 13. The funeral service was held at Zion Lutheran Church on

To Jamie Helmick, whose mother, Deb Helmick, died on March 14. The funeral service was held on March 21 at United Presbyterian Church in Washington, IA.



Known to have been Hospitalized:

Guerin Thompson

Births

FPC Book Club is meeting by Zoom

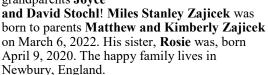
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April 27: <u>The Butterfly Effect</u> by Rachel Mans McKenny

May 31: <u>The Sweetness of Water</u> by Nathan Harris

For more information and a Zoom link, contact Mary Linn at jmLnn@aol.com







We celebrated the baptism of **Emily Louise Sheetz** on April 10 (Palm Sunday) with Pastor Loretta Ross officiating. Emily is the daughter of **Anna** and **Layne** and sister to **Oliver**.



At FPC, we love that our kids are naturally curious! And we know that when you're curious about who God is it's easy to grow your relationship with Jesus. That's why, in this 4-day VBX, we're going to engage kids' imaginations! Kids will not only get curious about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics — but also about the God who created it all! They'll hear from early church leaders like Paul, Peter, John, and Timothy, who helped the first Jesus-followers wonder what made their stories unique, what gifts God gave them (and how they could use those gifts to serve), what they could learn from others, and how they could spend time with God.

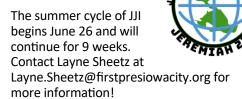
Join us for our first Weekend VBX so the WHOLE FAMILY CAN JOIN! We'll meet the whole weekend long!

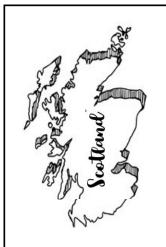
August 5-7, 2022! Save the dates!



An Amazing Opportunity!

Support the City High School students in the Spring Musical of BIG FISH! The play dates are Saturday, April 30 and Sunday, May 1! We hope you can go and cheer on so many talented FPCers!



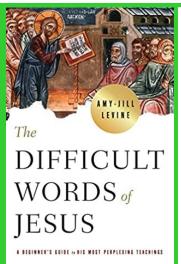


Dodekah is a ministry that happens over 12 months and ends with an international trip! The current Dodekah Ministry members have decided to set their sights on our Presbyterian history in Scotland! We are planning a trip in May 2023.

Mark your calendars for the informational meeting, May 15 after church!

	~		
✓	What's	coming up?	Section 1
Мо	nday, May 9, 6 p.m.	VPV Planning Monting	Ī

Monday, May 9, 6 p.m. <i>Hybrid</i>	VBX Planning Meeting
Sunday, May 15, 10:30 a.m. Livestreamed	Youth-Led Sunday Service
Sunday, May 15, 11:30 a.m. Hybrid	Dodekah Information Meeting
Wednesday, May 18, 9:30 a.m. Hybrid	Last Wednesday AM Grow Group Meeting
Sunday, May 22, 9:30 a.m. Hybrid	Last Sunday AM Grow Group Meeting
Sunday, May 22, 11:30 a.m. Hopefully outdoors!	Grow Group Graduation Ice Cream Social!



Examine the most difficult teachings of Jesus with Dr. Amy-Jill Levine

Jesus provided his disciples teachings for how to follow Torah, God's Word; he told them parables to help them discern questions of ethics and of human nature; he offered them beatitudes for comfort and encouragement. But sometimes Jesus spoke words that followers then and now have found difficult. He instructs disciples to hate members of their own family

(Luke 14:26), to act as if they were slaves (Matthew 20:27), and to sell their belongings and give to the poor (Luke 18:22). He restricts his mission (Matthew 10:6); he speaks of damnation (Matthew 8:12); he calls Jews the devil's children (John 8:44).

In *The Difficult Words of Jesus*, New Testament scholar and Jewish leader Amy-Jill Levine shows how these difficult teachings would have sounded to the people who first heard them, how have they been understood over time, and how we might interpret them in the context of the Gospel of love and reconciliation.

If you are interested in participating in this study, there are two options for this 6-week study:

Wednesday, 10 a.m. July 20–24 Coover Lounge/Hybrid Wednesday, 5 p.m. July 20–24 Coover Lounge/Hybrid



Youth Group Dinners are Back!

We're including BOTH groups that range from 4th–12th graders; this is about 15 people!



If you are interestied in hosting one of the two remaining youth group dinners for this year, please email Anna Sheetz for more information. The dinner dates are May 8 and May 15.



You're almost there! GO GROW GROUPERS GO!

Join us for a GG Graduation Party after worship on Sunday, May 22! We'll have ice cream and celebrate because it will be sooo sweet!

You can now use our QR code to easily go online and donate! Scan the image (at right) with your smartphone and you'll land on our donation website page where you can choose how much and how to give. Haven't scanned a QR code before? No problem—it's easy. There are two options:



- o **Option 1:** Open up your smartphone and pretend you are going to take a photo. Line up your phone as if you are about to take a photo of the QR code. You will see a pop-up button/bubble/link that appears over the photo. Tap on that with your finger.
- Option 2: Download a "QR code reader" app from Google Play or the App Store to your smartphone. Any QR code reader app should work and it should be free. Once you have it downloaded to your smartphone, open it. Position the viewfinder over the QR code.

That's it! With either option, you'll be redirected to the giving page on the website and can follow the prompts from there. Let us know what you think!



The last day of the Christian Education 'regular' programming will be Sunday, May 22. Stay tuned for May's Newsletter to see what Equipping Ministry has coming up in Summer 2022!



YOUTH GROUP

There's a lot of 'stuff' happening in the Youth Groups for the next month! Make sure you check out the chart below so you know what times to join in all the fun!

Date	4 th -6 th Grade Group Meet from 4:30-5:30 p.m.	Activity	7 th -12 th Grade Group Meet from 7-8 p.m.
April 17	Happy Easter	No Activities	Happy Easter
April 24	We'll learn about two Old Testament Priests: Melchizedek and Abraham	Youth Sunday Prep with Leah 5:30-6:15 p.m. Youth Group Dinner for All Ages 6:15-7 p.m.	We'll meet to discuss The Horse and His Boy
May 1	We'll talk about the Priestly King: King David	Youth Sunday Prep with Leah 5:30-6:15 p.m. *There will be no Dinner on May 1*	Canceled; Happy Big Fish!
May 8	Did you know that we call Jesus a Royal Priest too? Let's learn all about it!	Youth Sunday Prep with Leah 5:30-6:15 p.m. Youth Group Dinner for All Ages 6:15-7 p.m.	We'll meet and discuss book #4: <u>Prince Caspian</u>
May 15	Who is the Royal Priesthood now? You are! Come hear how!	** Dinner will be from 5:30-6:30 p.m.**	*Youth Group meets from 6:30-8 p.m.* Senior Seminar with Stephanie Brentner and Layne Sheetz
May 22	Join us for the BIGGEST GAME YET —>	THE BIGGEST GAME YET for ALL AGES (Dinner included) 5:30-7 p.m.	Stay afterwards from 7-8 p.m. to discuss The Voyage of the Dawn Treader

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2022 Communion Dates:

Dates are subject to change.

Currently communion is being offered by individual communion packets. This is subject to change as the pandemic is monitored.

April 16 Great Vigil of Easter
May 15 5th Sunday of Easter
June 5 Pentecost Sunday

July 105th Sunday after PentecostAugust 1410th Sunday after PentecostSeptember 1114th Sunday after Pentecost

October 2 World Communion

November 20 Reign of Christ

December 11 Advent III

Youth Sunday, May 15

We celebrate children and youth in our congregation

EVERY Sunday, but on Sunday, May 15 youth in 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!

ORCHESTRA IOWA PRESENTS

VOICES OF CHANGE: BEETHOVEN'S 9TH

Joel THOMPSON'S
SEVEN LAST WORDS
OF THE UNARMED

& BEETHOVEN'S
Symphony No. 9
"Choral"





Saturday, April 23, 2022 7:30pm, Paramount Theatre Sunday, April 24, 2022 2:30pm, Hancher Auditorium

Support members Sally Rickey and Jerry Stamp, who will be singing in this important concert!

Tickets available for purchase through Paramount Theatre Ticket Office or Hancher Box Office.

Experience "Seven Last Words of the Unarmed" by composer Joel Thompson – an important new choral work written in response to police violence against unarmed black men in recent years. This moving piece communicates through rich music and text the tragedy of racism and the need to eliminate it. The concert finishes with Beethoven's epic Symphony No. 9, a longstanding and cherished statement on justice, freedom of expression and thought, that celebrates the merit and strength found in human unity. When originally published in 1824, the famous words of "Ode to Joy" were outlawed because its the government saw it as a statement against its legitimacy; Beethoven stood up against corruption in a very public (and risky) way. Featuring soloists A. Renee, Taylor Raven, Chauncey Packer, & James Martin, and welcoming several area choirs to join their voices in unity, this concert will be a powerful and memorable experience.



A note from Leah Bergman, Director of Liturgy, Music, and the Arts

As you may have noticed, my husband, Gunnar, and I are expecting our first baby due in early June. We are overjoyed at this new step for our family and look forward to the baby becoming a part of the First Pres family when it arrives! I am anticipating being on maternity leave from early June to the end of August. During this time, members of the Worship and Arts Ministry, the rest of FPC staff, and many faithful church leaders will be stepping up to lead worship and music. Thank you in advance to everyone who will be helping to keep things going in my absence!

Session Meeting Highlights of March 2022

Clerk of Session, Nancy Weber

Jeff Orris, moderator of the Administration Committee presented a contract proposal from ImOn for internet and phone service. It was decided to hold a called Session meeting on March 29 to make a final decision. At the meeting on March 29, Session approved the contract from ImOn. Work could begin as early as June 2022.

Motion was approved to again hold the Pumpkin Patch event this fall. Proceeds will go towards the Dodekah Ministry trip to Scotland in 2023.

Key Issues Task Force Report #1 was presented and approved. This report highlighted church goals and corresponding challenges in reaching these goals. The next task force will prepare a second report outlining proposed steps to address these challenges.

Session accepted the revised MIF (Ministry Information Form) from the Pastor Nominating Committee. This document was then submitted to Eastern Iowa Presbytery, and from there forwarded to Presbyterian Church (USA) headquarters in Louisville,

KY. The next step will be to receive letters of interest and other information from candidates.



Clerk's Report

- Called Session meeting on April 12 for the examination of FPC confirmation students.
- Baptism of Emily Sheetz on April 10. Baptism performed by Rev. Loretta Ross.
- Session voted unanimously to accept the recommendations of the Re-Entry Committee. Changes went into effect on Sunday, March 6, 2022.

Income / Expense Update — March 2022

Co-Moderators of Finance, Leann Graves and Nancy Gardner

	Current Month	February 2021
Income	\$104,131.00	\$ 134,216.20
Expense	\$115,784.31	\$144,597.12
Total +/-	-\$ 11,663.31	-\$ 10,380.92



Needles, Hook and Yarn

Time to dust off those needles & hooks and start stitching!

If you are interested in joining this small group, please contact Tammy Schroeder at 319-351-2660.

Bible Quiz

All four gospels tell of Jesus' resurrection but each gives a different list of women as the first to arrive at the empty tomb. Which woman appears in all four accounts?

- A. Joanna
- B. Mary, the mother of Jesus
- C. Salome
- D. Mary Magdalene
- E. Mary, the mother of James

Answer: D (See Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:1; Luke 24:10; and John 20:.)

New from the Endowment / Memorial Co-Coordinators

Bob and Millie Youngquist

FPC Estate Planning Seminar April 28



William Schwickerath, attorney

Spring is beginning to surround us once again, and it might be a good time for making and/or revising your estate plans. What exactly is estate planning? Briefly, an estate plan will provide instructions stating whom you want to receive something of yours, what you want them to receive and when they are to receive it. With good planning, this will all happen with the least amount of fuss and as little paid in taxes as possible.

The Endowment/Memorial Committee would like to invite all members of the congregation to attend an Estate Planning Workshop on Thursday, April 28 in Ryerson Hall, Dessert and coffee will be served at 6:30 pm and the presentation will begin at 7 pm. Our presenter is William Schwickerath from Hills Bank and Trust Company in North Liberty. Will was born and raised in northeast Iowa. He attended the University of Northern Iowa for his accounting degree, then went on to Drake University Law School. After obtaining his Juris Doctor, William practiced law in Marion, focusing on estate planning and elder law. In 2020, he had the opportunity to join Hills Bank and Trust Company as a Trust Officer and continues to assist customers and the community with estate planning and wealth management. His primary practice areas include personal trust administration, charitable trust, estate planning and estate administration, and donor advised gift funds.

Should you attend? Take this guiz to find out.

- Does it matter to you who receives your possessions and assets after you die?
- Would you like to maximize the value of your total estate?
- Would you like to minimize the amount of taxes your heirs have to pay on any assets they receive from your estate?
- Does it matter who gets custody or guardianship of your children? Do you want a court to decide?
- Do you want your children to receive their inheritance after they reach a certain age?
- Would you like to have peace of mind about your affairs?
- Do you have a blended family or a child with special needs?
- Do you own a business?
- Has it been more than two years since you reviewed your estate plan?

If you answered "yes" to two or more of the questions above, then attending this seminar would be well worth your time.

Following a brief gathering time over dessert, the focus of this meeting will be on estate planning basics.

- What are my estate planning options?
- What are the different types of estate planning documents, how do they work and why is each important?
- How can one plan for charitable gifting?
- Who needs an estate plan?
- What life events may trigger a need to create or update an estate plan?
- Who should consider having an estate plan?
- How does an estate plan work after you have died?

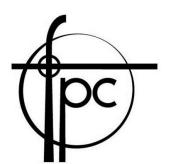
William will touch on some advanced estate planning techniques and will provide more detail if asked during a Q/A portion following his presentation.

Please RSVP to endowment@firstpresiowacity.org or call the church office by Monday, April 25 if you plan to attend. We hope to see many of you there! There will also be an on-line option for this event.

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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.firstpresiowacity.org

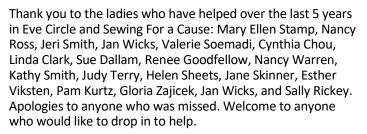
Sewing for a Cause Continues at FPC

Sewing for a Cause has been sewing and stuffing heart pillows since October 2021, when UIHC started accepting donations again. They requested that the pillows be made for thoracic patients as they had not had any for years and it was their greatest need. The group made and turned in 64 pillows and have another 29 pillows to stuff and stich up. They also donated 15 pillows for mastectomy patients (the pillows had been in the pandemic quarantine since March of 2020). The group gathers in the lower level of the church on Thursday mornings from 9-noon. The hospital requests that donations not be made in a home setting where there are pets, which is why they meet at church. The next project that the hospital has requested is 100 port pillows 4" x 6" that will be used on a seat belt to cushion a chest port.

A small note included with each pillow reads: "Please know that you are not alone as you heal. This pillow is crafted with love and care and hopefully it will bring a measure of comfort as you use it outwardly over your heart. Use it also in the car as a cushion to protect from seat belt pressure."

Your friends, Sewing for a Cause Ladies First Presbyterian Church, 2701 Rochester Ave., Iowa City, IA 52245 Since this sewing project was started in 2017 with the Eve Circle, the group has donated more than 250 pillows and 100 port pillows to the UIHC, 50 surgical caps to the U of I Stead Family Children's Hospital, bibs

for residents at the Presbyterian Home in Washington, IA, and fidget quilts for Alzheimer patients under hospice care and in nursing homes.



This email was recently received:

Hi Sally,

The pillows are wonderful and were immediately accepted by the Oncology Unit as well as the Heart and Vascular Units.

Thank you and the Presbyterian Women for making such a difference in our patient's stay and comfort!

Please thank George for delivering them!

Kind regards, Sheri

First Presbyterian Church Staff

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