

**“Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.”**

*Mark Twain*

After months of planning, organizing, and praying we are ready to launch the Spreading Kindness Campaign. September is almost here! The Congregational Health Ministry, under Rhonda Barr as chair, is ready to roll out our plan!

Beginning in September you will see blue t-shirts everywhere in the Iowa City-Coralville communities. Kindness will come in plates of cookies and scones for all the police and fire stations in Coralville and Iowa City. Take a bus? You will see our posters on all city buses! Our at-home members can look forward to a visit and a goody bag from the Deacons and Martha Circle. A meal will be served to the residents of the Catholic Worker House, thanks to volunteers and the Reconciliation Ministry. The youth will rake, dig, scrape and do fall clean up at the Bird House. Other volunteers will give time to the Houses into Homes, refurbishing, cleaning household items for new residents moving into their first “home” after homelessness. Farmer’s Market patrons will be greeted by a “Spreading Kindness” banner, a free bottle of water, a FPC writing pen and a genuine

invitation to join our community of faith. The distribution of over 500 door hangers inviting our neighbors to our Kindness and Homecoming Dinner on September 24 will be

accomplished! All are welcome for dinner. Please come. If you have not been in worship for a bit, why not put on your mask if that makes you feel more comfortable, and return? We need you and we want you and we miss you! Thanks to the generosity of Glenn and Audrey Van Roekel, the dinner is a celebration, and it is free! Bring your neighbor!

It is not too late to volunteer! Just call Maeleen Thorius (319-541-3161) or sign up online at our website [firstpreswacivcity.org](http://firstpreswacivcity.org).



**#spreadkindness**

## The Dodekah Ministry Launches a New Program this August!

The Dodekah Ministry began with an idea in 2018. “How can we dig deeper for the people who have *been there, done that?*” The idea of intentional relationship building, Bible reading, and breaking bread together bloomed into the Dodekah Ministry, a Biblical Greek word that means *twelve*.

The main premise of Dodekah is that for 12 months, 12 people will eat together, study together, fundraise together, and then explore the world together.

In 2018-2019, Eight members pursued a program that incorporated the Covenant Bible Study, fundraising, and a planned trip to Israel—hopes were dashed when COVID hit and the world shut down.

In August, eleven FPC members will begin a new Dodekah Program with their eyes set to the Presbyterian Church’s home, Scotland!

In this program, participants will learn about Scotland’s history with an eye on the Reformation, read Robert Burn’s poetry, study Presbyterian theology, and finally, in May 2023, travel to Scotland for two weeks.

This program is starting soon but there is one spot left! If you would like to join, please email Anna Sheetz at [Anna.Sheetz@firstpreswacivcity.org](mailto:Anna.Sheetz@firstpreswacivcity.org) or call Tammy Schroeder at the church office for more information!



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## Wonderful News!

**Who:** Veda Gill

**What:** Update on the Pasrur School

**When:** Sunday, September 18

**Where:** First Presbyterian Church, Iowa City

Mark Your Calendars! After a long absence due to the pandemic, Veda Gill is coming to FPC for a visit arriving on Friday, September 15 and leaving on Sunday, September 18. Laurie Gift Harris who is the Director of Friends of the Presbyterian Education Board will be accompanying her.

Veda will be preaching here at FPC on Sunday, September 18.

We'll have a presentation by Veda in Ryerson Hall after church. **It will be very exciting to have Veda back!**

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 designate your donation. Haven't scanned a QR code before? No problem—it's easy. There are two options:

- **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!**



## Join TeamFPC to Walk to End Alzheimer's on Sunday, September 18.



Look for the **Sign Up table in Ryerson Hall beginning August 28**. You will be able to sign up to walk and make donations to help us reach our team goal of \$1,500. All of the money raised will go to the Alzheimer's Association for research and to enhance care and support for all affected by this disease.

Use this link to donate directly <http://act.alz.org/goto/TeamFPC>

### Facts About Alzheimer's:

- It is the 6th leading cause of death in the US and the only cause of death in the top 10 that cannot be prevented, cured or slowed.
- 1 in 3 seniors die with Alzheimer's/dementia.
- More than 6 million people in the US are living with the disease.
- Someone develops Alzheimer's/dementia every 66 seconds and 2/3 of them are women.

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





**What :** Sanctuary Choir rehearsal  
**Where:** FPC choir room  
**When:** Wednesday, September 14\*, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.  
**Who:** Those who love to sing!

***With a post-rehearsal happy hour at Blackstone restaurant!***

**On Wednesday, September 14\***, the Sanctuary Choir will gather for our first rehearsal of the fall. We will rehearse from 7–8:30 p.m. and then all are welcome to go up the road to Blackstone restaurant for a post-rehearsal happy hour with time to catch up with one another. The choir is a fun-loving, spirit-filled group of people that welcomes new members. Be our guest at this first choir rehearsal and see if this is the small group for you! Come share in song and fellowship and bring a friend (or two)! Rehearsals are each Wednesday from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in the choir room. For more information, contact Leah Bergman at 351-2660 or [leah.bergman@firstpreswacity.org](mailto:leah.bergman@firstpreswacity.org) or just come to the choir room any Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m.

*\*Start date is tentative and subject to change based on Leah's maternity leave—watch your email!*

*Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth.*

*Worship God with gladness; come into God's presence with singing. – Psalm 100*



**WORSHIP LEADER LAB**

### **NEW for 4th–12th Graders!**

Join the Worship Leader Lab on Sundays at 6:00 p.m. This exciting new opportunity will teach young people how to be leaders in worship through acting out scripture, playing drums and chimes, singing, writing our own prayers and liturgy and more! This group will serve regularly in worship to demonstrate what we're learning and experiencing and lead the congregation in worshipping God.

Interested? Contact [leah.bergman@firstpreswacity.org](mailto:leah.bergman@firstpreswacity.org) or [anna.sheetz@firstpreswacity.org](mailto:anna.sheetz@firstpreswacity.org)



Interested in participating in music opportunities at FPC? Instrumental groups are in the works as Leah returns from maternity leave. If you are interested in playing an instrument, singing, or participating in worship in other artistic ways, contact [leah.bergman@firstpreswacity.org](mailto:leah.bergman@firstpreswacity.org) and we will find a way to get you involved!



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

Bob and Millie Youngquist, Coordinators

### **How to Be a Generosity Builder**

*"And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" Luke 12:20*

A member of the Presbyterian Foundation once wrote: "On a spring morning, I saw a large Red-tailed Hawk fly overhead carrying a long heavy stick. Non-migratory birds of my area were beginning to build nests. During the months to come, birds of all kinds would pour extraordinary effort, time, and ingenuity to the construction of nests, the protection of eggs, and the feeding of their vulnerable young ones. After the little ones hatch, I'm always amazed at the unceasing care offered by the parents. Every ounce of the adults' energy is devoted, not to their own comfort and feeding, but to the survival of their young.

The notion of building nests is often used as a metaphor to describe people successfully providing for their own comforts. When we are comfortable, secure, and feel at home in our workplace or living area, we talk about the space being "our own little nest." The word nest often connotes shelter, coziness, homelike, comfortable.

Now consider "nests" we build in our churches. Does our giving serve us and our needs or serve God by serving the mission of the church to reach new people? Those new to the faith are as vulnerable as hatchlings

and require a steady and dedicated effort of feeding."

For those who practice generosity, the nests we build are not for ourselves – they are for the next generation, those new to the faith, the future of the body of Christ. Establishing funds within the FPC endowment through your estate plan is one way of showing that you care about the future of our church. Endowed funds can be set up in our church for continued current giving now or after death, scholarships, local or global missions, property maintenance, and gifts to enrich church programs.

Build a nest for the next generation. Contact Bob and Millie Youngquist (319-653-4673) [endowment@firstpreswac.org](mailto:endowment@firstpreswac.org) of our FPC endowment and memorials committee to discuss how you can be a supporter of our church long into the future.

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" 2 Corinthians 9:7

**FOLLOW US  
TO FACEBOOK**



**Follow, Like and leave a Comment!**

We would love to hear from you!

Find us by simply searching  
"First Presbyterian Church Iowa City"

### **FPC Book Club**

This group meets Tuesday, September 27 and will be discussing the book, *Gone to the Woods* by Gary Paulsen.



For the time and location contact Mary Linn at [JmLnn@aol.com](mailto:JmLnn@aol.com). Mark your calendar and start reading.



# First's Family

**If you have a news item for the First's Family News, please submit it for publication by September 1 to [tammy.foster@firstpreswiowacity.org](mailto:tammy.foster@firstpreswiowacity.org). Thank you!**

## August 15-31

8/15 Gary Olson  
8/16 Tony Warren  
8/16 Ben Faden  
8/16 Charlie Faden  
8/17 Steve Dodge  
8/20 David Van Dusseldorp  
8/20 Lauren Dengler  
8/20 Braden Brentner  
8/21 John Clark  
8/23 Millie Youngquist  
8/24 Becky Ross  
8/26 Jean Mafirira  
8/27 John Feagins  
8/27 Thomas Morgan  
8/31 Linda Younkin



## September 1-15

9/8 Marilou Gay  
9/9 Doran Pearson  
9/13 Perry Ross  
9/14 Janie Schomberg  
9/15 Molly Molsberry

## Happy 3rd Birthday

It's time to celebrate three years of being an extension of Christ by:

- ◆ Letting the community know we are here for them,
- ◆ That you don't need to be a member to have a prayer said for you,
- ◆ Offering a way to communicate with God,
- ◆ Allowing people to have access to the church from the outside.

*This year alone the Prayer Post has received over twenty prayer request along with three Bibles given out.*

To learn more, stop by and see how to  
*Pray More Worry Less*  
located along the Rochester Ave. sidewalk.



## Congratulations

On August 6 **Brent Foster and Abby Tornow** were joined in marriage by Rev. Beverly Hovenkamp. The wedding and reception took place at the Gathering Barn in Williamsburg, IA. Brent is the son of **Tammy and Jeff Foster** and Abby is the daughter of Sherry and Dave Tornow. Brent and Abby have been together through high school, Iowa State University, and as they begin this new chapter of their lives.

## Field Trip to UCC

*Jane Cranston, Reconciliation Ministry*

FPC's **Building and Grounds committee** and the **Reconciliation Ministry** had a great field trip to see the Unitarian Universalist Church in Iowa City. They have reached net zero in their energy consumption and they believe they may be the greenest church in Iowa. We had a tour of the facilities including bio cell swales, geo-thermal and solar heating and cooling. They also have outside raised gardens, seating for various group uses, and trails and walking paths. It is a beautiful and inspiring facility. We all came away with many ideas to ponder for the future.

## New Sunday Format for Christian Education Programs!

- 9–10 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages  
K and Under  
1st–5th Grades  
6th–8th Grades  
High School  
Wired Word  
ReAffirmation
- 10–10:20 a.m., Breakfast in  
Ryerson Hall
- 10:30 a.m., Worship



- 4–5 p.m.  
5th–8th Grade Youth Group  
Grow Group, Old Testament PM
- 5–6 p.m. Dinner for All Ages
- 6–6:45 p.m. Worship Leadership Lab with Leah
- 6:45–7:30 p.m. Confirmation
- 6–7:30 p.m. Jeremiah Justice Initiative



Sunday,  
September 11  
9 a.m.  
*Sunday School*

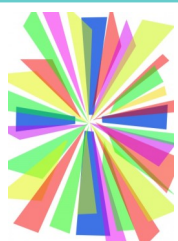


**NEW: Each 2nd  
Sunday of the month  
for  
4th–7th Graders!**

Each month, the  
5th–7th grade Youth Group (plus  
4th Graders) will meet with the First  
Congregational United Church of  
Christ for a  
**BIG EVENT from 3–5 p.m.**  
Afterwards, we'll come back  
to FPC and have a  
**POTLUCK DINNER for  
EVERYONE!**



**High School Youth Group** meets  
Wednesdays from 7–8:30 p.m.  
beginning **Wednesday, September 14.**



### Confirmation For 7th Graders!

Beginning **Sunday, September 11**  
from 6:45–7:30 p.m., we'll begin a new  
Confirmation Journey! I can't wait to see  
where God will take us!  
Email Anna today to sign up!



If you want to connect  
with friends, read the  
whole Old Testament in a  
school year, or if you

simply want to GROW in faith-

*Consider This!*

### GROW GROUPS, OLD TESTAMENT

Read 1–4 Chapters a day  
2–3 Questions each day  
Optional podcast for digging in!  
Meet once a week with friends

**Sundays PM from 4–5 p.m.**  
**Mondays AM from 9:30–10:30 a.m.**  
**Both Hybrid and In Person!**

Grow Groups begin **Sunday, August 21** so reach out to  
Anna and sign up today!

[Anna.Sheetz@firstpreswac.org](mailto:Anna.Sheetz@firstpreswac.org)

**YOUTH  
LOCK-IN**

The 7th Grade + Youth  
Lock-In is rescheduled  
for **Friday, September 16**  
at 5 p.m.  
\*There **MUST** be a male  
leader for this lock-in to  
happen.

Sign up today! Email Anna for more information  
or to volunteer



The Christian Education Ministry is hoping to host our first open since COVID Parent's Night Out!

This will happen potentially on **Friday, September 16**, from 5–7:30 p.m.

If you are a grown-up and would like to treat parent's to a night out, please let Anna Sheetz know today via Email!

We must have three "grown-ups" to make this event happen!

**Kid's Night In,  
Parent's Night Out!**



End of Summer Camping Trip is coming up!  
**August 26–August 28**,  
Sugarbottom Camp Ground

All Are Welcome to join or to visit!  
**RSVP to Anna Sheetz at  
anna.sheetz@firstpreswacivcityorg today!**

**CAMPING TRIP**



College Students and Young Adults are invited to a Weekly ZOOM Devo **each Wednesday** from 9–10 p.m. (Central Time).  
**Email Anna Sheetz for the ZOOM Link.**

**WOW!**

I am so pleased to announced that FPC has a lot of new leaders and teachers flooding the spaces they are so very needed! The Christian Education Team wants to be sure to train you in best practices, empower you in your programs, and just get to know you more!

**You are invited to two training opportunities:**

**Dinner: Sunday, August 28** from 5:30–7 p.m.

Please RSVP to Anna at [Anna.Sheetz@firstpreswacivcity.org](mailto:Anna.Sheetz@firstpreswacivcity.org) as to which time works best and any food allergies.





## I Wonder... VBX 2022 was a WONDERFUL TIME!



With 45 people involved, the first ever Weekend VBX (August 5–7) was a tremendous time! With lots of experiments, activities, games, and a Robot named “Bible Bot,” we learned about how God makes us each unique. We loved each other “Silly” with a Silly String Fight, we “Bubbled Over” with love, and even attempted to make clouds! Check back on next month’s newsletter to hear some highlights from our teachers and participants.

For now, it’s most important to say a big **THANK YOU** to the following people:

Nancy Gardner and Jeanie Wade-Nagel  
Perry Ross, Meg Dehner, and Sue Van Duyn  
Layne Sheetz and Rhonda Barr  
Judy Whitford and Stephanie Stamp  
Leann Graves and Sharon Raffensperger  
Maeleen and Jerry Thorius and Liz Bolin  
**THANK YOU! THANK YOU! Thank you!**

**You made this weekend a truly unforgettable time for the children and youth of FPC!**



## The Summer Trip for High School Students at FPC took us to Colorado for a life-



changing trip. From July 2–10, six youth and two adults took the adventure of a lifetime through Sky Ranch Ute Trail, a Christian Ministry based in Texas. We slept in tents the whole week, through rain and hail! Each day brought a new adventure—kayaking, rock climbing, white water rafting, backpacking, and a final trip up Pike’s Peak! Each of us were pushed farther than we expected—whether losing our control being lowered down from a rock cliff, climbing up a mountain at 13,000 feet, or sharing the most vulnerable parts of ourselves, it was truly an unforgettable experience.



As a leader, I have never seen such deep faith transformations happen so rapidly. Students who had totally sworn off their faith were challenged, pushed, and found God again. Students who expected to find God in *this* box, found God in *that* space. Relationships were pushed and then talked through. There were discussions about faith, God, love, expectations, communications, and so much more. This was a trip I would highly recommend for years to come and memories I will cherish. I will never forget the awe, the wonder, and the life changing trip of Sky Ranch Summer 2022 with Ryan Brentner, Ben Faden, Charlie Faden, Nile Franz, Rachel Marsh, Avery Provorse, and leader Jeremy Faden. Thank you to the FPC Community for supporting this trip! I can’t wait to tell you more about it!

- Anna Sheetz



## Session Meeting Highlights of July 2022

*Submitted by Interim Clerk, Nancy Weber*

The session met July 19, 2022 on Zoom. Pastor Kyle Otterbein called the meeting to order and declared a quorum. Elder Jane Cranston offered devotions and prayer.

Session discussed a report submitted by the Pastor Nominating Committee, followed by a discussion of a Personnel Committee's report.

**A motion was approved** to support the Congregational Health Ministry's request to organize an FPC team to support the "Walk to End Alzheimer's" fund raiser on September 18, 2022, which will be held at City Park.

Reconciliation committee announced that Pakistan Education board's Veda Gill will be visiting FPC September 11–18, 2022.

Worship and Arts committee presented two **motions that were approved**. First, that Session accept the bid from Patrick Budelier Pipe Organ Services, LLC at an estimated cost of \$47,078 to repair the electronics of the Phelps Organ. Second, that Session authorize a focused fund-raising campaign to secure the funds needed over and above those that are available in the

Organ Reserve-Repair Fund and the operating budget and whatever can be gleaned out of the Endowment fund according to the rules, to make the repairs to the Phelps Organ. Both motions were approved.

It was noted that Toni Thompson (daughter of Duane and Sue Thompson) was inurned in the FPC columbarium on June 30, 2022.

There were two deaths noted in July: Jack Perkins died on July 2, 2022. The funeral was held July 11, 2022 at Lensing's Funeral Home. Nancy Powers died on July 5, 2022. A family committal will be held on September 4 at the FPC columbarium by Rev. Gary L. Burnett

Closing prayer was offered by Elder Lara Marsh.



## Income / Expense Update — July 2022

*Co-Moderators of Finance, Leann Graves and Nancy Gardner*

	Year to Date (Jan.–July)	Last Year (Jan.–July)
<b>Income</b>	\$285,668	\$366,358
<b>Expense</b>	\$284,937	\$332,718
<b>Total +/-</b>	\$ 731	\$ 33,639

### Who Is Teaching Stewardship?

*Kathy Follows, Stewardship Committee*

Can you remember who instilled your beliefs about giving money, time and talents to the church? I can clearly remember being given coins to drop in the basket as it was passed down the pew on Sunday mornings. Later, my brother and I each got a dime which we pasted into a small envelope to be given during Sunday School. But most of all, I remember my father, week after week, sitting at the dining table where he did all of his financial planning, writing a check each Sunday morning in preparation for church. Yes, it was a different time back then, but the needs of the church, and the world, are still here. Perhaps *how* we give has changed, but not the *why*. Who is teaching our children to be good stewards?

BELIEVE AND  
UNDERSTAND THAT  
EVERYTHING YOU  
HAVE BELONGS TO  
GOD.

## Dear Members and Friends,

Session adopted its Open Information Policy to communicate to the membership about its work and the work of its committees. What follows are instructions for accessing information.

Instructions on viewing Open Access to information documents on FPC Website

- ◆ Call **Tammy Schroeder 319-351-2660** for the password
- ◆ Go to FPC website [firstpreswiowacity.org](http://firstpreswiowacity.org)
- ◆ Scroll down Homepage to *Open Access to Information*
- ◆ Review list of Recently Updated documents
- ◆ Click View Repository
- ◆ Enter Password and click enter button
- ◆ Click on Click Here button
- ◆ Page opens to Committee Folder listings
- ◆ Click on desired folder to open and views documents

### Example:

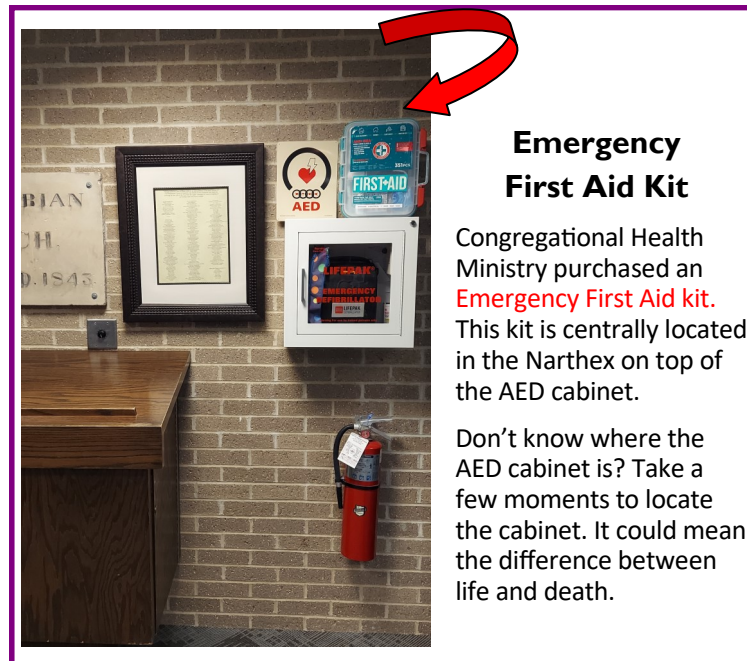
Click on **Session Folder**

**Minutes** (contains Minutes from Clerk)

**Monthly Packet** (contains documents for preparation of said month's meeting)

Click on document you wish to see.

Open  
Information



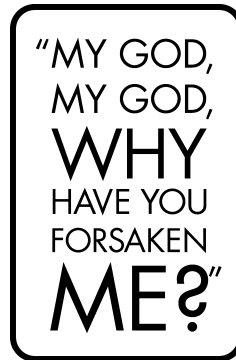
## Bible Quiz

There are two places in the Bible that use the following words: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" One location is in the Old Testament and the second is in the New Testament.

The New Testament account is found in Matthew 27:46, when Jesus is hanging on the cross.

Where are the words found in the Old Testament?

- A. 1Kings 19:4
- B. Jeremiah 38:9
- C. Psalm 22:1
- D. Lamentations 1:20

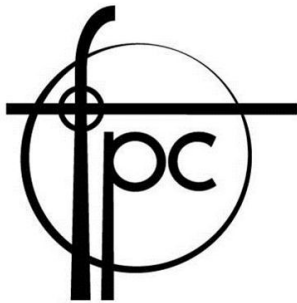


Answer: C





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**Public Office Hours:**  
9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Monday—Friday  
*except holidays or when announced*  
Ph 319-351-2660  
[www.firstpresbiowacity.org](http://www.firstpresbiowacity.org)

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