



Christmas
Eve Service

*Join us as we celebrate
with candlelight worship
at 6:00 p.m.*

For unto us a child is born ... (Isaiah 9:6)

Christmas Eve and Melissa's last service

With Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday, we're celebrating a little differently this year. Join us at **10:30** on the morning of December 24 for regular Sunday worship as we light the 4th Advent candle, the candle for Love. Then, at **6 p.m.** we will gather in the candlelight as one body and with Melissa accompanying us one last time to celebrate the birth of Jesus with a service of Lessons and Carols. We will open with an extended prelude and sing many well-known carols as well as one or two that may be new to you. If you find that your favorite carols were somehow left out, come back on December 31 as the season of Christmas (and Christmas carols) continues.



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Happy Advent! And soon, Merry Christmas!

After our music festival December 3, I spent some time during fellowship hour at a table full of music aficionados lamenting the limited time available to sing traditional Christmas hymns. This is our first Christmas together, and so you will not yet know that I love Christmas music. When last I checked, I had in my music collection (yes, I am stubborn enough that I have not entirely given up and switched to Spotify or Apple Music) 28 hours of Christmas music, including pop masterpieces like *A Twisted Christmas* (Twisted Sister) and *Christmas From the Heart* (Bob Dylan; a present from a former youth director I worked with in Beverly), classics sung by Mahalia Jackson, and a dozen collections from church services. In my seven years in Boston, I would rush to the Sanders Theater box office on the first day of ticket sales for the Christmas Revels, an annual celebration of the Winter Solstice, so I could get my favorite seats for opening night. And during the 10 years of long drives between Ankeny and Iowa City, I would only allow us to listen to the year's Lessons and Carols service from King's College.



It is this love of Christmas music that leads me to spend the last week of December every year pursuing one of my great passions: celebrating the whole 12 days of Christmas. It has generally been my habit to be in the pulpit on the Sunday after Christmas (I will be honest; I might not have pursued this passion as energetically if I could remember to ask for pulpit supply in October or November), singing all the hymns and carols that we left out of the Christmas Eve Service. In past years, celebrating through the Sunday after Christmas meant breaking myself away from a hibernation with my parents in Iowa City and returning to Ankeny, hoping to make it back to The Mill in time for New Year's Eve. Happily, I now simply have to walk across the street (if, unhappily, The Mill is now gone).

So on December 24, join us for the last Sunday of Advent in the morning, come to usher in the nativity of Jesus at 6pm and hear Melissa on the (fingers crossed) organ one last time, then come back on December 31 to sing many of the hymns we missed on Christmas Eve as we prepare to ring in the New Year and, on January 7, new officers, new members, and a new baptism.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Nathan

We're Almost There-But We Still Need You!

~Nancy Gardner (Stewardship Committee Moderator)

The numbers don't lie! We are drawing ever closer to our stewardship goal of \$532, 198 for 2024. Our programs, personnel, outreach, mission work, and the building itself depend on the generosity of our members, and many of you have answered the call.

But, we are not there yet! And, we won't get there unless EVERYONE recognizes the importance of their pledge. Big or small, every pledge helps. Your gift can make the difference; your gift can support the many ways that FPC impacts individuals here at church, in our community, and around the world.

Pledge cards may be picked up at the church, or call the office to have a card mailed to you. You may also pledge online using the church website.

*Giving
IN Gratitude*



First's Family

If you have a news item for the First's Family News, please submit it for publication by January 2 to tammy.foster@firstpreswacivcity.org. Thank you!

December 15-31

12/17 Roxanne Boysen
12/17 Gary Burnett
12/18 Chitoka Webb
12/19 Deb Boland
12/20 Ryan Brentner
12/20 Tammy Foster
12/21 Helen Sheets
12/22 Cory Morris
12/23 Laurie Thedens
12/24 Joe Graves
12/27 Lucille Hamilton
12/28 Sarah Klemuk
12/30 Mike Sheetz



January 1-15

1/3 Joe Stockman
1/4 Bryce Christensen
1/6 Reg Cooper
1/7 Ann Burton
1/7 John Ruyle
1/9 Shea Paulsen
1/10 Brian Kleis
1/12 Liz Bolin
1/13 Linda Couch
1/13 George Minot
1/14 Wanda Martin
1/14 Ben Nicholson
1/14 Oliver Sheetz

A Fond Farewell to Melissa Moll

Join us **THIS SUNDAY** after worship as we bid farewell to our organist Melissa Moll. The past 8 years have seen four music directors, four pastors, two major organ refurbishments, a global pandemic, and one organist. As we prepare to enter 2024, Melissa has decided it is time for her to move on from us. Her last service will be Christmas Eve. Through her time here, her commitment to musical excellence has been obvious to everyone, but those who have worked closely with her know that her thoughtfulness about the worship setting and accessibility for everyone who might come into the sanctuary are gifts equally difficult to replicate. So come to Ryerson Hall after the pageant, eat cake, and reminisce as we say "thank you".



*Known
to have been
Hospitalized:*

**Anita Burnett and
Becky Ross**



FPC Youth went caroling at Legacy on December 10.



The PreK-Grade 2 kids enjoyed presenting a live nativity to the congregation on December 10.





CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday, December 17

9 a.m.: Breakfast FUNDRAISER for summer trips scholarships
Christmas Pageant during Worship Service
4 p.m.: Youth Christmas Party and Potluck

Winter Break: December 24–January 20
Christian Education 10 a.m. Classes will resume Sunday, January 21
Youth Program Activities begin February 4

Sunday, January 21

9 a.m.: Breakfast and Programming Resumes!
4 p.m.: 3Gs, Youth Choir, Dinner

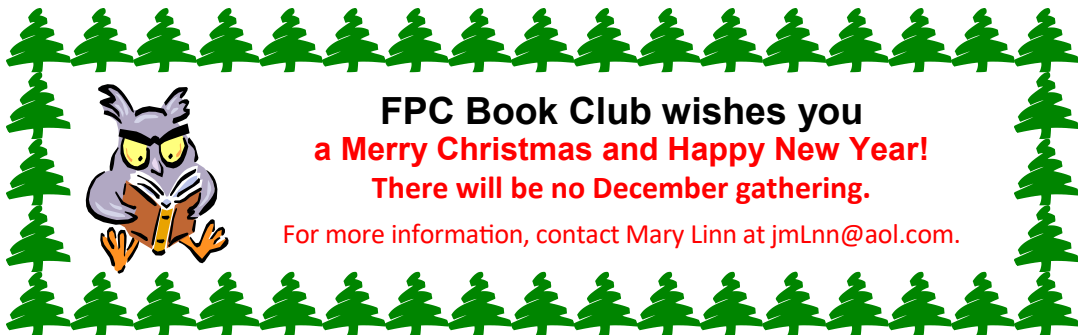
Sunday, January 28

9 a.m.: Breakfast and Sunday School Classes
4 p.m.: BIG EVENT and Potluck Dinner



Winter Retreat with Friends from all over the Presbytery!

6th–8th Graders at Camp Bear Creek
\$75 per participant
Deadline to RSVP: **January 15**
Contact Anna Sheetz for more info!



Sunday, December 17

Breakfast Fundraiser at 9 a.m.

FUNDRAISER



Why are we raising funds?

What will they do?

Monies raised will go towards the cost of trips away from the church. Families pay 50%, while the church (through fundraising) hopes to pay the other half.

Summer Trip #1

Camp Stronghold
for 6th-8th Graders

Full Price: \$525

Price for FPC

Families: \$265

SUMMER TRIP #2

CREATION CARE IN
COLORADO

5TH GRADERS-ADULT

FULL PRICE \$700

PRICE FOR FPC FAMILIES:

\$350

Financial Support for
youth going to
Camp Bear Creek
(previously Camp
Wyoming)

BEAR  CREEK



During Worship!

The Living Word Pageant

Come see the FPC Children and Youth as they remind us of the astounding story, of how God reveals true power and glory!



Summer Trips 2024 potential participants must RSVP and have a \$100 deposit to Anna Sheetz by Sunday, January 7, 2024.



Camp Stronghold, Best Week Ever
Current 5th–8th Graders

June 9–June 14

What we learned last summer is that when St. Andrew PC says, “The best week ever,” they mean *the best week ever*. We’ll learn together with our siblings from St. Andrew, learn about God, play NIGHT GAMES, and eat some delicious food while all in a castle and for a whole week!

What we’re excited about? A whole week for playing and learning. What else could you want?

The Christian Education Ministry has graciously decided that the church will split the costs with participants.

After this savings, the trip cost per participant is below:

Camp Stronghold for 5th–8th Graders: \$265

Creation Care in Colorado: \$350

Students in 5th–8th Grade who attend BOTH trips: \$500 (a \$115 savings!)

The Team also wanted to make explicitly clear that there is scholarship funding available.

No one will be turned away from these amazing opportunities due to funding. All you need to do is confidentially tell Anna your need.

For any questions or concerns, please contact Anna Sheetz, Director of Christian Education, at Anna.Sheetz@firstpresbiowacity.org

Creation Care in Colorado
Current 5th Graders—105 Years Old!

June 29–July 7

“In the middle of the soaring mountains and the beautiful nature of Denver, your group will learn how to be good caretakers of creations and how to be leaders for eco-justice in your own community! Your group will learn how our faith calls us to care for creation, how environmental justice directly affects us and our neighbors, and what we can do about it.”

What we’re excited about? That this is FPC’s very first Intergenerational Trip! To learn about the climate no less! Plus we’ll take a train to and from Colorado—no exhausted adults on a long haul!



**SAVE
THE DATE**

Vacation Bible eXperience 2024 is on the books!

Save the date: **Sunday, August 4–Thursday, August 8**

Interested in volunteering?

First VBX planning meeting is February 4 following worship!

Nominating Committee Presents Slate on Sunday, January 7, 2024

Report of the 2023 Nominating Committee and election of officers, Endowment Committee and Nominating Committee at-large members.

Elders: Class of 2026, John Barr, Travis Martin, David Van Dusseldorp and Judy Whitford

Deacons: Class of 2026, Cynthia Chou, Kristin Marrs, Susan Van Duyn, Annie Westfall

Endowment/Memorial Committee: Class of 2026, Amy Smith

Officer Nominating Committee for 2024: Rhonda Barr, Anita Burnett, Jamie Helmick, Perry Ross

The 2023 Officer Nominating Committee: elected by the congregation — Rhonda Barr, Anita Burnett, Perry Ross; elected by the Session — Leann Graves, moderator; Mary Ellen Stamp — elected by the Deacons, Ann Grosscup

Elder Nominees, Class of 2026

John Barr—John is a professor emeritus in the Physical Therapy Department at St. Ambrose University. He and his wife, Rhonda, members of FPC since 1983, have three adult sons. Eldest son Greg married Gisele Trimboli at First Church in September. Most recently at FPC, John has served as: co-chairperson of the Capital Campaign; moderator of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, a member of the Reconciliation Ministry; convenor of the Men's Group, and a member of the Jeremiah Justice Initiative study group. In the community, he is a co-convenor of the Consultation of Religious Communities (CRC), a member of the leadership group for the CRC's Warm Winter Wear Distribution, and a member of *Team FPC* at the Free Lunch Program. John looks forward to a second term as an Elder during these exciting times at FPC.

Travis Martin—Travis has been a member of First Presbyterian Church for around 10 years. He and his wife, Kayla, have three kids (Carter, Alice, and Calvin) who keep both of them quite busy. The kids have enjoyed Sunday School and Vacation Bible School along with other church activities. Travis particularly enjoys the social justice aspect of First Presbyterian Church and the warmth of the congregation. In his spare time, he enjoys cooking, watching the Hawkeyes, and putting up Christmas lights.

David VanDusseldorp—David joined First Church over fifty years ago as an eighth grader. He has served on Session in the eighties and a number of councils and committees over the years. Beyond our congregation, he has served the denomination with committee work at the Synod of Lakes and Prairies and Presbytery of East Iowa. David feels blessed being married for forty-three years to Debbie Beermann and having a church home to help nurture their two daughters.

Judy Whitford—Judy joined First Presbyterian Church in 2003. She served as an Elder before taking the Christian Education position for several years. She has two grown children and six granddaughters. Judy's son and family live in Solon. Her daughter and family live in Warsaw, Poland. She has been a teacher, Christian educator, resort owner and office manager. Judy is currently retired and living at Vintage Cooperative of Coralville. Her hobbies are traveling with her children, cheering on

granddaughters playing volleyball, and reading. She is Board President at VCC. Her faith is the foundation of who she is, and she looks forward to serving on the Session again.

Deacon Nominees, Class of 2026

Cynthia Chou-Liang—Cynthia was originally from Singapore. Before moving to Iowa, she lived in several other countries: United Kingdom, Indonesia, the Netherlands, and Denmark. In 2016, she and her late husband, James Liang, moved to Iowa City. She is a cultural anthropologist and works at the Department of Anthropology and heads the Center for Asian and Pacific Studies at the University of Iowa. She looks forward to serving as a Deacon again.

Kristin Marrs—Kristin is a Cedar Rapids native who returned to Iowa after a decade-long career as a ballet dancer. Kristin is happy to call Iowa City home with her husband, Patrick Budelier, and their children, Theo and Aurelia. Kristin is an Associate Professor of Instruction at the University of Iowa Department of Dance and a certified Alexander Technique teacher. Raised in the United Methodist Church, Kristin is also a member of the Associates of Iowa Cistercians, a contemplative group that seeks to integrate monastic values with lay Christian life. Her favorite hymn is *Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown*.

Susan Van Duyn—Iowa City and First Presbyterian Church have been major influences in Sue's life. She was raised in Old Brick (the congregation's prior home) and was married there. Her education began in Iowa City, starting in kindergarten and leading to her undergraduate degree in elementary education and psychology. The last 23 years of her education career were spent as an elementary counselor at Western Hills Elementary in West Des Moines. When Sue retired, she moved back to Iowa City and First Presbyterian Church. Her efforts for the church include: Congregational Health Ministries Team, Reconciliation Ministry, and Deacons. She also secures liturgists for the Sunday services, volunteers as a facilitator for "Honoring Your Wishes," and cares for the children's bags and the planters in front of the church. Sue looks forward to continue serving as a Deacon again and supporting the congregation of First Church!

Annie Westfall—Annie and her family moved to Iowa City in 2003. But it was not Annei's first time here! She had graduated from the University of Iowa with a B.A. in French and Linguistics. Annie considers herself a serious "rolling stone" and has lived in many different states in the U.S. and several countries abroad. She received a Master of Arts in Hispanic Linguistics from Indiana University at Bloomington and her Ph.D. in Spanish and Romance Languages from the University of Texas at Austin. She has been teaching a variety of college level Spanish courses ever since, including at UC Berkeley, Luther College in Decorah, Kirkwood, and the U of Iowa. Annie finds wonder and joy in most anything, but especially in being outside and exploring God's beautiful creation. She has led numerous Bible studies and is enthusiastic about joining in fellowship to study the Word and form close bonds within the church family. She enjoys gardening, camping, swimming, hiking, yoga, old stuff, animals and bugs of all kinds, getting together with her sisters, travelling, and the great state of Nebraska. At First Presbyterian, Annie has been a member of the Welcome Committee and the Adult Christian Ed Committee. She is married to Dan Katalinich, and they have two grown children, a daughter, Lauren, who is currently living in London and a son, Nate, who lives in Iowa City.

Endowment Committee, Class of 2026

Amy Smith—Amy Hackman grew up in Ames, Iowa, and graduated from ISU. She was a member at Collegiate Presbyterian Church in Ames before moving to Iowa City in the early 2000s and becoming a member at FPC. She has worked as a public health dietitian at Johnson County for two decades. Over the years, Amy has served as a Deacon, sang in the choir, and participated in the Jeremiah Justice Initiative. She and her husband, Jason, live in west Iowa City.

Nominating Committee, Class of 2024

Rhonda Barr—Rhonda has been a member at FPC for over 38 years. She is married to John and has three grown sons: Greg (Gisele), Tom, and Evan. She worked at UIHC as a physical therapist for 41 years, now retired for the past six years. Rhonda has served FPC in various capacities: Elder, Deacon, Sunday School teacher, and Congregational Health Ministries, for which she is currently the chair. She is also a facilitator for the Honoring Your Wishes program at FPC. Rhonda is a long-time member of the JuBELLation choir and frequently assists worship as a lay liturgist. She served on the Nominating Committee in 2022 and 2023 and now looks forward to continuing to serve in this capacity in 2024.

Our Session has called a Congregational Meeting immediately following 10:30 a.m. worship on Sunday, January 7, 2024 for the purpose of electing new officers.

CONGREGATIONAL Meeting

Anita Burnett retired from a career as a church educator that took her to six congregations in four states. Spouse, Gary, and Anita have two children; one died in 1986 and the other lives in Columbia, SC, as does her young adult son. Anita is ordained both Deacon and Ruling Elder, positions that brought service in three congregations as well as presbytery, synod and General Assembly. She loves the connectional nature of the PC(USA) and cherishes opportunities to serve both locally and the larger church.

Jamie Helmick—Jamie Helmick (they/them) grew up in Washington, Iowa, and moved to the Iowa City area ten years ago; they currently live in North Liberty, a stone's throw away from the rec center & library. They are on the North Liberty Library Board which allows Jamie's passion for books and justice to thrive. Jamie is a disabled, chronically ill, neurodivergent, queer non-binary person and uses their voice to fervently advocate for other people in those communities. Through nothing less than a God-incidence, Jamie met an FPC member at a panel on mental illness in the fall of 2014 and mentioned before the panel that they were looking for a church home and had previously attended United Presbyterian Church. Jamie was on the Pastor Nominating Committee in 2021-2022. They have previously been a volunteer youth leader, youth choir assistant, and a member of the sanctuary choir. Jamie is passionate about creating community and engaging in worship for everyone; they love to travel to Montreat once a year for the Arts, Recreation, and Worship Conference. They believe that intentional community building with recreational activities can bring together a community, especially when they are inclusive to all people. Jamie enjoys spending their time working at Emma Goldman Clinic part time, sharing tv shows like Ted Lasso and Abbott Elementary with friends, cuddling with their kitten, Artemis, doing crafty things, baking, and traveling when there is "extra" money.

Perry Ross—Perry and his wife, Becky, have been members of First Presbyterian Church since 1993. Perry's a lifelong Presbyterian and has served on the Session, as a Deacon, and on the Nominating Committee in the past. He has taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School at the church many times. Becky and Perry also serve on the Green Team.



Year-End Giving Advantages

The FPC Endowment and Memorials Committee

Bob and Millie Youngquist, Coordinators

As we approach the holiday season, many of us will find ourselves busy buying presents for our loved ones. While you celebrate this special time with both family and friends, we encourage you to think about giving a year-end gift to the church as well. When you make a planned gift, you will be giving something that will continue in perpetuity.

Endowment funds are gifts that keep on giving, securing the financial future of the church. An endowment is a gift that can be invested to support various needs in the church such as missions, scholarships, building maintenance and even enhance the services of our church.

When you choose to make a planned gift, you will experience a sense of satisfaction; knowing that the gift you have made will make a lasting impact, not just another gift that will soon be discarded after the Christmas tree is put away.

Imagine if someone could create an endowment to underwrite the musical experience we all deeply loved this year on Sunday, December 3. The combined choirs of our church and the Presbyterian Church in Marion enhanced with imaginative arrangements and an inspiring orchestra could be something that could happen again and again if we had enough financial backing. An endowment to cover this could help to assure this event would continue year after year as a standard part of the Christmas season. What a blessing this would be to us all!

In November, the FPC Endowment/Memorial Committee met to consider several grant requests received from FPC staff, committees, and local organizations. In total \$29,936.50 was awarded from the annual distributions from the FPC Endowment Funds invested at Hills and US Bank.

- The committee awarded \$10,000 to DVIP (Domestic Violence Intervention Program) to support the construction of their new \$6 million facility. This is FPC's second installment of a three-year pledge.

- \$5,500 was given to Friends of Pasrur for the Pasrur Christian School in Pakistan for scholarships for 10 students.
- \$5,000 was awarded to Anna Scheetz to cover her expenses for her participation as one of 12 leaders of the Association of Partners in Christian Education. This organization creates annual events for Christian Education Leaders around the world.
- \$250 was given to the Iowa City Little Creations Academy to fund field trip expenses for the 3 and 4 year-old children attending this daycare center.
- \$186.50 was approved for childcare for the 2024 Women's Fall Retreat.

As you can see, our endowment funds are truly enhancing the offerings of our church.

While considering a planned gift, know that you can give gifts other than cash. Gifts can include stocks and bonds, appreciated securities, insurance policies, retirement plans, art or antique collections, real estate and other assets. The gifts may be made through such vehicles as trusts, charitable gift annuities, a donor advised fund or a bequest in a will. We encourage you to discuss this gift with your financial advisor. If you would like more information about making a bequest specifically to FPC, please contact First Presbyterian Church's Endowment Coordinators Bob and Millie Youngquist at 319-653-4673 or Pastor Nathan Willard 319-351-2660.

In Philippians 4:15, Paul writes, "I do want you to experience the blessing that issues from generosity" (The Message). We know that you are working hard to bless your family and friends this holiday season with presents under the tree. We want to encourage you to think about how you can also experience the blessing that comes from planned giving.

Sometimes the happiness and excitement of the holidays feels anything but happy, especially if you have lost a loved one. Congregational Health Ministry would like to offer *Getting Through the Holidays When You've Lost a Loved One*, this pamphlet offers words of encouragement and a bit of guidance. Available in the Narthex, take one for yourself or for someone whom you know is struggling.



What is your Legacy to the World?

Have you ever thought about this? In 100 years we will all be cremated or buried with our relatives and friends. Strangers will live in our homes we fought so hard to build, and they will own everything we have today. All our possessions will be sold or recycled, including the car we spent a fortune on. Our descendants will hardly know who we were, nor will they remember us. How many of us know our grandfather's father? After we die, we will be remembered for a few more years, then we are just a portrait on someone's bookshelf, and a few years later our history, photos and deeds disappear in history's oblivion. We won't even be memories.
-Emerson Trindade

When I first read this, it stopped me in my tracks. I thought about our old family photos, people who lived 100 years ago and realized I knew nothing about who they really were. I knew that we all pass on, but hadn't thought of "disappearing" quite so fast.

What DO we leave of ourselves that makes a difference? Perhaps our most lasting legacy is the good works we do, the lasting resonance of our kindness. Goodness, just as well as cruelty, is often contagious. Kindness begets kindness. Good works lead to more good works. The things that we do or that we leave undone have ripples into the future.

I believe that educating little girls in Pakistan, at the Pasrur Christian Girls school, will have positive implications for generations. It is a lasting legacy of the good works of this congregation. **At this writing, we do not have enough money for scholarships to cover all 100 girls who have attended school.** We are hoping more money for scholarships will come in soon so that we can send all 100 girls back to school. We hope you will consider being part of this legacy of first Presbyterian Church and consider a donation to this wonderful program.

If you would like to contribute, there are forms on the table underneath the Reconciliation Ministry bulletin board. Any contribution is greatly appreciated. A full scholarship for the boarding school is \$550 per year. That includes room, meals, tuition, books, and uniforms. The cost works out to be about \$1.50 a day. You can give this to the church office, the collection plate, or donate online. Thank you.

Jane Cranston
Friends of Pasrur



Reflecting on those who have given in the past.



Do You Hear What I Hear?

We have some great news for those of you who have been increasingly feeling as if you are a student in a Charlie Brown special while sitting in our sanctuary! Our Worship and Arts team, led by Steve Schomberg, has been hard at work finding ways to improve the clarity of our sound system. We have a pair of new speakers on order and hope to have them mounted for a trial sometime in the next few weeks. As part of this project (largely funded by memorials, but supplemented by a generous donation), we are also investigating our narthex audio issues.

End-of-Year gifts

Throughout this year, we have heard stories of how the ministry of First Presbyterian Church affects our lives and the lives in our community. Whether it is in coming together to say goodbye to our beloved siblings in Christ, or heading out the door to feed hungry people every month, or even gathering together to celebrate the children's pageant, we come together to live lives of justice, mercy, and faith. As we come into the final days of the year, we ask you to consider making an end-of-year gift, either as part of our 2023 church budget or as an ongoing gift to our endowment.





FPC is serving at Free Lunch Program Thursday, December 21

Join us at 1105 Gilbert Court, Suite 100
Prep work begins at 10 a.m.

The Free Lunch Program (FLP) is one of the “quiet services” in the Iowa City area that strives to do one thing well: provide a free, filling and healthy lunch to anyone who comes to us. Volunteers bring a spirit of caring and compassion to the program as the people we serve are treated as guests. Lunch is served by teams of dedicated volunteers Monday through Saturday from noon to 1 p.m.



"An open door, a full plate, no questions asked"

Feeling stressed and overwhelmed?

Who isn't with the holidays around the corner, the days are shorter, the nights are longer and the temps are colder?

Here is a little puppy love to remind you that the Prayer Post is waiting for you to leave your worries to God. Stop by, drop off a confidential prayer request and take a deep breath; we are all in this together!

The Prayer Post is located on Rochester Ave., north of the church along the sidewalk.



A Gardener's Version of the Night Before Christmas

Adapted from *The Gardener*,
November-December, 1983.

"Twas the night before Christmas and all through the yard the branches were bare and the ground frozen hard; the roses were dormant and mulched all around to protect them from damage if frost heaves the ground.



The perennials were nestled all snug in their beds while visions of 5-10-5 danced in their heads. The newly planted shrubs, had been soaked by the hose to settle their roots for the long winter's doze; and out on the lawn, the new fallen snow protected the roots of the grasses below.

When what to my wondering eyes should appear but a truck full of gifts of gardening gear. Saint Nick was the driver—the jolly old elf and he winked as he said, "I'm a gardener myself. I've brought wilt-pruf, rootone, and gibberellin, too. Father can try them and see what they do.

To start new plants, a propagating kit. Sparkling new shears, for the old apple tree. To seed your new lawn, I've a patented sower; in case it should grow, here's a new power mower. For seed planting days, I've a trowel and a dibble. And a roll of wire mesh if the rabbits should nibble.

For the feminine gardener, some gadgets she loves; plant stakes, a sprinkler, and waterproof gloves; a chemical agent for her compost pit. And for pH detecting, a soil testing kit. With these colorful flagstones, lay a new garden path, for the kids to enjoy, and bird feeder and bath.

And last but not least, some well-rotted manure. A green Christmas year round, these gifts will ensure."

Then jolly Saint Nick, having emptied his load, started his truck and took to the road. And I heard him exclaim through the motor's loud hum "Merry Christmas to all, and to all a green thumb!"

Thank you to everyone who made the Cookie Walk a great success.

Over 200 dozen cookies were donated—raising over \$2,400 that will be donated to the Free Lunch Program.

Special shout out to Deb Boland for her leadership.



Needles, Hooks and Yarn

**We wish you a
Merry Christmas and a
Healthy, Happy New Year!**

Interested in joining this group of knitters and crocheters? Contact Tammy Schroeder at 319-351-2660.

We look forward to seeing you in 2024!

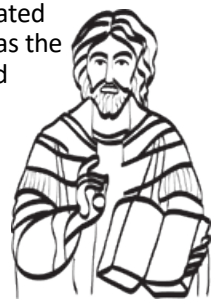


BIBLE QUIZ

A New Testament book says God designated Jesus as a “high priest” and that Jesus was the most perfect mediator between God and humans.

Choose the name of the book below:

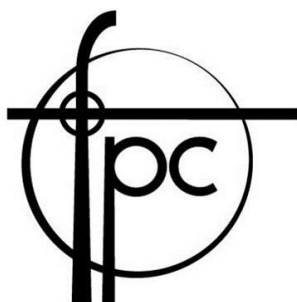
- A. Romans
- B. Hebrews
- C. Matthew
- D. Revelations



Answer: B (see chapters 5:1-10 and 9:11-15.)

First Presbyterian Church

2701 Rochester Ave.
Iowa City, Iowa 52245



Public Office Hours:

9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. Monday—Thursday
except holidays or when announced

Ph 319-351-2660

www.firstpresidiowacity.org



While the worship and service to God are vital to Christian life, your safety is our priority. We ask that you make the best decision for you and your family and do not attempt travel during inclement weather.

If the **Iowa City Community School District** cancels school and events due to weather, the church office will follow their guidelines and close and any scheduled activities cancelled. If a delay is announced, the office will open when schools open.

If winter weather will affect **Sunday worship**, a link will be emailed and posted on Facebook offering a prayer service on Zoom led by staff.

We will advise you of cancellations by email, posting on our website and on Facebook. Cancellations of church activities will also be posted on KCRG-TV (channel 9) and Iowa News Now/KGAN (channel 2).

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