

# FIRST'S FAMILY



December 15, 2018–  
January 15, 2019  
Volume 62 Issue 11

## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to You and Yours!

Your friends on the First Presbyterian Church staff thank you for being God's gifts of peace to the world. They also remind you, as they must periodically remind themselves, to put first things first this Christmas season. With love and blessings, and prayers for your New Year,



Gerald Hill

Judy Whitford

Deb Jensen-Simley

Ann Shetz

Leah B.

Sam Massey

Tammy Schroeder Dennis Pedde

Quinn Jean

Melissa K. Moll

Tammy Foster

Lore Shetz

*If you have not yet turned in  
your pledge card for 2019 please do  
so! Every generous commitment  
counts this year.*



## Celebrate Christmas with Us



### Sunday, December 23, 2018

9:00 a.m. Family Breakfast  
9:30 a.m. [SPACE] Education time  
10:30 a.m. Worship

### Monday, December 24, 2018 ~ Christmas Eve

4:30–5:15 p.m. Family Candlelight Worship with Youth Choir  
6:45 p.m. Carol Sing  
7:00–8:30 p.m. Candlelight Worship with Sanctuary Choir and String Ensemble

### Tuesday, December 25 ~ Merry Christmas

No worship service

### Sunday, December 30 ~ Sunday after Christmas

10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH U.S.A.

2701 Rochester Ave. • Iowa City • Iowa • 319-351-2660 • [www.firstpresioiwacity.org](http://www.firstpresioiwacity.org)

## Dear sisters and brothers of and First Presbyterian Church,



I sit in my office on Monday, November 26, the day after a snow. I confess that no matter how much I prefer spring and summer or even fall, the first snow of winter always thrills me. Autumn's undone work is now obscured by a blanket of white. The last bugs get the message that hibernation is their only option. Shoveling is tedious, yet the sense of accomplishment that comes with it is seldom matched. We creep toward solstice, and while snow-capped browns sway artistically in crisp winds, the bedecked evergreens speak to my Germanic primordial roots:

To Winter (English Translation)

Welcome, dear Winter!  
Welcome here to the land!  
How rich you are, playing with  
pearls, as though they were sand!

You've sprinkled the yard,  
The garden paths with them;  
On the tree branches  
They line up by the thousands.

Your breath, dear winter  
Is colder, but healthy;  
Only keep a tight rein on storms,  
Or else it's too much!

(Elisabeth Kulmann, 1808–1825)

The Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend, however, I met the news of snow with two minds. First, I gleefully read the weather report and envisioned the beauty that soon would arrive. The prospect of it interfering with my normal routine aggravated me a bit, yet nothing could dampen my enthusiasm, except . . .

I experienced a distinct downside to the approach of snow. Susan, Will and his fiancée Yana had come home to join DJ and me for Thanksgiving, an event that I had been anticipating excitedly since July. For a brief time, I forsook reading, writing, thinking and exercise just to hang out with family. Saturday night would allow us to finish our tournament of Sequence and feast on my famous scalloped oysters. Sunday morning would find us all in the pew together worshipping, a rare treat for me.

The forecast suddenly changed all our plans. Susan, Will and Yana quickly packed their bags and vehicles. They left unceremoniously (north or west) to beat any possible blizzard. Suddenly I stood on the porch, the permanently vine-wrapped Christmas lights glowing above, waving at receding taillights in the deep darkness: bummer. I was in a Hallmark movie gone wrong. This was not what I envisioned for the conclusion of a joyful holiday of family bonding. It felt more than disappointing.

Chances are good our family will not be all together again without interruption at Christmas or at Easter. Such a

joyful reunion free of intrusion will certainly not occur at the wedding in May. Indeed, for now, I cannot foresee a future when such a glad reunion will happen again. So I am waiting, in hope, for that which I can imagine and yet cannot now see. I will be telling myself, "If it seems slow, wait for it." It is, after all, Advent. It is the time to wait. The season fits my fitful mood.

For me, Advent is not the slow crawl toward an orgy of self-pity marked by a sad absence. Yet, it is also not about family. It is not about gifts or Christmas services. Frankly, it is not even about the birth of Jesus that happened so long ago.

Rather, Advent is about waiting for deliverance, for the surprising arrival of God in a special way that was exemplified by the birth of Jesus and is now fully expressed in his resurrection from the dead. We wait, without always knowing its content, for a miracle. An author for the Alban Institute shares this thought with us:

*A little more than a year ago, on Oct. 8, 2016, darkness and floodwaters overwhelmed 5,000 households in Robeson County, North Carolina, and many thousands more across the southeastern United States. After inflicting catastrophic damage in Haiti as a strong Category 4 storm, Hurricane Matthew fell upon us, wreaking havoc, shattering order, breaking hearts, creating chaos. That is what disasters do. When overshadowed by disaster, we pray, we engage, we give, we work together to restore. That is what we do. And as we do these things, we embody the petition in Psalm 80:7, the appointed lesson for the first Sunday in Advent: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.*

*Gary Locklear of Pembroke, North Carolina, remembers Oct. 8 in his beloved community. He remained in the damp darkness for three days. Then resolution welled up: it was time to go out into the ravaged community around his home. A church and community worker and a home missionary for the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, he has been a consistent, leading voice in recovery efforts from that moment. In his life and leadership, we see the psalm prayed, lived, fulfilled: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.*

*In this season of Advent, as in so many others, we stand once again amid the destruction left by devastating storms. It has been an especially hard year for millions of people in Houston and Florida and throughout the Caribbean. Memories abound of disaster and aftermath following hurricanes Harvey and Irma and Maria. As Advent begins, the persistent darkness in Puerto Rico —*

(Continued on page 3)

*and the painful longing for light — is a beckoning image. In Scripture, darkness and light are held in realistic proximity. Seemingly oppositional, darkness and light abide very near one another: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.*

Advent reminds us that God does not always do as we anticipate, yet God always does what is most loving. God is capable of surprising us. This sudden presence of God occurs in

spite of a natural order that increasingly strikes against our free misuse of it. It arrives despite our inability to love neighbors as ourselves. In the throes of the bleak midwinter, still we wait on a response from God, sometimes knowing that our only option is to wait and pray because much is outside of our control. At other times we recognize that through our initiative we can embody the action that others are waiting for God to take: to lift a burden, to dry a tear, to advocate for

a hurting person, to console someone in prison, to write a generous check.

I am not a victim. I am an Advent Christian who realizes that while departing tailights mark the closing of one part of life, God will still surprise me with a greater light, in the future. Thanks be to God! And Merry Christmas! And Happy New Year!

With love, your pastor,

Sam

## **FPC Burns Dinner Friday, January 25, 2019**

Looking for a unique Christmas present? Invite your neighbors to join you!

We'll celebrate the Scottish tradition of hosting a Burns Dinner, in honor of the national poet, Robert Burns.

Early ticket sales are available each Sunday before and after worship in Ryerson Fellowship Hall for FPC's 1<sup>st</sup> Burns Dinner, Friday, January 25, 2019.

Adults \$20

Youth under 13 \$10

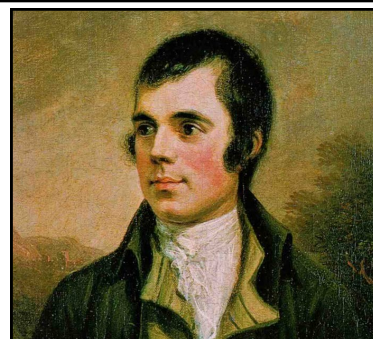
Silent auction in Coover Lounge starts at 4 p.m.

The bagpiper will usher in dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Proceeds of the event will benefit the FPC operating budget.

Question? Michelle Bessman, [mbessman@mphawks.org](mailto:mbessman@mphawks.org); Richard Van Rhee, [rvan303@yahoo.com](mailto:rvan303@yahoo.com);

Ann Grosscup, [aegandthekits@gmail.com](mailto:aegandthekits@gmail.com)

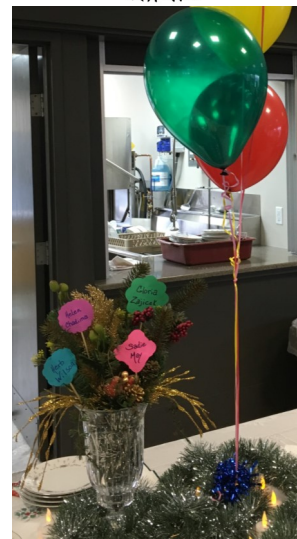


## **We Celebrated!!**

On December 2, the Deacons celebrated everyone turning 90 years during the year 2018. We had cake, balloons and good fellowship after the worship service. Those celebrated were: Helen Chadima, Gloria Zajicek, Sadie May and Herb Wilson.



## **Deacon's Bench**





## Parents' Night Out, January 18, 2019

**Who:** Parents of children ages 0-10

**What:** Drop off your children from 5:00-7:30 at the church

**Why:** So you can enjoy some free time, and volunteers can have fun playing with your kids! We'll also feed them dinner!

Register by Sunday, January 13 by emailing Nancy Gardner at [nancy.hayes.gardner@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.hayes.gardner@gmail.com). Adult volunteers are always welcome to help out!

Many thanks to last month's volunteers: Kenneth Noble, Debbie Beermann, Becky Ross, Perry Ross, Michelle Bessman, Jane Cranston, and Nancy Gardner.



Perry captivates the group with one of his stories.



Debbie and Oliver enjoy a little playtime.



Reid loves pizza!



Jane teaches everyone how to play Statue.

Songs!

Rhymes!

English  
Language  
Learning

Trained  
Suzuki  
Teachers

### Baby Music Class

**Suzuki music class for babies and toddlers, from birth through age 3, with a parent or caregiver**

**When:** Tuesdays 9:30-10:30 a.m.

**\*\*New session begins Jan. 15**

**Where:** First Presbyterian Church  
2701 Rochester Ave  
Iowa City, IA 52245



Try out a class for free at any time!

For more information: [www.firstpresioiwacity.org](http://www.firstpresioiwacity.org)

[leah.bergman@firstpresioiwacity.org](mailto:leah.bergman@firstpresioiwacity.org)

319-351-2660

# 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@firstpresbiowacity.org](mailto:tammy.foster@firstpresbiowacity.org). Thank you!***

## December 15-30

12/15	Arya Bingham	12/22	Cory Morris
12/15	Greg Smith	12/23	Sarah Parker
12/15	Jeri Smith	12/23	Laura Thedens
12/17	Roxanne Boysen	12/24	Erick Fletcher
12/17	Gary Burnett	12/24	Joe Graves
12/17	Jack Newman	12/27	Lance Eckland
12/18	Dennis Pedde	12/27	Tim Fehr
12/18	Chitoka Webb	12/28	Sarah Klemuk
12/19	Deb Boland	12/29	Sadie May
12/20	Ryan Brentner	12/29	Devin Raffensperger
12/20	Tammy Foster	12/29	Hongwook Suh
12/21	Helen Sheets	12/30	Eugenia Byamungu
		12/30	Mike Sheetz



## January 1-16

1/3	Mike Raffensperger
1/4	Margaret Bruner
1/4	Bryce Christensen
1/6	Reg Cooper
1/7	Ann Burton
1/7	Jack Perkins
1/8	Shirley McFarland
1/9	Shea Paulsen
1/10	Brian Kleis
1/10	Mary Palmberg
1/12	Liz Bolin
1/13	Linda Couch
1/14	Wanda Martin
1/14	Ben Nicholson
1/14	Oliver Sheetz
1/15	Richard Gier
1/16	Jean James
1/16	Kip Neubauer



### ***Known to have been Hospitalized:***

Jack Perkins, Earline Moll, Dorothy Hoak, Jean James and Janice Baumbach

## Constant Hope

As We Worship:

Indulge in the faith of Jesus  
Grasp his unflinching completeness and  
Behold his second coming  
Joyfully.

*By Sadie May*



***We miss you at church***, yet we trust you walk with God! At this year's end, as we intend to do every at every year's end, we ask Session to move our absent members (demonstrating a lack of pledging, giving and attendance in 2018) to our inactive roll. We do so knowing that we can restore persons to active membership status if they return to the discipline of worship and service at and through First Presbyterian Church. This action is not punitive: If you have not been active due to some trouble and need pastoral care, please inform the staff, especially Pastor Sam, at [sam.massey@firstpresbiowacity.org](mailto:sam.massey@firstpresbiowacity.org) (319)351-2660. In this way we can keep you on the active roll, even though temporarily activity is not possible for you. We do want to recognize through our rolls that people's priorities and loves change over time, and do not want to pester the uninterested. Nevertheless, Jesus Christ and the church are still here for you! Thank you for understanding . . . and please come back.







## Updates from Pasrur

### Pasrur Trip Presentation – January 20

Our Pasrur travelers (pictured above) had a wonderful trip. We took part in a number of celebrations and dedications, we had opportunities to get to know the wonderful PEB (Presbyterian Education Board) staff better, and most importantly we had a day with our scholarship girls at Pasrur. We also got to see the new Pasrur Boys School, which is beautiful. It was an inspiring, heartwarming, beautiful trip. We so look forward to being able to share with you. **There will be a presentation about the trip on January 20 after church.** We hope you can be there!

### This Year's Scholarship Status

At this writing, we do not have the funds to send all the girls back to school for the 2018-19 school year. We send the money to them in February. If you haven't made a contribution but intend to, please look for the mailing this month. If you have sent in your donation, thank you!

Wishing you a joyous Christmas and all good things in 2019,

Friends of Pasrur  
*Jane Cranston*





## FPC / HJPC Friendships

Beatrice Neema proudly displays her first finished sewing project thanks to Becky Ross' instruction. She has 4 children and wants to make something for each one for Christmas. As the time of this writing, the family's father is hospitalized due to a car accident.

Nancy Weber assists Congolese women learn English each Sunday afternoon following the HJPC worship service. Currently she has 4 students. On Mondays, she assists one of those students with citizenship studies.

When you see Becky Ross and Nancy Weber, thank them for their continued efforts with building bridges.



## 2018 Winter Clothing Drive & Distribution

The Consultation of Religious Communities (CRC) conducted a successful annual Winter Clothing Drive and Distribution on October 11-13 at three sites in Johnson County under the leadership of Pastor Carolyn Otis, Community of Christ Church, Coralville. The Iowa City site, hosted at The Kingdom Center on Southgate Ave distributed 500 winter coats on the 13th; the Coralville site at Community of Christ Church also distributed 500 coats; and the site at the North Liberty Community Pantry distributed 400 coats. Each recipient of a coat could also select five other winter clothing or footwear items, plus a hat, scarf, gloves or mittens.

First Presbyterian Church was aligned with the Iowa City site.

Onsite donations were received from KCRG TV 1 — Coats for Kids, Shelter House, six faith communities (First Presbyterian, Christ the King, Faith United Methodist, First United Methodist, St. Andrew Presbyterian, and St. Wenceslaus), the Aktion Club / Reach for Your Potential of Kiwanis International, and four community families. The number of donating faith communities was down from prior years. All but four bags of assorted winter clothing items were gone by noon on the 13<sup>th</sup>, and these were picked

up by Shelter House. Unfortunately, a large quantity of non-winter clothing and shoes were received (i.e. twenty 33-gallon bags worth) and donated by us to Crowded Closet.

Iowa City site volunteers came from the following faith communities and organizations: First Presbyterian, The Kingdom Center, Congregational UCC, First United Methodist, Iowa City Friends, St. Marks United Methodist, St. Andrew Presbyterian, St. Wenceslaus, New Song Episcopal, Faith UCC, Iowa City UCC, Fathers United and Iowa City Compassion. FPC volunteers included Marcia Akin, John Barr, Debbie Beermann, Liz Bolin, Faryle Nothwehr, & Perry Ross. Tables were donated by Faith UCC and Aero Rental, with coat racks donated by St. Andrew and Aero Rental. Aero provided delivery and pick-up at a substantially reduced charge.

*Submitted by John Barr,  
2018 Iowa City site coordinator*





# Capital Campaign Implementation Committee (CCIT)

## November 2018 Report to Members *Submitted by John Barr, CCIT chairman*

The CCIT last met at on 10/30/18 in Coover Lounge with John Barr, Larry Bruner, Vern Dengler, Amy Fletcher, Tammy Foster, Dale Kraus, Lee Tippe, & Judy Whitford participating

The following business was discussed and actions taken:

### A. Updates on completion of:

1. Kitchen project – John reported that, except for installing a backsplash behind the stove and a shade valence, renovation of the kitchen has been completed. On 10/26 key kitchen users received formal instruction in the use and maintenance of dishwasher by a Hobart technician. John Barr and Tammy Schroeder will summarize key information for users of the dishwasher by mid-week. Under the supervision of Anna & Layne Sheetz, the Youth Group will use the dishwasher for their dinner on 11/1. Judy Whitford advocated for the formation of a committee to oversee kitchen operations. John Barr, and Tammy Foster are working on a concise instruction manual for kitchen appliances (including a maintenance schedule) and operations. Rebates will be applied for relative to the refrigerator, freezer, dishwasher and diode panel ceiling lights.
2. Boiler / air handler project – Lee Tippe and Vern Dengler reported that the boiler, air handler and all additional room controls should be fully operational by Thanksgiving. B&G Committee has recommended and is acting on overseeing the cleaning of some obstructed ductwork.

B. Financial status of the campaign: Per the “Campaign Improvements — October 2018” provided by Saira Steen. John Barr reviewed the current pledge total, income, actual and projected expenses, and status of rebates. The following items were specifically discussed:

1. The “Total Project” column, “Contributions” line: The \$1,145,725 is the total pledged to date. “Endowment Income” (\$68,195.19) had been approved by Session to cover the Administration Expenses.
2. The “Actual Project to Date” column focuses on
  - a. operational income (actual monies received to date: \$972,304.62). This includes \$99,832 donated specifically for the kitchen project.
  - b. operational expenses; two corrections were required:
    - (1) The Kitchen Remodeling expenses noted in the attachment (\$77,723.17) reflect expenses paid by FPC for appliances, cabinets / counter tops, and to some contractors. Not noted is an additional payment due to our General Contractor of \$31,119 (which include a range of their expenses, the building permit, payments to subcontractors, etc.) and approximately \$1,170 that will further be spent for a tile back splash and shade valance. This will bring our total project expenses to \$110,092 (with funding of


\$99,832). John Barr proposed, and it was seconded, that the resulting \$10,260 deficit from this project be covered with the excess \$14,910 from the Sanctuary Seating Project. This motion was approved unanimously.

(2) The Boiler Replacement expenses noted in the attachment (\$143,768.51), do not included our most recent payment of \$57,000 to the Winger (billed on 10/11/18) or change order #7, approved for \$20,550 on 10/16/18. Our current estimate for completion of the boiler project is \$235,342. We had initially proposed that this project would cost \$400,000. Further, a rebate of approximately \$3,000 is anticipated on this project, based on preliminary feedback on our rebate application.

3. Elevator project — The current estimate for this project is \$320,000. We had initially proposed that this project would cost \$250,000. On 4/16/18, our design firm (Walker, Coen, Lorentzen) formally presented the Organ Impact Report which outlined steps to be taken to protect the organ during elevator construction and on-going operation. Lee Tippe moved, and it was seconded, that FPC proceed with Part C (Elevator construction documents / Bids / Construction Administration) of the contract signed with WCL 2/27/18. This motion was approved unanimously.
4. Remaining projects:
  - a. Technology — It was originally anticipated that a total of \$80,000 would be needed for improvements in Ryerson Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary. Thus far, \$11,737.80 has been spent for the screen and projector in Ryerson Fellowship Hall. The Conference Technologies Inc. proposal we’ve most recently been considering calls for an additional \$80,000 to bring these projects to completion.
  - b. Mission – approximately \$30,000 needs to be contributed to Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity in 2019 to complete our Mission Tithe.

Addenda — Since our meeting on 10/30/18, it was determined that:

1. Dishes / utensils coming out of the dishwasher are not adequately dry, necessitating towel drying. It has been recommended by the manufacturer (Hobart) that a rinse agent dispenser be added to our system. EMS Detergent Service, N. Liberty (which services the dishwasher at Free Lunch), will be installing the dispenser (which can also dispense soap, if we decide to add this in the future) for \$400; rinse agent is \$25 per gallon, which will last for approximately 1,000 loads.
2. On 11/9/18, Lee Tippe adjusted the TOTAL boiler replacement cost (construction, design & construction phase services) to \$274,342.



**Thursday, December 20**  
The Youth Group Christmas Party! Please bring a White Elephant Gift!  
**Youth Choir meets at 7:30 p.m..**

**NO YOUTH GROUP**  
Thursday, December 27  
OR  
Thursday, January 3

**Thursday, January 10**  
We'll start the new year by kicking off a rousing discussion about Salvation—what is it and how do we get it?

**Thursday, January 17**  
We'll finish our conversation about Salvation.  
**Youth Choir meets at 7:30 p.m.**



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
FPC is celebrating Mardi Gras with pancakes and King Cakes! Fun, Food, and Faith! Friends, neighbors, and family are invited!

**SATURDAY, MARCH 2 5:30 P.M.**

**Date Change!**

**Camp Wyoming Winter Trip** has been changed to January 4–6 this year. What a spectacular way to kick off the new year! Please speak to Anna or Layne Sheetz for more information and a registration form.




Anna is setting out on an adventure and she's looking for a crew! The quest is to develop a Vacation Bible eXperience just for First Presbyterian Church. There are a couple of exciting elements to this quest – It will be a pirate-themed Vacation Bible eXperience AND the lessons will be about the women of the Bible! As you can see, this is a huge, super exciting undertaking. So we need YOU: Crafters, Snackers, Decorators, and Imaginers! If you are looking to become a creative crew member, please contact [anna.sheetz@firstpreswacity.org](mailto:anna.sheetz@firstpreswacity.org) OR catch Anna in person on Sunday morning or Thursday night.



**[SPACE]**  
**Launch**

Sunday Morning Education.  
Make SPACE for Faith.

**Sunday, January 13, 2019**



# Thank you!

A HUGE FPC Thank You to Val Soemadi for all of her service in developing our hospitality! Her service has laid the groundwork for exciting new opportunities along with our new kitchen! I cannot wait to continue her work with all of the amazing volunteers we have here at First Pres!

*Layne Sheetz*



## YOU'RE INVITED

Volunteers! We are so thankful for all that you do! Join us for a celebration of all that you've done in 2018 after church on Sunday, January 13! We'll celebrate the past year and kick off the new one in style!

### Reminder


If you want your Junior High or High School Student to attend a mission trip, please speak to Anna now.

**FPC Book Club Wishes You  
a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year**

There will be no December gathering.  
For more information, contact Jan Walker at 358-6737.




**Eat Out Group  
will not meet in December  
Merry Christmas**



**Wednesday Morning Bible Study**

Join us January 23 in  
Coover Lounge from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.  
The class is led by Pastor Sam Massey.  
**New members ALWAYS welcome.**

**No study on December 26, January 2, 9, 16**

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.**

## November 2018 Session Highlights

-by Nancy Weber, Clerk of Session

The session met November 20, 2018 in Coover Lounge at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Sam called the meeting to order and lit the Christ candle. Elder Michelle Bessman led us in devotions. She spoke of the fact that a lot of fear exists in the world today. How, as Christians, do we respond to fear and violence? God urges us not to be afraid, to practice love.

The death of Ruth Gier, on 10-15-2018, was noted, as was the death of Joye McKusick, on 11-14-2018. Pastor Sam led the service for Joye on 11-25-2018 at the Ned Ashton House.

Deacons-elect and elders-elect Steph Paulson, Tony Warren, Sarah Klemuk, Brian Kleis, Steve Smith, Pam Kautz, Nancy Ross, Bonnie Bender, and Leann Graves met with session members in small groups for the purpose of examination. A **motion was approved** to accept them and welcome them into service. Installation of the new officers is planned for January 13, 2019. After deacons-elect were dismissed, incoming elders Leann Graves, Tony Warren, and Steve Smith told session more about themselves.

Treasurer Larry Bruner reviewed the month's income and expense report. We are in good shape in terms of the income that has come in from pledges. A **motion to accept** the finance report was approved.

**Session approved** the minutes of the October 16, 2018 stated session meeting, minutes of the November 11, 2018 congregational meeting, minutes of the November 18, 2018 special session meeting to welcome new members, and the 2019 communion

dates. The Congregational Health Ministry report was received, as were notes from the November 15, 2018 Presbytery of East Iowa meeting, held at St. Andrew Presbyterian in Iowa City.

A **motion was approved** to appoint the following persons as corporate officers:

President: Jeri Smith  
Vice-President: Dale Kraus  
Treasurer: Larry Bruner  
Clerk of Session: Ann Grosscup

A **motion** to permit the Free Lunch leadership to hold a congregational fundraiser to support the ministry, with time and date to be determined in conjunction with Session Ministries, was approved.

Session **approved a motion** to welcome the Rev. Dana Martin (father of member Travis Martin) to preach Nov. 25, 2018.

The **motion to concur** with Sadie May to use Burianek funds to fund staff members Tammy Foster, Tammy Schroeder and Saira Steen to attend the 2019 ACS conference was **approved**, with the cost at \$5,132. Elder Dale Kraus took time to explain to session members, incoming and present, the Burianek Trust, which was appreciated by all. Balance of the Trust is \$440,000 at this time.

Session **approved a motion** to receive the letter from JJ De Ryke regarding a rain water collection method and to delegate to the FPC Green Team, under the auspices of Reconciliation Ministry, A) a conversation with JJ, B) a decision, and C) action on his offer

with a report from Reconciliation on the outcome due by the December 2018 session meeting.

The Robert Burns dinner will be held on Friday, January 25, 2018. Elder Ann Grosscup explained the event, what it entails, and passed around a sign-up sheet. Ann and Elder Michelle Bessman will email the "ask" letter to session members, which they can give to merchants to explain the event and ask for donations.

Elder Nancy Gardner reported on the weeklong conference of the Johnson County Interfaith Coalition that she recently attended. Nancy also put in a plug for Parents Night Out, the next one being Friday, November 30. It is growing. They started with 6 children and 14 are registered for the upcoming one. It's a ton of fun! More volunteers are needed. Families really appreciate it. Hours open are 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Elder Grosscup reported that elder Bessman, Pastor Sam and she met with Center for Worker Justice concerning whether FPC would be a good fit for a gathering place in the event of an ICE raid. CWJ said FPC would not be a good fit at this time. CWJ will continue pursuing other possible sites. Appreciation was expressed for all the work Ann and Michelle have done.

Elder Carol Ulch spoke briefly about calculating the coming budget and the organizational plan.

Pastor Sam closed the meeting with prayer. The next session meeting will be held Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at 7 p.m. in Coover Lounge.



Have no fear ... the next New Member Class will start February 24, 2019. Contact Pastor Sam for more info at [sam.massey@firstpresbiowacity.org](mailto:sam.massey@firstpresbiowacity.org) or by phone at 319-351-2660.



## Exciting news for everyone who has signed up for MyFirstPres ...

Introducing the mobile app, *Church Life*: this handy app is free! You have instant access to the contacts and events at FPC anytime, anywhere, from your mobile phone.

Features of the app keep you organized by allowing you to see calendar events, view your friends' and neighbors' contact info, and map visits all on the go. Also, with the new mobile giving feature, you can quickly and easily make contributions ... with just one click.



### 1) Download Church Life

iPhone— App Store Android— PlayStore

Other mobile devices can enter [www.churchlife.mobi](http://www.churchlife.mobi)

### 2) Log in

Use the same username and password you use for MyFirstPres.

If you have not yet signed up for *MyFirstPres* on the website, please do.  
Simply click on the circle located on the homepage and create an account. If you have trouble, contact Tammy Schroeder, 319-351-2660.



Larry Bruner, Treasurer

	Contributions	Misc. Income <small>Building Use, Walker Trust, Bank interest, etc.</small>	Total Income	Total Expenses	Over/Short
1st Quarter	\$121,464.86	\$683.77	\$122,148.63	\$144,112.58	-\$21,963.95
2nd Quarter	\$129,274.76	\$55,938.54	\$185,213.30	\$148,544.11	\$36,669.19
3rd Quarter	\$115,537.46	\$21,361.01	\$136,898.47	\$143,498.85	-\$6,600.38
October	\$53,285.84	\$282.81	\$53,568.65	\$41,193.29	\$12,375.36
November	\$56,763.50	\$230.09	\$56,993.59	\$47,951.14	\$9,042.45
<b>2018 Totals</b>	<b>\$476,326.42</b>	<b>78,496.22</b>	<b>\$554,822.64</b>	<b>\$525,299.97</b>	<b>\$29,522.67</b>

## Needles, Hooks and Yarn



Join us from  
9–11 a.m. on Saturdays  
at FPC.

### We will not be gathering:

Dec 22—Merry Christmas  
Dec 29—Happy New Year

We look forward to seeing you in 2019!

More info contact Tammy Schroeder 351-2660

# Welcome New Members November 18, 2018



## Reflections from a Pastoral Counselor ...

*(The Community Pastoral Counseling Service—CPCS—was founded and is still supported by First Presbyterian Church of Iowa City, along with five other congregations. At Pastor Sam's request, The Rev. Bruce D. Williams, pastoral counselor/licensed mental health counselor at the service – will be submitting articles for our benefit and reflection. CPCS is located at the Congregational United Church of Christ, 30 N. Clinton St. in Iowa City. Appointments can be scheduled at 319-337-2519. For more information, visit the CPCS website at <http://www.cpcsofiowacity.org>.)*

Nothing gets our attention like our mortality, which can be something we ignore and/or take for granted when things are going well. When our capability to deny our human fragility is interrupted—either temporarily due to circumstances such as post-surgical restrictions, or even permanently due to an irreversible disability—we are left with an adjustment of varying magnitude. Sometimes it is terribly difficult to face our new reality.

The ultimate manifestation of our mortality, of course, is death. The November 7, 2018 edition of THE CHRISTIAN CENTURY has as its cover article, "Don't forget, you're going to die." Much of our lives is spent pushing away this disturbing thought.

The truth is, many of us are accustomed to being self-sufficient and hold that status as the standard to be maintained in order to

"live the good life." A colleague who is from a farm community was told at an early age: "Love many, trust few, paddle your own canoe." Yet it can be hard to paddle with a broken arm or dislocated shoulder, or an occurrence that is even more serious.

Learning to accept assistance from others graciously can benefit the giver as well as the recipient. Both givers and receivers are necessary to keep the process of life moving forward. As unwelcome as it may feel, being dependent on others is not a sign of inadequacy. Rather, to need assistance is an indication that we are human, a truth sometimes unwelcome yet still one to be embraced. This is because being human is okay, as was confirmed with God coming as the very human Jesus that we celebrate at Christmastime.

Best wishes for a meaningful Christmas and a fulfilling New Year!

*Bruce*



## The 1840 Legacy Society

*Bob and Millie Youngquist,  
Endowment/Memorial Coordinators*

Ever since its founding in 1840, the mission of First Presbyterian Church of Iowa City in the service of Jesus Christ has been sustained by the commitment and vision of generous donors. With the establishment of an operating endowment, many have chosen to permanently strengthen the church with gifts to the endowment, both unrestricted and restricted.

First Presbyterian Church is grateful to the individuals whose thoughtful planning has helped ensure a vibrant future for the church. The church honors donors who have made endowment gifts of current or future support through membership in ***The 1840 Legacy Society***, named to recognize the founding of FPC in 1840.

The Session established the Society in 2011. Members are recognized in the church's annual report and are invited to special events and programs. Membership may be anonymous.

You are invited to join ***The 1840 Legacy Society*** by supporting FPC in one or more of the following ways:

- ◆ Establishing a will or trust provision with the church as a beneficiary
- ◆ Making a \$5,000 or more outright gift of cash or its equivalent to the FPC endowment
- ◆ Making a minimum \$5,000 gift to the *First Presbyterian Church of Iowa City Agency Fund* at the Community Foundation of Johnson County
- ◆ Designating the church as the owner and/or beneficiary of all or a portion of a life insurance policy

- ◆ Naming the church as a beneficiary of all or a portion of a retirement plan
- ◆ Establishing a charitable gift annuity with the church as beneficiary
- ◆ Establishing a charitable trust with the church as a beneficiary
- ◆ Making a gift to the church of real property and retaining a life estate

Current members of the 1840 Legacy Society are listed in a framed certificate which hangs in our church narthex. We thank all of them for their supportive gifts to our church.

If you have made plans to include our church in your estate plans, please let us know so we can thank you with membership in ***The 1840 Legacy Society***. To make a confidential inquiry about ***The 1840 Legacy Society***, please contact:

Bob and Millie Youngquist,  
FPC Endowment/Memorial Coordinators:  
endowment@firstpresoiowacity.org  
319-653-4673

or

The Rev. Dr. Samuel Massey, Pastor:  
sam.massey@firstpresoiowacity.org  
319-351-2660

---

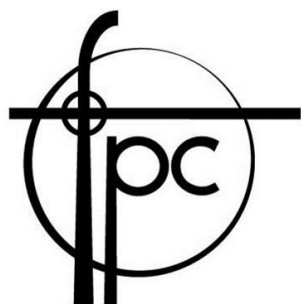
***Ho, Ho, Ho . . . Hold it! It's not done until the Big Guy says so!***

A few people we know will give in 2019. . .



. . . from everybody else we need a ***pledge card!***  
Please return ***yours*** as soon as possible to spare yourself a drop in visit down your chimney, at the front door or by telephone. ***Thank you!***  
*Kris*

**First Presbyterian Church**  
2701 Rochester Ave.  
Iowa City, Iowa 52245



**Public Office Hours:**

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday - Friday

*The office will be closed Christmas Day through Jan. 1.  
We'll see you on January 2, 2018*

Ph 319-351-2660 [www.firstpresbiowacity.org](http://www.firstpresbiowacity.org)



**While the worship and service of God are vital components of the Christian life,** on any particular day



your safety needs should be your priority, as well as ours.

**The following guidelines presume that you will make the best decision for the care of you and your family.** Please do not come to church if there is risk of harm due to weather. God and we will still love you!

1. **On Sunday mornings, the church will normally not close for inclement weather.** Whoever from the staff is available to come and lead at least a brief prayer service at 10:30 a.m. will do so. As for events after worship on Sundays, when adverse weather is experienced please contact the event leader to see if the event is still scheduled. If weather grows extreme, check KCRG or call the church to hear if any message has been left giving scheduling information.
2. **On days when the Iowa City Public School System is in session,** the cancellations or postponements announced by the school system by KCRG or other means apply also to the church.
3. **If inclement weather arrives following the close of school on a weekday,** please contact the event leader to see if the event is still scheduled. Check also KCRG and call the church to hear if any message has been left giving information.

### **First Presbyterian Church Staff**

**MINISTER OF WORSHIP AND ARTS**

*Leah Bergman*

[leah.bergman@firstpresbiowacity.org](mailto:leah.bergman@firstpresbiowacity.org)

**DIRECTOR OF INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC**

*Dennis Pedde*

[dennis.pedde@firstpresbiowacity.org](mailto:dennis.pedde@firstpresbiowacity.org)

**ORGANIST**

*Melissa Moll*

[melissa.moll@firstpresbiowacity.org](mailto:melissa.moll@firstpresbiowacity.org)

**MINISTER OF PROGRAMMING AND COMMUNICATIONS**

*Tammy Schroeder*

[tammy.schroeder@firstpresbiowacity.org](mailto:tammy.schroeder@firstpresbiowacity.org)

**MINISTER OF EQUIPPING PROGRAMS**

*Anna Sheetz*

[anna.sheetz@firstpresbiowacity.org](mailto:anna.sheetz@firstpresbiowacity.org)

**ASSISTANT MINISTER OF EQUIPPING PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS**

*Judy Whitford*

[judy.whitford@firstpresbiowacity.org](mailto:judy.whitford@firstpresbiowacity.org)

**ASSISTANT MINISTER OF EQUIPPING PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH, YOUNG ADULT, AND HOSPITALITY**

*Layne Sheetz*

[layne.sheetz@firstpresbiowacity.org](mailto:layne.sheetz@firstpresbiowacity.org)

**NURSERY SUPERVISOR**

*Debbie Torrens-Semler*

[deb.torrens-semmler@firstpresbiowacity.org](mailto:deb.torrens-semmler@firstpresbiowacity.org)

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY**

*Saira Steen*

[saira.steen@firstpresbiowacity.org](mailto:saira.steen@firstpresbiowacity.org)

**MINISTER OF STEWARDSHIP AND MANAGEMENT**

*Tammy Foster*

[tammy.foster@firstpresbiowacity.org](mailto:tammy.foster@firstpresbiowacity.org)

**SEXTON**

*Gerald Hill*

[gerald.hill@firstpresbiowacity.org](mailto:gerald.hill@firstpresbiowacity.org)

**PASTOR**

*Sam Massey*

[sam.massey@firstpresbiowacity.org](mailto:sam.massey@firstpresbiowacity.org)