

be-hold: meditations on the seven last words of Christ

The season of Lent begins Wednesday, March 6

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent. This year, the scripture lessons will be taken from the seven last words of Christ with accompanying psalms, scripture, meditation, prayer, and song. Explore these powerful words Jesus had for us in his final hours and what it means in your own life to “be” and to “hold” or be held.

On Ash Wednesday, March 6, we will gather for a simple service around the communion table and remember what it means to just be with one another in the presence of God.

This season is central to our lives as Christian people. You are welcome just as you are to be yourself and to be held by your church family.

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New Member Class



This class begins **February 24, 9:30 – 10:15**, in Room 14 on the lower level.

Pastor Sam will be leading an 8-week class on interpreting church membership as part of our journey of faith.

Those wishing to join the church will be received into membership on Saturday, April 20 at the Easter Vigil Service.

Contact Sam (sam.massey@firstpreswacity.org) or Tammy Schroeder (tammy.schroeder@firstpreswacity.org), if you have questions or would like to sign up.

Please RSVP by February 20, so classroom materials can be prepared.

Dear sisters and brothers of First Presbyterian Church,

The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

Tuesday morning: The University of Iowa is closed and the school system is shuttered for three days, a number of biblical proportions. In theory, I am not stranded: Yet having frequented the hospitals the last four days regularly, tending to our beloved in presence and prayer, I have plenty to do at home on a cold day. My duties include responding to the inevitable return of the newsletter due date.

My thoughts drift to the old Myth Busters program and one episode in particular when they dealt with the concept of cabin fever. Having attempted to cross-country ski (falling four times) and walking across icy parking lots, I can see why people choose to remain intramural. The Myth Buster gang proved that cabin fever is real – you can get sick when trapped indoors by the weather – and I anticipate the next three days with a sense of wonder. When not writing, I pray for those who must be outside, listen to the dog snore and relish the thought that the ravages wrought by the Japanese beetle population may be restrained this year by the killing cold.

In the bleak mid-winter – “cold, on cold, on cold” – we gallop toward Lent beginning in early March. If all goes according to plan, Ash Wednesday will find Susan and me celebrating our 35th anniversary in a warmer clime. Easter will fall in April, undoubtedly with showers that summon forth May flowers (and a wedding) and perhaps some flooding with them. We celebrate the Resurrection, then the cycle begins again and life returns.

Contemplative Richard Rohr speaks of the necessity of embracing the two halves of our life, as if they are two seasons to be embraced. Both are necessary for spiritual maturity, he contends. In the first half of life, we build reputations, careers, families and wealth. We pursue the normal aspirations of our species, driven as we are by the amygdala and organized by the prefrontal cortex. Rohr notes that for the vast majority of people, this is all there is: They end their days having lived only half a life. They exhaust their years conventionally and die measuring their brief existence along a spectrum from losing to winning, their place on it based on comparisons to equally conventional (make that very boring) people. Even a dark or lighter shade of gray stands out when all else is homogenized into a monotonous, monochromatic mousy.

Some people, however, get disrupted. They suffer some sort of loss that opens the door to the second half of life. The window gets broken and can't be shut. An earthquake rolls the stone away from the tomb. Like Dorothy going from Kansas to the Technicolor of Oz, light and rainbow hues emerge from the vortex of trite and a yellow brick road winds to the horizon. Rohr frames this opportunity crisis as the hero's journey. He points to such figures as Ulysses in Homer's Odyssey, Abraham and Sarah leaving



Ur, Buddha seeking enlightenment, and Jesus turning away from the family business to become a prophet. The gods – our God – invites some to leave behind all those conventions that comfort most people, leaving the dead to bury their own dead, and strike out in a new direction, in a God-led adventure of epic proportions. Not all can leave home in their bodies to accomplish this opportunity to explore, yet physical condition need not be a barrier: heart, mind, prayers and resources can travel far from a keyboard, wheelchair and sick bed. Indeed, wheel chair and sick bed in particular can be the impetus to engage the second half of life when the door shuts on the first half, when it lies in shambles or just gets boring. “You come too,” God says, taking our hand and pulling us gently through the true barriers we have erected in our dullness.

Three days in sub-human cold, with wind-bent trees, warn against too many trips outdoors. This, too, is a disruption, life getting in the way of living. With Japanese beetles, perhaps some part of us dies too. Winter's hiatus can be wasted or it can bear a message. What aspect of the first half of our lives gets frozen off? What new dimension will emerge, exposed by howling wind or gentle rains combined with warming temperatures? Wait upon the Lord, and watch.

Love, prayers and blessings,

Your pastor, Sam

Who are the Deacons in your Neighborhood ?

With the new year and changes to the members on the Board of Deacons, you may now have a new Deacon sponsoring your neighborhood. In many of the neighborhoods, the Deacons who sponsor them also live in that same neighborhood, but since this is not possible to be arranged for all of the neighborhoods, some of the Deacon sponsors live nearby the neighborhood that they sponsor. Below is the new listing for your neighborhood sponsors.



Blue	Moses Kasiriba and Steph Paulsen
Burgundy	Brian Kleis and Deb Boland
Fuchsia	Linda Couch and Jeff Orris
Green	Judy Terry and Bonnie Bender
Orange	Chitoka Webb and Sarah Klemuk
Purple	Jen Adams and Pam Kautz
Red	Dan Thedens and Becca Morgan
Teal	Jeri Smith and Jeff Orris
Yellow	Barb Stanerson and Nancy Ross

Your neighborhood Deacon would love to hear from you on any joys or concerns you may have. Do you know what color code is assigned to your neighborhood? Your church name badge is a clue. If your name badge has a colored sticker on it, that is your neighborhood color code. Deacons will be updating name badge stickers soon. Also, an Iowa City area map is on display in Ryerson Fellowship Hall with the neighborhood boundaries drawn out so you can see who your Deacon sponsor is for your color-coded neighborhood.

Be sure to **WATCH your email inbox or your postal mail box for an introduction letter from your neighborhood Deacon sponsors to appear in the very near future. Also to be announced ... the Meet Your Neighborhood Deacon's Event coming soon.**

2019 Communion Dates:

January 13	Baptism of the Lord
February 10	5th Sunday after Epiphany
March 3	Transfiguration
April 18	Maundy Thursday
April 20	Great Vigil of Easter
May 12	Easter tide IV
June 9	Pentecost Sunday
July 14	5th Sunday after Pentecost
August 11	9th Sunday after Pentecost
September 8	13th Sunday after Pentecost (kick-off Sunday)
October 6	World Communion
November 24	Reign of Christ
December 15	Advent III



Prayer Center Open beginning March 10

Located on the lower level at the end of the hallway to the right, the prayer center is open to all beginning March 10. It is available any time the church is open for anyone who needs a few moments of quiet, guided prayer and meditation, or ideas to take home to pray.

FPC's Free Lunch Team is hosting a fundraising lunch **March 10, after worship. Join us for a baked potato bar with various toppings, fresh fruit, salad, and homemade cookies/bars.**

Bring your appetites; donations graciously accepted.



All money raised will be used to purchase food to be served on FPC's serving day, always the 3rd Thursday of the month.

Free Lunch is located at
1105 S Gilbert St.

To join the team or for more information, contact Carol Kirsch,
carolkirsch52@gmail.com.

Cedric's Crew, named in loving memory of Cedric Lee, an avid Cubs fan, who was one of the team's co-leaders; is proud to debut their new aprons at the luncheon.



First's Family

If you have a news item for the First's Family News, please submit it for publication by February 4 to tammy.foster@firstpreswiowacity.org. Thank you!

February 15-28

2/17 Audrey Kunangika
2/18 Peggy Guither
2/19 Cullen Schroeder
2/23 Ruth Van Voorhis
2/25 Grace Young
2/25 Patricia Bahr
2/25 Bradley Hamilton
2/28 Nancy Ross
2/28 Joan Decker
2/28 Deann Claypool
2/28 Byema Lipanda



March 1-17

3/1 Lily Skyles
3/3 Gloria Zajicek
3/4 Carol Kirsch
3/5 Matt Degner
3/6 Shalom Bigaba
3/7 Jan Gwinn
3/10 Fred Uthe
3/10 Linda Uthe
3/11 Rebecca Morgan
3/11 Joshua Fletcher
3/12 Sue Dallam
3/12 Chris Kolarik
3/14 Tom Bergman



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

**Sue Van Duyn-Phipps,
Dottie Hoak and John
Raffensperger**



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The season of Lent begins Wednesday, March 6

Join us for the Wednesdays of Lent at 5:30 for soup and sharing.

Each week a different person from our congregation will share a bit of their faith story. It is a time of listening, sharing together and thinking about what legacy we will leave behind at the end of our life. Ash Wednesday will be our first supper. Come at 5:30 and stay for the Ash Wednesday service at 7:00. If you have questions, contact Judy Whitford.

January 2019 Session Highlights

Clerk of Session, Ann Grosscup

The January 2019 in-person stated meeting was cancelled due to expected bad weather. Elders approved not meeting in person and conducting January business by email voting. Written reports were submitted by the following ministries: Administration and Personnel, Equipping, Reconciliation, Support's Finance Committee, Board of Deacons plus Pastor Sam to provide decision-making information to facilitate all elders' email vote.

Session's preparation materials noted that the 2018 Annual Report will be shared by month's end electronically and in paper copy. Officer ordination and installation occurred Sunday, January 13, 2019, as did a volunteer recognition reception. Earline Moll's memorial service was held at FPC, with Pastor Sam officiating, on December 31, 2018.

By e-vote, the following **motions were approved**:

- Minutes of December 18, 2018 stated session meeting.
- Hold the Congregational Meeting immediately following worship, Sunday, February 3, 2019.
- The youth will host a lunch fundraiser to benefit the mission trip transportation costs immediately prior to the Congregational Meeting, Sunday, February 3, 2019.
- The youth's Chili Cook-off fundraiser, also to help defray mission trip costs, will be Sunday, May 5, 2019.
- Stated session meeting of Tuesday, April 16, 2019, for necessary session business (probably 8 p.m.–9 p.m.), will immediately follow 6 p.m. dinner with and examination of the 2018–2019 Confirmand class.
- Session will be notified of the Free Lunch fundraiser when the date is set. (The Free Lunch fundraiser was session approved November 20, 2018.)
- Receive end of year Income and Expense and General Fund balance sheet reports as amended and presented.
- That from the Capital Campaign's "Mission Tithe" aligned with Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity (IVHFH), \$20,000 be immediately directed to their Interfaith Build and \$5,000 to the Women's Build (honoring Doris Preucil).
- Accept JJ DeRyke's generous offer of a larger water collection tank and incorporate it into our rain water utilization plan.
- On behalf of First's Women (previous known as Presbyterian Women), have a 6-month Cookie of the Month Club. (Monies raised would purchase materials needed to continue making the mastectomy pillows, port pillows and novelty surgical caps for UI Stead's Family Children's Hospital surgical patients.)
- The nursery hours change from beginning at 9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. The nursery will be closed during non-Sunday morning special services, with the exception of the Easter Vigil service.
- Return of \$20,000 to the Endowment Projects Fund account due to the positive income balance for year-end 2018 budget.
- An amount not to exceed \$5,000 from the 2018 year-end balance as a one-time bonus to staff (other than the Pastor) as determined by the A & P Committee, with any approved amount less than \$5,000 being deposited in the Cumulative Reserve Account.

Next session meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 19, 2019, 7 p.m., in Coover Lounge. Nancy Gardner will share opening devotions; Amy Fletcher will lead closing prayer.

Youth Ministry

- ♦ **Thursday, February 21**; We'll split into Small Groups from 6:45–7:30.
Youth Choir will meet at 7:30 p.m.
- ♦ **Thursday, February 28**; We'll make up for January's BIG GAME. Bring running shoes, your wit, and your strategy. This will take us all the way to 8:30 p.m. to crack the code!
- ♦ **Thursday, March 7**; We'll start our Lenten Series on the Gospel of Mark. Bring your Bibles!
Youth Choir will meet at 7:30 p.m.
- ♦ **Thursday, March 14**; Small Groups once more! We'll spend a little bit more time together than normal – and then a BIG GAME will take us until 8:30 p.m.
** There will be NO Youth Group on Thursday, March 21– Happy Spring Break!**



FPC Book Club

February 27

The Butterfly Mosque: A Young Woman's Journey to Love and Islam by Wilson G. Willow

March 27

The Women in the Castle by Jessica Shattuck

We gather together at Legacy Pointe (1020 S Scott Blvd.) on the last Wednesday of the month from noon to 1 p.m. New members WELCOME!

Bring your lunch and join in the conversation. For more information, contact Jan Walker at 358-6737.

ΔΩΔΕΚΑ • (do'-dek-ah) • Twelve

12 months; 1 life-changing experience

Dodekah is a new 12-month discipleship program designed to build community, educate, and culminating in a 2-week trip to the Holy Land.

This program will transform the Bible into vivid reality and will make Scripture a life-changing experience.

If you are interested in the program, pick up a packet on the Narthex table or contact Anna Sheetz or Tammy Schroeder at 319-351-2660.



Wednesday Morning Bible Study

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



If you are interested in helping with the Pirate's Cove Vacation Bible eXperience, mark your calendars for Tuesday, March 26 from 5-7 p.m. in the Beach Room. For more information, email anna.sheetz@firstpreswacivcity.org!

Needles, Hooks & Yarn

This is a small group who come together to share each other's company while we knit and crochet. If you would like to join us, we would love to have you! We meet at FPC from 9–11 a.m. on most Saturdays mornings.

For more information, contact Tammy Schroeder 319-351-2660.



Worship & Arts Ministry



*Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth.
Worship God with gladness!
Come into God's presence with singing.*

YOUTH CHOIR

Youth Choir is open to 4th–12th graders interested in singing and leading worship through music. We work throughout the year to sing, play, and read the Word of God so that the youth can lead worship several times throughout the year. Rehearsals are on Thursdays, twice per month at 7:30–8:30 p.m. Contact Leah Bergman at leah.bergman@firstpreswiowacity.org or call the church for more information.

Youth Choir Schedule

February–May 2019

Thursdays, February 7 AND 21
7:30–8:30 p.m. rehearsal

Thursday, March 7
7:30–8:30 p.m. rehearsal

Sunday, March 10
Lead in worship
Rehearse at 9:45 a.m.

Thursday, March 28
7:30–8:30 p.m. rehearsal

Thursday, April 4 AND 11
7:30–8:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 20
Lead at the Easter Vigil service.
Rehearse 6:15 p.m.
Worship at 7:00 p.m.

Thursdays, May 2 AND 9
7:30–8:30 p.m. rehearsal

Sunday, May 12
Youth Sunday
Youth lead in Worship

THE OTHER HALF: MUSIC BY WOMEN COMPOSERS

Sunday, February 24, 3:00pm
First Presbyterian Church, 2701 Rochester Ave.
TICKETS: Adults \$16; Students FREE

Presented by Chamber Singers of Iowa City



Knox College Choir Concert

Wednesday, March 13 7:30 p.m.

The Knox College Choir is returning to FPC for their 2019 choir tour. Our church has had an ongoing relationship with this choir program, and we are blessed to have them return to share their music with us.

****If you are interested in hosting one or more of these students after their concert, please let Leah know by emailing her at leah.bergman@firstpreswiowacity.org or calling the church office.**

Equipping Ministry

Join FPC this Lent as we Walk to Jerusalem.



Did you know that Jerusalem is 6,333 miles away from Iowa City? Beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 6, FPC will start to track how many miles we walk, run, or exercise each day! Here's the plan!

- Each day or week email Anna.Sheetz@firstpreswacacity.org with your mile totals.
 - Each Sunday fill out a "Walk to Jerusalem" form
- Totals will be announced each Sunday morning on the Ryerson Hall Fellowship Slideshow.

How do we make it to Jerusalem in time to celebrate Easter you might ask?

- * Take a hike with your friends or family (# of miles x # of people = \$\$\$)
- * Take the dog, walk around the mall or the grocery store
- * Train for Ragbrai and record the miles on your bike
- * Swim laps and send us the meters.

This will be a great way for FPC to be active this Lent!

Thank you!

Thank You for supporting the FPC Youth Group Mission Trips on Sunday, February 3, 2019. It is always a treat when the youth group gets to serve the congregation that does so much for us! It is such a joy to have the congregation experience how hard-working, passionate, and all-around wonderful their youth are!



Reconciliation Ministry

Less than 130 days to begin enjoying Camp Wyoming!



A week at summer camp is an experience like no other. Thousands of adults look back on the formative years of their childhood and identify summer camp as one of the most integral experiences that helped make them who they are today. Countless successful CEO's, actors and actresses, musicians, politicians, religious leaders, and the like attended camp as a child. Summer camp always has and continues to be a place where kids and youth can grow and learn in a cooperative environment set apart from the pace of the "real world." At Camp Wyoming, our programs afford all participants a chance to learn more about who

they are and who they want to become as they grow in their faith in Jesus Christ.

We invite you to send your child, grandchild, niece, nephew, friend, or neighbor to camp at Camp Wyoming this year, and let them have their own adventure that will become a formative faith experience for their entire life.

For more information go to: <https://campwyoming.net/summer-camp/camp/>. Partial scholarship support to attend Camp Wyoming will be available through First Presbyterian Church. Further details are pending from John Barr.

Support the Compeer Program

Sound of Friendship Concert and Dessert Reception

Saturday, February 16, 2019

The new St Andrew Presbyterian Church

140 Gathering Place Lane, Iowa City

Doors open at 6:30 with pre-concert music of pianist Al Zimmerman.

The program at 7 p.m. features: *Kol Shira* performing a rich diversity of international music bringing warmth, harmony, and soul; touring musician and recording artist Jeff Rohlwing; and Two-Bit Maniac, a trio of local artists, Aimee Underwood, Jeff Roush, and Laurie Haag bringing back the golden age of Rhythm and Blues. If that's not enough, Matthew Penning will be featured playing the Krapf organ originally located at UI Clapp Recital Hall.

Gourmet desserts will be served after the concert

Tickets: \$20

Purchase tickets from any Compeer board member or by calling the

Compeer office at 319-383-6264

or online at compeerjohnsoncountyiowa.org.

Tickets are also available at the door.

Peace and Global Witness Offering supported Jeff and Christi Boyd's PCUSA Ministry in the Congo

In the last FPC newsletter, information was shared about the PCUSA Congo Ministry of Jeff and Christi.

Unfortunately, the following local tie-in was omitted.

The Peace and Global Witness Offering's local church portion was forwarded to Jeff and Christi Boyd, PC(USA) missionaries serving in the Congo. The offering recipient was determined by Reconciliation Ministry to support the families and friends of Congolese members and friends remaining in the Congo.

The Boyds joined FPC and HJPC Guiding Board members in Iowa City the summer of 2017 for dinner at FPC. We learned of their new ministry, Healing Hearts, to address the generational trauma experienced due to the area's violence.

FPC forwarded \$178, which will give an early boost for the funds needed in order to hold the second-level Healing Hearts training in the Kasai regions of the Congo.

Please refer to the December–January FPC newsletter to learn more about the Healing Hearts program, requested by mothers to help their children deal with routine trauma.

Reconciliation Ministry

Plastic Pollution Is a Real Problem

Most people know that plastic is a problem by now. If not then Google plastic pollution and you will find more information than you can read.

I'm not going to go into all the details of plastic pollution, but since Iowa City Recycling no longer takes plastic bags at their drop off centers I am going to give you a list of things you can do to avoid some of the plastic you acquire.

1. Shop from the produce section first – use mesh produce bags <https://www.amazon.com/Earthwise-Reusable-Mesh-Produce-Bags/dp/B005E2QRPG>
2. Look for items in glass jars rather than plastic jars
3. Go to the meat counter instead of buying pre-packaged meat and ask that they don't use plastic
4. Buy bars of soap rather than liquid soap in plastic bottles
5. Take your own reusable containers for leftovers when eating out
6. When ordering a drink at a restaurant tell the waiter you don't need a straw
7. Take reusable cloth bags with you when shopping
8. Bring your own reusable drink container and stop buying bottled water
9. Use your own reusable coffee cup
10. Shop in bulk – take your own jars or reusable containers

It's nearly impossible to avoid all plastic, so recycle any stretchy plastic that sneaks into your house at a local grocery store. Most have a bin as you enter the store. Things that can be included are bread wrappers, saran wrap, newspaper bags and other stretchy packaging. Sometimes you get gigantic plastic bags when ordering something online – use those as garbage bags or for storage.

Start out by choosing a couple of these ideas to tackle, and when you've changed your habits pick a couple more. Please check all other single-use plastic packaging for the triangle that tells you it's recyclable. If the triangle symbol has numbers 1-5 or 7 it is recyclable at the curb.

Since FPC has remodeled our kitchen and we have a new efficient dishwasher, we are using much less single-use paper and plastic. This will save us money and we will have lots less trash going to the landfill.

For Creation,
FPC Green Team



Crisis Center Emergency Assistance Program – Common Fund

JCCrisisCenter.org

With record-breaking low temperatures, furnaces are barely able to keep up. We know that the cold weather is going to drive heating bills up through the roof for everyone in the community.

With your help, the Johnson County Crisis Center will be able to get more of our friends and neighbors through this difficult time. Help people keep their heat on.

The University of Iowa Community Credit Union will be matching all gifts to the Crisis Center's Emergency Assistance Program, of which the Common Fund is a component, up to \$5,000! Don't miss this opportunity to double your impact! Donate: on line at <https://www.jccrisiscenter.org/financial-contributions/> (Use the Emergency Assistance drop-down; note "For Common Fund" in box for Additional Information) or mail your check (with "Common Fund" in the memo line) directly to the Crisis Center, 1121 Gilbert Ct., Iowa City, 52240.

Planning Your Charitable Giving

Bob and Millie Youngquist, Endowment/Memorial Coordinators

Often in this column we will close by asking you to contact us if you have any questions about the FPC Endowment. Though we are always ready to answer your questions, another very good place to start is by consulting one or more of your professional advisors. Sometimes an advisor will ask you about charitable giving, but often an advisor will take the lead from your questions.

Of course, to take advantage of professional advice about tax-wise ways to give, people must first be interested in making charitable gifts. They must be charitably inclined. Charitable inclination is merely a starting place, though, and all a person's or couple's primary charities, as well as their heirs, must be discussed and woven into the plan. This does not need to be done all at once, and many plans evolve over time.

Once heirs and charities are identified, the plan must consider all the assets available. When meeting with your estate-planning attorney, for example, have a written list of everything you own and your estimate of its value. The list should include:

- Cash
- Savings
- Your home
- Second home
- Vacation or other property
- Stocks and bonds
- Life Insurance owned by you or by others on your behalf
- Commercial Annuities
- Personal property (Cars, boats, collectibles, jewelry, artwork)
- Promissory Notes
- Business Interests
- Retirement accounts (IRA, Roth-IRA, TIAA-CREF, SEP, 403(b), 401(k))

With lists of what you have to give and who and what you wish to give it to, good planning can begin. As always, if you have questions about the FPC endowment, please contact us or another committee member.

Bob and Millie Youngquist
Endowment/Memorial Coordinators
endowment@firstpresbiowacity.org or 319-653-4673

Pasrur Mission Trip Presentation

*I can do things you cannot.
You can do things I cannot.
Together, we can do great things.
~ Mother Teresa*

On January 20, Jane Cranston gave a presentation on the 2018 mission trip to Pasrur, Pakistan. The Friends of Pasrur provided snacks and decorated using a collection of colorful pashminas. The main focus of the trip was to attend the dedication of the new boys school at the Pasrur Christian School.

Slides and video were used to describe the trip made by a group of people from churches in the Presbytery of East Iowa. Several people from the trip attended the presentation and were able to join the discussion. In attendance were Jane Cranston, Amy Nicholson, Rev. Lisa Thedens-Ross, Paul Heidger, and Anna Sheetz.

A video of the trip to visit the Christian girls in the boarding house is available on the church webpage under Missions and also on the Friends of Pasrur Facebook page. Search for "Friends of Pasrur" (available to the public).

It was so good to get to show the congregation all the great things we are doing in Pakistan.

Friends of Pasrur,
Jane Cranston



2019 Burns Dinner

January 25, 2019



Despite the cold temperatures, the atmosphere at the first-ever FPC Burns Dinner was warm and toasty! Everyone enjoyed trying the American or vegetarian versions of Haggis, Tatties (potatoes), Neeps (turnips), and Sticky Toffee Pudding! Tim Britton, the Piper, gave a fascinating lecture on the history of bagpipes and serenaded the group with many beautiful songs! Everyone had such a GREAT time that planning has begun for the 2020 Burns Dinner!



Thank you to the following FPC ministries, businesses, and individuals who donated to the silent auction:

Administration and Personnel Ministry
Equipping Ministry
Reconciliation Ministry
Support Ministry — Building and Grounds Committee
Worship and Arts Ministry

Leash on Life
Every Bloomin' Thing
Planet 3 Extreme Air Park
Ewers Mens' Store
Discerning Eye
Underground Shirts

Michelle Bessman
William Ogelsby
Becky Ross

All profits from this event went to FPC's general fund!
Thank you to everyone for the support and generosity!

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>.)

How much do people's driving styles reflect both their view of the human condition and their belief system? Consider some possibilities:

DRIVING STYLE	THE HUMAN CONDITION	BELIEF SYSTEM
Aggressive/speeding	Survival of the fittest	God helps those who help themselves
Risk-taking	It won't happen to me: I'm special*	God plays favorites
Ignoring warnings/other signs	I am on a good mission from God	God is all-powerful and will magically intervene to make sure good people doing good always succeed
Discourteous/impatient	All are sinners, but others more so	God saves individuals who need it; not all of us together in our relationships

*One snowy winter day several years ago, there were 37 vehicles in the median or off the shoulder along I-380 between Cedar Rapids and Iowa City. Their various positions suggested they weren't there by choice. Do you suppose drivers of vehicles 2 through 36 thought "it won't happen to me"?

It is hard to imagine that our driving expresses our faith, or lack thereof, to other drivers witnessing it. Yet the next time you climb behind the wheel, ask yourself this question: What do I want my driving to say about me and my character? What might my driving say about my maturity in my understanding of God? If I take seriously the biblical admonition "Love your neighbor as yourself," how might my compassion impact my driving? What's the relationship between love and making sure that my passengers, other drivers on the road and me stay safe?



Gardeners, are you starting to get that spring planting itch? Stop by the Garden Gems table and check out the seeds that are available. They should soothe your itch and will get you a good start for the spring. There will be more to come, so stop by frequently.

"Undie" Sunday is back!

Please consider donating NEW underwear.
All sizes are needed.

Donations can be placed **in the blue tub**
in Ryerson Fellowship Hall
through the end of February.



These donations will go to Shelter House, 4 Oaks and Lucas School.

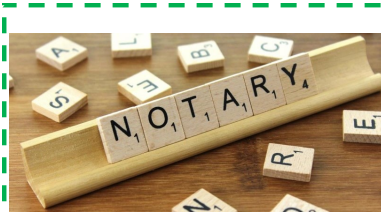
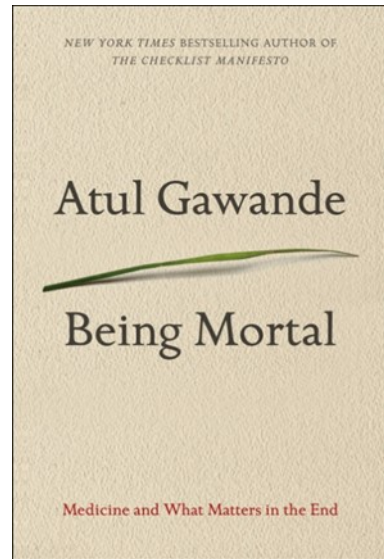
Congregational Health Ministries invites you to watch a PBS special from February 2015 called "Being Mortal." This program is based on the book by the same name by Atul Gawande, MD. The film brings us face-to-face with people undergoing end-of-life decisions, and how with the medical community may not be prepared to offer the kind of counseling that leads to living life to its fullest, even when there is not much of it left.

This may not sound like an important topic for you, especially if you are young and healthy. However, we know that our lives can change at any moment. That is why Iowa City Hospice started a program called "Honoring Your Wishes," which encourages EVERY adult over the age of 18 years to have a plan in place that describes how to carry out your explicit wishes about the kind of care you want. This is a gift from you to your loved ones who would need to make decisions on your behalf.

The Congregational Health Ministries will be sponsoring the viewing of the "Being Mortal" PBS special in Coover Lounge after worship on March 10, 17 and 24. There will be a facilitated discussion afterward. The program and discussion will last about one hour.

Please join us for one of these Sundays to begin the discussion of end-of-life planning and how we can assist you in the process.

FPC Honoring Your Wishes First Step Facilitators:
Rhonda Barr
Maeleen Thorius
Sue Van Duyn-Phipps



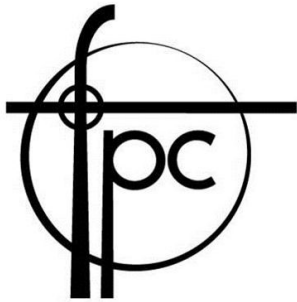
FPC is happy to offer Notary Public services. This is another opportunity for the staff to serve you. Contact Tammy Schroeder for more information. 319-351-2660 or tammy.schroeder@firstpreswacity.org

First Presbyterian Church
2701 Rochester Ave.
Iowa City, Iowa 52245
www.firstpresidiowacity.org

Public Office Hours:

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

Ph 319-351-2660 www.firstpresidiowacity.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.

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