



## The Season of Lent begins February 26

Throughout this season of Lent, we will be using the ancient Japanese art of kintsugi as a metaphor for our faith and discipleship.

Kintsugi ("golden joinery"), also known as Kintsukuroi ("golden repair"), is the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery by mending the areas of breakage with lacquer dusted or mixed with powdered gold, silver, or platinum. As a philosophy, it treats breakage and repair as part of the history of an object, rather than something to disguise.

As humans beautifully created by God, we are broken sinners yet called by Christ to be disciples *because* of our brokenness. Broken and holy. Whole and broken.

**Ash Wednesday, February 26 at 7:00 p.m.**

Worship in the round with imposition of ashes.

We are all broken. We are all sinners. We are all holy.

## Sunday Evening Lenten Series

Join us for the five Sundays of Lent (March 5-29) from 5:30-7:00 pm in Ryerson Fellowship Hall for a soup supper, meditation and sharing. Each week a different person from our congregation will share a part of their faith story. It will be a time of meditation, listening, sharing together and thinking about how life's challenges have had an impact on our faith. If you would like to volunteer to bring soup for one of the Sundays or if you have questions, contact Judy Whitford at [judy.whitford@firstpreswacity.org](mailto:judy.whitford@firstpreswacity.org).

### Inside this issue:

March is for Camp Wyoming	3
Deacon's Bench	4
First's Family	5
Worship & Arts Ministry	6
Weather Advisory	7
Equipping Ministry	8
Session Highlights	9-10
Pasur Update	10
Dine Out for Dodekah	12

## Keeping the Faith

*Written by Anita Burnett*

(This excellent article was accidentally credited to Pastor Sam. It is reprinted due to its continuing relevance. We apologize to Anita for the error.)

It is easy to get so caught up in the business of daily life that we lose sight of our greater goals. That is why some people of faith take a personal inventory of their faith and life from time to time. Approaching a new year seems a natural time to take stock, adjust our itinerary, if needed, and decide what shifts we will make in our life journey. Some identify a new spiritual discipline or practice as a new step in their relationship with God and people.

A basic resource for Presbyterians, besides The Bible, is the constitution of our denomination. Part I is the Book of Confessions. Part II is the Book of Order. In a section of the Book of Order titled "The Ministry of Members," we find one way of reviewing our faith journey and determining what course corrections may be needed. An introductory paragraph is followed by 12 ways of involving oneself in the life of a church and growing into

*(Keeping the Faith continued on page 3)*

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

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

Our wonderful treasurer, Larry Bruner, is retiring. This is a sad fact that we will mark on Sunday, February 23, following worship. Larry took up his volunteer task with zeal, integrity and good humor. His will be a hard act to follow. When it appeared that we were on the cusp of financial ruin, he would say, "It will come in, no worries." Yet when it looked like we were flush, he would say, "Looks can be deceiving." He was like Joseph, Jacob's son, who assisted pharaoh by predicting accurately that fat and lean years would follow one another: So it has always been.

Larry's steady hand, overseeing our financial secretary and advising all of us, will be sorely missed. Stay in church but go with God, Larry! Margaret, always faithful, send him back to us if he hangs out at home too much. We are missing him already!

This year proved to be a lean year for First Presbyterian Church. We were not alone, as many of my colleagues bemoaned shortfalls in church giving. Some of this lapse may be due to our loss of saints to the church triumphant, while other saints are no longer in charge of their own finances. We are grateful for what they have done. So it will be someday for each one of us! The new tax law passed a few years ago has also had impact. As I read about businesses like John Deere "right sizing," I am also cast back to the months just prior to the Great Recession of 2008. Perhaps we are hearing the first warning bell for more challenging times to come. Of course, for some of us, the times have never stopped being challenging.

One of the trend lines noticed by those of us in our congregation's leadership is that although only some of us are very aware of our budgeted giving, many more of our members are not. Yet this latter group is very aware of our special fundraisers and offerings.

**In a year of restrained pledge giving overall by our members, Session is trying a daring experiment, one that needs our enthusiastic support.** Specifically, while our pledged giving is going to continue to

- retain our talented staff at current levels with no salary increases (as ministry is a person-to-person way of operating, our staff folks are critically important to us, and we hope you will invite people

### **Support Camp Wyoming Through FPC Special Offerings during the month of March**

FPC's Reconciliation Ministry will be collecting special offerings each Sunday in March to support Camp Wyoming (CW), an outdoor Ministry of our Presbytery of East Iowa (PEI). These offerings will support two initiatives. First, we will be providing scholarships for children of racial / ethnic minority FPC families who have had no or very limited prior camping experience. Last year, these scholarships allowed five FPC-member children to attend a session of CW.

Second, we will contribute funds towards a \$125,000 anonymous matching grant to construct a high ropes course and climbing tower at CW. In January, PEI also agreed to match up to \$25,000 for contributions given by congregations with the Presbytery. A short, exciting video about CW can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/387013530>

Further questions can be directed to John Barr at [BarrJohnO@sau.edu](mailto:BarrJohnO@sau.edu)

to come to church from the new neighborhoods emerging around us to get to know all of us);

- pay for increased building costs; and
- support trimmed programs, yet ones that we believe can still benefit our church members enormously,

**our mission giving has been trimmed to make room for monthly special offerings that we trust will encourage all of us to match and perhaps exceed what we have done for mission in prior years through our annual budget.**

Each month our Reconciliation Ministry will present a different theme and options for our mission investment. In March Camp Wyoming will be featured, as you see below.

**Please keep in mind that our annual budget still has mission giving in it to backstop partially those months when special giving falls short. Furthermore, our ability to do special offerings rests both on our continuing pledged giving to the church AND our "over and above" giving to mission causes.**

Thanks for helping us try to move in this new direction! Your support is greatly appreciated. I look forward to your presence on February 23 in church to help us send Larry off to his next retirement gig with a big thank you!

Love, prayers and blessings,

Your pastor,  
Sam



Gloria & Glory Kasiriba, with their CW cabin counselor

(Keeping the Faith continued from page 1)

evermore faithful discipleship:

“Membership in the Church of Jesus Christ is a joy and a privilege. It is also a commitment to participate in Christ’s mission. A faithful member bears witness to God’s love and grace and promises to be involved responsibly in the ministry of Christ’s Church. Such involvement includes:

- *Proclaiming the good news in word and deed,*
- *Taking part in the common life and worship of a congregation,*
- *Lifting one another up in prayer, mutual concern, and active support,*
- *Studying Scripture and the issues of Christian faith and life,*
- *Supporting the ministry of the church through the giving of money, time, and talents,*
- *Demonstrating a new quality of life within and through the church,*
- *Responding to God’s activity in the world through service to others,*
- *Living responsibly in the personal, family, vocational, political, cultural, and social relationships of life,*
- *Working in the world for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment,*
- *Caring for God’s creation,*
- *Participating in the governing responsibilities of the church, and*
- *Reviewing and evaluating regularly the integrity of one’s membership, and considering ways in which one’s participation in the worship and service of the church may be increased and made more meaningful.*

This last suggestion brings us full circle to what’s suggested in the first paragraph of this article. If we’re honest with ourselves, it’s not likely that any among us could compare our life to this list, and say, “I’ve got this. No need to invest in my faith journey any more than I do now. I’m doing all those things to the max.”

A review like the one suggested in this article is not an exam to be graded. Rather, it can help one think about the “Big Picture” and how to fit into it. Some might identify an involvement they’d never thought about before and decide to try something new in that area. Others may see an involvement that they’ve been working on over the years and decide to step up a bit to greater involvement in that area.

This article is offered not as an assignment but as an invitation to keep growing in faith. Travel mercies as you journey on in your walk with God.



## Operation Backpack Spreads its Wings

As you may know, the Operation Backpack team at FPC has been delivering nutritious bags of food to kids in need at Lucas Elementary since 2012. In 2019, the national program changed as did the local HACAP program. The changes require that all the packing of food be done at HACAP in Hiawatha. This change modifies the dynamic of our intergenerational team who had been meeting monthly for an hour at church to do all the packing and have fun conversation.

Rather than quit the program, we instead worked with some teachers and the PTO at Lucas to meet a quick, short-term need for the winter. In roughly 48 hours we raised several hundred dollars from personal donations, and

several team members used this or their own money to purchase cold-weather items for elementary kids so they can all stay warm at recess and while walking to and from school. We donated approximately the following items to Lucas:

- 22 winter coats
- 17 pairs of snow pants
- 36 warm shirts/sweaters/sweatshirts
- 35 pairs of sweatpants or jeans
- 8 winter hats
- 12 pairs of gloves
- 4 pairs of socks
- 31 pairs of boys undies
- 67 pairs of girls undies

The staff at Lucas were EXTREMELY impressed with the quickness with which we were able to respond and get them what they needed. They love FPC! We don't yet know what the future holds for our work with the kids at Lucas, but if you are interested in donating financially or becoming involved with your time, please let Carol Kirsch or Lara Marsh know. You can also write a check to the church with “Operation Backpack” in the memo line. Thank you!





## Happy 2020 From the FPC Endowment/Memorial Committee!

*Submitted by Bob and Millie Youngquist, Endowment Coordinators*

2019 was a good year for the FPC Endowment/Memorial Committee!

In 2019 we:

- Hosted an Estate Planning Seminar with 20 from the congregation attending
- Welcomed 7 new members to the 1840 Legacy Society (David and Norma Carlson, Nancy Gardner, Sam and Susan Massey and Bob and Millie Youngquist)
- Added over \$15,000 to our unrestricted endowment funds held at Hills Bank through congregational donations
- Awarded \$24,450 in grant funds to seven local and international projects
- Provided support for the FPC 2019 budget

- Re-landscaped the west entrance with Zajicek and Breazeale Memorial Funds
- Purchased furniture and electronics for the Youth Room with memorial funds from Dick and Grace Young and Marge Limoseth

Thanks to the members of the Endowment/Memorials Committee: Aimee Meardon-Orris, Dale Kraus, Ken Miller, Tony Warren and Ben Nicholson. Also thanks to the Ex-Officio Members Larry Bruner, Rev. Sam Massey, Tammy Foster and Saira Steen for your help throughout the year. Thanks to the FPC congregation, past and present for your support.

May God Bless You Richly in the Coming Year!

Sincerely,

Bob and Millie

## Deacon's Bench

The transportation ministry of the Deacons provides rides to and from Sunday church services for members and friends of FPC. For people who don't drive themselves or find themselves unable to drive temporarily, each week a pair of drivers picks up and returns riders from separate east side and west side routes, typically 4-6 people per week. This has been one of the most appreciated services provided over the years.



The Deacons would be delighted to add a driver or two to our rotation. If you would be able to provide Sunday rides once a month or so on one of these routes, contact Moses Kasiriba ([kasiriba@gmail.com](mailto:kasiriba@gmail.com)) or Dan Thedens ([dthedens@gmail.com](mailto:dthedens@gmail.com)) to find out more. Thank you for your consideration!

## Martha Circle meets March 18

Martha Circle will begin meeting again in March. On Wednesday, March 18, we will gather at 9:30 for refreshments provided by Ann Robinson. Our meeting will start at 10:00. Jane Skinner will give the devotions and Anita Burnett will provide the program. Anita always has interesting and educational programs. We are always finished by no later than 11:30. All women of FPC are invited to attend.

## Looking for Bible Study?

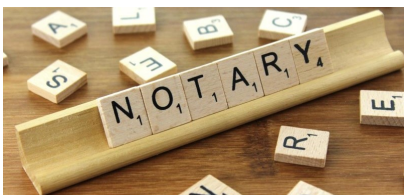
### We've got 2 on Wednesdays!

Join Pastor Sam from 9:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m. to study the Book of Isaiah. Then again from 6 p.m.–7 p.m. as the Book of Mark is discussed.

Both studies meet in the Pastor's Place, on the lower level.

Invite your friends and join us for a relaxed the conversation about the Bible.

For more info, contact Pastor Sam at 319-351-2660 or [sam.massey@firstpresbiowacity.org](mailto:sam.massey@firstpresbiowacity.org)



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



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

## February 15-29

2/18 Peggy Guither  
2/19 Cullen Schroeder  
2/23 Ruth Van Voorhis  
2/25 Bradley Hamilton  
2/27 Jeanie Wade-Nagle  
2/28 Nancy Ross  
2/28 Joan Decker  
2/28 Deann Claypool  
2/28 Byema Lipanda



## March 1-17

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  
3/17 Keith Long  
3/17 Michael Anderson



**Known  
to have been  
Hospitalized:**

**Helen Chadima and  
Brian Kleis**

*With  
Sympathy*

**To Cynthia Chou-Liang and family**, whose husband, James Liang, died on January 30. His funeral was on Feb. 9 at FPC and led by Pastor Sam.

To the family of **Sally Rickey**, whose mother, Betty Robinson died on February 3.

## Congratulations to Brian Morris

We would like to announce that our son Brian Morris has earned his Eagle Scout Award. It has been a challenging and rewarding journey for him and our family. We wanted to share the news as the church has been an important part of our support network. A Scout is Reverent is a part of the scout law, and a vital part of this is our church family. Thank you for praying for us and supporting us in our scouting journey. Thank you for helping Brian to grow in his faith. Brian is a junior in high school this year so he will continue as an Eagle Scout in his Boy Scout Troop, where he currently holds a position as a Troop Guide helping newer scouts earn their beginning rank requirements. He is also working toward his final Boy Scout Religious Award. Ask Brian to tell you about his important conservation work creating pollinator habitat with Bur Oak Land Trust for his Eagle Scout Project.



## Worship & Arts Ministry




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 Sundays from 5–8 p.m. Contact Leah Bergman at [leah.bergman@firstpreswiowacity.org](mailto:leah.bergman@firstpreswiowacity.org) or call the church for more information.

### Youth Choir Schedule *January–May 2020*

Rehearsals every Sunday  
5:00–6:00 p.m.

Youth Choir leads in worship on:  
**Sunday, February 23**  
**Sunday, March 22**  
**Saturday, April 11 (Easter Vigil)**  
**Sunday, April 26**  
**Sunday, May 10 (Youth Sunday)**



**BAYARD RUSTIN:**  
**THE MAN BEHIND THE DREAM**  
*A STORYTELLING CONCERT*

**Friday, February 21st**  
*First Presbyterian Church of Iowa City*

.....

**Doors Open: 7:30 PM**  
**Concert Starts: 8:00 PM**

.....

More at: [www.TheQuire.org/calendar/upcoming-concerts](http://www.TheQuire.org/calendar/upcoming-concerts)

ADMISSION IS FREE  
DONATIONS WELCOME

### 2020 Communion Dates:

February 23	Transfiguration
March 15	3rd Sunday in Lent
April 9	Maundy Thursday
April 11	Great Vigil of Easter
May 31	Pentecost Sunday
June 21	3rd Sunday after Pentecost
July 19	7th Sunday after Pentecost
August 16	11th Sunday after Pentecost
September 20	16th Sunday after Pentecost
October 4	World Communion
November 22	Reign of Christ
December 13	Advent III







**Suzuki Baby Music**

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

Tuesdays 5:30-6:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church  
2701 Rochester Ave  
Iowa City, IA 52245

**Try out a class for free at any time!**  
Class is ongoing - new students may join 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

Or visit us on facebook at Suzuki Baby Music Iowa City!

**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.



### **Did you know that FPC has an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator)?**

Do you know where the church's AED is located? IF NOT, take a moment to find it; someone's life could depend on it. **The AED is located outside the sanctuary, in the narthex;** on the tan brick wall, above the fire extinguisher and next to the glass wall.



## Equipping Ministry

# YOUTH

- Jr&High School—Wednesday, February 19, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Ryerson Fellowship Hall & Young Youth Room  
We'll learn about what the word *GOSPEL* means and how it should impact our Lenten series. Youth Band will meet from 8-8:30 p.m.
- 4th-6th Grade—Sunday, February 23, 6-7:30 p.m., Room 14  
We learned about Creation, now let's learn about Rebellion. Talking snakes and flaming swords? What could this have to do with our next story?
- Jr&High School—Wednesday, February 26, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Ryerson Fellowship Hall & Young Youth Room **ASH WEDNESDAY. There will be a FPC COMMUNITY POTLUCK dinner, beginning at 6 p.m. We will attend worship at 7:00 p.m. Parents, please be prepared to pick up youth at 8 p.m.**
- Jr&High School—Wednesday, March 4, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Ryerson Fellowship Hall & Young Youth Room  
We'll be kicking off our John series. Please bring your Bibles. Youth Band will meet from 8-8:30 p.m.
- 4th-6th Grade—Sunday, March 8, 6-7:30 p.m., Room 14  
Diving back into Echo; we'll imagine building an ark and surviving a flood.
- Jr&High School—Wednesday, February 12, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Ryerson Fellowship Hall & Young Youth Room  
Another dive into John. Please bring your Bibles. Youth Band will meet from 8-8:30 p.m.

**There will be NO Youth Group on Wednesday, March 18 for Spring Break. Little Hamsters, 4th-6th Grade Youth Group will meet next on Sunday, March 29.**

### 2nd Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 11 at 10 a.m.



Please consider donating bite-sized candy donations in the marked bin that can be found in Ryerson Fellowship Hall beginning Sunday, March 8.

We will need all sorts of volunteers for that day so please prayerfully consider!



#### The Breakfast Club

A New Discipleship Group for teenagers that will meet on Tuesdays from 8-8:40 a.m. during Lent. Anna will be available for 7:45 a.m. pickups from home and drop offs at school after the study. Youth will get more information.

**Save the Date;** Tuesdays, Feb 25, March 3, 10, 24, 31, April 7



**FPC Community, Family and Friends are all invited to a Ash Wednesday Potluck Meal.**

Bring a dish to share and join us for dinner in Ryerson Fellowship Hall at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, February 26.



**The group formerly known as the Social Justice Book Club is now the Jeremiah Justice Initiative.**

Knowing that this group studies and does much more than reading books, what a fitting way to embody Jeremiah 22:3, which says, **The LORD proclaims: Do what is just and right; rescue the oppressed from the power of the oppressor. Don't exploit or mistreat the refugee, the orphan, and the widow. Don't spill the blood of the innocent in this place.**

We look forward to 2020 with the Jeremiah Justice Initiative and the justice-seeking work they will continue to do. For more information, contact Layne Sheetz at [Layne.Sheetz@firstpreswacivcity.org](mailto:Layne.Sheetz@firstpreswacivcity.org).

Check out FPC's Facebook for the amazing video put together by this group! The next group meets Sundays, April 19–June 28.



**January 2020 Session Highlights, Submitted by Ann Grosscup, Clerk of Session**

Session was called to order at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2020, when Pastor Sam lit the Christ candle. Leadership was the focus of a book of Proverbs devotion and opening prayer shared by Steve Smith.

The 2019 Fiscal Year ended (Dec 31, 2019) with a \$17,901.26 deficit. Annual income was \$594,117.33 while expenditures were \$612,018.59. The area going over budget remained Building and Grounds due to unanticipated expenses. The year-end deficit was reduced to \$7,579.04 by transferring \$10,322.22 from the Building and Grounds Reserve Account to the General Fund, thus depleting that reserve account as final 2019 expenditure were accordingly adjusted to \$601,696.37.

The 2019 Budget adopted by Session was \$622,000. 2019 pledge income was 92.9% of the amount pledged (\$479,100) while general contributions were 77.2% of the amount (\$70,000) estimated. Both of these sources of giving were below the recent historical average percentages of budgeted giving.

**MOTIONS APPROVED:**

- Session approves that the FPC name is used in pursuing the feasibility of faith-communities holding a wedding expo specifically for the LGBTQ community.
- December 2019 financials were received and approved.

- Minutes of stated session meeting Dec. 17, 2019.
- Communion schedule for 2020.
- Chitoka Webb's columbarium request.
- Kevin Cullum, director of Camp Wyoming, to provide a "Minute for Mission" on Sunday, Mar. 1, 2020, during the worship service.
- To defer decision. Session is sending the following the motion back to A&P to research, specifically with a CPA regarding the tax implications for both the employee and FPC: *To recommend to Session to transfer unspent FSA funds of \$500 from FY 2018 and \$500 from FY 2019 (total of \$1,000) to the corresponding employee's Professional Development account funds for use in FY 2020.*
- Session endorses REALM Planning to establish a task force to plan and execute a congregation-wide campaign to solicit ideas for large community service projects, develop those ideas into plans, and ask the congregation to select the project plan they wish to begin executing in 2021. REALM Planning will establish a task force to plan and execute a congregation-wide campaign to solicit ideas for large community service projects, develop those ideas into plans, and ask the congregation to select the project plan they wish to begin

executing in 2021.

- Session approves a 2020 budget of \$592,422.

The Session approved a 2020 budget for \$592,422. This approval was based upon a 2020 budget recommendation by the Finance Cluster of \$588,822 plus a \$3,600 increase due to adjustments in various budget line items by Session. The approved 2020 budget is \$29,578 less than the 2019 Budget. The 2020 budget contains no increase in staff salary and reduced expenditures in most other budget line items. Discussion points were: asking A&P to review position descriptions for any duplication of duties; implementing monthly mission interpretation by providing the congregation information for financial support; and shift thinking from financially supporting other worthy projects toward implementing FPC projects building relationships and revenue.

Nancy Gardner, A&P convener, led the evaluation of Pastor Sam Massey's Terms of Call. Confidential positive comments were readily shared by elders. Nancy will share with Pastor Sam at a later date.

Nancy Gardner shared how well the Johnson County Interfaith Coalition (JCIC) Voter Engagement event was that FPC supported and the community attended. Fellow elders, Sharon Raffensperger and Leann Graves, were 2 of the FPC volunteers.

*(Session Highlights continued on page 10)*

(Session Highlights continued from page 9)

Burns Dinner tickets are \$25 with the event to be held, Saturday, Jan. 25, 2020, 5:30 p.m., in Ryerson Fellowship Hall, with proceeds supporting implementation of FPC's Child and Youth Protection Policy.

Congregational Meeting and youth fundraiser lunch to support their summer

mission trip will be Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020, immediately following worship.

Retiring FPC Treasurer Larry Bruner's appreciation reception will be Sunday, Feb., 23, 2020, immediately following worship.

Task Force updates were shared: New Creations Academy Advisory Committee

and Volunteer.

Vern Dengler closed the meeting with prayer.

**Next meeting:** February 18, 2020, 7 p.m. in Coover Lounge

Sharon Raffensperger, Opening Devotions; Michelle Bessman, Closing Prayer

## VEDA GILL BRINGS NEWS OF PASRUR



Veda Gill brightened up early January with a visit to our church. She is the Executive Director of the Presbyterian Education Board in Pakistan which oversees a number of Presbyterian-sponsored schools. Veda preached the sermon on January 5. In a presentation following the service, she shared positive news of the school in Pasrur, where in 2007 FPC built a boarding house for impoverished Christian girls from nearby villages. Since then, our church has provided scholarships for 100 girls to live in the boarding house and attend the school every year. So far we have donations to send 85 girls to the school in the upcoming school year. Here is the link to make an online donation: <https://firstpreswoccity.org/donate-online/> Thank you!

Leann Graves  
Friends of Pasrur





## Feminine February

During February we will be collecting feminine products, as well as, infant & adult diapers, toilet paper and Kleenex. Donation bin is located in Ryerson Fellowship Hall.



This project is sponsored by Outreach Ministry

## Needles, Hooks & Yarn

Mark your calendar to join us at FPC from 9–11 a.m. on Saturdays for the weekly gathering of this lively group who knit and crochet.

More info: Tammy Schroeder. 351-2660



## Eat Out Group

February 20, 6 p.m.

Hosts: Pauline & Dwight Miller, call, 319-351-2576

## FPC Book Club News you can use!

New Meeting Day—New Location

Join us as we gather on the **LAST TUESDAY** of the month at **11:30** at **FPC; room 14** (located on the lower level, to the left). For more information, contact Mary Linn at [JmLnn@aol.com](mailto:JmLnn@aol.com)



### 2020 Spring Schedule:

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>February 25</b> | <u>Storm Lake: A Chronicle of Change, Resilience, and Hope in a Heartland Newspaper</u> by Art Cullen                    |
| <b>March 31</b>    | <u>The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women</u> by Kate Moore   |
| <b>April 28</b>    | <u>The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate—Discoveries from a Secret World</u> by Peter Wohlleben |
| <b>May 26</b>      | <u>The Library Book</u> by Susan Orlean  |

## Community Prayer Box

It might be covered in snow but everything inside is still ready for you and our neighbors to release your worries to God.

**Pray More ... Worry Less**



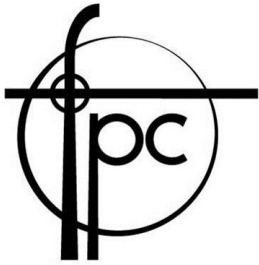


**First Presbyterian Church**  
2701 Rochester Ave.  
Iowa City, Iowa 52245  
[www.firstpresioiwacity.org](http://www.firstpresioiwacity.org)

**Public Office Hours:**

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

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



## Dine Out for δώδεκα

**δώδεκα** (*Dodekah*) is a year-long Bible study and discipleship program at FPC that culminates in a two-week pilgrimage to the Holy Land in June. Eight FPC youth and adults are participating in this program which transforms the Bible into vivid reality and will make Scripture a life-changing experience.

To date, our group's fundraising initiatives to help partially cover trip expenses have included the Pumpkin Patch and staffing a soft-serve ice cream stand at Iowa men's basketball games.



In the effort to further our fundraising, during Lent, we are asking you to participate in "Dine Out for Dodekah." This would involve patronage of area restaurants on a given night by FPC members and friends in exchange for a share of food and beverage sales that evening. At this point, Village Inn, Short's Eastside, and First Avenue HyVee have agreed to participate for an evening meal, and Tabooleh for their mid-day buffet. Further restaurants and specific details are pending and will be shared via blast emails and Sunday bulletins. Please feel free to direct questions to John Barr at [BarrJohnO@sau.edu](mailto:BarrJohnO@sau.edu)

### First Presbyterian Church Staff

MINISTER OF WORSHIP AND ARTS  
*Leah Bergman*  
[leah.bergman@firstpresioiwacity.org](mailto:leah.bergman@firstpresioiwacity.org)

ORGANIST  
*Melissa Moll*  
[melissa.moll@firstpresioiwacity.org](mailto:melissa.moll@firstpresioiwacity.org)

HANDBELLE CHOIR DIRECTOR  
*Sarah Klemuk*

MINISTER OF PROGRAMMING AND COMMUNICATIONS  
*Tammy Schroeder*  
[tammy.schroeder@firstpresioiwacity.org](mailto:tammy.schroeder@firstpresioiwacity.org)

MINISTER OF EQUIPPING PROGRAMS  
*Anna Sheetz*  
[anna.sheetz@firstpresioiwacity.org](mailto:anna.sheetz@firstpresioiwacity.org)

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF EQUIPPING PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS  
*Judy Whitford*  
[judy.whitford@firstpresioiwacity.org](mailto:judy.whitford@firstpresioiwacity.org)

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF EQUIPPING PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH, YOUNG ADULT, AND HOSPITALITY  
*Layne Sheetz*  
[layne.sheetz@firstpresioiwacity.org](mailto:layne.sheetz@firstpresioiwacity.org)

NURSERY SUPERVISOR  
*Olivia Ketchen*  
[olivia.ketchen@firstpresioiwacity.org](mailto:olivia.ketchen@firstpresioiwacity.org)

FINANCIAL SECRETARY  
*Saira Steen*  
[saira.steen@firstpresioiwacity.org](mailto:saira.steen@firstpresioiwacity.org)

MINISTER OF STEWARDSHIP AND MANAGEMENT  
*Tammy Foster*  
[tammy.foster@firstpresioiwacity.org](mailto:tammy.foster@firstpresioiwacity.org)

SEXTON  
*Gerald Hill*  
[gerald.hill@firstpresioiwacity.org](mailto:gerald.hill@firstpresioiwacity.org)

PASTOR  
*Sam Massey*  
[sam.massey@firstpresioiwacity.org](mailto:sam.massey@firstpresioiwacity.org)