

DELIVER US

The Season of Lent begins March 2

Inspired by India Johnson's art installation, "DEMAND/PRAYER," the theme for this Lenten season will be "Deliver Us." We speak these words in the Lord's Prayer every Sunday, "... but deliver us from evil..."

From what do we (personally, as a church, as a world) need to be delivered from? Throughout the season you will see stations set up around the church with ribbons to write on what we need to be delivered from. These ribbons will be added to a tree in the sanctuary as they are gathered. On Easter Sunday we will turn these words on their head as we are delivered as freed people by Christ's resurrection. We will be delivered into hope and new life through Christ.

Worship with us this Lenten season as we are delivered...

Ash Wednesday, March 2 at 7:00 p.m.

A contemplative worship service in collaboration with Loretta Ross with imposition of ashes.

This service will be held in-person and livestreamed on YouTube.

Deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen

Lenten Evening Zoom Worship

Wednesdays
March 9–April 13, 7:30pm

Join Leah Bergman for a series of meditative worship services on Wednesday evenings during Lent.

These will be brief (20-30 min.) services offered through Zoom Wednesday evenings from March 9–April 13 at 7:30 p.m. The services will consist of scripture, prayer, simple a capella singing, silence, and listening.

Watch your FPC Daily emails and Facebook for the Zoom link, or contact Leah for it to be sent to you each week.

For more information, contact Leah at leah.bergman@firstpreswacity.org



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How FPC is Supporting Black Entrepreneurs: An Update on Pastor Theogene Havugimana

By Jeremy Fletcher

In February 2020, FPC'S REALM Committee provided the opportunity for two Black entrepreneurs, Rachael Scott and Pastor Theogene Havugimana, to attend the University of Iowa Venture School. This was part of the church's focus on racial reconciliation, especially in the domain of financial resources. Both Rachael and Pastor Theo were thrilled to be participants. Rachael has dreamed of owning her own mobile coffee truck, while Pastor Theo is creating a farming enterprise to provide African vegetables in this region of the state. FPC arranged for each to have a supportive team of people that would accompany them on this journey of becoming a business entrepreneur.

After graduating from Venture School, REALM arranged for a virtual fundraiser known as "Shark Tank with a Twist." During this event, Rachael and Pastor Theo each presented their "pitch" to communicate their business plan and other information that encouraged the audience to support their idea.

In last month's newsletter, we provided an update on how Rachael is doing. This month, we catch up with Pastor Theo.

Jeremy: Would you please give us an overview of your business?

Pastor Theo: The THEOGENE & FAMILY FARMING PROJECT is a local and community-based project that grows fresh and organic food, and helps low-income communities afford fresh food in our local community. We believe that people in the community need healthier and fresh vegetables. They want more options for healthy, organic foods and we want to provide them. We mainly grow African eggplants and herbs. We also grow American carrots, lettuce, cabbage, spinach, onion, celery, collard greens, and American eggplants.

Jeremy: How did the Venture School and Shark Tank events help with your business idea?

Pastor Theo: By the financial help from REALM/FPC Iowa City, I joined small business training organized by University of Iowa through Venture School. I learned the strategies to reach people, reach for market and product need, customer segment and how to keep it. I learned also how to know your value chain and its importance in the business. In this, customer relationship is very important. This training at Venture School opened my mind and gave me a broader idea of how I can now lead my project as a small business with the objective of making money. I am using the strategies I learned there to meet people in order to have a sustainable market.

Jeremy: Where are you now? How is it going?

Pastor Theo: In February, I will start working on seed preparation. It is this germination phase that will take almost three months. During this time of winter when we cannot work in garden, it is a good time to put together materials and tools that I will need in the garden. This will be done until mid-May. From May 15, I will plow the land, work on the irrigation system, and plant the produce, then take care of it until Mid-June. After June, it will be the time of harvest until mid-October to the beginning of November.

I am also in the process of legally registering my business. The business name is THEOGENE & FAMILY FARMING PROJECT L.L.C. I have submitted all documents. I will have all legal documents soon.

Jeremy: What lies ahead for you?

Pastor Theo: I am still trying how to connect with different companies and persons to seek assistance. Now I lease 0.7 acres from Johnson County Poor Farm. My goal is to reach 2 acres and own my own piece of land to better serve the community the entire year. I am looking for help to fence this 0.7 acres that I have now, and this should be done by the end of middle June.

(Continued on page 3)



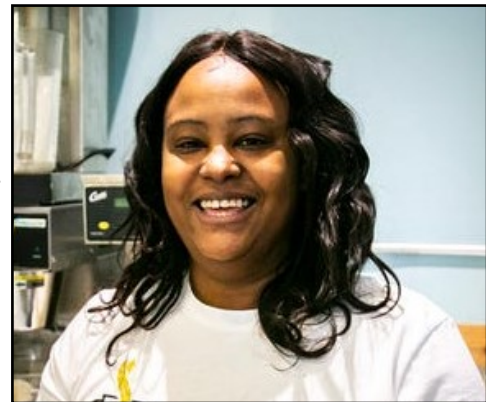
(Continued from page 2)

I am looking also for more training related to agricultural business and food safety. My dream is to see one day THEOGENE & FAMILY FARMING PROJECT becoming a source of fresh food in our community. My wife and I engaged in working on the farm to produce safe and organic fresh food. We'd like to ask whoever who wants to encourage us to reach our dream to do so by supporting our vision, connecting us to different resources in the community, advise us how and what to do to do better, and joining the project. We believe that this project helps people of low income afford fresh vegetables in the community. We thank an Iowa farmer family; they gave us manure, and this touched our heart. It shows us that people in the community recognize what we are doing and encourage us. Especially during pandemic season, we need more fresh and organic food to stay healthier.



The link below connects to an *Iowa City Press-/Citizen* article about Rachael Scott, one of two Black entrepreneurs that the REALM committee supported to go through Venture School last spring. Members of FPC also made financial investments in her through our “Shark Tank with a Twist” event in which the two entrepreneurs gave their pitch. She is making great strides in her new business and we are thrilled to see it!

<https://www.press-citizen.com/story/life/2022/01/23/cafe-go-mobile-coffee-truck-soon-serve-iowa-city-new-business/9008453002/>



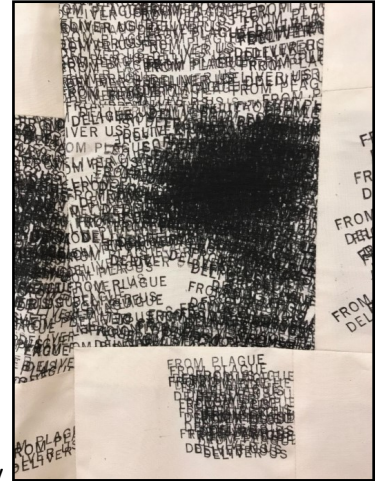
What is the Winter 2022 Idea Accelerator Cohort?

A subteam of the REALM committee, including Nancy Gardner, Jeanie Wade-Nagle, and Lara Marsh, was selected to participate in the Winter 2022 Idea Accelerator Cohort. The Idea Accelerator is a 90-day, rapid pace, virtual program to take an idea and put it into action. It is offered in partnership with Heartland Forward and includes teams in Iowa City, Tulsa, Oklahoma City, and Oxford, MS. The Iowa City teams include 10 entrepreneurs and are sponsored by the Iowa City Area Development Group. The idea from our subteam is aimed at solving the shortage of quality childcare in Iowa City, specifically as it relates to lower income workers who would like to enter or reenter the workforce but are limited by childcare options. The program kickoff is set for Jan. 20th! Read more here: <https://www.buildersandbackers.com/press-posts/iowa-cohort-2022>



Beginning February 13, First Presbyterian Church will host an art installation by local artist India Johnson. The piece will be up as we walk through a Lent that will mark 2 years of the COVID-19 pandemic. On Sunday, February 13, India will also speak during worship about her art.

India Johnson (b. 1992) is an Iowa City-based artist who makes sculptures, installations, and participatory projects for churches and libraries. Her work associates textiles with formal practices for organizing information. Conceptually, she is interested in meaningful repetition, the spatial nature of reading, and sacred books and texts. India holds an MFA from the University of Iowa Center for the Book.



About the work:

Title: DEMAND / PRAYER

Date: 08 March 2020–07 March 2021

Media: Ink on muslin, cotton thread, hand and machine piecing

Description: DEMAND / PRAYER documents the first year of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Johnson County, Iowa. A county is the smallest geographic unit for which case data is available.

The number of times that the phrase “FROM PLAGUE DELIVER US” is stamped on a square indicates the number of new cases that day. This phrase originates in a call-and-response section in The Book of Common Prayer called the Litany. Initially compiled during the Black Death, The Book of Common Prayer is still the source of most of the language used in Christian funerals and last rites.

2022 Communion Dates:

Dates are subject to change.

Currently communion is being offered by individual communion packets.
This is subject to change as pandemic is monitored.

February 27	Transfiguration
March 13	2nd Sunday in Lent
April 14	Maundy Thursday
April 16	Great Vigil of Easter
May 15	5th Sunday of Easter
June 5	Pentecost Sunday
July 10	5th Sunday after Pentecost
August 14	10th Sunday after Pentecost
September 11	14th Sunday after Pentecost
October 2	World Communion
November 20	Reign of Christ
December 11	Advent III



First's Family

If you have a news item for the First's Family News, please submit it for publication by March 1 to tammy.foster@firstpreswacivcity.org. Thank you!

February 15-28

2/15 Lance Christensen
2/17 Audrey Kunaingika
2/17 Arthur Smith
2/18 Peggy Guither
2/19 Cullen Schroeder
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 1-15

3/3 Gloria Zajicek
3/4 Carol Kirsch
3/5 Matt Degner
3/6 Shalom Bigaba
3/10 Fred Uthe
3/10 Linda Uthe
3/11 Rebecca Morgan
3/11 Joshua Fletcher
3/12 Chris Kolarik
3/14 Tom Bergman



**Known
to have been
Hospitalized:**

Don Ross

We extend our deepest sympathy:



To the family and fiends of **Duane Thompson**, who died on January 13. Duane was interred in the church columbarium on February 1.

To **Janice Wilson**, the family and friends of **Herb Wilson**, who died on January 14. The service for Herb will be on February 25 at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church and led by Pastor Kyle Otterbein.

Shelter House Annual Book Sale

Saturday, March 26 & Sunday, March 27 10:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Old Antique Car Museum (860 Quarry Road, Coralville)

For more than 25 years, Shelter House has created a wonderland of adventure, mystery, and curiosity at the annual Book Sale. Tens of thousands of used books are generously donated by members of the community and sold at low prices during our annual sale to support Shelter Houses's critical work.

Admission is FREE! If you want to be sure you have first pick of the amazing selection of items, consider an Early Entry pass for \$10 and you'll have access to the sale 30 minutes before the general admission on Saturday, March 26.

Donation drop-off begins February 14–March 20 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m.–2:00 p.m., and Sundays from 2:00 p.m.–4 p.m.

Sign up to volunteer at: bit.ly/booksale-volunteer or contact volunteer@shelterhouseiowa.org.

More information visit: shelterhouseiowa.org/book-sale



Grow Groups are here!

Don't worry, you can still join!
Check out these ways to connect:

Start your own group!

Grab a few friends or family members to join you! You simply need to find a way to be intentionally together each week. This might mean an email or text chain every day, maybe a weekly coffee meet-up, maybe a weekly dinner. You know the saying, "It's not what you know but who you know!" Grow Groups are all about relationship building—with yourself and others.

Join a Group at Church!

If you don't want a "DIY" Group, join a group hosted by church staff. These are come as you are, connect with whoever is there. There are three times throughout the week to join:

Sunday a.m., 9:15–10:15 a.m. Layne Sheetz, HYBRID

Wednesday a.m., 9:30–10:30 a.m. Anna Sheetz, HYBRID

Thursday p.m., 6–7 p.m. Judy Whitford, ZOOM ONLY



"There's an App for That!"

Download the Holy Bible app by YouVersion and make an account. You can go to the lower right corner and hit "Discover," type in "The Bible Recap Plan." We will be using "The Bible Recap with Tara-Leigh Cobble: New Testament" (make sure it's the 92-day plan). This will give you each day's Scriptures, allow you to listen to the passages out loud, and even give you reminders to read your Bible when you set them!

If you want to join a broad group of readers, take a picture of this code and accept Anna's invitation to join!

There will be technical support if needed. Simply ask Anna or Layne Sheetz in person or email Anna for more information.



Equipping Ministry knows that we don't just connect through laughter. We can connect through struggles, tears, and shared pain. This Lent, let's meet together to read through two of C.S. Lewis's most challenging works: *The Problem of Pain* and *A Grief Observed*. We'll struggle through Lent, grief, pain, and the human experience together.

We'll be meeting Wednesdays from 6–7 p.m. on ZOOM only. This group will begin Wednesday, March 9 and end Wednesday, April 13.

The texts will be provided and available Ash Wednesday through March 9

Please RSVP to Anna Sheetz at Anna.Sheetz@firstpresbiowacity.org or visit <https://firstpresbiowacity.org/ministries/christian-education/seasonal-events/>



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It's easy as 1, 2, 3

1. Go to Facebook.com
2. Search for First Presbyterian Church, Iowa City
3. Click 

**Celebrate and Save the Date!
Camp Wyoming Retreat is
Back!**

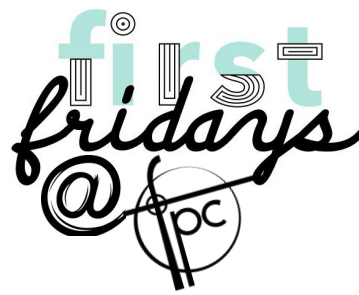
**Save the Dates:
March 25-27, 2022**



We'll rent the Owl's Nest (a big comfy house), eat together, play together, hike, explore, and who knows what more! This is a retreat for everyone! Equipping Ministry requests \$30 per person for the whole weekend! Thank you to Equipping Ministry for providing monies to make this retreat accessible to all. If you need further financial assistance, please connect with Anna Sheetz or Cathe Franz.



*A negative COVID test within 24 hours must be taken to attend this retreat (rapid home tests can be provided if need be).



**Equipping Ministry will host a
GAME NIGHT at MARCH'S**

FIRST FRIDAYS @ FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 4 from 6–7:30 p.m. for FPC's very own Game Night! Bring your own game or play one of ours!

**FPC has opportunities
for Youth on Sunday!**

4th-6th Graders

Ryerson Hall 4:30–5:30 p.m.

Confirmation Class in Room 13 4:30–6 p.m.

GAME GROUP for all ages that meets from 5:30–6:30 p.m.

7th-12th Graders

Meet in the Youth Room from 6:30–8 p.m.



Be sure to mark your calendars for the Game Night for March's First Friday at First Pres!

Sunday, March 6

4th-6th Graders: Creation series continues into Psalm 8.

Confirmation: Session 7: What does it mean to show Christ's love?

Sunday, February 20

4th-6th Graders: What is the story of the Bible? Let's look into the overarching narrative.

Confirmation: We'll cover Session 5: Who is your Savior?

7th-12th Graders: What is the Bible? Let's refresh!

Sunday, February 27

4th-6th Graders: We'll start a series on Genesis. We'll get into Genesis 1.

Confirmation: Session 6: What does it mean to be a Disciple of Jesus?

7th-12th Graders: We'll check in and break out some new games!

7th-12th Graders: We'll talk about Lent—why is it important?

Sunday, March 13

4th-6th Graders: Creation continues into Proverbs 8!

Confirmation: Session 8: Will you devote yourself to the Church's teachings?

7th-12th Graders: We'll talk about spiritual disciplines: what are they and what can we make space for?

*There will be no Youth Groups on March 27, rest and recovery from Camp Wyoming.

Questions or concerns? Contact Anna at Anna.Sheetz@firstpreswac.org today!

A Matter of Attitude

By Nancy Gardner, Interim Church Administrator

"Nuts!" I exclaimed as Phil saw his shadow on Groundhog's Day. This seems to be my reaction every year because, let's face it, those lights and cameras are enough to make anyone go back in their hole. But, really, could I be wrong? Is it an attitude thing? Is more winter perhaps more time to drink a hot cup of cocoa curled up on the couch with that book I've always been meaning to read? Is more winter actually more time to admire God's handiwork after a snowfall? And, what about this unforgiving pandemic we're all experiencing? It's horrible, it is! It's scary, it's inconvenient, and it's dividing many of us, even from loved ones. But is it not also a time to come together and show our care and concern for each other? We now say things like, "Stay healthy," instead of, "See ya." We mask up, we get our shots.

I like to think it's attitude that supports us during growth and change. And we are certainly growing and changing at FPC. We're in the midst of calling a new pastor, we have opportunities from REALM to address racial reconciliation, and we can all mature in our faith by joining a GROW group. But, it's our attitude that will drive our actions in each of these areas. Calling a new pastor is hard work for those on the Pastor Nominating Committee. It's time consuming, it's challenging, and sometimes seems so secretive to the rest of us, we feel a little frustrated. How can we do our part to support our committee members? Send them words of encouragement? Provide snacks for a

meeting? What would you appreciate people doing if you were in their shoes?

What about REALM? This group has been modeling racial reconciliation efforts by supporting Black entrepreneurs. How about you? Do you have an idea to address racial inequality? REALM can help with that, just ask them (Jeremy Fletcher: fletchej22@gmail.com). And, for GROW groups? How cool is it that we can all be a part of a congregation-wide endeavor, yet participate according to our own time preferences? C'mon, join in!

Yep, it's an attitude thing. We're growing and we're changing. And, we can each do our part to make this a positive time for everyone. But, I'm still crossing my fingers that Phil will do the right thing next year!





Have no fear...

the next New Member Class is near.

If you are interested in or simply curious about joining FPC, this 4-week class is for you!
Scheduled to begin March 13.

Please RSVP by March 1 so class materials can be prepared.

Contact Tammy for more information at 319-351-2660,
Tammy.Schroeder@firstpresbiowacity.org

Tired of the cold and snow? Need a pick me up?

Play FPC's website scavenger hunt, *Stay Pawsitive*,
February 14 – March 6 for a chance to win a \$25 Starbucks gift card.

Head to the website, firstpresbiowacity.org, and search for 4 paw prints that are hidden throughout the entire website. Remember, this is a scavenger hunt – you will need to look on pages you may never have looked at before.



Here's how to enter:

1. Let Tammy Schroeder know the location of ALL 4 paws by March 6
2. Your name will be added to the "treat bucket" located in the office
3. Winning name will be drawn Monday, March 7.

Contact Tammy by email: tammy.schroeder@firstpresbiowacity.org; phone: 319-351-2660 or drop into the office.

As you search, if you have suggestions on how we could improve the navigation of the website, let Tammy know.

Announcing the Spring Endowment Distribution

The Endowment and Memorials Committee is announcing its annual spring distribution of funds. It's time to consider applications for funding from the FPC Endowment Fund.

Grant application forms and guidelines are available on the church website now. The "Request for Funding from Endowment Distribution" form may be found at https://firstpresbiowacity.org/wp-content/uploads/Request-for-Funding-from-Endowment-Distributions_20220208.pdf or under the "About" link; select "Resources" and the form is under the heading "Congregation Resources." This pdf form may be filled out by computer or physically written upon. In either regard, it needs to be signed by the person submitting the application.



Submit your application form, statement of purpose, and supporting materials electronically to Bob and Millie Youngquist, Endowment and Memorials Committee, at endowment@firstpresbiowacity.org.

All approved applicants must fill out a Funding Completion Form within 30 days of the end of the project. This form may be found just under the application form on the website.

The following may request funding: The Session; the councils of the Church; a special Church committee or task force; ministerial or professional staff members; or a group, agency or charity not affiliated with the Church—
if sponsored by any of the above.

All applications are due on or before Wednesday, May 4, 2022. If you have questions, please contact Bob and Millie Youngquist by email: endowment@firstpresbiowacity.org or phone: 319-653-4673. Successful applications will be announced in late May.

Statement of purpose. The members of FPC honor the gifts and bequests of those who have gone before us by dedicating the spirit and income of the Endowment to the mission and needs of our church, our community, and our world.

Something to Celebrate!

By Jeanie Wade-Nagle

FPC's Friends of Pasrur is excited about the work of providing education for girls attending Pakistan's Pasrur Christian Girls School. For 15 years the monetary goal to support 100 impoverished Christian girls with full scholarships has been reached and this is something to celebrate! A \$500 scholarship covers tuition, uniforms, books, and room and board for each girl. You will never find a better bargain than this! This gift to these girls provides an education they would not have without the support of our generous donors. The school year for these girls is April–March, so there is assurance these 100 girls will have school paid through March 2023. In addition to sponsoring the girls, FoP has a vested interest in the running of the school which involves supporting many projects, the latest of which is solar panels. Utilizing funds from endowments to support this work, repair and purchase of solar panels for the girls' boarding house were made. All of this work is because of the generous gifts of many people, both in and outside our church. The Friends of Pasrur thank those who are currently donating to this project, knowing they are the backbone of this amazing work. FoP is always looking for new members. Please feel free to ask anyone involved with FoP if you have questions about the girls at the Pasrur Christian Girls School, or if you would like to join the team.



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

Bob and Millie Youngquist, Coordinators

Building the Church for Generations to Come

How are you coming with your New Year's resolution? Have you considered the thought we proposed in our January newsletter? We certainly hope so.

Today is a critical time for stewardship in the church. This is true today and has been true at nearly any time in the church's history. Mention the word "stewardship" to an average church member, and his or her thoughts are likely to be limited to the offering plate passing by on Sunday morning. But comprehensive Christian stewardship is about much more than that. We hope to challenge you to think of stewardship as something that goes beyond our usual understanding of the term. Stewardship is more of a lifestyle rather than a check in the offering plate. In particular, we hope to challenge you to leave a legacy to ensure that our church indeed will be preserved for generations to come.

If you are considering making a planned gift to our FPC endowment, you might ask yourself what category best describes the way God is leading your decision.

I want to see my gifts in action during my lifetime.

The Financial Benefits That Most Interest Me Are:

- Obtaining an income tax deduction.
- Eliminating or reducing capital gains tax.
- Giving without affecting my disposable income.
- Creating a secure financial future for my family.
- Reducing Taxable Income.
 - ◇ Consider giving all or a portion of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA Charitable Rollover after reaching age 70½.
 - ◇ Consider giving a gift of appreciated securities. (Stocks when given to FPC before cashing avoid capital gains taxes.)

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

I want to leave a legacy at First Presbyterian that will benefit our mission after my lifetime.

The Financial Benefits That Most Interest Me Are:

- Receiving regular payments for myself, my spouse or a loved one.
 - ◇ Consider creating a charitable gift annuity
 - ◇ Consider creating a charitable remainder trust
- Retaining flexibility and control of my assets.
 - ◇ Consider a bequest in your will or living trust
 - ◇ Consider naming First Presbyterian as a beneficiary of your retirement plan assets, life insurance, bank accounts or investment accounts.
 - ◇ Consider a gift of a retained life estate
- Saving on estate taxes.
 - ◇ Consider a bequest in your will or living trust
 - ◇ Consider naming First Presbyterian as a beneficiary of your retirement plan assets, life insurance, bank accounts or investment accounts.
 - ◇ Consider creating a charitable remainder trust.
 - ◇ Consider a gift of life insurance.
- Obtaining an income tax deduction.
 - ◇ Consider creating a charitable gift annuity.
 - ◇ Consider a gift of life insurance
 - ◇ Consider a retained life estate
 - ◇ Consider creating a charitable remainder trust.

Many of these terms may be quite familiar to you, but a few may need a bit of definition:

Charitable Gift Annuity—This gift is a contract between a charity and the donor. The charity agrees to pay the donor (or other person(s) named by the donor) a lifetime annuity income in return for a gift of cash, securities, or other property. The payment may

continue for the life of a second individual, such as a spouse or child. The annual payment is a fixed sum, the amount of which is based on the size of the gift and then number and ages of the beneficiaries. The payments may begin at a later time (i.e., deferred gift annuity). Donors who wish to establish a Charitable Gift Annuity with FPC as a remainder beneficiary are encouraged to establish the gift annuity through the Presbyterian Foundation. FPC may be named as the remainder beneficiary.

Charitable Remainder Trust—The charitable remainder trust is a separately administered trust established by the donor. It provides for payments to the donor and/or other named beneficiary(ies) either for life or a term of years (not exceeding twenty), whereupon the remaining trust assets are distributed to one or more charities. These trusts may be established during the life (“inter vivos”) or at death (“testamentary”). Though the church does not serve as trustee of such trusts, it accepts the role of remainderman and is available to help donors and their advisors explore and establish these trusts.

Life Estate—An individual may transfer to FPC title (i.e., remainder interest) to a personal residence, farm or other real estate, and the donor or other persons named by the donor may retain the use of the property for a term of years or the life of the donor/other persons (i.e., life estate). The donor receives a charitable deduction in the year of the gift, which may be carried over for five additional years.

We always encourage everyone to consult with their personal financial advisors when making any major giving decisions. In addition, we hope you will contact us to review various options for giving.

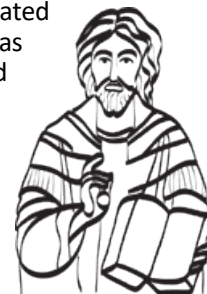
“Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above.” – James 1:17

BIBLE QUIZ

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

Choose the name of the book below:

- a. Romans
- b. Hebrews
- c. Mathew
- d. Revelations



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

The 2021 Nominating Committee would like to share the bios of our new Elders, Deacons, and members of the Nominating and Endowment Committees. We are grateful they have felt a calling to serve FPC.

Elders Class of 2024

Bill Follows grew up in New York City and as a child was invited to join an Episcopal boys' choir. Thereafter, he always joined the church choir every place he lived. He retired from his thirty-year orthopedic practice in Spencer and began going to Tucson in the winter. There, he serves meals at the church's weekly dinner for the homeless and tutors children at the school which is sponsored by the church. He is also active with the Tucson Wildlife Center. In 2016, he moved to Iowa City and joined FPC. He lives in an Oaknoll house with his wife, Kathy, and sheepdog, Lucy. They have three grown children and six grandchildren. Since he likes to bike, he gives rides to other Oaknoll residents on the "trykbike" (a three-wheel, two-person contraption). He also enjoys gardening, wood-working, and jewelry-making. And yes, he is again in the choir.

Leann Graves grew up in the Presbyterian Church of Blue Grass, Iowa. She and her husband, Joe, have been members of FPC for over 35 years. They have three grown children who all valued their experiences in FPC's youth programs. In addition to co-chairing Friends of Pasrur for four years, Leann has served two terms as a Deacon and will begin her second term as an Elder. She has also taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School and is grateful for the opportunity to learn through the Jeremiah Justice Initiative the past two years. Leann retired in 2016 from a 40-year career as an elementary teacher and currently supervises Reading Practicum students at the University of Iowa. Her pastimes include traveling, photography, reading, and baking.

Lara Marsh joined FPC in 2004 and is married with two daughters aged 19 and 17. Lara owns a small web design, maintenance, and hosting business serving roughly 50 clients, mostly in Iowa. Several of her website clients are non-profits for whom she periodically does pro bono work, including the Iowa City Free Medical and Dental Clinic, Shelter House, the Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking, Summer of the Arts, the Iowa City Community School District Foundation, Run for the Schools, Birdies for the Birdhouse, the Presbytery of East Iowa, and our very own First Presbyterian Church. She is currently the Board Chair of the Johnson County Historical Society and is a member of the REALM Committee. In the past at FPC, Lara worked on anti-human trafficking activities and legislation, responsible gun ownership and efforts against gun violence, the FPC logo design, advocacy for same-gender marriage, and the Operation Backpack program. Lara enjoys running, bicycling, knitting, and reading.

Bill Oglesby grew up in Middletown, Ohio and has been active in the Presbyterian

Church starting as a youth and has continued throughout his life. In 1995 Bill retired from the University of Iowa Audiovisual Center where he was the Director. In all of the locations in which Bill has lived, he has attended and/or he has been an active member of the local Presbyterian Church—Middletown, Oxford, and Kent in OH; San Diego, CA; Bloomington, IN; and Iowa City, IA. He has served these congregations as a Sunday School teacher, a Deacon, a Ruling Elder, a Session member, and as a member of Pastor Nominating Committees. Bill and his wife, Sharon, are the parents of seven children, fourteen grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Their interests include: church, family, Rotary, The Great Courses® dvd's, Senior College classes, genealogy, films, computers, gardening, and Big Ten sports.

Elders, Class of 2023

Jane Cranston grew up in Birmingham, Michigan, and moved to Iowa in 1973 as a teacher in Pleasant Valley, IA. She married Ed Cranston in 1978, and his job with Apple Computer took them to Chicago and then Iowa City. Jane taught in the College of Education at the University of Iowa for 22 years. She has an MA in English Education and an MS in Art Education. Jane and Ed raised their son, Tom, and daughter, Sarah, in FPC where they have been active members for 30 years. Jane taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School and participated in the FPC Book Club, the Theology Book Group, the Eat Out Group, and Parents Night Out. She and Ed are currently members of the Wired Word Group. She has served on Reconciliation/Mission and Deacons. Jane was a founding member of the Friends of Pasrur and has been to Pakistan to visit the school twice. She is grateful for her many experiences at FPC and hopes to be an asset to the FPC Session.

Steve Schomberg retired from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign in 2005 where he served as Vice Chancellor for Public Engagement and Institutional Relations. He moved to Iowa City in 2005. He and his wife, Janie, joined First Presbyterian Church and soon joined the church choir and started playing in church instrumental ensembles. He has served previously on Session and Stewardship Council; currently he is a member of the Worship and Arts Ministry. He also provided leadership for the "Save the Ark" capital campaign in 2008 and was among those representing First Presbyterian Church and the East Iowa Presbytery at the 2012 United Presbyterian (USA) General Assembly. Since retirement, Steve oversees



the family farms in Muscatine County. His interests are in expanding and developing renewable bioenergy options and perennial agriculture. Steve also enjoys restoring and creating prairies and woodlands. He volunteers with nonprofits and plays tuba in community bands. Steve and Janie have two adult children with families.

Deacons, Class of 2024

Deann Claypool and her husband, Jim, live in Williamsburg, Iowa. Deann grew up on a farm west of Iowa City and graduated from the University of Iowa. She has been employed at the University of Iowa Office of Admissions for more than 30 years. Deann and Jim have been members of FPC since 2007. Deann has served as a Deacon in her former church and as a Sunday school teacher at FPC when her twins were young. Their children are Cora and Will. Cora is married to Dylan and Will is married to Kat. Will and Kat are expecting their first child in January 2022—Deann and Jim are anxiously awaiting “grandparenthood.” When not working, DeAnn enjoys gardening vegetables and perennials and just about anything outdoors. She and Jim enjoy camping and trout fishing.

Megan Dehner has been attending FPC for over two years and recently became a member in October 2021. Growing up in Rockford, Illinois, she had rich learning and faith experiences at Christ United Methodist Church. She and her family are happy they have found a home here at FPC and are excited to be involved with the community. She is an art teacher by training and currently a graduate student at The University of Iowa. When she isn’t creating or teaching, she loves to try new recipes and spend time with her husband (Ryan) and their two young children, Madeline and Reid.

Pam Kautz has been an FPC member since February, 2018, and a Deacon since 2019. Her FPC involvement has also included Time with Children, Book Club, Bible Study, and Care Buddies. As a long-time Iowa City resident, her daughter and son were born and raised here. She feels very lucky to still have her family nearby. Before retirement, Pam taught elementary school for years. She looks forward to continuing with another term as a Deacon.

Mary Helen Kennerly is a lifelong Presbyterian and a preacher’s daughter. Her father, Reverend Lee P. Kennerly, served Willington Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) in McCormick County, South Carolina, for over 40 years and boldly brought a good Presbyterian social justice message to his red-state congregation. Mary Helen was baptized at Willington in November 1983 and remained on its membership roll until November 2012, when she joined FPC. Mary Helen came to Iowa to attend the Nonfiction Writing Program, which she completed in 2012. After struggling with the isolation of the writing life, she realized her passion for working with people during a 7-year tenure serving disabled adults at Systems Unlimited. Mary Helen’s surprise baby, Aurora, arrived in 2017, cutting short her

first stint as a Deacon at FPC. Between 2019 and 2021, she completed coursework and clinical requirements for licensure as a marriage and family therapist, and she started work at the Counseling Center of Iowa City as an LMFT-t in September. Mary Helen lives in the Goosetown neighborhood with Aurora, now 4, and is getting back into the swing of single-momming again now that her own mother has returned to South Carolina after blessing her with an invaluable and enriching 13-month stay.

Becca Morgan is a graduate of the UI with a degree in journalism. After she and her husband, Brent, finished their degrees, they lived in San Francisco for eight years before moving back to Iowa City in 2011 to raise their family of three boys: Thomas (age 12), John (age 9), and Matthew (age 6). Becca has just started working again for the first time in years as an administrative assistant at a psychologists’ office and finds it good to be out of the house. Since the age of 12, Becca has been a singer/songwriter and has played the guitar. She released an official album locally in 2002 called *One Bedroom Apartment* which was under her maiden name, Becca Sutlive. Amazon Alexa will play tracks from it if you give that name! She still plays shows occasionally and would like to record again. Becca began her first term as a Deacon in 2019.

Dan Thedens has been a member of FPC since the early 2000s and has participated in a wide range of capacities over the years. He has served previous terms as a Deacon and an Elder and is a member of the Personnel Committee. He has also been active in music ministries, such as choir and handbells, and taught Junior High Sunday School. He teaches and does MRI research at Ulowa and lives in Iowa City with wife, Laurie, two senior children Mia (Luther College) and Nick (City High) who are all also active musicians, and numerous dogs and cats of all ages.

Deacons, Class of 2022

Sharon Phelps Oglesby has been a member of First Presbyterian Church in Iowa City since the mid-1980s. She and her husband, Bill, have been active in adult education and Bible studies, and Sharon served one previous term as a Deacon. At one time she was also the chair of the Adult Education committee. Sharon grew up in central Illinois and, from a very young age, was very active in her home church. She sang in the church choir, taught an eighth-grade Sunday School class of 35 girls, was the leader of the high school Bible Bowl group which attended a national competition, and was in charge of a Junior High group, organizing field trips and studies of other faiths. As the church librarian, she started a library of over 10,000 volumes, doing all the cataloging and processing which had never been done before. She attended the adult weekly Bible study group for many years, until her career as a school librarian prevented her attendance at weekday church meetings. Learning to serve our fellow church members and others in our community is very important in our walk of faith, and it has

(Deacons continued on page 14)

(Deacons continued from page 13)

given her much pleasure and learning opportunities through the years. It has been a real pleasure to experience practicing our faith, sometimes using gifts that we didn't even know we possessed! Sharon looks forward to another opportunity to be of service to our church.

Daissy Owen grew up in Colombia, where she went to a boarding school run by Dominican nuns. After graduation she worked for an insurance company. One time, when on vacation in Miami, she met a pilot named Van with whom she kept in touch. Back home in Colombia, she started analyzing the political situation there. Every time she traveled from point A to point B, she had to pray she would not be killed; the guerilla warfare began in her state. Daissy decided she had enough money to come to the USA to school and would stay if she liked it. When asked at the American Consulate where she wanted to go to school, she said she didn't know anybody but then remembered Van. She ended up at LSU, where she met an American student whom she soon married. Daissy worked in the admission offices of UNC and Washington University and took night classes while her husband got his doctorate and did research. When they came to Iowa City in 1974, she became a TA in the Spanish Departments at the U of I and Cornell College. During this time, she switched from Catholicism to her husband's family's Presbyterian faith. After her divorce in 1985, Daissy opened a bed and breakfast and started traveling the world, both of which she enjoys immensely.

2022 Nominating Committee

Rhonda Barr has been a member at FPC for over 36 years. She is married to John and has three grown sons: Greg, Tom, and Evan. She worked at UIHC as a physical therapist for 41 years, now retired for the past four years. Rhonda has served FPC in various capacities: Elder, Deacon, Sunday School teacher, and Congregational Health Ministries, for which she is currently the chair. She is also a facilitator for the Honoring Your Wishes program at FPC. Rhonda is a long-time member of the JuBELLation choir and frequently assists worship as a lay liturgist. She served on the Nominating Committee in 2020 and now looks forward to serving in this capacity again in 2022.

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

David Carlson grew up in northwest Iowa and received his degrees from the University of Iowa. He has worked as a hospital pharmacist for 48 years at UIHC, University Hospital-Tucson, and Mercy-Iowa City. David joined FPC in the late 70s. He has served as a Deacon, sang in the choir, and is a member of the Health Ministry Team.

Nancy Gardner has been a member of FPC since 1984. Over the years she has held a variety of positions, including moderating the Personnel and Finance Committees, serving as an Elder and Deacon, directing Sunday School and VBS, and co-leading the women's retreats. She is also involved in the work of Friends of Pasrur and REALM. On some Sundays, you can catch her ringing the C and D bells in JuBELLation! Nancy retired several years ago as the elementary school principal in West Liberty. She now has a sweet gig teaching undergrad students and supervising student teachers at St. Ambrose University. Nancy and her husband, Scott, live on a farm northeast of Iowa City and have two daughters and three grandchildren. Nancy hopes her experiences with the numerous church groups will allow her to be a contributing member to the FPC Nominating Committee.

Endowment Committee, Class of 2024

Mary Ellen Stamp has been a member of First Presbyterian Church since 1981. She is a member of the Sanctuary Choir, JuBELLation choir, the FPC instrumental group, and the Finance Committee. Mary Ellen has served on the Board of Deacons, as an Elder on the Session, and on past Nominating Committees.



Needles, Hook and Yarn

Time to dust off those needles & hooks and start stitching!

If you are interested in joining this small group, please contact Tammy Schroeder at 319-351-2660.

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



If **Iowa City Community School District** delays or cancels school and events due to the weather, the church staff will work remotely and any scheduled activities will be cancelled.

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

We will advise you of cancellations by email, by changing the church's outgoing voice mail message, posting on our website and on Facebook. In addition, cancellations of church activities will be posted on KCRG-TV .

FPC Book Club is meeting by Zoom

February 22 A Long Petal of the Sea by Isabel Allende

March 29 The Sentence by Louise Erdrich

For more information and Zoom link, contact Mary Linn at jmLnn@aol.com

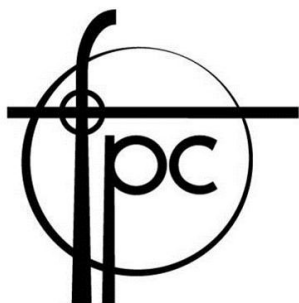


Income / Expense Update — January 2022

Co-Moderators of Finance, Leann Graves and Nancy Gardner

	Current Month	Prior Year to Date
Income	\$ 41,457.58	\$ 66,467.74
Expense	\$ 37,352.79	\$ 49,214.52
Total +/-	\$ 3,944.79	\$ 17,253.22

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Iowa City, Iowa 52245



Public Office Hours:
9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Monday–Friday
except holidays or when announced
Ph 319-351-2660
www.firstpreswiowacity.org

It's a New Year GET CONNECTED

Log onto My First Pres by going to the FPC website (www.firstpreswiowacity.org), scroll down to green boxes. After you are logged in you can update and confirm your information; have you changed emails, dropped your landline or gotten a new cell number, have you moved, or added a new member to the family? Maybe you want to update your family photo for the online directory. You can even check your giving status.

If you have questions or need assistance, Contact Tammy Schroeder at tammy.schroeder@firstpreswiowacity.org or call the office at 319-351-2660.



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