

# FIRST'S FAMILY



**February 15—March 15  
2023**  
Volume 67 Issue 1

## *Greetings in Christ!*

I'm excited to join First Presbyterian Church as your new pastor. It's been 30 months since I first drove by and started to wonder what it would look like to serve you, and 9 months since I made that interest official by sharing it with the PNC. It was with the sense of fulfilling the opening leg of a long journey that I started to unpack all of my books and figure out how to arrange my office last week. I hope to continue that journey by meeting with each of you individually, so that I can learn about your life, your story with FPC, and your hopes for the future. We'll work on having some signup sheets outside the sanctuary at future worship services, and you can always email, call, or text, too.

As you've undoubtedly heard by now, I bring with me 45 years of familiarity with Iowa City; while I have not lived here full-time since 1996, there has not been a year that I haven't made multiple trips—in my youth, to the various familiar establishments of downtown Iowa City; as the parent of young children to pools, playgrounds, and libraries in Iowa City, Coralville, and North Liberty; as the parent of slightly-older children to sporting events, plays and musical events at Riverside Theater and Hancher Auditorium, and to the many new restaurants that continue to appear around the metro. Some of these visits were driven by my parents and siblings, and some by my spouse, Dr. Elizabeth Yale. Beth gamely gave up a tenure-track job at Western Carolina University to move to Ankeny in early 2014, and by the spring of 2017 had begun to commute to Iowa City twice a week as a lecturer in the History Department and Center for the Book. She also brings an unexpected historical connection; while she grew up in northern California, her late mother was born at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics and spent the first decade of her life here and in Waterloo, making our kids Martha (13) and Teddy (10) something like 5th-generation Iowans, even though they were born in Boston and North Carolina.

While I bring some geographical and cultural familiarity with Iowa City, my denominational background is in the United Church of Christ; I grew up, was confirmed, and was ordained in The Congregational Church (UCC) downtown, our current partners in youth ministry. There are long cultural connections between the erstwhile Congregationalists and the Presbyterians—they were, broadly speaking, the southern and northern branches of the Reformed Christian movement in Great Britain. In much of the English-speaking world, the two movements

eventually merged into one denomination. While this did not happen in the United States, the two denominations have covenanted with one another to, among other things, allow ministers to serve congregations in either denomination when there is a good local fit.

This does mean that, while I can make jokes about my Puritan ancestors for hours on end, I still have learning to do about

Presbyterian history, polity, and confessions (the UCC statement of faith is quite a bit shorter than even the PCUSA's Brief Statement of Faith). I'm very glad to have not only the support of a number of knowledgeable lifelong Presbyterians here, but also our ordination candidate Anna Sheetz, who, I gather, has had to pass some rigorous examinations on these very topics.

I look forward to learning more, both about your relationships with Presbyterianism and your relationships with FPC in the coming months. Tammy Foster and Tammy Schroeder have already been very helpful, but there are even more stories here than there are people, and I'd love to learn more about them.

Meanwhile, we find ourselves a week away from the beginning of Lent! Kyle Coleman and I have been working on the Ash Wednesday service, which will be held in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. on February 22. The music on Sunday sounded wonderful, and I've felt privileged to have Kyle and Melissa as we all begin to think through what worship in FPC will sound and feel like in our new mutual ministry.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Nathan



First day in the office.

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## Session Meeting Highlights of January 2023

*Jim Claypool, Clerk of Session*

The meeting was called to order with a short devotion and prayer by Bridge Pastor, Forrest Krummel at 7:00 p.m. in Coover Lounge.

The Report of the Treasurer, Ken Miller, was received.

The minutes of the last meeting of Session held 12/20/2022 were approved.

The minutes of the annual congregational meeting of the congregation held 01/15/2023 were approved with the following addition: The Treasurer reported that the budget presented in the annual report was approved by the Session.

The Session voted to create a Pastoral Support Team to assist the incoming newly called pastor for one year, the Team to consist of the former members of the Pastor Nominating Committee.

The Session voted to approve payment of the full tuition for the new pastor to take a Presbyterian Polity course through the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary.

The Session elected the following officers, if the way be clear after the current president of the corporation was consulted:

- President and Secretary: Clerk of Session, Jim Claypool
- Vice President, Elder, John Barr
- Treasurer, Ken Miller

The Session elected Elder Steve Schomberg as the Commissioner to Presbytery, if the way be clear after Elder Lara Marsh consulted with him to be sure he is willing. Alternate Commissioner will be Jim Claypool.

Committee reports were received.

The Session approved reimbursement of expenses paid personally by members of the Personnel Committee upon submission of the appropriate vouchers requesting payment to the Manager of Finance and Purchasing, Krista Livingston, and to allow additional reimbursement of expenses for the year in the amount of up to \$1,500.



**The Reconciliation Team** is excited to have Jerald L. Schnoor speak about climate change after worship on Sunday, February 19, in Ryerson Hall.

Dr. Schnoor teaches Civil and Environmental Engineering, Occupational and Environmental Health. He is a Co-Director for Global and Regional Environmental Research. He has testified several times before Congress on the importance of passing the Clean Air Act. We hope you can join us to hear his important message.



**The Reconciliation Ministry of First Presbyterian Church** is delighted to announce a presentation by Dr. Louis Licht following worship on March 26, in Ryerson Hall.

Come and hear Lou's presentation: Ecolovillage, Ecolofarm and Ecolotree—a career that his farmer dad never understood.

This talk involves the audience in designing a future Iowa where, fear, greed and fun can lead to a reset in our rural state lifestyle. Fear in an unsustainable water source and air pollution, greed in adopting new valuable crops and unfunded objectives like wildlife diversity and fun in bringing it all together.





## **“What’s your name?” ... Name Tags!**

Wearing your name tag is not just for special occasions or when you are serving in worship or fellowship.

Many of us need a reminder of names. Our guests and new members really appreciate being able to put your face and warm welcome together with the name on your tag.

Name tags are located near the elevator and the coat racks to the right of the Sanctuary entrance.

If you’d like to have a name tag, make a note on the attendance pad or leave a note in the office.

**So, put on your name tag and enjoy more conversation!**



*J. Kyle Coleman,  
Director of Music*

Hello, Church Family!

I want to thank you all for the warm welcome Abigail and I have received this past month-and-a-half. Settling into a new job in a new place can be a tricky task, but you have made the adjustment very pleasant for both of us. The

love and hospitality of Christ is surely present in this congregation and it does not go without notice! I am proud to serve you as Director of Music.

Over the months of January and February, it has been exciting for me to see the enthusiasm this church has for music in worship. The pandemic has ushered difficult years for everyone, but it has been, of course, especially crippling for corporate music-making. Thankfully, ensembles have been able to reemerge and even grow in recent months, and our own sanctuary choir is no exception. My heart has been warmed by the spirit of our dedicated singers—I hope you are all aware, by the way, of how blessed we are to have such a stalwart conglomeration of volunteer choristers! We are currently working on some challenging and refreshing music that I think many will be eager to hear, including music for Ash Wednesday which is just around the corner. I have no shame in exhorting any and all to join us sometime for a Wednesday night rehearsal (7–8 p.m.) or simply on a Sunday at 9:45a.m. A wonderful virtue of singing in a choir, I am happy to cite, is that you will never be the only one singing!

Our handbell ensemble, JuBELLation, is in full swing again after the holidays, rehearsing every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. It has been a few years since I have been accompanied by a retinue of ringers and oh, I am reminded how fun it can be! We currently have ten dedicated individuals in this group and I am weekly impressed by both their skill and spirit. There is a real community in this cohort, and I am honored and humbled to get to step in and direct. Honestly, I feel like they do all the hard work—my only job is to wave my arms and make sure we avoid chatting the whole rehearsal away. Truly, music is most uplifting when made with friends, and that is our JuBELLation.

Pastor Nathan, Melissa, and I are working on incorporating more congregational music into our worship services. This may sometimes take the form of lesser-known hymns, confession or Scripture responses, singing of Psalms ... the possibilities are plentiful! Over the years, I have experienced nigh to the full spectrum of congregational involvement when it comes to singing in worship services, and I am regularly moved by the ardor with which you, the body of Christ, contribute your voices to the Lord’s adoration. Our corporate expression of praise, prayer, and proclamation is essential to our weekly gatherings, so I thank you personally for your offering.

Indeed, I am very optimistic regarding all that is to come, but in the meantime, grace and peace be with you all as we soon face the transition into the season of Lent. May it be a time of solemn reflection for you, as well as a time of meditating on the depth of Christ’s love for us, of which we sing.





Nelson, Isabella, Fletcher, and Reid are excited to give these hand-warmer mittens to their mail carriers.

## Sharing God's Love

~Nancy Gardner

Jesus loves everyone, and we should help people like Jesus did! That was the lesson the prek/kindergarten Sunday School group took to heart as they completed a special mitten project. Special guest, Rick Boland, spoke to the group about his experiences as a mail carrier, especially how the cold weather made his job difficult. The children then decorated paper mittens and placed two hand warmer packs inside each pair. With a special note telling the mail carrier that this "gift of warmth" is for them, the children placed the mittens in their home mailboxes. This was truly a "hands-on" lesson as we learned to share God's love!

## Surprise! The Kindness Campaign is NOT OVER!

If you are one of those people who thought the Kindness Campaign ended on September 30, 2022, think again. The Congregational Health Ministry wants you to know we are planning more events throughout 2023. We would love your help. If the Kindness Campaign had the ripple effect we had hoped for, perhaps you had an idea of intentional acts of kindness and how we might keep kindness in the forefront of our FPC culture. If you have a favorite charity or a suggestion for a kindness activity of any kind, please let the Health Ministry know. To keep kindness visible

and intentional, we are planning to facilitate kindness activities four times per year. We invite children, youth, young adults, middle agers and senior citizens to tell us your ideas. The members of our ministry: Rhonda Barr, Liz Bolin, Sue Van Duyn, Pam Kautz or Maeleen Thorius. We need your help!

"You cannot do kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

## A Stewardship Recap

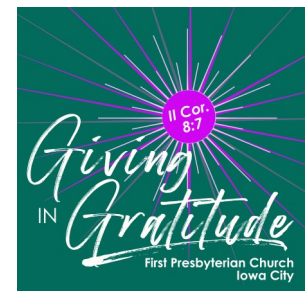
~ Nancy Gardner, Stewardship Committee Moderator

Here we are, it's February 2023. So, how did we do with our recent stewardship campaign? In a word (or two) ... pretty well! Let's look at the facts:

- Overall number of pledges received: 106 out of 194.
- This represents 55% of our pledging units (individuals, couples, families).
- Total amount pledged so far: \$345,574.00.

Session was firm about adopting a budget using only pledged income and the previous history of cash contributions. With this information, the 2023 budget reflects those expenses we know we can afford. It's a

healthy budget that will allow for quality programming, upkeep of facilities, and important mission work. Could we increase the percent of pledges received? Would this help us to do more? Could we affect more lives in and out of the church? Of course! But more importantly, let's celebrate the good work we are doing. We're delivering the good news, reaching people, in the church, in our community, and across the world. And that is truly a celebration to be proud of!



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

## February 15-28

2/15 Lance Christensen  
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

HAPPY  
Birthday  
FROM YOUR  
CHURCH FAMILY

## March 1-15

3/3 Gloria Zajicek	3/11 Rebecca Morgan
3/3 Ryan Molsberry	3/11 Joshua Fletcher
3/4 Carol Kirsch	3/11 Theodore Marrs
3/5 Matt Degner	3/12 Christine Kolarik
3/6 Katie Vitosh	3/14 Tom Bergman
3/6 Shalom Bigaba	
3/7 Jan Gwinn	
3/10 Linda Uthe	

### We extend our deepest sympathy:



To Linda Uthe on the death of her significant other, Fred Uthe, who died on January 17.

To **Debbie Beermann** and family, whose sister Carol passed away on January 29.

### Daytime Lenten Study

Lent is coming up! As part of my Lenten discipline, I am attending all of the FPC committee meetings over the several weeks. So this year I won't be leading our evening study, but I would love you to join me as I lead a mid-day study on Jesus's ministry in the Gospel of John. We'll meet at 1:00 p.m. on the Wednesdays of Lent in the Coover Lounge and on Zoom. We start on March 1, will take a break on March 15, and conclude on April 5. Come and study! Pastor Nathan



### Help Spread the Love

For the month of **February**, we will be collecting **Peanut Butter and Jelly** to be distributed through CommUnity (formerly the Crisis Center). Donations may be dropped off in Ryerson Hall.

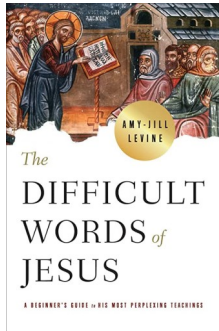


## Deep & Wide Lent with Spiritual Disciplines

This Lent, there will be opportunities for EVERYONE to engage and grow **Deep & Wide**. What does this look like?

**Each Sunday**, families can pick up an activity bag from February 19– April 9.

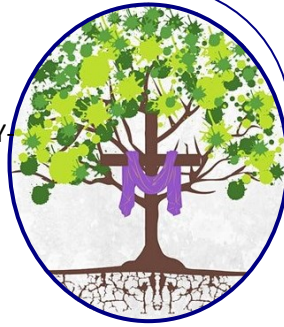
**Each Sunday**, there will be a new Youth and Adult Reflection available.



In *The Difficult Words of Jesus*, New Testament scholar and Jewish leader, Amy-Jill Levine shows how these difficult teachings would have sounded to the people who first heard them, how have they been understood over time, and how we might interpret them in the context of the Gospel of love and reconciliation.

**Thursdays, 6–7:30 p.m. HYBRID  
February 23–March 30**

Email Anna at [Anna.Sheetz@firstpreswacity.org](mailto:Anna.Sheetz@firstpreswacity.org) to sign up today!



## grow group

Both AM and PM groups  
will now meet **TOGETHER**  
on

**Mondays from  
6:30–7:30p.m. on ZOOM.**



The Christian Education Ministry would LOVE to diversify our team! We need new input to know what programs to plan for adult education, youth education, and family activities! We meet once per month so it's not a big time commitment. We just want to hear your voice. Please contact Lara Marsh or Jen Adams today: [marshlara5@gmail.com](mailto:marshlara5@gmail.com) or [jenbadams08@gmail.com](mailto:jenbadams08@gmail.com)



## Christian Education Sundays

### 9–10 a.m., Sunday School for All Ages

PreK–K Children  
1st–5th Grade Children  
Confirmation  
6th–8th Grade Youth  
Wired Word, HYBRID  
Parent's Group

### 10–10:30 a.m., Breakfast for Everybody

4–5 p.m., 5th–8th Grade Youth Group

5–6 p.m., Dinner for Everybody

7–8:30 p.m., Jeremiah Justice Initiative (ZOOM)

# youth group

## 5th–8th Grade Youth Group

### Sunday, February 19, 3-5 p.m. BIG EVENT

We'll have our UCC Friends join us for a night of fun, creating, and serving.

### Sunday, February 26, 4–5 p.m.

Luke 1-2; The Birth of Jesus

### Sunday, March 5, 4-5 p.m.

Luke 3-9; The Baptism of Jesus

### Sunday, February 12, 4-5 p.m.

Luke 9-19; The Prodigal Son

### Sunday, March 19, 3-5 p.m. BIG EVENT

We'll meet our UCC Friends join us for a night of fun, creating, and serving.



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

Bob and Millie Youngquist, Coordinators

A continued Happy New Year everyone!

We hope that 2022 proved to be a great one for all of you and that 2023 is already finer still!

The FPC Endowment was able to serve important needs in 2022. This past year, \$74,278.27 was awarded to various projects through the Unrestricted portion of the endowment. This money provided \$36,678.27 for the FPC Operating Fund, \$1,500 for the Care and Kindness Campaign, \$1,750 to support Anna Sheetz in her education, and \$4,000 to the Dodekah Ministry.

Additionally, \$10,000 was given to the Capital Campaign of the Domestic Violence Intervention Program, \$6,000 was given to the Enihakole Ministries, \$4,175 was given to Camp Wyoming for Cabin Updates and \$4,175 was provided to Pasrur for their Primary Building Project Fund. \$6,000 also paid for the efforts of Bob and Millie Youngquist as endowment coordinators.

Endowed funds (also called the corpus) differ from other gifts to the church in that the total amount of the gift is invested. Each year, only a portion of the income earned through these gifts is spent while the remainder is added to the principal for growth. In this respect, an endowment is a perpetual gift.

It should be said that the bulk of our endowment corpus is from estate gifts that have been received from members of our congregation who have left legacy gifts to our church. Other members have simply donated outright to the endowment fund in various ways. All of this funding has continued to grow and has been supporting programs we can now enjoy, but our hope is that many additional members of the congregation will also find it in their heart to give their own gifts to the church's endowment.

What part of church life means the most to you? Is there a ministry or program that has made a difference in your life, or a family member's life? A legacy gift to the church can keep that vital aspect of our community growing so it can bless others in the future. It's also possible to simply give to the endowment without specifying how the money can be used. Both types of gifts are a great blessing to our church.

Have you ever "paid it forward?" Bought coffee or paid the toll for the next person in line or given a gift to

someone because someone had done the same for you? Surely you have and it feels good to take care of someone like that. Right? A bequest is a simple, beautiful way to pay it forward for the next generation and take care of them in lasting ways.

If this thought has been haunting you during 2022, please don't just let this be a "can you continue to kick down the road" as something to deal with in the future. Please speak to Bob and Millie about this.

Certainly, major gifts would be a blessing to our church. Yet we encourage you to start with a gift of any size. You don't have to be wealthy to give a donation to the endowment. You just have to make the effort. Just donate in some small way. Get the endowment on your radar. Start imagining what our endowment can do not only for our church today but long into the future.

As usual, we suggest that you should work with your financial advisor if you choose to make any large financial gifts.

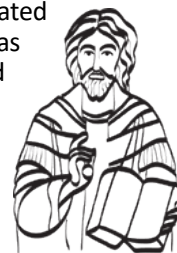
*"But I will say this to encourage your generosity: the one who plants little harvests little, and the one who plants plenty harvests plenty. Giving grows out of the heart ... God is ready to overwhelm you with more blessings than you could ever imagine so that you'll always be taken care of in every way and you'll have more than enough to share." 2 Corinthians 9:6-8*

### 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.)



## Report on 2022 Flood Donation Presbyterian Education Board in Pakistan



The parents and students of Pasrur and CTI Sialkot are very happy and thankful to all the friends who helped us at least once in providing help especially at the time of Christmas when we were badly affected by the latest floods which devastated our area and lot of damage was caused. It was ultimately affecting the education of our children.

Students and parents heartily thank Friends of Pasrur for support in their toughest time. This one-time help will go a long way in the uplift of our lost hope.

Sincerely,

Veda Gill  
Executive Director  
Presbyterian Education Board in Pakistan  
[www.peb.edu.pk](http://www.peb.edu.pk)







### Communication and the process ...

Did you know that one of the roles of committee moderators at FPC is to monitor their budgets to avoid overspending? They must approve expenditures before they are made and then complete vouchers to attach to receipts. In this way, our Manager of Finance and Purchasing, Krista Livingston, knows a bill may be paid.

This process was developed to meet the recommendation of a financial review.



1. Before making an expenditure, a staff or committee member (the spender) should check with the committee moderator for approval. The moderator will make certain there are funds available in the budget for the expenditure. It is critical that moderators monitor their committee's budget during the year to be sure they are not overspending.
2. The spender makes the approved purchase and turns in the receipt to the moderator.
3. The moderator will complete a paper voucher (found in the copy room) and attach the receipt to the voucher. The moderator then places the voucher/receipt in Krista Livingston's mailbox.
4. If the moderator has difficulty signing the paper voucher, an email can be written giving approval for a specific expenditure and specifying the specific fund the expenditure should be paid from. The email should be sent to Krista Livingston at [finance@firstpresbiowacity.org](mailto:finance@firstpresbiowacity.org). Krista will print the email and attach it to the receipt when she receives it.
5. Prior approval and a receipt must always be provided for reimbursement. Krista is unable to reimburse anyone without a voucher and corresponding receipt.\*

*\*Communication is critical in this process. Moderators must sign off on the vouchers. Moderators need to sign the vouchers after the staff conveys there are vouchers to sign.*

**Did you know that ...  
email 'spoofing' isn't the same as being 'hacked'?**

Spoofing is an "impersonation" of an email (like our pastor and staff) that the computers can't differentiate. That's why it is important to check the *sent from* email address. If the email looks odd, double check.

FPC has good email protection against hacking (which is stealing an email address).



EMAIL  
SPOOFING

### 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*

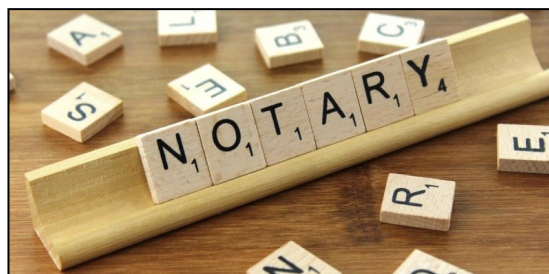


### Join the FPC Book Club

February 28 as they discuss the book, West With Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge.

**NEW** Hybrid option (via Zoom) available or meet in person in Coover Lounge.

For more information and for the Zoom link, contact Mary Linn at [jmLnn@aol.com](mailto:jmLnn@aol.com)



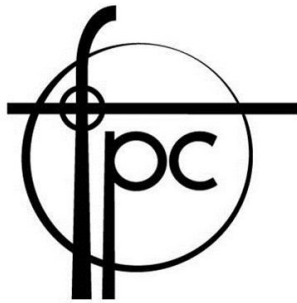
FPC is happy to offer Notary Public services. This is another opportunity for the staff to serve you.

For more information contact Tammy Schroeder at 319-351-2660, or [tammy.schroeder@firstpreswac.org](mailto:tammy.schroeder@firstpreswac.org).



## First Presbyterian Church

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### Public Office Hours:

9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. Monday–Friday  
*except holidays or when announced*

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[www.firstpresbiowacity.org](http://www.firstpresbiowacity.org)

### 2023 Communion Dates:

Dates are subject to change.

Communion is currently being offered by individual communion cups and bread cubes with a gluten free option in a prefilled cup.



February 19	Transfiguration
March 5	2nd Sunday in Lent
April 6	Maundy Thursday
April 8	Great Vigil of Easter (Pending Conversation)
May 7	5th Sunday of Easter
May 28/June 5	Pentecost Sunday or June 4, Trinity Sunday
July 9	6th Sunday after Pentecost
August 13	11th Sunday after Pentecost
September 14	15th Sunday after Pentecost—Holy Cross Day
October 1	World Communion
November 26	Reign of Christ
December 17	Advent III

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#### COORDINATORS

**Bob & Millie Youngquist**

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