



About the work:

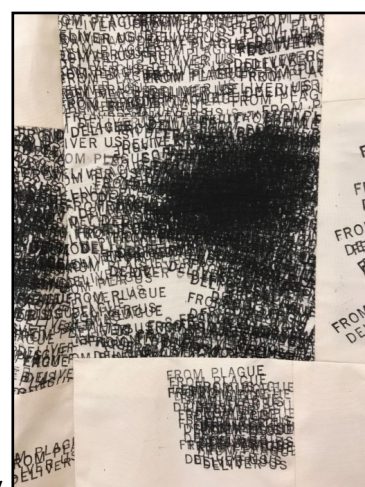
Title: DEMAND / PRAYER

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.

January 9	Baptism of the Lord
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



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How FPC is Supporting Black Entrepreneurs: An Update on Rachael Scott

By Nancy Gardner

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. (Special thanks to FPC's Stephanie Brentner, who was a member on Rachael's team.)

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.



Rachael Scott

A year later, we wanted to check in with Rachael and Pastor Theo to see where they are now. This month, we focus on Rachael, the proud owner of Café on the Go. I was happy to sit down with her to catch up.

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

Rachael: Both helped me greatly. Venture School gave me the foundation and fundamentals of running a business and understanding more about marketing. And Shark Tank gave me the rest of the capital I needed to purchase the concession trailer that I have. Members of FPC helped in general by taking my survey and being interviewed to understand the need for such a business as mine in this area. FPC team member Stephanie (Brentner) helped me stay focused and provided me with the extra help I needed in areas especially with writing during Venture School. The FPC support with the weekly calls, and Lara (Marsh) with her expertise in Venture School. Overall, you all were a blessing and a great amount of help.

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

Rachael: I'm in a great space, I have a few contracts lined up to provide coffee and pastries at area businesses. I'll be serving

coffee at a kiosk in some new office spaces opening in Pepperwood Plaza, and some other contracts in the making. I'm doing events and expos. I've been invited to participate in the Black Business Expo at the University of Iowa in January. I was recently on the panel of speakers at the Women Entrepreneurs luncheon.

I completed an entrepreneurial cohort program at the Multicultural Development Center In Iowa City, and a marketing cohort program through the Jane Boyd Center in Cedar Rapids. My trailer is structurally ready and needs some finishing touches. I'm now adding things such as decals. I'm making contacts to get the equipment purchased and installed. I participated in a Kiva entrepreneurial online loan program that is funding proper storage of the trailer and equipment.

Nancy: What lies ahead for you?

Rachael: I am working with the South District of Iowa City and the City of Iowa City to participate in the special events that take place in this area. I'm also scheduled to be a regular at the Iowa City Farmers Market. My website is up and running, which allows for additional customer service. This is the beginning that will hopefully lead to another truck in the future along with my purchase of Cafe del Sol. Again, I'm so grateful to FPC; I would not have completed this without your help and generosity. It would only have been my dream, but you all made it possible.

The Church Re-Entry Committee has updated the Phase III policy to correspond with current COVID-19 information. In response to the increase in COVID numbers, the Session voted on January 10 to require masks to be worn during all church activities, preferably KN95 masks. The revised policy can be found on the Open Information window on the church website. Announcements will also be made during the church service. Ryerson Hall will be open for conversation after the service. We are excited to offer both in-person and online worship. By following these Phase III guidelines, we can work together to keep us all healthy!



During this time of transition before we welcome our called pastor, Session voted to retain the services of an office administrator. I was happy to accept this call and have been working in the church office since November 22. I'm hoping that my experience in school administration will allow me to support the work of the staff and maintain consistency of programming during this interim period. These past weeks have been an absolute joy, and I appreciate the help staff and others are providing as I step into this new position.

With gratitude,
Nancy Gardner

Update from the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)

We are meeting weekly, working diligently to follow the procedures set forth by General Assembly for a Pastor Nominating Committee. More information about the process of calling a pastor can be found on the PCUSA website—search “On Calling A Pastor.” Part of the process includes preparing a church information form and working through discernment. This is an important stage that takes time and prayers as we want to be certain that we find a good fit for our church. We will keep you posted as we complete various stages of the process. We appreciate your patience and prayers.

Stephanie Brentner, Jim Claypool, Jamie Helmick, Kayla McKibben, Bill Preucil, Sally Rickey and Jen Jennings, Presbytery Liaison.



Income / Expense Update — December 2021

Co-Moderators of Finance, Leann Graves and Nancy Gardner

	Current Month	Year to Date	Prior Year to Date
Income	\$ 60,058.14	\$567,160.14	\$648,277.44
Expense	\$ 53,258.63	\$583,181.09	\$561,096.03
Total +/-	\$ 6,799.51	(\$ 16,020.95)	\$ 87,181.41*

*The difference in the prior year to last year's Income and Expense is due to the Capital Campaign Project of the elevator.



A New Year's Resolution

By Bob and Millie Youngquist

Let's get it done. We've been putting it off way too long. It's something we have long thought about. But it always seems like something that's way too easy to "place on the back burner."

It's something that would be a true blessing to our church family here at our First Pres. We can all attest that we've been blessed by others who have made this pledge during their lifetimes.

How about giving to our endowment? This is truly a gift that will last, and it will pass on your love to future generations of church members.

You don't need to be elderly to think of such a gift. People of any age can give any amount at any time. You don't need to be wealthy. God loves all cheerful givers. We have ways to honor you and your gift. We can also accept any gift anonymously.

The gift could be something as big as you choose. It could be \$100. It could be an estate gift that would come to the church after your passing or pledge through your will – but only if your will is written to include it. Have you listed a gift to First Pres in your will? Now is the time to do this. Then let us know you have taken this step. If you wish, we can list you in our church's Legacy Society.

It could be an annual gift or a once-in-a-lifetime gift. It could be a letter of intent to provide for our church at some occasion. See our brochure in the narthex entitled: "So Many Ways to Give." The point is, we need to hear from you.

If you have been reading our columns over the past two-and-a-half-years, you have received a myriad of ideas for giving to our church endowment. The endowment doesn't just grow by interest; it grows tremendously by contributions. We would be so honored if you would contact us about this. Give us a call. Seek us out for a visit. We'd love to get together with you. We can tailor thoughts to match your situation. Your visit could just be informational or it could even be transformational. Neither of us are high-pressure people; we just want to encourage you to consider helping the church in some way.

Depending on the donation you might wish to give, you could be eligible for an Endow Iowa tax credit. A donation could even help in your general tax situation. For certain, you would be helping out our church.

We all need to give. Bob's cell phone is 319-863-3031. Millie's cell phone is 319-863-3041. Our house phone is 319-653-4673. You could also write us at endowment@firstpresiohacity.org.

*Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have,
for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. Hebrews 13:16.*



Needles, Hook and Yarn

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

First's Family

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

January 15-31

1/16 Kip Neubauer
1/20 Mary Linn
1/20 Gabe Orris
1/22 Vivian Adams
1/23 Mike Farran
1/23 Deb Minot
1/23 Ryan Bingham
1/24 Helen Chadima
1/26 David Carlson
1/26 Jim Bradley
1/27 Michelle Bessman
1/27 Karl Anderson
1/28 Kathy Maxey
1/28 Kristin Marrs
1/28 Logan Schroeder
1/30 Evelyn Greimann
1/31 Herb Wilson
1/31 Betty McNeal
1/31 Ann Grosscup
1/31 Chris Greimann



February 1-15

2/1 Steve Schomberg
2/3 Diana Evers
2/7 Kristin Summerwill
2/8 Laura Jacobus
2/8 Silas Johnston
2/9 Diane Mattila
2/10 Tammy Schroeder
2/12 Daissy Owen
2/12 Ruby Anderson
2/14 Linda Morris
2/14 Alexandra Marsh
2/15 Lance Christensen



Our sympathy to friends and family on the death of Jean James on December 12, 2021. A private family service was held on December 21.

Prayer Post

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



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.



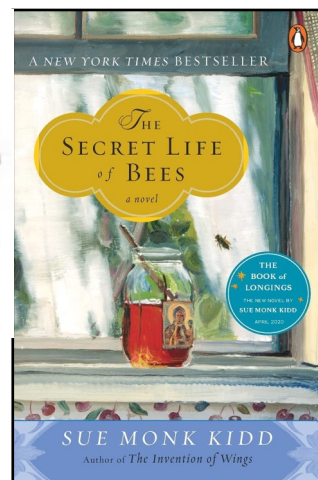
*A negative COVID test within 24 hours must be taken to attend this retreat (rapid home tests can be provided if need be).



The Jeremiah Justice Initiative is starting a new adventure: Fiction!

This group focuses on justice, reconciliation, and learning about equity. This is a life-changing group that transforms hearts and minds. Join this group as they read *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd. This group will meet weekly on Sunday nights from 6-7:30 p.m. from January 23–April 10.

If you are interested, check out the FPC Faith @ Home page at <https://firstpresbiowacity.org/ministries/christian-education/fpcfaith/>




Camp Wyoming 2022 Summer Schedule

Speaking of our friends at Camp Wyoming ...

"Registration for the 2022 summer is OPEN. We have so much fun stuff planned for you, including sling shots, creek stomping, kayaking, pedal karts, swimming, worship, and more! Ensure your spot in the week and program of your choice by signing up today at <https://campwyoming.net/>!"

Check this out!

 CAMP WYOMING <small>Sacred Space. Growing Faith.</small>	June 19-24	June 26 - July 1	July 10-15	July 17-22	July 24-29
Partial Week					
You & Me	June 25-26				
Explorers		June 26-28 June 29-July 1	July 10-12 July 13-15		
Full Week					
Discovery	🏠	🏠	🏠	🏠	🏠
Pirates	🏠				🏠
Sports I		🏠	🏠		
Pioneers	🏠	🏠	🏠	🏠	🏠
Music, Arts, & Drama		🏠			
Sports II				🏠	
Night Owls	🏠			🏠	
Middlers	🏠	🏠	🏠		
Final Countdown					🏠
Thrill Seekers		🏠		🏠	
Water Adventures	🏠		🏠		
High School Night Owls	🏠				
Seniors			🏠		
Extreme Adventure				🏠	
Mission Camp		June 25- July 1			
Counselors in Training		🏠			



Equipping Ministry will host a
**TALENT SHOW at February's
FIRST FRIDAYS @ FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

February 4 from 6-7:30 p.m. for FPC's very own
Talent Show!

Sign up today in Ryerson Hall!



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. More information will be available in FPC's next newsletter.



This is part of the verse that the Jeremiah Justice Initiative is based on (Jeremiah 22:3). If you have ever wondered what JJI is, if Sunday nights have not worked for your schedule, or if you are curious what Biblical Justice looks like, **this is for you!**

Seeking Justice

A 5-week series lead by Layne Sheetz will consider what Biblical justice looks like and what it takes to do what is just and right.

Happening now on Sundays from 9:15-10:15 a.m. in Room 13 on the Lower Level. Please email Layne at Layne.Sheetz@firstpreswacivcity.org or check out <https://firstpreswacivcity.org/ministries/christian-education/fpcfaith/>



Get it?
Sunday's
Cool...
Sunday
School!



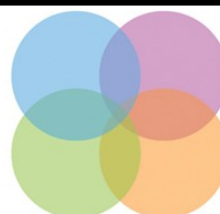
Classes offered this Winter 2022:

- * The Children's Class meets in the Art Room
- * The Parent's Group meets in the Young Youth Group
- * The Wired Word meets in Coover Lounge
- * Seeking Justice meets in Room 13 on the lower level.



PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNium 2022
July 24-27 • Indianapolis, IN

Anna needs a **confirmed YES and a non-refundable \$100 check** by February 1 if a student would like to attend. RSVP forms are available in the Young Youth Room.



**BIG GOD
BIG QUESTIONS**

CONFIRMATION FOR A GROWING FAITH

It's not too late! If a student is in 7th grade or older and not confirmed yet, they are invited to join this year's group. Please contact Anna at Anna.Sheetz@firstpreswacivcity.org today!



FPC has opportunities for Youth on Sunday!

4th-6th Graders meet in their Youth Room from 4:30–5:30 p.m.

Confirmation Class in Equipping Office 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.

Sunday, January 16

4th-6th Graders: Who was Martin Luther King Jr? What does he mean to white Christians these days?

7th-12th Graders: Martin Luther King Jr. named 3 evils in the world. What are these evils? Are they still evil?

Sunday, January 23

4th-6th Graders: What is the Bible? Is it important to read? Why or why not?

Confirmation: We'll have our first lesson: What is Confirmation? Let's meet from 4:30–6 p.m. in Anna's office classroom.

7th-12th Graders: Let's talk about character and consumption. What are we spending time on? Who is that turning us into?

Sunday, January 30 Fifth Sunday Fun Day!
Anna must receive signed medical forms from each participant in these off-campus activities. Details will be sent to families.

4th-6th Graders: We'll meet at DEFY Iowa City from 4:30–5:30 p.m. *Parents pick up and drop off.* Bring your friends!

Confirmation: We'll meet from 4:30–6 p.m. How do we know and trust God?

7th-12th Graders: We'll meet at the church 6:30 p.m., check in with each other, and head over to CryptIQ Escapes by 7 p.m.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the Talent Show on February First Friday at First Pres!

Sunday, February 6

4th-6th Graders: We'll learn about the public reading of Scripture—the past, present, and future of reading together.

Confirmation: We'll meet from 4:30–6 p.m. What is sin and how do we turn from it?

7th-12th Graders: We'll learn about the public reading of Scripture and Anna will set a challenge. What are the stakes?

Sunday, February 13

4th-6th Graders: Happy Valentine's Day! Let's learn about philo, agape, and eros.

Confirmation: We'll meet from 4:30–6 p.m. Who is your Lord?

7th-12th Graders: We'll learn about Sabbath. What is it? Is it even possible?

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



VBX at FPC is BACK! Two ways to get involved now!

1. **Save the Date!** Mark your calendar for August 8-11, 2022.
2. **Join the team!** We're putting together a VBX Team. If you are passionate about providing a great VBX this summer, we need you! Email Anna at Anna.Sheetz@firstpreswacivcity.org today!



GROW GROUPS

GROW YOUR FAITH BY SPENDING TIME DAILY WITH SCRIPTURE

Each day, set a routine to read your Bible. There is a set schedule for each day!

Each day, there is a chance to dig deeper in two ways:

1. Using your Guidebook, considering answering two questions a day to be pushed and challenged.
2. Listen to a podcast that follows along with our readings each day.

GROW DEEPER RELATIONSHIPS BY MEETING WEEKLY WITH A SMALL GROUP

Each week, meet with a small group to connect over life, faith, and readings!

There will be two types of groups:

1. Root Groups: Groups that will meet at a set time and place each week.
2. Vine Groups: *Define your Vine!* What times, places, technologies, and more will work for you?

GROW OUR COMMUNITY BY GIVING US SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE

Equipping Ministry is excited to launch this incredible ministry that our whole Church can participate in! Through traditional and modern technology and maximum flexibility, we believe that this could be a transformational ministry for all who participate! Learn more each week in Ryerson Hall and at www.firstpresbiowacity.org/ministries/christian-education/grow-groups/.

Join us for the kick-off celebration and sign-ups on Sunday, February 6!

There are two opportunities to meet:

10 a.m. in Ryerson Hall and a Hybrid ZOOM option at 11:30 a.m. in Coover Lounge!

Interested? Contact Anna at Anna.Sheetz@firstpresbiowacity.org today!

Successful DVIP Toy Drive!

As a church we collected **3** big bins of toys and other gifts.

We had the **most** gift cards collected.

And this year the DVIP Holiday Store served **156** children and **54** adults!



Thank you for all of the donations and support!

FPC Book Club is meeting by Zoom

January 25 [This Child Is Mine](#) by Henry Denker

February 22 [Long Petal of the Sea](#) by Isabel Allende

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



Church Leaders

Session / Elders

Jen Jennings, Interim Moderator
Nancy Weber, Interim Clerk of Session

Class of 2022

- Jane Cranston
- Jeremy Fletcher
- Steve Schomberg
- Cathe Franz
- Sharon Raffensperger

Class of 2023

- John Barr
- Doris Preucil
- David Van Dusseldorp

Class of 2024

- Bill Follows
- Leann Graves
- Lara Marsh
- Bill Oglesby

Corporation

Jeri Smith, President
Nancy Weber, Interim Clerk of Session
Ken Miller, Treasurer

Deacons

Dan Thedens, Moderator

Class of 2022

- Rick Boland
- Mary Linn
- Ames Molsberry
- Sharon Oglesby
- Daissy Owen
- Jeanie Wade-Nagle

Class 2023

- Cynthia Chou-Laing
- Kathy Follows
- Sally Rickey
- Ruth Westfall
- Sue Van Duyn, Secretary/Treasurer
- Kristin Marrs

Class of 2024

- Deann Claypool
- Megan Dehner
- Pam Kautz
- Mary Helen Kennerly
- Becca Morgan
- Dan Thedens

It's a New Year GET CONNECTED

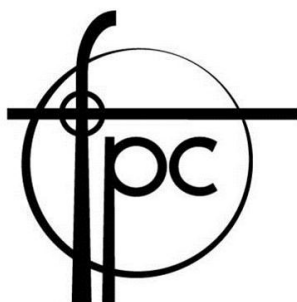
Log onto My First Pres by going to the FPC website (www.firstpreswacivcity.org), scroll down to green boxes. After you are logged in you can update and confirm your information; have you changed emails, dropped your landline or gotten a new cell number, have you moved, or added a new member to the family? 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@firstpreswacivcity.org or call the office at 319-351-2660.



First Presbyterian Church

2701 Rochester Ave.
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.firstpreswacacity.org

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 .

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