



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday, January 21

**Sunday AM: Sunday,
programming returns**

Sunday, January 21

**Sunday AM: Breakfast and
Sunday school classes**

Sunday, February 4

Sunday AM: Breakfast and Sunday School Classes

Sunday PM: Youth Choir, Youth Group, Dinner

**Winter Retreat with Friends from
all over the Presbytery!**
6th–8th Graders at Camp Bear Creek
February 9–11

Sunday, February 11
Sunday AM: Breakfast and Sunday school classes

Super Bowl Party
Sunday, February 11
An All Ages Super Bowl Potluck/

Join us in the Young Youth Room where kids of all ages can play
with the various games. We'll eat, laugh at commercials and cheer!

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Dear Church-

Happy January! And, before the next newsletter, Happy Lent! As you likely know already, our Lenten and Easter cycles follow a lunar calendar. Easter, in the Western Christian Tradition, falls on the first Sunday following the full moon that occurs on or after the Spring Equinox. Which means Easter is in MARCH this year (March 28, to be precise). Counting back six weeks puts Ash Wednesday on February 14, an auspicious date to gather and consider Jesus's journey of reflection in the wilderness (after a soup supper at 6pm). Keep an eye out in our weekly emails and worship announcements for Wednesday evening Lenten activities, which will be geared toward contemplation and reflection in different forms.

But that's still a month away! As we begin ministries with the new members we welcome on January 14 and the elders and deacons we elected on January 7 (thank you, Loretta, for moderating the semi-annual meeting in my absence!), we have a little bit of time to think about what we want 2024 to be. What are your hopes in your own lives and the life of the church? What is the thing that you don't want to leave undone in this year? We're starting to think about those questions in our Session and Deacons, and it's a great time to think about it in our own lives, too.

In the Synoptic gospels (Mark, Matthew, and Luke), Jesus is baptized and immediately goes out into the wilderness to consider what the baptismal revelations to him mean. In John, he doesn't head out to be tempted, but you can see him working it out miracle by miracle along the way, building up greater and greater miracles until the end. Both stories show him to be someone who thinks about how it is he's going to grow, and where he's going to go in his life and ministry. In like manner, we can set aside some time every year to ask the same question: where are we going, and how are we going to get there?

Grace and Peace,
Nathan

Congregational Health Ministries

Donating Blood Products and Organs Saves Lives:

Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. Blood is essential to help patients survive surgeries, cancer treatment, chronic illnesses, and traumatic injuries. This lifesaving care starts with one person making a generous donation. The need for blood is constant. But only about 3% of age-eligible people donate blood yearly. You can help make sure that supply meets demand. Donations are especially needed during the winter months. Currently there is a critical need for O+ and O- donations.

Where can you donate blood?

DeGowin Blood Center, U of I Hospitals, C-250 GH (elevator B, second floor)

Monday–Friday, 7 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. (Closed Saturdays and Sundays)

Donations for whole blood, platelets, plasma and red cells accepted.

1-319-356-2058

degowin-blood-center@uiowa.edu

<https://uihc.org/blood-donation-eligibility-process-and-intervals> for information on eligibility and registration.

ImpactLife: 1801 2nd St. Suite 270, Coralville, IA 52241

800-747-5401 (Toll-Free)

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday: Noon–7 p.m.

Tuesday: 7 a.m.–2 p.m.

Friday - Saturday: 7am - 1pm

Sunday: 7 .am.–10 a.m.

<https://www.bloodcenter.org/donate/donor/> For information about donations.

American Red Cross: 317 7th Avenue, SE, Suite 205, Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

1-319-393-3500

Open 9 a.m.–3 p.m., Monday–Friday

How Do you Become an Organ Donor?

This is an easy way to save lives with organs, when you no longer need them. There are currently 637 people waiting for a donated organ. Here's how to become a registered donor:

Visit the Iowa Donor Network and fill out the form: <https://www.iowadonornetwork.org/register>

April 2024 will be “Donate Life Month,” Wear blue or green (or both) to spread the word about how all people can help those in critical need of a kidney, liver, lung, heart, tissue, or eye.



COOKIE WALK PROCEEDS OF \$2,380 DONATED TO THE FREE LUNCH PROGRAM

If you are interested in joining the smiling faces of the FPC serving team, contact Carol Kirsch at CarolKirsch52@gmail.com.

FPC will be serving on January 18. The fun begins at 10 a.m..

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@firstpreswiowacity.org. Thank you!

January 15-31

1/16 Kip Neubauer
1/17 Austin Beerends
1/17 Jeremy Faden
1/20 Mary Linn
1/20 Gabe Orris
1/22 Vivian Adams
1/23 Ryan Bingham
1/23 Mike Farran
1/23 Deb Minot
1/24 Helen Chadima
1/25 William Massey
1/26 Jim Bradley
1/26 David Carlson
1/27 Karl Anderson
1/27 Michelle Bessman



1/28 Kristin Marrs
1/28 Kathy Maxey
1/28 Logan Schroeder
1/30 Evelyn Greimann
1/31 Chris Greimann
1/31 Ann Grosscup
1/31 Betty McNeal

February 1-15

2/1 Ruby Anderson
2/2 Lance Christensen
2/3 DeAnn Claypool
2/3 Joan Decker
2/7 Diana Evers
2/8 Gunnar Grado
2/8 Peggy Guither
2/9 Bradley Hamilton
2/9 Laura Jacobus
2/10 Silas Johnston
2/12 Audrey Kunangika
2/14 Byema Lipanda
2/14 Alexandra Marsh
2/15 Diane Mattila



Maren Virginia Mondul, daughter of **Jane and Corey Mondul**, granddaughter of **Richard and Ann Burton** and the niece of **Sara Burton**, was baptized Sunday, January 7, at St. George's Episcopal Church in Nashville, TN.



To **Bob Goodfellow**, whose mother, Margaret Goodfellow, died on December 31, 2023.

Many thanks for the lovely reception, the beautiful cross, Christmas ornament, and flowers, and most especially for all of your kind words and warm wishes. It has been a privilege and a joy to journey with the FPC congregation over these last eight years. May the Light which we celebrate during these seasons of the incarnation continue to dwell in you richly.

—Melissa Moll

Diapers, Diapers and more Diapers, plus wipes...

CommUnity (formerly the Crisis Center) has needs that make life better. These items are high priced and are not covered by assistance programs. All sizes are needed from premie to pull-ups. For the month of January, lets overfill the tubs in Ryerson Hall!

February's theme will be Spread the Love—a peanut butter and jelly drive.



**Winter Retreat with Friends from
all over the Presbytery!**
6th-8th Graders at Camp Bear Creek!
\$75 per participant
Contact Anna Sheetz for more info!

NEW YOUTH SCHEDULE

Beginning Sunday, February 4
4–5 p.m. Youth Choir & Parent Class
5–6 p.m. Youth Group
6–7 p.m. Dinner

YOU'VE GOT THIS

A New Parent Get-together

**Starting February 4, a new evening
Parent Get-Together.**

Anna will host parents from 4–5
p.m. for 6 nights over the second
semester. We'll talk about youth,
faith, families, and so much more.
The dates for this group are:

February 4, February 18, March 3,
March 24, April 21, April 28



Dreaming of *Summer Time*?

So are we!

VBX 2024!

Save the Dates

August 4–8

Interested in helping out, leading, teaching, singing,
crafting, playing, etc.? We want to hear from you!
Let's meet in Coover Lounge, February 4, right after
church to talk through VBX this year.

Please Email Anna at Anna.Sheetz@firstpresiovacity.org for more information!



Summer Trips 2024 potential participants must RSVP and have a \$100 deposit to Anna Sheetz by February 11.



Camp Stronghold, Best Week Ever
Current 5th–8th Graders

June 9–June 14

What we learned last summer is that when St. Andrew PC says, “The best week ever,” they mean *the best week ever*. We’ll learn together with our siblings from St. Andrew, learn about God, play NIGHT GAMES, and eat some delicious food while all in a castle and for a whole week!

What we’re excited about? A whole week for playing and learning. What else could you want?

The Christian Education Ministry has graciously decided that the church will split the costs with participants. After this savings, the trip cost per participant is below:

Camp Stronghold for 5th–8th Graders: \$265

Creation Care in Colorado: \$350

Students in 5th–8th Grade who attend BOTH trips: \$500 (a \$115 savings!)

The Team also wanted to make explicitly clear that there is **scholarship funding available**. No one will be turned away from these amazing opportunities due to funding. All you need to do is confidentially tell Anna your need.

For any questions or concerns, please contact Anna Sheetz, Director of Christian Education, at **Anna.Sheetz@firstpresbiowacity.org**

Creation Care in Colorado
Current 5th Graders—105 Years Old!
June 29–July 7

“In the middle of the soaring mountains and the beautiful nature of Denver, your group will learn how to be good caretakers of creations and how to be leaders for eco-justice in your own community! Your group will learn how our faith calls us to care for creation, how environmental justice directly affects us and our neighbors, and what we can do about it.”

What we’re excited about? That this is FPC’s very first Intergenerational Trip! To learn about the climate no less! Plus, we’ll take a train to and from Colorado—no exhausted adults on a long haul!



Join the FPC Book Club

on January 30 as they discuss The Violin Conspiracy by Brendan Slocum.

Meet in person in Room 14 on the lower level or via Zoom.

For more information, contact Mary Linn jmLnn@aol.com.



“Lunch with Martha” was a warm spot in a frigid winter. We enjoyed fellowship with our Circle friends, shared a tasty meal, and challenged ourselves with some seasonal trivia.

Friends of Pasrur Update: Please Continue to Sponsor Our Girls.



Sanjeela, one of our sponsored girls this year, is hoping she'll be able to attend another year of school, thanks to your generosity.

Sanjeela is one of the 100 girls at the Pasrur school who are hoping to be able to attend school next year at the Pasrur Christian Girls school in Pasrur, Pakistan. Like many Christians in her country, her family are impoverished and tuition for school is out of reach for them. If you have been meaning to send in your donation towards a scholarship, or if you are a first-time donor, please drop your donation in the church office or send it using the forms under the Mission/ Reconciliation Ministry bulletin board. You can also donate online. A full scholarship is \$550, but partial scholarships of any amount are more than welcome!

Please help us to give Sanjeela a positive future. Without your help her future as a impoverished, Christian female living in Pakistan is bleak indeed. Thank you.

Jane Cranston
Friends of Pasrur



Building the Legacy

Have you remembered the church in your will?

The FPC Endowment and Memorials Committee
Bob and Millie Youngquist, Coordinators

As leaders in our First Presbyterian Church, it's our job to ask our fellow church members to give from a lifetime of accumulated assets to ensure that our church will be here for future generations. Through our FPC endowment and planned giving program, we have created a framework for inviting others into lifelong comprehensive Christian stewardship, reflecting that all that we are and all that we have is from God.

This month, here are more ways that donations could be structured:

Bequests – There are several generally accepted ways to make a bequest:

- 1) Specific bequest. This is the gift of a specific item to a specific beneficiary. For example, "I give my golf clubs to my nephew, John."
- 2) General bequest. This is usually a gift of a stated sum of money. For example, "I give \$50,000 to my daughter, Mary."
- 3) Contingent bequest. This is a bequest made on condition that a certain event must occur before distribution to the beneficiary. For example, "I give \$50,000 to my son, Joe, provided he enrolls in college before age 21."
- 4) Residuary bequest. This is a gift of all the "rest, residue and remainder" of your estate after all other bequests, debts and taxes have been paid.

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.

Life Insurance – There are various methods by which a life insurance policy may be contributed:

- 1) A donor may assign irrevocably a paid-up policy.
- 2) A donor may assign irrevocably to FPC a life insurance policy on which premiums remain to be paid.

- 3) A donor may name FPC as primary or successor beneficiary, but not owner of a life insurance policy.

- 4) **Un-needed life insurance policies**. Do you have a life insurance policy that you no longer need? Perhaps one that your parents bought when you were a child. Possibly one that you bought to fund your children's education. You might want to give the policy to FPC. It's painless and you will receive an income tax deduction.

Retirement Plan Designation – Donors may designate FPC as primary or contingent beneficiary of a retirement plan pursuant to their plan's appropriate designation procedure (i.e., specific forms).

Real Estate – donors may also give real estate (home or vacation property), S corporation stock, stock options, or closely held stock.

You don't have to hassle with selling the real estate. You can deed the property directly to First Presbyterian or ask your attorney to add a few sentences in your will or trust agreement.

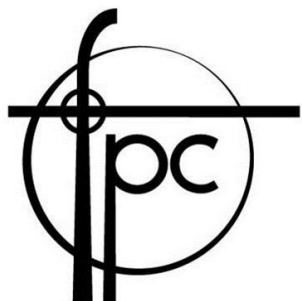
You can give real estate to First Presbyterian in the following ways:

- An outright gift
- A gift in your will or living trust
- A retained life estate
- A charitable remainder unitrust
- A charitable lead trust
- A memorial or endowed gift

Our recent newsletters have offered many gift opportunities that can be utilized in supporting our FPC endowment and memorials. We hope our thoughts have been helpful to you. Please contact us if you would like to discuss these opportunities as they might be applied to your personal situation. As is always true, remember that donors should seek the counsel of professional advisors for legal, accounting, investment and other professional advice when making any large financial decisions.

Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops. Proverbs 3:9

First Presbyterian Church
2701 Rochester Ave.
Iowa City, Iowa 52245



Public Office Hours:

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

Ph 319-351-2660

www.firstpresbiowacity.org

Bible Quiz

Careful readers of Mark's gospel will discover that the writer favored a certain word. It indicated how quickly certain events transpired. The word is found four times in the first chapter of Mark and 19 times in the remaining 15 chapters (NRSV). Choose the correct word:

- A. Momentarily
- B. Instantly
- C. Occasionally
- D. Immediately



Answer: D (It's first used in Mark 1:12, NRSV.)



While the 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 the **Iowa City Community School District** cancels school and events due to weather, the church office will follow their guidelines and close, and any scheduled activities cancelled. If a delay is announced, the office will open when schools open.

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, posting on our website and on Facebook. Cancellations of church activities will also be posted on KCRG-TV (channel 9) and Iowa News Now/KGAN (channel 2).

First Presbyterian Church Staff

PASTOR

Nathan Willard

nathan.willard@firstpresbiowacity.org

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Anna Sheetz

anna.sheetz@firstpresbiowacity.org

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Tammy Schroeder

tammy.schroeder@firstpresbiowacity.org

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & INTERIM

ORGANIST

J. Kyle Coleman

kyle.coleman@firstpresbiowacity.org

SEXTON

Gerald Hill

gerald.hill@firstpresbiowacity.org

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Tammy Foster

tammy.foster@firstpresbiowacity.org

MANAGER OF FINANCE & PURCHASING

Krista Livingston

finance@firstpresbiowacity.org

**ENDOWMENT & MEMORIAL
COORDINATORS**

Bob & Millie Youngquist

endowment@firstpresbiowacity.org