



Come Celebrate the Scottish Poet

Robert Burns!

**2nd Annual Burns Dinner at
First Presbyterian Church
Saturday, January 25, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.
Cost \$25 per ticket**

Dinner Menu

Potato Leek Soup
Tatties and Neeps
Haggis/Vegetarian Haggis
Sticky Toffee Pudding

**Tickets will be sold before and after
church in January!**

For more information, see Michelle Bessman
or Richard Van Rheeden!

Inside this issue:

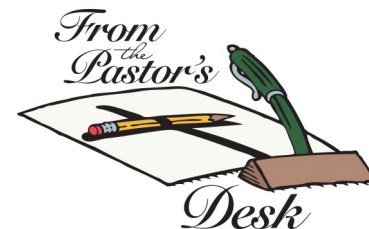
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2020 Communion Dates:

January 12	Baptism of the Lord
February 23	Transfiguration
March 15	3rd Sunday in Lent
April 9	Maundy Thursday
April 11	Great Vigil of Easter
May 31	Pentecost Sunday
June 21	3rd Sunday after Pentecost
July 19	7th Sunday after Pentecost
August 16	11th Sunday after Pentecost
September 20	16th Sunday after Pentecost
October 4	World Communion
November 22	Reign of Christ
December 13	Advent III



Dear sisters and brothers of and First Presbyterian Church,



Dear sisters and brothers of First Presbyterian Church,

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

This month we commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In February we celebrate Black History Month. Even as we strive to come to grips with our history, racial incidents occurred in December at the new Liberty High School in North Liberty. These ugly events remind us of the toxicity of racial prejudice remaining in our community.

At the invitation of the Johnson County Interfaith Coalition, I wrote a letter to encourage the offended students to take their outrage and turn it into activism and social change. I don't know if it was ever delivered.

Nevertheless, I invite you to read below and consider my thoughts, and then ask yourself these questions: "What might I have written, given the opportunity?" "What thoughts and emotions might I have wanted to express if I were asked to respond to an act of racial bias?"

Thanks for your reflection. 157 years since the Emancipation Proclamation, 133 years since the initiation of Jim Crow laws, 51 years since the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. . . . the road grows longer and I am no younger.

With prayers. Your Pastor, Sam

December 14, 2019

Dear Young Adults of Liberty High School,

I am writing to you so that you know how important all of you are, not only to me but to our entire congregation and community. You make us rich. You make us whole. You are worthy of our love, in the most biblical of senses: You warrant our advocacy that you receive social justice as fully equal and contributing members of the beloved community. I am outraged that your peers are so poorly raised and educated – perhaps even so poorly taught in a so-called "Christian environment" – that the following description of what occurred has to come to my attention, as well as that of all persons of conscience:

White students at Liberty wore black face, used the N word in tattoos, & disseminated the info to the entire student body. Students of color are feeling increasingly isolated, defeated, and minimized, and do not feel that they have support or direction. District offered a forum which was free of white students.

I do not use physical violence ever. Yet if this happened to one of my boys, I would have given perpetrators such a tongue lashing they would have "peed their pants and forgotten their names," to paraphrase one source.

I confess that I do not understand such people, the kind who demonstrate evidence of hate so unreflectively. As a white pastor, I am ashamed of white people behaving in this manner. Yet I recognize that you and I live in one of the most racially divided communities in our country, based on geography and not only attitude. This is not a "them" problem only. It is an "every white person in our region" problem too.

While I could not blame any of you for wanting to leave here, I hope you will heed the challenge of coming along side of the kind of allies you will find in the Johnson County Interfaith Cluster (JCIC) – which is led by powerful African-American leaders – and its member congregations. We need you to teach us. We need your power with our own. We need your persistent voices and strong hands that will tear down the geographic, emotional and mental walls that have been carefully erected to keep us apart.

I wish I could say that what you experienced is the worst white culture has to offer, yet it is only the most obvious. To echo the observation of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. about progressive white people of alleged good will, "There is a pressing need for a liberalism in the North which is truly liberal," one that "rises up with righteous indignation . . . when an [African-American person] is denied the right to live in his neighborhood."

He also said that

I must confess that over the past few years I have been gravely disappointed with the white moderate. I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the [African-American's] great stumbling block in his stride toward freedom is not the White Citizen's Council or the Ku Klux Klanner, but the white moderate, who is more devoted to 'order' than to justice; who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice. . . . Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will. Lukewarm acceptance is much more bewildering than outright rejection."

To be honest, while I detest the actions of these white

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

students, I fear more the pale beige response of adults in authority going forward. Please, I exhort you, do not give up and certainly do not give in. Please do not be worn down by the quiet acquiescence of white leaders, the ones in authority who fear their own shadows and who will not confront — even in their own souls — the profound depths of their own contribution to racism in this region. While I do not advocate violence, I do advocate resistance, not just from you but from all of us together in mutual defense of you.

Finally, as I am certain that in my own white privilege I have contributed to your pain through my actions or my omissions over long years, I hope the day comes when you can respond to my and our repentance with forgiveness. It is far too early to ask for that now.

I am with you in prayer and spirit. Please let me know how I might be with you in body and in exercise of my stubborn will. God protect you.

Faithfully,

Pastor Sam Massey, First Presbyterian Church, Iowa City, IA

The pictures of our historic pastors have found a home in the Pastor's Place classroom on the lower level. How fitting that a map titled *The Journeys of the Apostles* should provide a foundation to the pictures of the pastors whom God sent to preach the gospel to us!



Have you seen these cards in the pew racks?

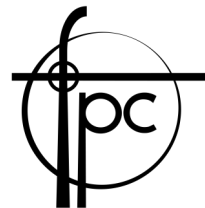
Ever really paid attention to them?

Have you ever felt awkward passing the plate without adding to it?

Use this handy card to symbolically make an offering each Sunday. FPC offers options for electronic giving.



Electronic Giving



To the Glory of God

Placing this card in the offering plate, as an act of worship, symbolizes that the worshiper participates in electronic automatic giving.

For more information on E-Giving and the options available contact:

Saira Steen—Financial Secretary, 351-2660 or by email at saira.steen@firstpreswacivcity.org

EAT OUT GROUP January 23 at 6pm



Host: Val Soemadi 354-1219

Got Christmas or vacation photos hanging out on phone? Wish you had a way to keep them forever?

Join us on Saturday, February 15, to learn how to create Shutterfly books. Sue VanDuyn-Phipps will lead this class. Beginners start at 8 am., others starting at 9 am.

Space is limited to 12, please RSVP to tammy.schroeder@firstpreswacivcity.org by February 1.



First's Family

If you have a news item for the First's Family News, please submit it for publication by February 3 to tammy.foster@firstpreswiowacity.org. Thank you!

January 15-31

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

February 1-15

2/1 Steve Schomberg	2/9 Diane Mattila
2/2 Meli Kasiriba	2/10 Tammy Schroeder
2/3 Diana Evers	2/12 Daissy Owen
2/7 Alex Jacobus	2/14 Linda Morris
2/7 Kristin Summerwill	2/14 Alexandra Marsh
2/8 James Winegarden	2/15 Lance Christensen
2/8 Laura Jacobus	



Leda Rose Andrews, daughter of Cyrus and Alicia Andrews, will be baptized during worship on January 19.



To **Greg Muilenburg and family** whose sister, Anne Bentson died on December 15;

To the friends and family of **Larry Pugh**, who died December 24 in Pella, IA;

To the friends and family of **Jake De Ryke**, who died January 13. Pastor Sam will lead his memorial service at First Presbyterian on February 1 at 2 p.m. at FPC.



Known to have been Hospitalized:

Eric Scholtz, Del Disselhorst, James Liang, Al Wicks, and Tony Warren.



Please Come to Our Wedding Reception

**Sunday, February 16, 2020
First Presbyterian Church
2701 Rochester Avenue
Iowa City, Iowa**

After worship during fellowship hour

Leah Bergman and Gunnar Grado
were married in a private ceremony
with a small celebration on January 18, 2020.

We look forward to celebrating with extended family and friends after we return from our honeymoon in February.

**We are registered at Target, Ten Thousands Villages, and Amazon.
Or we welcome contributions to our "honeymoon fund."**



*Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth.
Worship God with gladness;
come into God's presence with singing.*

YOUTH CHOIR

Youth Choir is open to 4th–12th graders interested in singing and leading worship through music. We work throughout the year to sing, play, and read the Word of God so that the youth can lead worship several times throughout the year. Rehearsals are on Sundays from 5–6 p.m. Contact Leah Bergman at leah.bergman@firstpresbiowacity.org or call the church for more information.

Youth Choir Schedule *January–May 2019*

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

Youth Choir leads in worship on:

Sunday, February 23

Sunday, March 22

Saturday, April 11 (Easter Vigil)

Sunday, April 26

Sunday, May 10 (Youth Sunday)

Five Senses Meditation

As we enter this new year and all the joys and stresses that come, consider adding a simple moment of meditation or mindfulness to your day or week. I recently heard about the “Five Senses Meditation” and have found it to be an easy and helpful way to calm my mind and body.

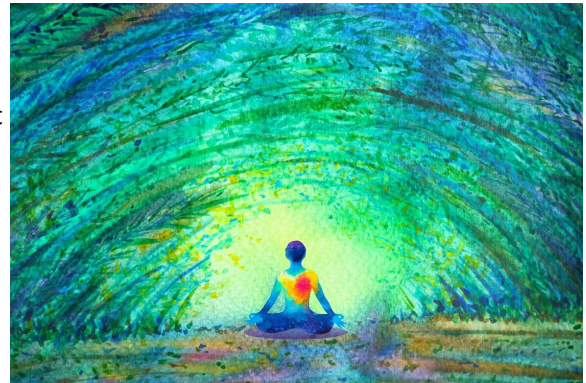
The goal is to calm your mind by using your five senses to focus on your environment instead of your thoughts.

Here are the steps to complete this exercise:

- First, notice 5 things that you can **see**. Look around you and become aware of your environment. Try to pick out something that you don’t usually notice.
- Second, notice 4 things you can **feel**. Bring attention to the things that you’re currently feeling, such as the texture of your clothing or the smooth surface of the table you’re resting your hands on.
- Third, notice 3 things that you can **hear**. Listen for and notice things in the background that you don’t normally notice. It could be the birds chirping outside or an appliance humming in the next room.
- Fourth, notice 2 things you can **smell**. Bring attention to scents that you usually filter out, either pleasant or unpleasant. Catch a whiff of the pine trees outside or food cooking in the kitchen.
- Finally, notice 1 thing you can **taste**. Take a sip of a drink, chew gum, or notice the current taste in your mouth.

You may start with any of the senses and work your way down in the number of things you notice.

Consider thinking about or using this technique during worship. How might that change or enhance your worship experience?





Come be a part of the next New Member Class

February 16–April 5

The *FaithWorks* new member class, is also open to current members seeking spiritual renewal. New members will be received by our elders into fellowship on Palm Sunday, April 5, at 9:30 a.m. and welcomed into membership at the 7 p.m. Easter Vigil service on Saturday, April 11.

Led by Pastor Sam, *FaithWorks* is designed to try to address the questions of individual participants about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. It also presents some basic information about the faith and our congregation.

Please contact Pastor Sam at sam.massey@firstpresbiowacity.org or 319-351-2660 to reserve your spot for this exciting educational opportunity. **Please RSVP by February 2**, so class materials can be prepared.



Support the 2020 Youth Group Mission Trip to RHINO (Rebuilding Hope in New Orleans). The **Youth will be serving lunch at the congregational meeting, February 2** and humbly ask for any financial support to provide transportation needs to New Orleans and back!



POTLUCK MEAL

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

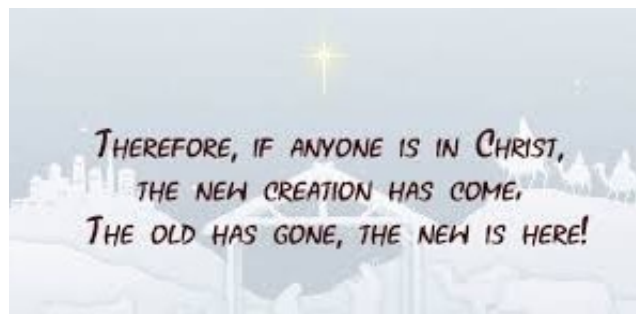
Bring a dish to share and join us for dinner in Ryerson Fellowship Hall at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, February 19.

Looking for Bible Study? We've got 2 on Wednesdays!

Join Pastor Sam from 9:30 am - 10:30 am to study the Book of Isaiah. Then again from 6 pm - 7pm as the Book of Mark is discussed. Both studies meet in Coover Lounge; main floor.

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

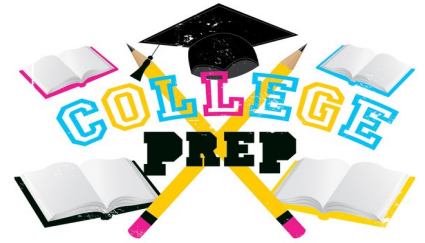
For more info, contact Pastor Sam at 319-351-2660 or sam.massey@firstpresbiowacity.org



YOUTH 2020

- **Jr&High School**—Wednesday, January 15, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Ryerson Fellowship Hall & Young Youth Room
We'll start another round of TBD together. Please bring Bibles and get ready to learn!
- **Jr&High School**—Wednesday, January 22, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Ryerson & Youth Room
****POTLUCK DINNER**** Bring a dish to share and we'll continue our TBD series.
- **4th-6th Grade**—Sunday, January 26, 6-7:30 p.m.; 4th-6th Grade Youth Room
We'll start figuring out those goals that we set. Please bring Bibles!
- **Jr&High School**—Wednesday, February 5, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Ryerson Fellowship Hall & Young Youth Room
Bring your Bibles and we'll do a third class of the TBD lesson we're in! Please bring your Bibles!
- **4th-6th Grade**—Sunday, February 5, 5:30-7:30 p.m.; 4t-6th Grade Young Youth Room
-TIME CHANGE! We will be taking flight and a trip to Planet3extreme Air Park in Iowa City. Each youth should bring \$16 or parents can write a check for \$16 to FPC with "Youth Event" in the memo line. **FRIENDS are invited!** Anna will need a male chaperone to attend this event who will receive a free 1 hour pass. Please meet at FPC at 5:30 p.m. and arrange for pick up at FPC at 7:30 p.m.
- **Jr&High School**— Wednesday, February 9, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Ryerson Fellowship Hall & Young Youth Room
The last of our TBD series! Bring your Bible.

NOTE: February 26 is ASH WEDNESDAY. There will be a FPC COMMUNITY POTLUCK dinner beginning at 6 p.m. We will attend worship at 7:00 p.m. Parents, please be prepared to pick up youth at 8 p.m.



Do you know that a majority of FPC's Youth will "drop out" of church life once they graduate high school? What if we were to do something to counteract this statistic?

In 2020, we are launching a **College Prep: How to Find a Church** series for High School Youth. Once a month, Anna and Layne Sheetz will take high school aged youth to a different church service in Johnson County. Youth should bring lunch money for lunch and a discussion afterwards.

Sunday, January 19—Sanctuary Church, Coralville. Lunch at Panera Bread.

Sunday, February 16—St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Iowa City. Lunch at Pizza Ranch.

Sunday, March 8—New Song Church, Coralville. Lunch at Noodles and Company

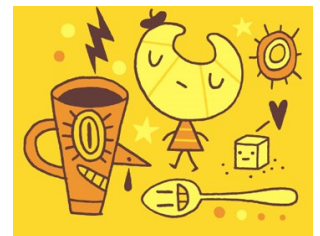
Sunday, April 19—Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Iowa City. Lunch at Pop's BBQ.



The Breakfast Club

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

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



SOCIAL JUSTICE **BOOK** CLUB

Three Brand New Opportunities this Winter!

Curious about the Sunday Night Social Justice Book Club? Good News! It's not too late! Join the PM group that meets Sundays; January 12-February 23, 2020 from 6-7:30 p.m. in Coover Lounge. The emphasis will be on multi-media resources. If you're not a book reader, this group is for you! Speak to Layne Sheetz for more information!

Sunday, January 26, 2020
You're Invited!

The Sunday evening Social Justice Book Club



invites you to an after worship conversation about one of our world's toughest subjects: Racism. All are welcome to this safe space for conversation. Lunch

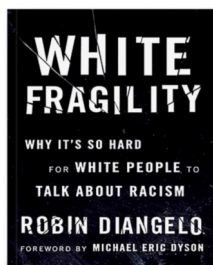
will be provided and child care will be available. Speak to Layne Sheetz for more details.

A New Group is Being Added!

Tuesdays, 9:30–11 a.m.

Coover Lounge

January 21–March 10



The *New York Times* best-selling book exploring the counterproductive reactions white people have when their assumptions about race are challenged, and how these reactions maintain racial inequality.

Beginning Tuesday, January 21, Anna Sheetz will be walking through *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism* by Robin DiAngelo. Come meet with a small group in Coover Lounge for 8 weeks and see how your eyes will be opened!

Sign up beginning Sunday, December 15 in Ryerson Fellowship Hall or email Anna.Sheetz@firstpresbiowacity.org for more information.



The **Social Justice Book Club** is now on Facebook. Simply go to First Presbyterian Church of Iowa City's Facebook and find "GROUPS." Click and Like the Social Justice Book Club for updates, conversations, resources and sign-ups on what's happening!

December 2019 Session Highlights

-by Ann Grosscup, Clerk of Session



Pastor Sam Massey called the meeting to order as the Christ candle was lit. A seasonal reminder that this is not an abandoned world, based on Luke 2, was shared by Leann Graves followed by opening prayer.

A handout, detailing year-to-date financials, was reviewed by Dale Kraus. November financial documents were available electronically and in hard copy. Year-end projections are: income at \$572,479 with expenditures at \$606,291. The 2019 budget is \$622,000. At present, \$86,000 is the total of 2019 outstanding pledges; unfulfilled pledges may leave a deficit of approximately \$33,812.

MOTIONS APPROVED:

- November 2019 financials were received and approved.
- Minutes of special session meeting May 5, 2019
- Minutes of special session new member meeting Nov. 17, 2019
- Minutes of semi-annual congregational meeting Nov. 17, 2019
- Minutes of stated session meeting Nov. 19, 2019
- Minutes of special session new member meeting Dec. 1, 2019
- Ordination and Installation of Officers for Sunday, Jan. 12, 2020.
- Dodekah Ministry set up a GoFundMe Account for accepting Israel trip donations.
- Congregational Meeting be held Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020
- Youth fundraiser to provide lunch for the Congregational Meeting, Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020.
- Transfer of membership for Keith Brown to West Branch United Methodist Church.
- Transfer of membership for Markham Harris to First Presbyterian Church near Ely.

- Covenant between Evangelical Global Pentecostal Church and FPC.
- Collect scrap metal April 13-30, 2020.
- Local Church Mission and Social Justice Involvement, Partnership and Engagement Survey.
- Contract with CliftonLarsonAllen of Cedar Rapids, not to exceed \$6,000, to complete a financial review.
- Larry Bruner to continue as Treasurer until replaced.
- Ann Grosscup will continue as Clerk of Session.
- Jeri Smith, Corporation President, and Dale Kraus, Corporation Vice President, will continue in their current corporate offices.
- Extend 2019 salary budget through January 2020 and ask ministries to be conservative in their spending.
- Conveners of ministries forward their ministries' budget to Finance Cluster, session elders, Pastor Sam and Larry Bruner by January 15, 2020, and consider Pastor Sam's proposal.

Pastor Sam thanked rotating off elders Ed Cranston and Amy Fletcher, for their service.

The deadline for 2019 Annual Reports electronically submitted to Tammy Foster, Minister of Stewardship and Management, is January 6, 2020.

To date, the 2020 pledge total is approximately \$416,000, which is significantly short of the \$512,000 amount needed for pledges in the initially proposed budget of \$650,000. At its December meeting, the Finance Committee recommended a revised budget target of \$615,000 noting that additional income and/or expenditure reductions will be required to meet that budget goal. A written proposal addressing the pledge shortfall was verbally reviewed by Pastor Sam to

spur and fuel

the imaginations of others. The emphasis was on the need to significantly grow FPC—targeting energies, activities and dollars to realize.

FPC Burns Dinner fundraiser will be held Saturday, January 25, 2020. Advertising is to be started. Instead of a silent auction, HyVee will be asked to donate ingredients.

Amanda Edwards has decided to pursue ordination through the United Church of Christ (UCC) rather than the Presbyterian Church.

Michelle Bessman reviewed the recent gift shopping for children whose parents are incarcerated then subsequent gift wrapping with New Creation International Church members. Members of the Social Justice Book Club donated funds and time.

Nancy Gardner reviewed the upcoming JCIC-sponsored voter registration party, January 16, 2020, 6-7:30 p.m., Kingdom Center. Many FPC volunteers have already signed up though more are welcome! In addition to volunteering, monetary and tangible door prize donations may be made.

Task Force updates were shared: New Creations Academy Advisory Committee; Volunteer; Treasurer Position.

Michelle Bessman closed the meeting with prayer.

Next meeting: January 21, 2020, 7 p.m. in Coover Lounge

Steve Smith, Opening Devotions; Vern Dengler, Closing Prayer

Update on Stewardship

Every year First Presbyterian Church members share with God and the church what our congregation needs to succeed in its ministries and missions. This year is no exception. Although some of our former largest givers have joined the church triumphant or have not had the good health to continue giving, extra generosity by some members and cutting year-end spending will probably allow us to close the 2019 year with small shortfall (although this balancing of numbers required an infusion of endowment fund income plus a significant increase in revenues from the Walker Trust). God is good, and so are the hearts of our faithful members. We have grown in faith!

Paul Akin led a superlative stewardship campaign on behalf of our congregation. Thanks, Paul! Nevertheless, the 2020 stewardship feels incomplete as we have not received pledges from some of our regularly attending and/or contributing members. **We are approximately 10 pledges short of being able to declare relative success for this coming year, i.e. in pledges budgeted. We are still hoping that these persons of stalwart faith will get their pledges in very soon.**

If we receive responses soon from those persons still attending church and yet who still have not made their 2020 pledges, the church will be able to make its budget with some confidence.

God has blessed us in many ways this year. We hope that each one of us give thanks to God and allow our giving to reflect our gratitude.

With love and thanksgiving,

Your Pastor,

Sam

70 Scholarships Funded

In 2007, First Presbyterian Church of Iowa City (FPC) built a boarding house in Pasrur, Pakistan, for impoverished Christian girls from nearby villages. Since then, our church members and others have provided scholarships for 100 girls to live in the boarding house and attend the Pasrur School every year.

At this writing, we have received enough contributions to send 70 of the 100 girls to school for the upcoming school year (2020-2021). This leaves us significantly behind our usual progress. **We still need 30 more scholarships in order to send all the girls back to school.**

If you have been considering making a donation, now is a great time. Any amount is helpful. You can donate to the church office or there are envelopes by the mission bulletin board in Fellowship Hall that can be posted. Be sure to designate donations for Pasrur.

Here is the link to donate online: <https://firstpreswacity.org/donate-online/>

Thank you!

Friends of Pasrur



MyFirstPres Welcome to the Serving section

We hope to empower you and connect you to the church in three ways:

- You have gifts, talents and a sense of God's future purpose for your life. We hope that you will express to us what these might be.
- We all have spiritual gifts to share and a story to tell. We hope that you will begin to share them at FPC.
- Together we have God's work to do. We hope you will join us in it!

~ Pastor Sam

Spiritual Gifts/Personal Attributes and Serving Opportunities

1. Go to FPC's **website (firstpreswacivity.org)**, sign into **MyFirstPres**
2. Click **Home > My Profile**, click the **Serving sub-tab**
3. Fill out **Availability** and enter any special **Notes**

Attributes this section shows Spiritual Gifts/Personal Attributes & Opportunities

1. Click **Add Attributes** (make sure to view all 6 tabs), *for more info, hover over item to see description; to edit use pencil to the RIGHT, not in front of item*
2. Click **SAVE**

Needles, Hooks & Yarn

Mark your calendar to join us
at Legacy from 9 - 11am on Saturdays
for the weekly gathering of this
lively group who knit and crochet.

More info: Tammy Schroeder 351-2660



**ENDING
HUNGER**
**ONE STEP
AT A TIME**
CROP HUNGER WALK

The Reconciliation Ministry is looking for someone to organize the 2020 CROP Walk Team for FPC. This person would be responsible for organizing and recruiting FPC members to walk.

To volunteer, or for more information, contact Michelle Bessman at 319-541-0820.

While the worship and service of God are vital components of the Christian life, on any particular day your safety needs should be your priority, as well as ours. **The following guidelines presume that you will make the best decision for the care of you and your family.** Please do not come to church if there is risk of harm due to weather. God and we will still love you!



1. **On Sunday mornings, the church will normally not close for inclement weather.** Whoever from the staff is available to come and lead at least a brief prayer service at 10:30 a.m. will do so. As for events after worship on Sundays, when adverse weather is experienced, please contact the event leader to see if the event is still scheduled. If weather grows extreme, check KCRG or call the church to hear if any message has been left giving scheduling information.
 2. **On days when the Iowa City Public School System is in session,** the cancellations or postponements announced by the school system by KCRG or other means apply also to the church.
 3. **If inclement weather arrives following the close of school on a weekday,** please contact the event leader to see if the event is still scheduled. Check also KCRG and call the church to hear if any message has been left giving information.
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FPC Book Club *News you can use!*
New Meeting Day—New Location

Join us as we gather on the **LAST TUESDAY** of the month at **NOON at FPC; room 14** (located on the lower level, to the left).

For more information, contact Mary Linn at JmLinn@aol.com.



2020 Spring Schedule:

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

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2019 *Gifts for Parents* Enjoyed by All

What an AMAZING 2019 *Gifts for Parents* event that the Consultation of Religious Communities conducted on Saturday, 12/7, hosted by St. Mark's United Methodist Church. As hoped, all involved were embraced in the spirit of hospitality. The pictures below provide a glimpse of this event.

In summary:

1. 150 families came to our event, each using one of a possible 300 time-designated "Family Entry" tickets, distributed at the Crisis Center Food Bank and St. Mark's United Methodist Church.
2. 341 children from these families were accompanied by our escort volunteers to select up to three gifts for adults significant in their lives. Gift-wrapping volunteers help children select wrapping paper & bows, and wrapped each gift.
3. The St. Mark's Men's Group, supplemented by other faith community men's groups like that at FPC, provided a tasty pancake breakfast for patrons and volunteers from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.
4. 190 volunteers from 25 faith communities filled 240 critical works slots, contributing to the success of our event.

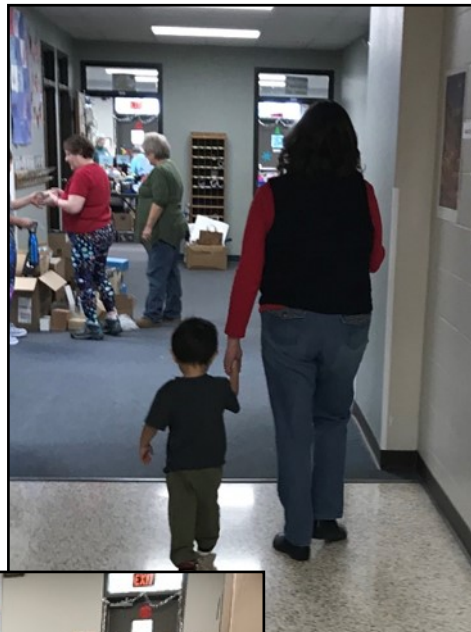
Sincere thanks to FPC members for excellent gift donations and the 30 extraordinary volunteers who participated as gift sorters, doorkeepers, greeters, escorts, gift wrappers and set-up / clean-up crew members.

A special thanks to St. Mark's United Methodist Church for hosting this event, and our CRC *Gifts for Parents* Leadership Team for meeting throughout 2019 in order to ensure the success of this project. The Team met in early January to review the 2019 event and begin planning for 2020.

Breakfast – 9 a.m. 'till 2:00 p.m.



Going shopping



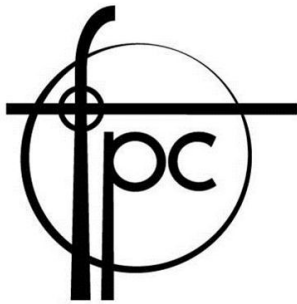
Selecting gifts

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