



#### July 15 — August 15 2021 Volume 66 Issue 7

# Nominating Committee Seeks Candidates for Deacon and Elder Positions

The Nominating Committee is beginning to prepare a slate of candidates for the next classes of Deacons and Elders. If you know of someone in the congregation who you believe would serve us well, please contact one of these members of the Nominating Committee: Anita Burnett, Jeremy Fletcher, Pam Kautz, Don Ross, Jane Skinner, Mary Ellen Stamp, or Leann Graves (Moderator). Self-nominations are welcome as well!

Here are the definitions of *Deacon* and *Elder* as found in the **Book of Order 2019-2021:** 

"The ministry of deacon ... is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment should be chosen for this ministry."

"Ruling elders, together with ministers of the Word and Sacrament, exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibilities for



# Church Leadership

the life of a congregation as well as the whole church, including ecumenical relationships. Accordingly, congregations should elect persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit."

Leann Graves Moderator, Nominating Committee Igraves@mchsi.com 319-621-7020

## Shark Tank with a Twist! Puts Entrepreneurs Closer to Business Goals

By Nancy Gardner

Our sponsored business entrepreneurs were delighted with the results from the first ever Shark Tank with a Twist! event on Sunday, June 6. Pastor Theo Havugimana and Ms. Rachael Scott each gave a short pitch to the church audience, explaining ideas for their business ventures. Both entrepreneurs were sponsored by FPC in the U of I's Venture School and had developed viable business plans to share during the pitch. After time for

questions, audience members could then donate to the businesses, thus helping Theo and Rachael get closer to their business goals. Over \$3500 was raised with more donations continuing to come in. Miss this event? You can still catch each pitch. Just go to the FPC homepage, scroll down to My First Pres to view the pitches and give to make these dreams a reality!

(Note: This event was sponsored by the REALM Committee. Members are Jeremy Fletcher (moderator), Lara Marsh, Jeanie Wade-Nagle, John Clark, and Nancy Gardner.)





#### Dear Members and Friends,

Church meetings open with a prayer and sometimes a devotional. What follows is the opening to an Administration and Personnel Committee meeting given by member Nancy Ross. On hearing it, several suggested sharing it with the congregation through the newsletter. Thank you, Nancy, for your thoughtfulness and leadership.

With gratitude,

Terry

"It is no secret . . . assigning the opening devotion or meditation to Nancy will probably elicit a little different twist or perception.

Tonight . . . true to form . . .

In case it appears at the outset totally out of left field, I will tell you it was triggered by a recent sermon and communication from Terry about Staffing Designs.

Oh woe to FPC!

... so many gray heads in the pews.

... or worse ... so many have passed on, leaving noticeable gaps in the pews and in our pledges.

50-odd years ago, when we joined this church we heard the concerned voices saying, "this is an aging church and an aging congregation with many more gray heads than young folks like you."

Today, I am reasonably sure our new member classes hear that "the gray heads in the pew outnumber most any of the others. We need to attract young members and families."

Similar facts and concerns jump out from the pages of any church-related magazine or article we pick up.

Is this really a fact to lament? What about acceptance, thinking, and acting differently? Maybe—just maybe—it is a fact to celebrate?

Think for a moment what those gray heads might bring to this congregation.

Stability Continuity
History Knowledge
Fiscal security TIME
Interest Leadership

In one article I read about intentional programming for seniors, a congregation blithely answered . . . "Yes, WE implemented and developed a senior book club that meets the first Tuesday afternoon each month." Really? Is that what these seniors crave? Did they/we ever ask—more importantly—LISTEN to their answer?

Have we as the Personnel Committee (or other individuals and groups at First Church who are brainstorming and planning for our future) taken into account this rich resource—or perhaps others as yet untapped? Are we really giving it some creative thought, energy, money, a willingness to change—or do we just rehash the laments as we plod (and I do mean plod) ahead?

Just a thought . . .

O God-

We come tonight . . . again . . . as a committee . . . just as we have done many times in the recent past . . . to wrestle with personnel issues as we struggle to keep our ship afloat in this perplexing time of transition. We have worked diligently, thought earnestly, considered so many alternatives, and hopefully have made some amazing progress. We pray for patience and tenacity tonight as the process continues. Be with us . . . guiding our efforts . . . we pray. Amen"

Nancy Ross

# Income/Expense Update — June

Co-Treasurers, Leann Graves and Nancy Gardner

	Current Month	Year to Date	Prior Year to Date
Income	\$ 28,322.07	\$315,651.78	\$367,599.04
Expense	\$ 46,377.33	\$280,739.51	\$577,563.33
Total +/-	(\$ 18,055.26)	+ \$ 34,912.27	*(\$209,964.29)

\*\$295,585 of the \$577,565.33 was for the Elevator Project

## **Free Lunch Update**

Submitted by Carol Kirsch



The Free Lunch dining room at 1105 S. Gilbert Ct. closed for dining in March 2020, but the Program continued to serve meals in to-go bags handed out from the kitchen door. A few of the volunteer teams found that they were not able to continue participating in the Free Lunch Program due to safety concerns. The First Presbyterian Free Team masked up and soldiered on, prepping and serving our meals every third Thursday of the month to an average of 80-90 guests. In June a team of 9 volunteers served 84 meals of meatloaf or ham loaf, stir fried vegetables, a fresh fruit salad, baked beans and lemon pound cake. As team leader, I looked forward to these Thursdays as a rare opportunity to catch up with church friends in person during the most restrictive days of the pandemic.

Although the Free Lunch Program has adapted to the circumstances of the pandemic and the City of Iowa City has lent its support by providing picnic tables for use in the milder months and a day shelter at the Rec Center where guests had access to Free Lunch Program meals in the coldest months, it will be wonderful to have the dining room back. It offers a comfortable setting where guests can socialize while they eat and meals can be served on plates that are reused rather than paper and Styrofoam disposables. At this time the reopening is scheduled for October 1.

#### **FPC Produce Stand Open**

Visit the FPC produce stand on Wednesday evenings from 4 – 6 p.m. located on the corner of Mount Vernon and Rochester Street. We will be selling fresh excess produce and garden; related items on a regular basis. The proceeds will go to Reconciliation Ministry. If you have excess garden produce or time you'd like to contribute, contact Perry Ross at perryross@mac.com





#### **Announcing Our Fall Endowment Distribution**

Applications are due by September 1, 2021.

It's that time again to consider applications for funding from the FPC Endowment Fund. Although the criteria for requests has long been available in our Endowment Plan and its appendices, we felt that it might be good to highlight some of these thoughts directly in this column.

The "Request for Funding from Endowment Distribution" form may be found on the church website under the "About" link. Then, select "Resources" and find the form under the heading "Congregation Resources." This pdf form may be filled out by computer or physically written upon. In either regard, it needs to be signed by the person submitting the application.

Who may request funding? The Session; the councils of the church; a special church committee or task force; ministerial or professional staff members; or a group, agency or charity not affiliated with the church  $-\underline{if}$  sponsored by any of the above.

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

<u>Goals.</u> Distributions from the Endowment shall be used to advance the presence and mission of the church in the lives of people locally, nationally, and globally. To that end, distributions shall be designated for major, long-term, recurring and/or special projects and ministries:

- Within our local church and congregation, including the maintenance, repair, renovation, and new construction of facilities; and the acquisition of special equipment and supplies;
- 2. Within our local and regional community, including support for the victims of natural disasters, relief for the poor and destitute, and assistance to ecumenical needs and projects; and
- 3. Within the global community, with special emphasis on responding to poverty, neglect, abuse, homelessness, illness, malnutrition, exploitation, and crime; education, including Christian education; recognizing and nurturing gifts and attributes; and nurturing the faith.

#### Selection criteria

In reviewing and approving requests, the Endowment Committee and the Session shall use the following criteria:

- 1. The request must meet the goals set forth above.
- 2. In any given year, distributions will be made to no more than six distinct ministries, at least two-thirds of which shall serve the local community.
- Preference shall be given to proposals that seek to involve the congregation in the ministry. The committee and the Session may request assistance from a council, committee or task force to enlist congregational support for a ministry.
- 4. Although proposals of all sizes will be considered and/ or approved, preference will be given to proposals that are anticipated to have significant impact.
- 5. Both single and multi-year proposals will be considered.
- Requests for renewal of support beyond the original proposal may be considered. If possible, multi-year proposals should be approved in such a way that the end years are staggered.
- 7. The Endowment Committee and the Session shall encourage the approval of at least one new ministry in each three-year period.

#### **Publicity**

Those responsible for implementing funded proposals shall make every effort to recognize the funding source (FPC Endowment) in all written and oral presentations.

These guidelines stand today as they were revised in July 2012.

# First's Family

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



# July15-30

7/15	Ames Molsberry	7
7/15	Jesse Mahinga	7
7/16	Virginia Hall	7
7/16	Debbie Beermann	7
7/19	Rachel Edwards	7
7/21	Valerie Soemadi	7
7/21	John Morgan	7
7/22	Sarah Swisher	7
7/22	Kayla McKibben	7
7/23	Alisha Bingham	
7/23	Gloria Kasiriba	
7/23	Glory Kasiriba	
7/24	Angel Kasiriba	

7/24	Mahala Smith	
7/25	Dwight Miller	
7/25	Jordan Kolarik	
7/25	Courtney Hurt	
7/27	Kathryn Forsythe	
7/27	Grayson Molsberr	у
7/29	Wayne Patton	
7/29	Chase Burtness	
7/30	Brenda Dodge	

	7		
3/1	Janet Cochran	8/8	Emilia Thedens
3/1	Rhonda Barr	8/12	Thomas Boyse
3/1	Anne Dengler	8/12	Nile Franz
3/4	Henry Edwards	8/14	Judy Terry
3/5	Cyrus Andrews	8/14	Pam Kautz
3/5	Nicholas Theden	s 8/14	David Scott
3/6	Rose Metz	8/15	Gary Olson
3/6	Sally Rickey	8/16	Ben Faden
3/7	Louise Larew	8/16	Charlie Faden
3/7	Margaret Kettere	r	
3/8	Nancy Powers		

	-	
	8/8	Emilia Thedens
	8/12	Thomas Boysen
	8/12	Nile Franz
S	8/14	Judy Terry
S	8/14	Pam Kautz
ens	8/14	David Scott
	8/15	Gary Olson

August 1-16





## **Anna Sheetz on Maternity Leave**



Our FPC Family Has Grown—Emily Louise Sheetz made her debut on July 7, weighing 8.1 pounds and measuring 21 inches long. Parents Anna and Layne, and brother Oliver Sheetz are excited for this new

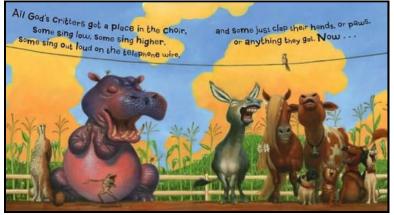
chapter in their lives. Anna is taking 6 weeks of maternity leave to bond with the newest member of the FPC Family!

For questions about Equipping ministry; please contact Pastor Terry Purvis-Smith. He can be contacted:

Through email: terryps1@me.com Or by phone at: 1-303-495-9310

## Making Music In Everyday Life

Music is a gift from God, an expression of beauty. Through song, we can praise God, pray, mourn, and express joy or sorrow. Singing together can not only bring us closer to God, but bring us closer to one another in community in a unique way. As we begin gathering together again in small groups, consider ways that you might incorporate hymns and songs into your everyday lives both with others and alone. You don't have to be a "singer" to add singing to your life—just use



your voice in praise of God and God will hear you! Remember, "All God's critters got a place in the choir. Some sing low, some sing higher, some sing out loud on the telephone wire, and some just clap their hands or paws or anything they got."

Here are just a few ideas:

#### At home

- Think of a short song or mantra to sing when you wake up in the morning (Hymn 390, Praise, *Praise, Praise the Lord!*)
- A sung table prayer (like Hands, Hands, Hands found on p. 7 of this newsletter)
- Make sure you wash your hands for at least 20 seconds by singing I've Got Peace like a River (Hymn #623)
- Change the words a little to Hymn 853 and sing "We are driving in the light of God" on your commute
- Learn one verse at a time to a hymn to sing as a bedtime prayer (Hymn 836, Abide with Me)

#### At Church

Consider adding a short song or refrain to your meetings and gatherings at church as part of the devotional time.

- Sing Be Still and Know with sign language that Terry has taught as a centering prayer
- Repeat a familiar Taizé refrain together such as Hymn 205, Live in Charity (Ubi Caritas), Hymn 471, O Lord, Hear My Prayer, or Hymn 842, The Lord Is My Light
- Read the words to the stanzas of a hymn and sing the refrain together to hear the words of a hymn in a new way.
  - \* Hymn 14, For the Beauty of the Earth
  - \* Hymn 826, Lift High the Cross
  - \* Hymn 839, Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

For a little more help, keep an eye out on Facebook and YouTube for "Music Mondays" beginning July 12. Leah will post short videos of songs that you can integrate into your routine. If you're not comfortable leading a song at a meeting or gathering, you could pull up one of these videos and sing along!

#### **Congregational Health Ministry**

Pastor Terry recently encouraged us to consider the value of an older congregation. He inspired us to respond to his call to engage with some of those older folks and, if we are lucky, build relationships with them. Don't know how? We have a golden ticket with your name on it! The **Care Buddy Program** is an excellent way to engage with all sorts of people: young, older, middle aged, sick, well, grieving or lonely. If you can spare one hour a week to make a phone call, send a note, or, now that the pandemic has allowed visits, perhaps a visit once a month, please contact Maeleen Thorius at 319-541-3161. This experience is a gift to yourself.

# Table Prayers

(From the Book of Common Worship):

 Creator of the universe, you give us this gift of food to nourish us and give us life. Bless this food that you have made and human hands have prepared. May it satisfy our hunger, and in sharing it together may we come closer to one another. Amen

2. Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let these gifts to us be blessed. Amen

3. All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above, then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, for all God's love. Amen

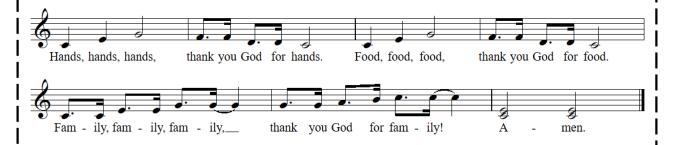
(From other sources):

4. may be sung—see below

(hold up hands) (point to food) (gesture to people gathered) (prayer hands



Hands, hands, hands. Thank you, God, for hands. Food, food, food. Thank you, God, for food. Family, family, family. Thank you, God, for family. Amen.



- In this plate of food, I see the entire universe supporting my existence. Amen

   Zen blessing from Thich Nhat Hanh
- 6. Blessed be the Earth for providing us this food.

Blessed be the Sun for helping it to grow.

Blessed be the Wind and Birds for carrying its seed.

Blessed be the Rain for the water's loving flow.

Blessed be the hands that helped prepare this meal,

May those hands and our hands, bodies too, be well and guick to heal.

Blessed be our friends, our families, and all of our loved ones.

Blessed be our mother earth, our father sky and sun. Amen

7. Blessings on the blossom

Blessings on the fruit

Blessings on the leaves and stems

and blessings on the root.

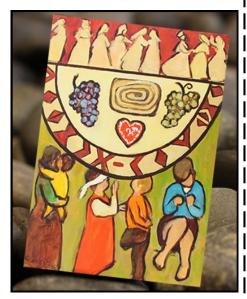
Blessings to our friends and family and have a happy [insert day of the week]! Amen

- 8. Thank you for the world so sweet,
  Thank you for the food we eat,
  Thank you for the birds that sing,
  Thank you God for everything. Amen
- For food in a world where many walk in hunger For friends in a world where many walk alone For faith in a world where many walk in fear We give you thanks, O Lord. Amen
- 10. From our harvest we bake bread; and when we eat the bread, we gain strength to plow our fields. From our cattle we take milk; and when we drink the milk, we gain energy to tend our herds. May our harvests always be plentiful, and our cattle always be healthy. Amen —Nandi, Kenya
- 11. At dawn, O God, I thank you for the good night you have given me, and ask you to give me a good day. At dusk, O God, I thank you for the good day you have given me, and ask you to give me a good night. —Galla, Ethiopia
- 12. Creator God, we thank you for this given day:
  for your glory shining forth in the sky and sea,
  in the changing light on the hills,
  in the flight of birds,
  in the flowers of meadow and garden
  (name birds and/or flowers according to the season)
  We thank you for your love experienced in our own lives:
  for new friends and old
  (by name)
  for caring conversation, for community and solitude,
  for work and play, for words and silence
  (silence)
  We thank you for this gift of time:
  may your Spirit help us to use it creatively
  in the name of Jesus,
- 13. Bless to us, O God, the earth beneath our feet. Bless to us, O God, the path whereon we go. Bless to us, O God, the people whom we meet. Amen

who gave his life to let us know your love. Amen

-Jan Sutch Pickard

14. O God, to those who have hunger give bread, to us who have bread give hunger for justice. Amen



#### Music in Worship

By Melissa Moll

Although few of us have likely ever spent much quality time with a flock of sheep, the scripture passages that speak of sheep and shepherds remain some of the most beloved. On the Eighth Sunday after Pentecost (July 18), the lectionary texts for the day connect through their images of sheep and shepherds:

I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer. (Jeremiah 23:4)

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. (Psalm 23:1)

[Jesus] had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. [Mark 6:34]

Just as these scripture passages are beloved, so too are the many hymns with imagery of sheep and shepherds. These songs seem to speak to our longing for God's love, care, and grace. Our prelude for July 18, Shepherd Songs by pastor and composer Nancy Raabe, incorporates three of these beloved hymns: The King of Love My Shepherd Is (Glory to God #802), The Lord's My Shepherd (to the tune of BROTHER JAMES' AIR), and My Shepherd Will Supply My Need (#803 and our gathering hymn on July 18). All three hymn texts are paraphrases of Psalm 23.

Florence Price's Festal March evokes a rousing, spirited procession and serves as our postlude for the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost on July 25. As you listen, consider these words from our joyful sending hymn for the day, Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ (Glory to God #526): Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share, God (Immanuel) everywhere! We march out into the world to share God's love.



Florence Beatrice Smith Price was born in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1887. She performed her first public recital at age four, sold her first composition to a publisher by age eleven, and enrolled at the New England Conservatory of Music at age fifteen to study organ, piano, and composition. Price and her family eventually settled in Chicago, where she was known as a church organist, concert pianist, studio teacher, and composer. Price's *Symphony in E Minor* won first prize in the Wanamaker Music Composition Contest in 1932 and was premiered the following year by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, making Price the first African American woman to have an orchestral work performed by a major American orchestra. Her compositions also include chamber music, art songs, piano and organ music, and arrangements of Spirituals.

#### 2021 Winter Clothing Distribution Update

The Consultation of Religious Communities' Winter Clothing Distribution (WCD) leadership team met following the event last fall to evaluate the 2020 distribution and begin finalizing plans for 2021.

We were surprised that our inventory lasted only a week before it was necessary to close the doors. We gave away about 1,000 coats along with snow pants, boots, hats, scarves and gloves/mittens. In addition, there were lots of sweatshirts and other warm clothing items for people of all ages. Following our distribution, we received additional coats which were given away through the public schools.

We know that some individuals and faith communities began to collect new and gently used winter items last winter. But we can never have too much. In 2020, we were very short on snow pants for kids, boots for all ages, warm mittens and extra-large sizes for men and women.

Now that many of our faith communities are beginning to gather in person, we want to remind folks to once again to be looking for items that can be added to the October 2021 Distribution.

We hope to find a great place to hold this one-week event. (October 18 – 23). If you have any good leads or suggestions for a location, please contact John Barr at <a href="mailto:BarrJohnO@sau.edu">BarrJohnO@sau.edu</a>

Thanks for all of your help!

Kind regards,

Carolyn Otis, John Barr, Barb Lange & Paula Forest WCD Leadership Team



Join the Jeremiah Justice Initiative for our summer session running on Sundays from July 18-August 22!

We will discuss some of the response to *The* 1619 Project as well

as Cancel Culture and much more in this short summer series! Contact Layne.Sheetz@firstpresiowacity.org today!

Then join us this fall for our next book-Caste by Isabel Wilkerson—launching on September 12.

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Martha's Circle to
Meet in September!

By Maeleen Thorius

The pandemic has been life changing for most of us. After no Thanksgiving or Christmas family gatherings except huddled in parkas around an outside fire pit, I value time with my dear family more than I can even express. Lack of face-to-face connection to our community of faith has been another one of those things I have missed the most. Drum Roll!!! We have good news! Martha's Circle will resume meeting in person in Ryerson Fellowship Hall beginning in September! We meet the third Wednesday of the month, September through November and begin again in March through May. We will gather together at 10:00 a.m. to share fellowship, devotions and a brief program. Sign-in sheets will be required at the entrance as well as masks and social distancing. We invite all women of First Presbyterian Church to join us! Watch the bulletin and the newsletter for more information. information.

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Scripture-based study and discussion about current issues in the news.

We're excited to continue over the summer! Join us each and every Sunday to discuss the intersection between current issues, news, and the Scriptures!

Join Zoom Meeting

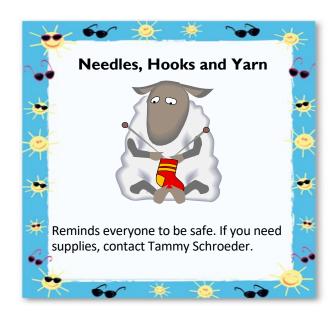
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89921391094? pwd=UTFieVdqcVgwZnhKQ2I0S2grNkNFQT09

Meeting ID: 899 2139 1094

Passcode: 134376

We hope you will think about joining us even if you have not been with us recently. Since we are not seeing one another at church, it feels good to connect each week. We have a consistent group of 8-10 participants, and new people are always welcome. Please email

Judy.Whitford@firstpresiowacity.org to get the latest topic!







Cooper Kirschling, son of Brian & Jen Kirschling. Cooper is a graduate of City High School. He will attend the University of Iowa to study Political Science. He plans to attend law school after completing his undergraduate work.

Brian Morris is the son of Linda & Cory Morris. He graduated from City High School. In the fall, Brian will be attending the University of Iowa where he will be studying Computer Science and Engineering and he plans to become a Software Developer.



Sarah Bigaba, is the daughter of Edmond & Aziza Bigaba. She is a graduate of West High School. Sara will be attending Kirkwood Community College, where she will study Social Work while going to cosmetology school for her MUA certificate.



**Seth Hiatt**, is the son of Temple Hiatt. He graduated from City High School. Seth will attend Cornell College, where he will major in Behavioral Neuroscience and minor in Literature.



Flint Mahinga, son of Milord & Eugenia Byamungau he is a graduate of City High School. This fall Flint will be attending the University of Iowa, where he will be studying engineering.

Brent Foster, is the son of Jeff & Tammy Foster. He graduated from Iowa State University this spring with degrees in Agricultural Systems Technology and Industrial Technology. Brent is employed as a Manufacturing Engineer at Lennox Industries which is based in Marshalltown Iowa.





Logan Schroeder, the son of Darin & Tammy Schroeder is a 2021 graduate of the University of Iowa. His love of films earned him a BA Cinema degree. His future goals include pursuing the Independent Film circuit and focusing on narrative production work.



## First Presbyterian Church 2701 Rochester Ave., Iowa City, Iowa 52245 www.firstpresiowacity.org

# **Summer Kicks Off at Little Creations!**

By Nancy Gardner

Monday, June 7th was the fourth and final Family Night at Little Creations Daycare. These events, held over the past school year, were made possible through an Iowa City Social Justice grant. The theme this time was "Sun's Out, Fun's Out" and included an array of outdoor activities for all ages. Of course, literacy remained a common theme, and all children received tote bags with books and games. It is estimated that children who attended all four events this year received 10-15 books for their home libraries. Thank you to the following volunteers who helped out with this event: Steph Brentner, Mary Linn, Judy Whitford, Sharon Raffensperger, John Barr, and Nancy Gardner.



Pastor Tony Smith was the grill master.



This little guy was excited to see his new books.



Sharon was the popular lady with the prizes.



Shout out to these volunteers: Judy Whitford, Steph Brentner, Mary Linn, Nancy Gardner, and John Barr.

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