

# FIRST'S FAMILY



July 15–August 15  
2023  
Volume 67 Issue 6

## Happy July!

By now, I am off in the United Kingdom on vacation; after finally moving into our house on June 30, we've embarked on a three-week trip to visit Beth's brother and family in London, where he is stationed in what might be his last tour in the Navy. Beth's whole family, and my brother and his family, will also be there, and it will be a good opportunity for us to spend some time on a pure vacation, rather than splitting time with a research trip.



## Message from the Pastor

It's a good time for me to go; I haven't spent a lot of time talking about this, but I wrapped up a year-long program with the Leadership Center for Social Justice at United Theological Seminary in the Twin Cities in May, and the following Monday starting taking a Presbyterian Polity class through Dubuque Theological Seminary that ran through July 14. As I said in my children's sermon on July 2, it's been 14 months since I first interviewed with the PNC, and that year+ has included a month-long road trip to western National Parks, the loss of Sally Rickey, two seminary classes, a period of farewell and welcome, staff changes at FPC, 4 end-of-life services, my first-ever Easter Vigil, a Bible study on the Gospel of John, 22 Sunday worship services, many meetings, including three presbytery meetings, a couple of dozen one-on-ones, and about 3,000 received emails. Among other things.

With all that has happened, it's sometimes hard to believe that I've only been here at FPC for 5 months, roughly the same amount of time as Frosty was here. Some highlights for me have been getting to know many of you in one-on-ones, spending time at the confirmation retreat hearing from our confirmands about what they believe, sharing in potluck meals, visiting Sunday School classes, learning from the participants in the Bible study I led, and spending time with all the people who gathered to say goodbye to our loved ones. It's been fun to renew old connections, including visiting both my 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Norma Carlson and my elementary school principal Guerin Thompson in their homes and sharing common loss with people who lost loved ones who were dear to me also. Now, as the cycle of life continues to prove itself a flat circle, I find myself looking out my living room window at the space Dr. Thompson, Mrs. Carlson and I shared together and thinking about what the next decade will bring to all of us in FPC.

So it is an excellent time for a break from our church work, a re-immersion in another place that was important to the Nathan of the past, and a chance to recenter myself in preparation for the future work that will commence in the fall. As part of that work, I'll be removing work things from my phone and only checking in periodically. But the office will continue to operate as normal, we've lined up great worship leaders (Director of Christian Education Anna Sheetz on July 16 and 23, and Lutheran Campus Minister Sarah Goettsch on July 30), and the Rev. Randy Argall, recently Honorably Retired and frequently seen in worship, will be available in the event of any pastoral care emergencies.

With that, I'll see you for dinner at VBX on August 3 (and maybe on August 2!)

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Nathan

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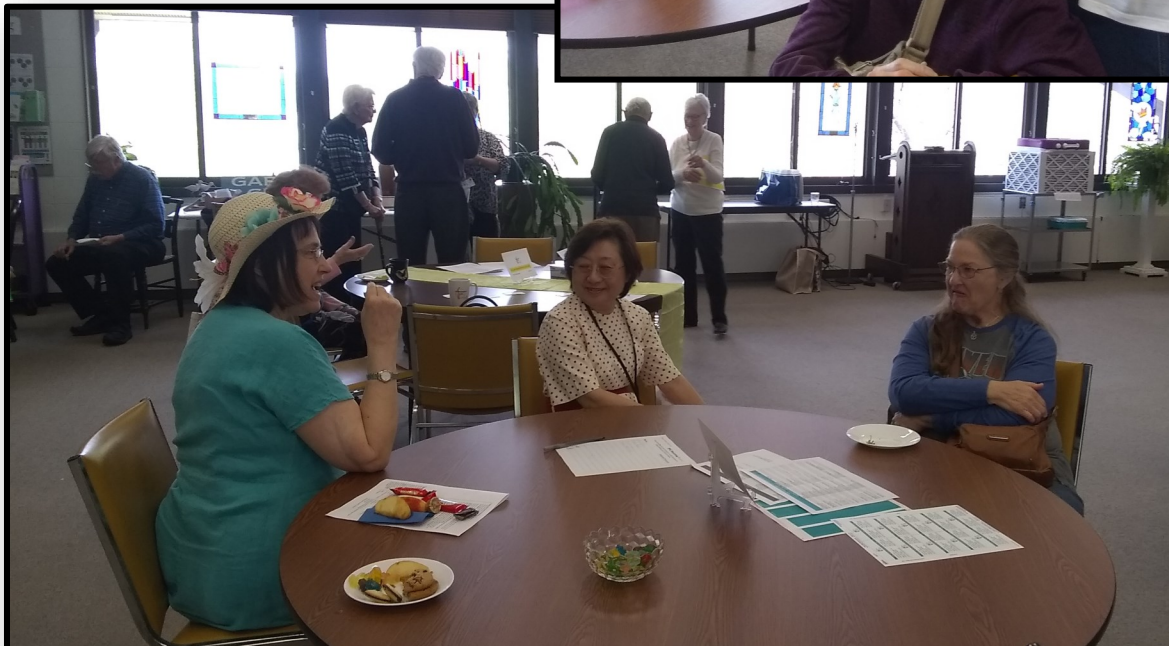
*Mission*

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, to share  
the Word of God through Jesus Christ  
and to live lives of justice, mercy, and faith.



## Thanks for Meeting Your Deacon!

Thank you to everyone who came to Meet Your Deacon after worship on Sunday May 7. It was great to share fellowship with many longtime friends and new people as we strive to keep in touch with our Neighborhood friends. We hope to keep up the relationships within Deacon neighborhoods throughout the year, so please feel free to contact your Deacon with any joys and concerns you may have. Wishing you a joyful summer!







Everyone at *CommUnity* is passionate about treating those in crisis as valuable human beings.

*CommUnity* provides immediate support through Crisis Services, Food Bank, and Financial Support programs.

FPC is pleased to do our part in supporting the Food Bank with our monthly donations. We will continue to gather **Laundry Supplies in June**. Items may be left in the bin in Ryerson Hall.

July brings *CommUnity's* annual **Fan Club** drive.

Seeking new BOXED fans or \$20 donations\*.

\*Monetary donations should be given to Tammy Schroeder; NOT left in Ryerson Hall.

## EAT OUT GROUP July 20 at 6 p.m.



Host: Joan Decker

Sign up sheet located in the narthex or by calling the church office at 319-351-2660.

## Nursery Attendants Needed

FPC is in need of nursery attendants during the upcoming school year.

Anyone 14 years of age and older is welcome to apply.

Hours are 8:50–11:50.

These are paid positions. Attendants are not required to work every Sunday.

We are also looking for volunteers to assist in the nursery, either adults or students seeking Silver Cord hours.

If interested, please contact Chris Kolarik at [ckolarik@aol.com](mailto:ckolarik@aol.com).



### Dear Friends,

We have upgraded our church database to *Realm Connect* and are in the process of creating a new online directory. You will be receiving four individual emails on July 19, stating your “privacy settings have changed” for your address, email, home number, and cell number. These emails will originate from [notifications@onrealmmail.org](mailto:notifications@onrealmmail.org).

We are striving for the same or better functionality as with the Church Life mobile app which is no longer supported by the software vendor.

If you have questions, please contact Tammy at [Tammy.Schroeder@firstpreswiowacity.org](mailto:Tammy.Schroeder@firstpreswiowacity.org) or by phone at 319-351-2660.



PS: You will be invited to join *Realm Connect* in August; watch for more info in the August Newsletter and bulletins.

## Planning for the 2023 Warm Winter Wear Distribution

At its May meeting, the Consultation of Religious Communities confirmed hosting its annual Warm Winter Wear Distribution on October 8-15. These dates are inclusive of site set-up, acceptance and organization of donations, distribution of clothing, take-down and clean-up. We hope that this event will again be held in the Winter Shelter at the far east end of the Guide Link Center, 340 Southgate Ave, Iowa City.

Donations of new or gently used outerwear for children and adults are needed. Our highest priorities are: winter coats and jackets of all sizes: snow pants, hats, gloves, mittens, winter scarves, warm socks and winter boots. We will also gladly accept sweaters, sweatshirts and sweatpants. Please begin collecting these items and keep them at home until further notice. Also, please consider donating a box of large, strong lawn and leaf bags that can hold several coats for the shoppers.



Clothing displayed at the 2020 distribution

As in recent years, both volunteers and shoppers will need to sign up via Sign-up Genius. A limited number of family representatives will be permitted to shop during each half-hour, assisted by a volunteer. More information, including details about volunteer opportunities, will be shared in September.

For further questions, contact John Barr at [BarrJohnO@sau.edu](mailto:BarrJohnO@sau.edu).

# 4



Did you know the Prayer Post is celebrating its fourth year of serving our neighborhood friends. In the past four years, we have had a continuous flow of prayer request, given out eight Bibles, and too many FPC pens to count.

These days it is easy to become overwhelmed, maybe it's time to stop by and drop a prayer.

Remember Pray More – Worry Less.

## Needles, Hooks and Yarn

Join the fun and share in the fellowship.  
No experience needed.

July 15 & 29 9-11 a.m. at Panera Bread

For more info call 319-351-2660.



## FPC Book Club

Wishes you a safe and healthy summer!

We will NOT be meeting in July.  
Say tuned for info on the August read.

Questions or more info, contact Mary Linn  
[jmLnn@aol.com](mailto:jmLnn@aol.com).



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



## July 15-31

7/16 Virginia Hall  
7/16 Debbie Beermann  
7/19 Rachel Edwards  
7/21 Valerie Soemadi  
7/21 John Morgan  
7/22 Sarah Swisher  
7/22 Kayla McKibben  
7/22 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 Keen  
7/26 Reid Dehner  
7/27 Kathryn Forsythe  
7/27 Graysen Molsberry  
7/29 Wayne Patton  
7/29 Chase Burtness  
7/30 Brenda Dodge

## August 1-15

8/1 Rhonda Barr  
8/1 Janet Cochran  
8/4 Henry Edwards  
8/5 Nicholas Thedens  
8/6 Rose Metz  
8/7 Margaret Ketterer  
8/7 Louise Larew  
8/8 Emilia Thedens  
8/10 Joanna Mafirira  
8/12 Thomas Boysen  
8/12 Nile Franz  
8/14 Pam Kautz  
8/14 Judy Terry  
8/14 David Scott  
8/15 Gary Olson



*Known  
to have been  
Hospitalized:*

**Linda Morris**

***I hope this finds everyone enjoying their summer!***

The year is half over and it is that time for the second quarter statements. These have been emailed or mailed to everyone. If you did not receive your statement on Wednesday, July 5, please let me know.

Krista Livingston 319-351-2660  
[finance@firstpreswacivcity.org](mailto:finance@firstpreswacivcity.org)



**FOLLOWING JESUS CHANGES THE GAME**



## YOU'RE INVITED!

It's not too late to join us at FPC's **Vacation Bible eXperience!**  
Sunday, July 30–Thursday, August 3  
5–8 p.m. each night

There is still time to sign up to participate, to lend a hand, or even to join us for dinner!  
Please reach out to [Anna.Sheetz@firstpreswacivcity.org](mailto:Anna.Sheetz@firstpreswacivcity.org) for more information!



### **New Sunday Night Schedule coming this Fall**

**NEW** 5th–7th Grade Youth Group: 4–4:45 p.m.

Games and Choir: 4:45–5:30 p.m.

Dinner Together: 5:30–6:15 p.m.

**NEW** 8th–10th Grade Youth Group: 6:15–7 p.m.

***Want to be involved? Connect with Anna today!***



We are THRILLED to announce a continued relationship with the Congregational Church of Christ in downtown Iowa City.

About once a month, we'll meet with their youth group and have a BIG EVENT. This could be a mission project, a game, a party, and even more!

These BIG EVENT nights will be from 3–5 p.m. with a POTLUCK dinner from 5:30–6:30 p.m.



### **We're looking forward to the Fall!**

We need ALL HANDS ON DECK for another successful year of Christian Education Programming for all ages. To get involved, check in with  
[Anna.Sheetz@firstpreswiowacity.org](mailto:Anna.Sheetz@firstpreswiowacity.org)





*Everything in heaven and earth is Yours, O LORD. Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. "God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name. But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand." 1 Chronicles 29:12-14*

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

Bob and Millie Youngquist, Coordinators

Historically, 70% of American families give each year to charity out of their annual income. However, only 6% to 7% of American families make any provision for charity in their estate plan. While there may be a number of reasons for this drastic difference, one big reason is that some people don't realize how easily they can provide for charity after they are gone.

You can provide for First Presbyterian Church upon your death without even changing your will. You can simply change the beneficiary designation of your retirement account. Few people understand that this is also one of the most efficient ways to give. Here's why:

### **Accumulating Pre-Tax Dollars**

Retirement accounts accumulate pre-tax dollars. The pre-tax accumulation allows for the principal to grow quicker than if income taxes had to be paid each year. During retirement years, account owners use these assets for their living expenses, but income taxes have to be paid as withdrawals are made. Often, the retiree's other income is reduced, so their tax bracket is lower. Therefore, the tax triggered by distributions from their retirement account may be in the lowest tax bracket (currently 10%).

Many times, retirement account owners pass away with large account balances. These balances are still pre-tax. Whoever receives a distribution will be

required to pay the income tax, based on the tax bracket of the recipient, which is often higher than the retiree's tax rate. In addition, the estate of retirement account owners may be subject to estate taxes. The combination of income tax and estate tax could cost over 80% of the account balance, meaning that possibly as little as twenty cents of every dollar in your retirement account may be available to your heirs.

### **Offsetting Future Taxes**

Why not consider the option of leaving some, if not all, of your retirement account to your church? Every dollar that is passed to First Presbyterian Church upon your death will benefit both you and the church at one hundred cents on the dollar. There will be no income tax or estate tax due on those assets and by making use of this simple technique, you will continue your generous support of your favorite charity by leaving the legacy you desire.

If you would like to explore this further or any other method of planned giving to continue your support of First Presbyterian Church through your estate, please contact First Presbyterian Church's Endowment Coordinators Bob and Millie Youngquist 319 653-4673, or Pastor Nathan Willard (319-351-2660).

With these gifts and others, donors should seek the counsel of professional advisors for legal, accounting, investment, and other professional advice.

### **Bible Quiz**

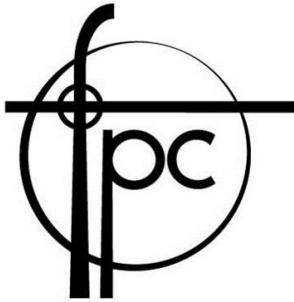
What does God compare to rain "watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater"?

- A. The justice of the nations
- B. The work of God's people
- C. The message of Isaiah the prophet
- D. God's word



D. (see Isaiah 55:10-11)

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

**T**he Johnson County Interfaith Coalition is having a fundraiser on September 7, to raise money to support local initiatives that promote racial justice, build community, and provide youth with healthy, engaging activities. There will be a silent auction at the September 7 event, with a goal to raise \$5,000. The committee is hoping that members of First Presbyterian Church might have items to donate. Donations for the auction should be saleable and worth at least \$40. If you have an item to donate, contact Laurie Stunz, [laura-stunz@uiowa.edu](mailto:laura-stunz@uiowa.edu). Laurie will need a very brief description of the item, an estimated value, and indicate if we should set a minimum bid. Arrangements can be made to collect the item.



**Note: FPC is a founding member of JCIC.**

**Johnson County Interfaith Coalition**

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