

## A Crescendo into Song



We are all eager to get back to worshipping and singing together. With the church moving to Phase II of the re-entry

policy, we are able to gather for small groups again. While the whole choir and congregation are not able to sing with one another quite yet, members of the choir will begin gathering in small groups to sing again and lead hymns for the online worship services.

The brass ensemble and bell choir will also begin meeting to rehearse and provide music for online worship and getting their "chops" back into shape for when these groups will eventually be able to lead music in praise of God with the whole congregation.

We can look forward to seeing more familiar faces in virtual worship and hearing their gifts of song!

We continue to monitor the safest way that we can gather once again and proclaim God's glory through singing together while keeping all of God's children healthy.

If you are interested in participating in any of these musical opportunities, please contact Leah Bergman at [leah.bergman@firstpreswacivcity.org](mailto:leah.bergman@firstpreswacivcity.org)

## JJ DeRyke Build Event with Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity

Join Iowa Habitat for Humanity to honor and remember our friend and long-time Habitat for Humanity supporter JJ DeRyke. Habitat is reserving volunteer shifts for First Presbyterian Church on Thursday (7/29), Friday (7/30), and Saturday (7/31).



Shifts will be 8 a.m.–12 p.m. and 1–5 p.m. Habitat will be providing our teams with lunch on these build days. JJ DeRyke Build Days will involve construction of a Habitat for Humanity home located on Indigo Drive in Iowa City. All volunteers must be at least 16 years old. Volunteers under 18 must have parent/guardian consent to participate. If you are under 18, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator ([volunteer@iowavalleyhabitat.org](mailto:volunteer@iowavalleyhabitat.org)) before signing up. Wear weather-appropriate clothing that you don't mind getting dusty or dirty. Closed-toed shoes are required. To join in on this event, please contact John Barr with your desired workday(s) and shift(s) no later than Monday, 7/19.

## Looking for fresh flowers and plants to brighten the sanctuary

Do you have flowers blooming or plants in your garden that you would like to share?

Drop them by the church on Friday (any time) or Saturday (before 9:30am) to decorate the chancel space for Sunday worship!

Contact Leah ([leah.bergman@firstpreswacivcity.org](mailto:leah.bergman@firstpreswacivcity.org)) if you'd like to help!



## Inside this issue:

What's New on June 1 at FPC	2
New Grounds Task Force	3
Endowment & Memorial May Income and Expense	4
First's Family	5
Equipping Ministry	6-7
Getting Connected Counts	8

## *Dear Members and Friends,*

I've met "new" people the past ten days. Tammy, Anna, Judy, Bill, John, Dwight, Flint, Herb, Susan, Leah, Brian, Janice, Jack, Nancy, Tammy, Jesse, Israel, and Doris. Each one had ears, a chin, jaw, arms, legs, clothes, smiles, curiosity, and expressions of surprise at their interim pastor: utterly handsome, slender and young! And each of them was delightful beyond expectations. We'll come down to earth one of these days, but each mask-less opportunity feels like a revelation. "Oh, that's what you look like!"

What I've learned during this pandemic and now seeing people face-to-face is that, as dedicated as everyone has been trying to make the phone/email/Zoom triad work, it isn't as complete as the informal and meaningful communication that take place while talking face-to-face. I am grateful to all for making this challenging lockdown journey work as well as it has.

When are we going to worship together in the building? I'm only one voice in that conversation. For a long time, I didn't think I would meet you face-to-face before a new pastor arrived. Now I cannot imagine us not opening before I leave.

I rejoice that so many of you have received the vaccine. I am concerned that it now seems the burden of Covid infection is falling more and more to younger people. I'm concerned, too, about the health impact



and possibility of a rising rate of infection when students return to the university. The re-entry committee that advises Session has met a lot, listens to your feedback, monitors health resources, and wants to open as soon as possible. The committee will keep you informed.

Session formed a Self-Study Committee in May and the committee hopes to complete its work this month. Many of you participated in the self-study survey on June 6. A self-study is one of the preliminary steps before a congregation forms its Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). As soon as the self-study is completed, its report will go to Session for approval and you will be kept up to date.

The day is coming when we'll gather face-to-face in worship and, hopefully, not long after that day we hope to be singing together again.

With gratitude,

Terry

he/him/his

## **What's New in June at FPC?**

We have recently seen hopeful signs that pandemic conditions in Johnson County are becoming safer and that our community is beginning to transition back to more normal activities. As a first step in that transition, First Presbyterian Church will begin Phase 2 of our reentry plan on June 1. Our goal is to begin to allow smaller in-person activities in the church in a way that is safe and allows opportunity for all members to participate.

What does that mean for our congregation?

- Small groups will be allowed to hold activities in the church.
  - Social distancing, masking, and cleaning requirements must be observed to ensure the safety of all participants. [See the detailed policies in the COVID 19 Response section of the FPC website.](#)
  - Activities will be limited to the sanctuary, Ryerson Hall, and Coover Lounge. Contact the office to reserve these spaces.
  - Members do not need to be fully vaccinated to participate.
  - Activity organizers are encouraged to offer online options for people who are unable or are uncomfortable participating in-person.
- Worship services will remain 100% online for now. Session is making plans for the resumption of in-person worship services when it is safe to do so and all preparations can be completed.
- Session will continue to monitor the pandemic conditions in Johnson County to determine when it is safe to resume in-person worship and larger gatherings. If conditions worsen, FPC may be required to go back to all online activities.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the office. We look forward to gathering with you soon.

## Assistance Needed with FPC Grounds

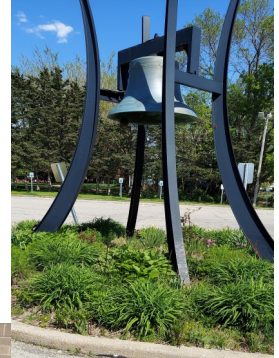
The Buildings and Grounds Committee is once again coming to grips with the enormity of trying to manage our grounds. To this end, we're convening a "Grounds Taskforce" to initiate a comprehensive plan for grounds restoration and maintenance. Our initial meeting will be held on Monday, July 28, at 5–6 p.m. via Zoom for convenience.

Ultimately, a team of volunteers will be needed to assist with restoration and maintenance activities. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank the following individuals who've worked on some of these activities to date. Dave Carlson performed initial work on the Bell Garden; Gerald Hill initiated restoration of the garden at the lower entry; Sue VanDuyn rejuvenated the planters at the main entrance; Tammy Schroeder is following up with Quality Care on the need to replace two shrubs in columbarium circle under warranty. Further, as reported in the May/June newsletter, eight FPC members participated in a successful outdoor clean-up event on May 1.

It is anticipated that additional volunteers will be needed for ongoing maintenance of the Bell Garden, lower entryway garden, planters at the entryway, shrubs and small trees, various flower and groundcover beds, the labyrinth garden, and water collection system for the labyrinth garden. If interested in participating in the Grounds Taskforce and / or volunteering for specific maintenance activities, please contact John Barr at [BarrJohnO@sau.edu](mailto:BarrJohnO@sau.edu)



**Dave Carlson**  
for tending the  
Bell Garden



**Sue Van Duyn**  
for the colorful  
flowers at the main  
entrance



**Gerald Hill**  
for keeping the  
lower level entry  
looking inviting



### Stop by and pick berries!

Every year, the serviceberries (also known as Juneberries or Saskatoon berries) on the trees at church ripened and were ready to pick near the 3rd week of June. These berries are delicious to eat on their own or to make jam or pies out of! Feel free to stop by and pick berries when they ripen.

Be sure to share a picture of what you make with them!





*Your Legacy is the indelible mark  
you leave behind when you make a  
difference in the life of another.*



*Create a legacy that will  
benefit our church for generations.*

*Philippians 4:19: "And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."*



*Supporting our endowment fund is one of the best ways  
you can ensure that our church's mission and vision  
will thrive for years to come.*

*For more information, contact Bob and Millie Youngquist at  
[endowment@firstpreswacounty.org](mailto:endowment@firstpreswacounty.org) or 319-653-4673.*

## **Income/Expense Update—May**

*Co-Treasurers, Leann Graves and Nancy Gardner*

	<b>Current Month</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>Prior Year to Date</b>
<b>Income</b>	\$108,556.17	\$287,324.71	\$294,109.90
<b>Expense</b>	\$ 42,406.06	\$233,169.35	\$234,833.48
<b>Total +/-</b>	+ \$ 66,150.11	+ \$ 54,155.36	+ \$ 59,276.42

# First's Family

*If you have a news item for the First's Family News, please submit it for publication by July 1 to [tammy.foster@firstpresiovacity.org](mailto:tammy.foster@firstpresiovacity.org). Thank you!*

## June 15-30

6/15 Dale Sheets  
6/16 Lara Marsh  
6/16 Marta Muilenburg  
6/16 Jocelen Hamilton  
6/17 Warren Jensen  
6/19 Kathryn Feagins  
6/20 Roxanne Gustaveson  
6/20 Amy Dunkle  
6/22 Ruth Westfall  
6/22 Lydia Smith  
6/23 Earl Nelson  
6/23 Sue Maccarillo  
6/23 Brent Morgan  
6/23 Jack Degner



6/25 Pete Van Gerpen  
6/25 Layne Sheetz  
6/25 Israel Mahinga  
6/28 Pauline Miller  
6/29 Elliott Soemadi  
6/30 Barb Meier

## July 1-15

7/1 Sara Miller  
7/2 Mutula Kasiriba  
7/2 Flint Mahinga  
7/3 William Oglesby  
7/3 Saira Steen  
7/5 Kevin Viksten  
7/6 Paul Schaefer  
7/6 Rebecca Stockman  
7/7 Emily Scott  
7/9 Lee Tippe  
7/10 John Barr  
7/10 MaryHelen Kennerly  
7/12 Janice Wilson  
7/14 Bob Youngquist  
7/15 Ames Molsberry  
7/15 Jesse Mahinga



**Known  
to have been  
Hospitalized:**  
Deane Mattila

**We don't want you to miss a thing...**



Please take a moment to review your information on My First Pres. Has your phone

number changed? Email? Have you moved? Is your birthday listed? Do you have a family photo to add?

**See the back page of this month's Newsletter** for step-by-step directions on how to log on to My First Pres.

Need help? Forgot your password? Contact Tammy Schroeder at [tammy.schroeder@firstpresiovacity.org](mailto:tammy.schroeder@firstpresiovacity.org) or by calling the church office at 319-351-2660



**FPC Book Club is taking a break for the summer**

Contact Mary Linn at [jmLnn@aol.com](mailto:jmLnn@aol.com) for more info

## Summer 2021 Gift Bags

Equipping Ministry has put together a Summer 2021 Gift Bag for all children and youth of First Presbyterian Church! This colorful bag will have dinner prayers, Sunday School at home, some fun summer ideas and activities!

These bags are ready to 'fly' off of the hooks beginning Tuesday, June 15; hanging in the hallway across from the water fountain!



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@firstpresio.wacivity.org](mailto:Layne.Sheetz@firstpresio.wacivity.org) today!

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



## Anna Sheetz on Maternity Leave this Summer

Anna, Layne, and Oliver Sheetz are excitedly waiting the arrival of little Emily Louise! When she is born, Anna will take 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](mailto:terryps1@me.com)

Or by phone at: 1-303-495-9310

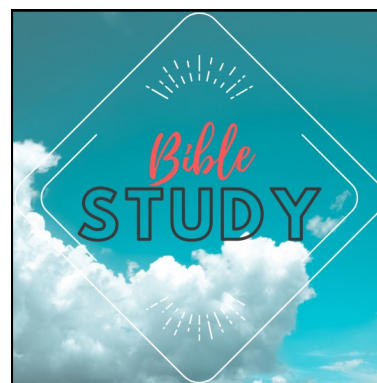




# LUNCH ON THE LAWN

**The 7th-12th Grade Youth Group will have Lunch on the FPC Lawn on Thursday, June 17 at 12 noon.** Students are asked to bring their own lunches and meet under the tree by the FPC Sign.

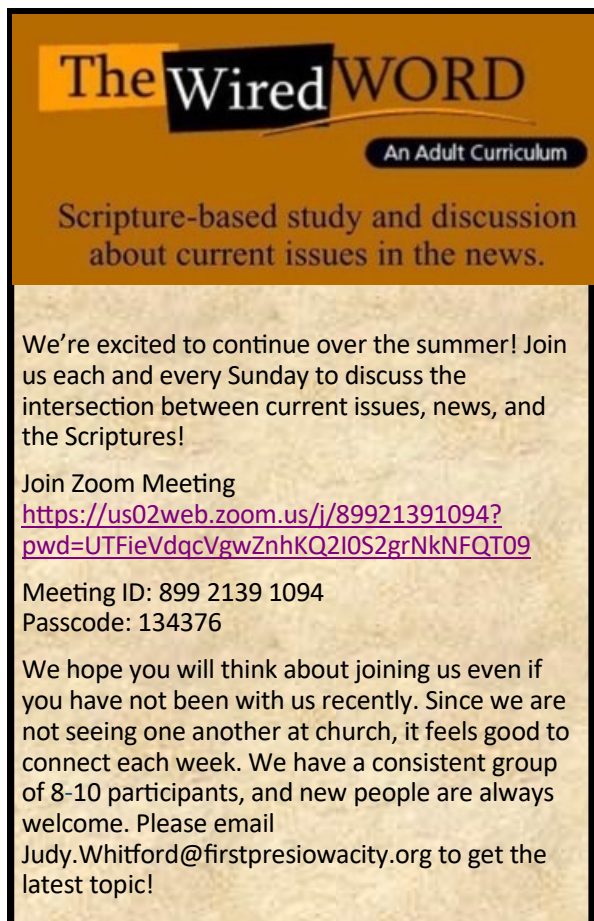
Contact Layne.Sheetz@firstpresbiowacity.org for more information today!



**Weekly Bible Study  
starting in September;  
Co-led by Anna Sheetz  
and Terry Purvis-Smith**

“Can a young-ish person and an old-ish person in the church pull this off?”

Find out! Beginning on  
Wednesday, September 15,  
10–11 a.m. in Coover Lounge



## The Wired WORD

An Adult Curriculum

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=UTFieVdqVgwZnhKQ2lOS2grNkNFQT09>

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@firstpresbiowacity.org](mailto:Judy.Whitford@firstpresbiowacity.org) to get the latest topic!

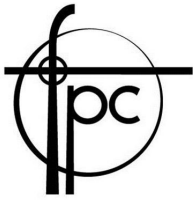


# NEW HOURS

Youth Groups will meet at a new time and day in Fall 2021! **All groups will meet Sunday nights, beginning Sunday, September 12.**

- 4<sup>th</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth Group 3:30–4:15 p.m.
- Game Group / Youth Choir 4:15–5 p.m.
- 7<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth Group 5–6 p.m.

Look for more information in the next newsletter!



**First Presbyterian Church**  
2701 Rochester Ave., Iowa City, Iowa 52245 [www.firstpresidiowacity.org](http://www.firstpresidiowacity.org)

## get connected

**First things first ...** You need to sign into **My First Pres**; it is a portal on the website that lets you update your contact info, add a family photo, see your financial gifts, set up online giving, print directories, and view the church calendar. Instruction to sign in, below in green box.

### Sign in to My First Pres

1. Go to FPC website, <https://firstpresidiowacity.org/>, scroll down to the **My First Pres** box
2. Click on "Need a Login? Click Here"
3. You will be asked to enter your first name, last name and email. Enter this info and click "Find Me"
4. You should see a note congratulating you on setting up your account.
5. Once you see that note, check your email for your username and temporary password
6. You will be able to change password once you login
7. You should open up to the HOME screen; look at MY COMPLETE PROFILE for your personal information, PLEASE make sure your address and phone numbers are correct, feel free to make any changes needed. Note: changes are verified and may take 24 hours to show up. You can also sign up for online giving, pledging and see your yearly giving.

**This is where it gets handy ...** Now that you have **My First Pres** set up, you have the option to download the **Church Life** app to your phone or tablet! **Church Life** keeps you organized by allowing you to see calendar events, locate your friends' contact info (church directory at your finger tips); text, email and call plus get directions to map visits all on the go. You can keep track of your pledge and gifts to FPC, too.

Instructions below in blue box.



- 1) Download Church Life  
**iPhone— App Store Android— PlayStore**
- 2) Log in  
**Use the same username and password you use for MyFirstPres.**

**Should you encounter any issues, feel free to email Tammy Schroeder at [tammy.schroeder@firstpresidiowacity.org](mailto:tammy.schroeder@firstpresidiowacity.org)**

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