

FIRST'S FAMILY



June 15–July 15
2023
Volume 67 Issue 5

Dear Church,

You may have noticed that the liturgical seasons of the church, in many ways, are mirror images of the natural seasons, at least in the northern hemisphere (I was recently informed by my Australian brother-in-law that the equivalent of June bugs there are “Christmas Beetles,” since they show up in December). In the shortened, colder days of the winter, the church season is full of activity—the initially penitential four weeks of Advent, the celebratory fortnight of Christmas, the bright festival of Epiphany. After a quieter period in January and February, we have the 40-day Lenten preparation for Easter to provide us with some structure just as our patience with winter begins to run out. Then Spring arrives. We celebrate the greening ground and emergent wildlife with 50 days of Easter resurrection and then slide into what is variously called “Ordinary Time” or “the season after Pentecost), which lasts from late May or June until the end of October without disruption.

I write this letter on June 6, following the last liturgical gasp of spring (Holy Trinity Sunday) and looking toward the long and unbroken period of growth ahead of us. As a preacher and service leader, the summer is both daunting and rewarding. The thematic changes of the liturgy give a natural motion to the late fall, winter, and spring months, inspiring ideas for hymns, for prayers, and for special moments in worship, but also frequently leave little time for exploring the longer story arcs of the Bible. The summer, by contrast, gives us no planning support, but leaves us the freedom to look at those big, thick books at the beginning of the Bible and understand them in their context. So that’s what we’re going to do this summer in the services I’ll be leading! Do you have questions about Sarah, Abraham, Isaac, Ishmael, Rebecca, Jacob, Esau, Rachel, and their contemporaries? We’ve got the whole summer and lots of lovely light to read by. And while our summer lives eschew the structure of the fall, winter, and spring, we’ve got more opportunities to come and try new things: a schedule of special music in worship, rotating in-home potlucks in the evenings and a mid-summer coming together to renew our discipleship and practice eating together at our Vacation Bible Experience.

But! With Iowa City Schools coming to an end this year, and with the closing on our house in front of us, summer is an excellent time for travel. My family and I will be visiting Beth’s brother (and assorted family members who are also coming) in London from July 10–August 1. We’ll be back in time to cook for the last day of VBX. In my absence, FPC is blessed to have Anna leading worship on July 17 and 24, and UI Lutheran Campus Minister Sarah Goettsch on July 31, the first day of VBX.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Nathan

Hello FPC Family!

Thanks to all who have reached out to me regarding summer music help. So far, we have a wonderful lineup! I am still looking, however, for folks who are interested in helping with special music / offertories for the month of August. If you are a vocalist, instrumentalist, or amateur musician of any kind, talk to me and we can find a way that you can participate. This is a great opportunity for anyone who is not regularly able to be involved with choir or handbells to contribute to the Sunday morning service in a special way. I am deeply appreciative of our congregation’s support of worship and arts on a weekly basis.

That is all for this month! As always, please come to me with any questions or comments should they arise.

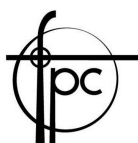
The Lord be with you.
J. Kyle Coleman



FROM OUR
PASTOR



J. Kyle Coleman,



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH U.S.A.
2701 Rochester Ave. • Iowa City • Iowa •
319-351-2660 • www.firstpresidiowacity.org

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



Serve Communion on July 9, or August 13; or be the Lead Usher for a Sunday in June, July, or August.

The Worship and Arts Ministry is seeking current and past Elders and Deacons to help with Communion and all church participants (members or not and all ages) to be lead ushers. Dates are open in June, July, and August. An usher checklist is available as a guide.

To sign-up online, go to these Sign-Up Genius sites:

Communion: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0848A4AE2AABF94-communion>

Lead Usher <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0848A4AE2AABF94-lead>

Or you may contact the chair of Worship and Arts directly: sschomberg@gmail.com.



Productive Spring Outdoor Work Event

On Saturday, May 20, ten FPC members had a perfect morning for our Spring Outdoor Work Event. We cleaned up / bulk-mulched the bell garden, columbarium area, and ground cover along Rochester Ave; trimmed and mulched ornamental trees; removed tree branch debris from under the large black walnut at Amherst & Rochester; removed dandelions from lawns next to church building; and took three pick-up loads of debris to the landfill.



Sincere thanks to these dedicated volunteers (pictured below, L to R): Deann Claypool, Lee Tippe, Don Bolin, Mike and Sue Farran, John Barr, Steve Schomberg, Sharon Raffensperger, and Bill Follows (photo by Jim Claypool).



The 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 Sept. 7 event, with a goal to raise \$5,000. We are hoping that a few 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. 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



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.

Twists & Turns

Vacation Bible eXperience @ FPC
Sunday, July 30- Thursday, August 3
5- 8 p.m.
Dinner provided

Sign Up Today!

We are looking for:

- **Adults to lead classes, crafts, games, and mission**
- **Helpers to prepare and serve dinner**
- **Kids to join us for all the most fun ever**
- **Youth to come and show us their smooth moves**

Sign up in Ryerson Hall or through First Presbyterian's Facebook Event registration.



Thank you for all your prayers and support of the Dodekah Ministry. We learned so much about the history of Presbyterianism and those who fought the Protestant fight. Plus, we toured the absolutely beautiful country of Scotland!

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, September 10, for a full presentation of our adventures.



Stewardship Never Takes a Break

Nancy Gardner, Stewardship Committee Moderator
Stewardship Committee Members: Liz Bolin, Karen Hurt, Stephanie Stamp,
Rick Boland, Ken Miller, Nathan Willard, Nancy Gardner

And, just like that, summer has begun. Sunday School classes have wrapped up, the Dodekah group has returned from Scotland, and the vocal and bell choirs are on summer break. But you know what? Stewardship continues all year long! That's right, the financial responsibility we demonstrate to God and the church is just as compelling in June, July, and August as it is the other nine months. And, your Stewardship Committee is creating ways for us all to connect with this critical role we play in the life of the church.

Here are two goals that the committee has implemented to-date:

Goal #1: To raise awareness of our church's mission statement

Our mission statement is our identity and communicates to all our relationship to God through acts of justice, mercy, and faith in God's world. By now, it's apparent that Pastor Nathan connects every worship service to the FPC mission statement. The statement is also included in all meeting minutes and church communication. Elders even had a pop quiz on writing the mission statement at last month's Session meeting. (Which they passed with flying colors!)

Goal #2: To encourage members in discovering the underlying reason for their financial gifts to the church

This goal was first publicized in the April-May newsletter in an article that emphasized the "why" of giving to the church. Since then, I've led a number of people through a process called **The 5 Whys** that allows individuals to dig deeper into discovering their true reason for financially supporting FPC. Anyone can actually do this on their own. Just ask yourself why you give to FPC, and respond with, "Why is this important to me?" Answer that question and respond again with, "Why is this important to me? By the time you have asked "why" five times, you know your bottom answer, and it often is very revealing to discover your true reason. We'll be hearing from several members what they discovered is their reason for giving in future newsletters.

So, indeed, stewardship never takes a break. We are continuously connecting our actions to our mission statement, and discovering again and again just why we give of ourselves and our financial gifts to the church. Stay tuned to learn what else the Committee is planning to keep the importance of stewardship always in our thoughts.

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@firstpresiohacity.org. Thank you!



June 15-30

July 1-15

6/16 Jocelen Hamilton	6/23 Martha Willard	7/1 Sara Arnold	7/7 Emily Sheetz
6/16 Lara Marsh	6/25 Israel Mahinga	7/2 Mutula Kasiriba	7/9 Lee Tippe
6/17 Warren Jensen	6/25 Layne Sheetz	7/2 Flint Mahinga	7/10 John Barr
6/19 Kathryn Feagins	6/27 Jim Linn	7/2 Alex Jacobus	7/10 MaryHelen Kennerly
6/20 Roxanne Gustaveson	6/28 Pauline Miller	7/3 William Oglesby	7/14 Bob Youngquist
6/22 Lydia Smith	6/29 Richard Burton	7/3 Saira Steen	7/15 Ames Molsberry
6/22 Ruth Westfall	6/30 Sullivan Johnston	7/5 Kevin Viksten	7/15 Jesse Mahinga
6/23 Brent Morgan	6/30 Barb Meier	7/6 Paul Schaefer	
6/23 Sue Maccarillo		7/6 Rebecca Stockman	
6/23 Jack Degner		7/7 Emily Scott	

We extend our deepest sympathy:

To the **Van Dusseldorp family** as they mourn the death of Sharon's sister and David's aunt, Norma Jones. Norma passed away on May 1, at the age of 96 in Prineville, Oregon.



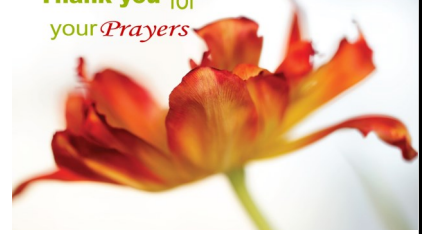
Deb Torrens-Semler and family on the death of her brother Tim's wife, who died May 16. Funeral services were held in Winston-Salem, NC.

Prayers for the family of **Jerry Thorius**, who died May 26, surrounded by his family, including his brother, his children Lara and John, grandchildren Rachel and Alex, and his wife Maeleen. His memorial service was on May 31, at FPC led by Pastor Nathan.

Joe and Leann Graves would like to thank everyone for the prayers

and support as Joe continues his recovery from surgery at home. They feel very blessed to have a caring church family.

Thank you for your Prayers



Stephanie Paulsen and her colleague Andrea Schultice, both counselors in West Liberty schools, were awarded one of only two Power of Hope Awards bestowed by the National Postsecondary Strategy Institute!



Things are changing...

The *FPC News and Events* emails will be switching up the format and the frequency. Do you have suggestions, comments or ideas you'd like to share?

Contact Tammy Schroeder 319-351-2660 or tammy.schroeder@firstpresiohacity.org

First Presbyterian Church continues its support of Ecumenical Towers

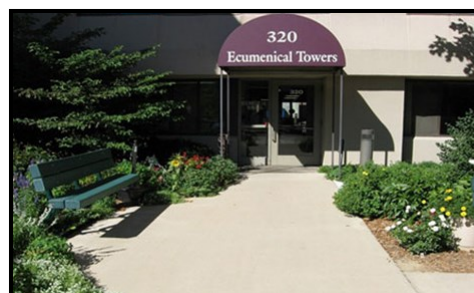
Submitted by board member, Nancy Weber

Did you know that there is an apartment building in downtown Iowa City with which our congregation has a long-standing connection? The Ecumenical Towers apartment building, located at 320 East Washington St., adjacent to the Senior Center, serves housing needs of low income seniors and persons with disabilities. Ecumenical Towers had its start in 1977 when twelve Iowa City churches formed the Ecumenical Housing Corporation with the goal of developing a facility to meet housing needs of seniors and persons with disabilities in Iowa City. Construction began in 1980, with the first resident moving into the facility in late 1981. Ecumenical Towers is celebrating 41 years of service to Iowa City.

The eleven-story ET building has 81 units. As a Housing and Urban Development (HUD) project, rents are subsidized and the building is managed in accordance with HUD regulations. There is an on-site staff, including a resident relations specialist, a service

coordinator, and a maintenance specialist. A property management group operates the building under the direction of a local board.

Ecumenical Towers is governed by an 11-member Board of Directors, with one representative from each of the founding congregations. These are: Congregational Church of Christ, First Christian Church, First Mennonite Church, First Presbyterian Church, First United Methodist Church, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, St. Mark's United Methodist Church, St. Thomas More Catholic Church, St. Wenceslaus Church, and Trinity Episcopal Church.



FPC Book Club

Wishes you a safe and healthy summer!

We will NOT be meeting in June or July—stay tuned for info on the August read.

Questions or more info, contact Mary Linn jmLnn@aol.com



Needles, Hooks and Yarn

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

**Saturday, June 17,
9–11 a.m. in Ryerson
Hall**

For more info call
319-351-2660.





Plant a Seed - Create a Legacy
The FPC Endowment and Memorials Committee
Bob and Millie Youngquist, Coordinators

The 1840 Legacy Society

Ever since its founding in 1840, the mission of First Presbyterian Church of Iowa City in the service of Jesus Christ has been sustained by the commitment and vision of generous donors. With the establishment of an operating Endowment, many have chosen to permanently strengthen FPC with gifts to the Endowment, both unrestricted and restricted.

First Presbyterian is grateful to the individuals whose thoughtful planning has helped ensure a vibrant future for the Church. The Church honors donors who have made Endowment gifts of current or future support through membership in **The 1840 Legacy Society**, named to recognize the founding of FPC in 1840.

The Session established the Society in 2011 with Thirteen Charter Members. Since that time, ten additional names have been added. These names are listed in the 1840 Legacy brochure which is available in the narthex. Members are recognized in the church's annual report and are invited to special events and programs. Membership may be anonymous.

You are invited to join **The 1840 Legacy Society** by supporting FPC in one or more of the following ways:

- ◆ Establishing a will or trust provision with FPC as a beneficiary

- ◆ Making a \$5,000 or more outright gift of cash or its equivalent to the FPC Endowment
- ◆ Making a minimum \$5,000 gift to the *First Presbyterian Church of Iowa City Agency Fund* at the Community Foundation of Johnson County
- ◆ Designating FPC as the owner and/or beneficiary of all or a portion of a life insurance policy
- ◆ Naming the FPC as a beneficiary of all or a portion of a retirement plan
- ◆ Establishing a charitable gift annuity with FPC as beneficiary
- ◆ Establishing a charitable trust with FPC as a beneficiary
- ◆ Making a gift to FPC of real property and retaining a life estate

Current members of the 1840 Legacy Society are listed in a framed certificate which hangs in our church narthex. We thank all of them for their supportive gifts to our church.

If you have made plans to include our church in your estate plans, please let us know so we can thank you with membership in **The 1840 Legacy Society**. To make a confidential inquiry about **The 1840 Legacy Society**, please contact:

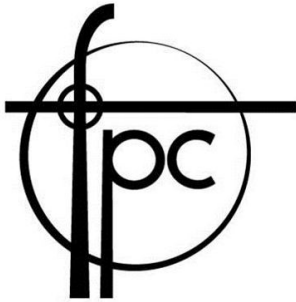
Bob and Millie Youngquist,
FPC Endowment/Memorial Coordinators:

Let's get connected.

Have you have noticed that the *My First Pres* isn't working? The reason for that is because FPC has switched to a new Church Management Software (ChMS) call *Realm Connect*. The goal of *Realm Connect* is to keep you better informed on what is happening and better connected to each other. While it isn't up and running yet, we wanted to give you a heads up that it is coming. Stay tuned for more information on getting connected!

If you are a *My First Pres* and *Church Life* app user and are concerned about what to use in the interim, contact Tammy Schroeder at tammy.schroeder@firstpresoiowacity.org or by phone at 319-351-2660; she can help you.

First Presbyterian Church
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Iowa City, Iowa 52245



Public Office Hours:
9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. Monday—Thursday
except holidays or when announced
Ph 319-351-2660
www.firstpresioiwacity.org

Prayer Post

It is easy to become overwhelmed and stressed out these days; stop by the Prayer Post and turn these worries over to God.

Pray More ... Worry Less

Eat Out Group
June 22 at 6 p.m.

Hosts:
Dwight & Pauline Miller

Sign up in the Narthex or
by calling the church
office at 319-351-2660.



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