

Get Fired-Up for Pentecost



In recognition of Pentecost, FPC will hold a **Fire Extinguisher Scavenger Hunt** during the month of June. The goal of this hunt is to increase awareness of where the extinguishers are located in case of a fire. You'd be surprised by how many you walk by and pay no attention to.

There are 10 total fire extinguishers in the building; to help get you started on your hunt, 1 is located in the boiler room, which is locked. Good luck and happy hunting.

Contact Tammy Schroeder (in person, by phone at 319-351-2660 or by email at tammy.schroeder@firstpreswacivcity.org) with your list of ALL 9 fire extinguishers by June 29. Two names will be drawn from all entries on June 30.

Winners will receive their very own fire extinguisher and an additional super secret surprise.

Sponsored by Outreach Ministry

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All-ages Summer Choir

This summer, a pick-up choir will gather twice to offer music in worship. All are welcome to sing, including kids. We'll gather for a brief rehearsal on a Sunday morning then sing in worship the following week. This is a great way to participate in a choir and make music together in a low-stakes environment.

Sunday, June 19, 9:30 a.m. — All-ages Summer Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, June 26 — Sing in worship

Sunday, July 31, 9:30 a.m. — All-ages Summer Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, August 7 — Sing in worship

Questions? Contact Melissa Moll at melissa.moll@firstpreswacivcity.org.



Stewardship and Music Go Hand in Hand

By Bill Follows, Chairperson, Stewardship Committee



Most members of FPC would agree that what we need right now is a permanent pastor. However, remember that music is also a very important part of our worship experience. Our bell choir, adult and children's choirs, church orchestra, ensembles, and soloists create beautiful music to make worship even more meaningful. Currently, an important component of the music program, our church organ, needs repair. These repairs were not needed when our Capital Funds Campaign took place, but do require attention now. We have an excellent organist in Melissa—let us work toward affording to repair the organ. Thus, we will utilize her talents and support the musical mission of our church. Yes, stewardship is essential all year long!

Consultation's Corner

FPC is a founding member of the Consultation of Religious Communities (CRC), a local network of faith communities, social service agencies, and advocacy groups. The CRC promotes interfaith dialogue, social justice, community service and dignity for all. The CRC's "Common Fund" provides over \$35,000 in annual funding to CommUnity Crisis Services' "Emergency Assistance Program" for rent and utility assistance in Johnson County. Donations may be made at <https://builtbycommunity.org/donate/> (Make sure to note "For Common Fund" in the comments section). CRC meetings at 10–11 a.m. on the 3rd Wednesday of each month include an interactive education program.

The April program on Iowa City's *Table to Table* was presented by Nicki Ross. One of the largest direct food rescue-to-distribution organizations in the U.S., last year *Table to Table* saved more than 2 million pounds of usable food with an estimated value of over \$6 million. Nicki's presentation can be viewed at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RK6VQrWpOuRDq3BDrcjr8jq9NWN5Tl7v/view?usp=sharing>. *Table to Table*, located at Pepperwood Plaza (1049 US-6 E, Iowa City, IA 52240) is always looking for volunteers via www.table2table.org.

United Action for Youth, (UAY) was discussed in May by Amy Kahle. Her informative presentation can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/aMEcz4r4P6E>. This non-profit works with youth, parents, and the local community to provide services for youth, ages 12–18. UAY's mission is to nurture the potential for all youth to create, grow, and succeed as young people in a safe and healthy community. Programs are available for teen parents, youth development, and 24/7 counseling services, as noted at www.unitedactionforyouth.org. With a main location at 1700 S. 1st Avenue, there is a Youth Center at 355 Iowa Ave.

Successful Spring Outdoor Work Event

On Saturday, May 14, ten FPC members had a perfect morning for our Spring Outdoor Work Event. They cleaned up the grounds / bulk-mulched the bell garden, the columbarium area, and the ground cover along Rochester; removed tree branch debris from under the black walnut tree on Rochester Ave.; removed dandelions from the lawns next to the church building; placed the pump and filled the columbarium fountain; and hauled two pick-up loads of debris to the landfill. Sincere thanks to these dedicated volunteers (pictured here, L to R): Vern Dengler, Jim and Deann Claypool, Don Bolin, Kathy Maxie, Bill Follows, Sue Farran, Sharon Raffensperger and Mike Farran (photo by John Barr).



2022

2nd Annual

Diversity Market

SATURDAYS

May: 28th & June: 4, 11, 18, 25

July: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

1PM - 7PM

Pepperwood Plaza Parking Lot
1067 HWY 6, Iowa City, IA. 52240

JOIN US!

- Specialty Foods
- Art & Crafts
- Jewelry & Clothes
- Gifts & more
- Community Resources

Pepperwood Plaza Association

Session Meeting Highlights of May 2022

Submitted by Nancy Weber, Interim Clerk of Session

The session met May 17, 2022 on Zoom and at FPC. Pastor Jennifer Jennings called the meeting to order and declared a quorum. Elder Jane Cranston led with devotions and prayer.

Session welcomed FPC member Tom Martin via Zoom who offered a number of concerns having to do with loss of membership, finances, and transparency in the hiring of a new pastor. Elder John Barr will reach out to Tom Martin on behalf of Session and thank him for his time and comments.

A motion was approved from the Capital Campaign Implementation Taskforce (CCIT) to decommission the CCIT and its Technology Subcommittee.

A motion was presented and approved that Session accepts and endorses the analysis and recommendations for action of the Session Taskforce's second report. The taskforce has identified key concerns and recommended actions that FPC needs to begin addressing immediately as it strives to remain a viable faith community in Iowa City.

Elder Dave Van Dusseldorp spoke about the Endowment Committee's request for approval of disbursement of funds. A need to further examine the report items was expressed, and a motion to table the motion to approve the Endowment requests until a called Session meeting on Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. could be convened to further discuss the report was approved. At the May 24 meeting, the motion to accept the Endowment Committee's disbursement of endowment proceeds was approved. The disbursement is as follows:

1. \$1,750 to Anna Sheetz for remaining seminary level class: "The Polity and Program of the Presbyterian Church."

2. Up to \$8,000 to Dodekah Ministry for \$1,000 support per new participant toward Capstone study trip.
3. \$6,000 to Enihakole Ministries for initial six months' rent for a new ministry working in support of African immigrants in eastern Iowa and communities in eastern Africa.
4. \$10,000 to Domestic Violence Intervention Program (local social services organization) toward a three-year pledge of \$25,000 (\$10,000 + \$10,000 + \$5,000) for the \$6,000,000 capital campaign "Finding Safety, Building Hope."

The Congregational Health Ministries team would like to expand the "core team" for the Kindness Campaign in September 2022. They are seeking volunteers from Session to join them in the planning and implementation process. Elder Lara Marsh is helping CHM with the logo and printable materials.

Elder John Barr reported on the opportunity to support a Presbyterian Hunger Project grant to our local Catholic Worker House. **Session approved a motion** to convey their support and John wrote a letter of support as a representative of the FPC session.

Committees were encouraged to submit their proposed line-item budgets and corresponding narratives to acting administrator Nancy Gardner by Friday, August 26, 2022.

Closing prayer was offered by Elder Dave Van Dusseldorp.



Income / Expense Update — May 2022

Co-Moderators of Finance, Leann Graves and Nancy Gardner

	Year to Date (Jan.-May)	Last Year (Jan.-May)
Income	\$168,685.20	\$293,669.44
Expense	\$202,478.95	\$239,424.42
Total +/-	– \$ 33,793.75	\$ 54,245.02

Stop by and pick berries!

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

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



2022 Communion Dates:

Dates are subject to change.

Communion is being served by intinction with individual communion packets available.



June 5	Pentecost Sunday
July 10	5th Sunday after Pentecost
August 14	10th Sunday after Pentecost
September 11	14th Sunday after Pentecost
October 2	World Communion
November 20	Reign of Christ
December 11	Advent III

Go on a Prayer Walk

Take a walk around your neighborhood or town. Pray as you walk. Pray for your neighbors, their families, and any situations you know they are facing.

Quick, short sentences are okay! For example: "God, please be with the Smiths as they wait for their new baby to arrive and please help the baby to be healthy and strong." "God, please help Mrs. Thomas while she's sick and let her know how much you care for her."



If you walk through town, stop in front of city buildings to pray, like the police or fire station, city hall, or the courts. Ask God to give wisdom and protection to your city workers as they serve your town.

If you walk through nature, thank God for the way you see God at work through living and growing things.

Laundry Prayer

When you empty the lint trap as you are doing your laundry say a quick prayer:

"God, help me remove the junk in my life that is keeping me away from you."



Tooth Brushing

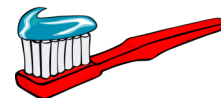
Prayer Song

(Sung to the tune "Twinkle Twinkle")

Brushing teeth both morn and night helps my teeth stay clean and white.

Thank you God for mouths that chew, help them spread our love for you!

As I brush the gunk away, hear this prayer I pray today.



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@firstpreswacivcity.org. Thank you!

June 15-30

6/16 Lara Marsh	6/23 Jack Degner
6/16 Marta Muilenburg	6/25 Layne Sheetz
6/16 Jocelen Hamilton	6/28 Pauline Miller
6/17 Warren Jensen	6/29 Elliott Soemadi
6/20 Nancy Warren	6/30 Barb Meier
6/20 Roxanne Gustavson	
6/20 Amy Dunkle	
6/22 Ruth Westfall	
6/23 Earl Nelson	
6/23 Sue Maccarillo	
6/23 Brent Morgan	

July 1-17

7/1 Sara Miller	7/12 Janice Wilson
7/2 Flint Mahinga	7/14 Bob Youngquist
7/2 Alex Jacobus	7/15 Ames Molsberry
7/3 William Oglesby	7/15 Jesse Mahinga
7/3 Saira Steen	7/16 Virginia Hall
7/5 Kevin Viksten	7/16 Debbie Beermann
7/6 Paul Schaefer	
7/6 Rebecca Stockman	
7/7 Emily Scott	
7/7 Emily Sheetz	
7/9 Lee Tippe	
7/10 John Barr	
7/10 MaryHelen Kennerly	



**Known
to have been
Hospitalized:**

Sally Rickey

*With
Sympathy*

To the family and friends of **Pete Van Gerpen**, who died on June 4. Rev. Gary Burnett officiated at the graveside service.

To **Rhonda Barr** and family whose mother, **Nadene Nicholas**, died on May 20 in Indiana.



Congratulations!

Welcome, Tillie!

Matilda (Tillie) Ruth Bergman Grado made her entrance into the world on Wednesday, June 1 at 3:58 p.m. Weighing in at 5 lbs. 4 oz., Tillie, and her parents Leah Bergman and Gunnar Grado, are doing well. Leah writes that "Matilda means 'battle ready' and this little girl is already a warrior!" We welcome Tillie to the FPC family! Congratulations, Leah and Gunnar, and to Tillie's proud grandparents, Darlene and Marv Bergman.

Worship in the Summer? It's Easy!

~ Nancy Gardner, Interim Church Administrator

Summertime, and the livin' is easy ... or so the song from Porgy and Bess tells us. Sounds wonderful, doesn't it? Vacations, swimming pools, gardening, golf, and, of course, worship. Yes, worship continues throughout the summer, and we hope it continues to be a part of your summertime routine on Sundays. Be it online or in-person, FPC will continue to provide meaningful worship experiences that present thoughtful reflection and a closeness to God. Easy livin', including worship ... a great way to spend the summer!



I Wonder ...

Vacation Bible eXperience 2022

Friday, August 5, 4–7 p.m. with dinner

Saturday, August 6, 9–4 p.m. with lunch and snacks

Sunday, August 7, 12–4 p.m. with lunch

At FPC, we love that our kids are naturally curious! And we know that when we're curious about who God is that it's easy to grow our relationship with Jesus. That's why, during this 3-day VBX, we're going to engage kids' imaginations! Kids will not only get curious about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics — but also about the God who created it all! They'll hear from early church leaders like Paul, Peter, John, and Timothy, who helped the first Jesus-followers wonder **what made their stories unique, what gifts God gave them** (and how they could use those gifts to serve), **what they could learn from others**, and **how they could spend time with God**.

This is an inter-generational event for the whole church! Whether you're an adult who wants to volunteer, a child who wants to play, or an adult who wants to learn—it's all here for you!

Sign up today in Ryerson Hall by the Equipping Ministry Board.



**Monday,
June 27**



**Monday,
July 18**



**Monday,
August 8**

Each of these trips is \$45 per participant. Each day, we'll be leaving at 9 a.m. and return time will be communicated that day. **Anna must have updated medical forms for all students.**
If an adult chaperones a trip, they will receive a 50% ticket discount.
If an adult drives and chaperones a trip, their ticket will be free.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY ARE INVITED

***Participants in 7th grade or younger must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or responsible adult.**



The Youth Group tradition continues as VBX hosts the "Beginning of the Youth Group Year" Lock-In!

Students going into 7th grade to graduating seniors are invited to a **Youth VBX Lock-In.**

Thursday, August 4, 5 p.m. through VBX on Friday p.m.

Students must have an updated medical form. *RSVP to Anna by Wednesday, July 20.



SKY RANCH
TEXAS COLORADO OKLAHOMA

Potluck Dinner and Informational Meeting for participants and guardians

Wednesday, June 15, 5:30–6:30 p.m.

***Youth are invited to stay from 6:30–8 p.m. to discuss *The Silver Chair* and *The Last Battle*.**

Old Testament Grow Groups kick off Sunday, August 21! There will be two groups this time around:

Sunday PM from 5–6 p.m.

Wednesday AM from 9:30–10:30 a.m.

Both groups will be hybrid. To sign up today, contact Anna at

Anna.Sheetz@firstpresbiowacity.org



grow group



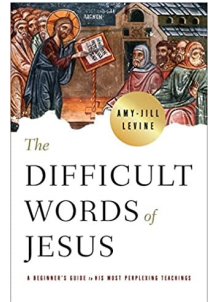
Children's Sunday School continues this summer! Meet each week from **9:15–10:15 a.m. in Ryerson Hall!**

The Difficult Words of Jesus Book Study

Summer 2022

Jesus provided his disciples teachings for how to follow the Torah, God's Word; he told them parables to help them discern questions of ethics and of human nature; he offered them beatitudes for comfort and encouragement. But sometimes Jesus spoke words that followers then and now have found difficult. He instructs disciples to hate members of their own family (Luke 14:26), to act as if they were slaves (Matthew 20:27), and to sell their belongings and give to the poor (Luke 18:22). He restricts his mission (Matthew 10:6); he speaks of damnation (Matthew 8:12); and he calls Jews the devil's children (John 8:44).

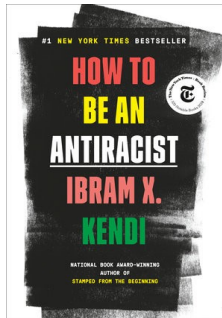
In *The Difficult Words of Jesus*, New Testament scholar and Jewish leader Amy-Jill Levine shows how these difficult teachings would have sounded to the people who first heard them, how they have been understood over time, and how we might interpret them in the context of the Gospel of love and reconciliation.



If you are interested in participating in this study, there are two options for this 6-week study:

June 16–July 21 Thursdays, 6–7:30 p.m.
July 13–August 17 Wednesdays, 10–11:30 a.m.

Sing up in Ryerson Hall or email Anna at Anna.Sheetz@firstpreswacivcity.org to sign up today!



A New Jeremiah Justice Initiative Cycle is Starting!

The summer cycle of JJI begins June 26 with the reading of *How to be An Anti-Racist* by Ibram X. Kendi. Contact Layne Sheetz at Layne.Sheetz@firstpreswacivcity.org for more information!



You're invited to an End-of-Summer Camping Trip!

Friday, August 26–Sunday, August 28
Palisades-Kepler State Park

\$50 per family to attend; \$20 per person

*Please RSVP to Anna by Sunday, July 17 if you would like to attend!

Help FPC send off our Graduating Seniors! May 15–June 26

Go to the Pastor's Place in the lower level (marked with Senior Send Off) and follow the instructions you'll find in the room.

Equipping Ministry hopes to make this an incredible and heartfelt gift for our many graduating seniors!



all things PUMPKIN



Save the Date!

The Pumpkin Patch is being delivered: **Saturday, September 24.**

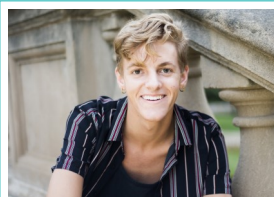
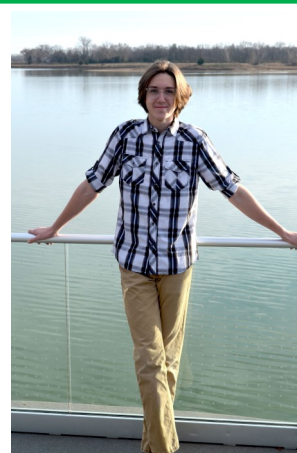
Contact Anna to let her know you can help unload and set up for the sale.



Rachel Marsh is graduating Summa Cum Laude from Iowa City High School and will attend Arizona State University in Tempe, AZ majoring in Business with a minor in Film. At City, she ran Cross-Country, sang in advanced choirs, performed in the varsity Show Choir, performed in multiple musicals, and worked as a writer and photographer for the City High School Newspaper. Outside of school, Rachel is heavily involved in equestrian events, as well as many programs at First Presbyterian Church.



Nile Franz is graduating from City High. His future plans are to attend Mount Mercy University next fall, though his major is currently undecided. He will also be bowling on the Mount Mercy bowling team. Nile has always been very active with the programming here at First Presbyterian Church!



Charlie Faden is graduating from Iowa City High School with honors. He became a thespian his sophomore year and participated in each of City High's theater productions. He received his Silver Cord for

working 200 hours in community service, much of it at Camp Wyoming.

He will study architecture in college at a yet to be decided location. Charlie would love to use his five years of French at McGill University in Montreal, for which he would receive the official seal of bi-literacy.

This summer Charlie will continue to volunteer at Camp Wyoming and head to Sky Ranch with the FPC Youth Group.

Nick Thedens has been associated with FPC



his whole life, having been baptized here in 2004 and joining the church in 2017. After graduating from City High, Nick will be attending the University of Iowa this fall to study Engineering.

Ben Faden is graduating Summa Cum Laude from Iowa City High School and will be attending Washington University in St. Louis, studying mathematics and statistics.

Besides all the academic kudos (not mentioned here), Ben completed 13 years at Preucil School of Music studying violin and viola. He is excited to be joining the Preucil Orchestra on their European tour this summer. Board games and Ben go together for sure. He started the Board Game club at City High this past year and most certainly will continue to share his passion with others in the future. Ben participated in numerous FPC programs, youth groups and choirs.



Graduating also this year are: Gabe Orris, Keathan Stevens and Aurelien Jr. Kunangika.

Spread Kindness!

First Presbyterian Church
Iowa City

#spreadkindness

The Congregational Health Ministry will launch the Kindness Campaign in July!

Wait? You thought it wasn't until September? Yes, that's true but now, to make it amazing in September, we need you! All of you! No matter your time, age or talents, all members and friends are needed.

Beginning in July, after worship, we will answer all your questions and provide you time to explore various volunteer opportunities for intentional acts of kindness in September. Can you cook, rake leaves, pick up trash, hand out free gift cards or a bottle of water? One of these activities, or all of the above?

Come, bring your family and give two hours to help your neighbor. In a time of such tragedy and turmoil, "be kind," be engaged and have fun! Thank you!

Would You Like to Learn to Play Handbells?

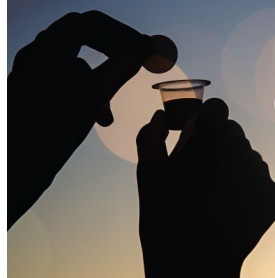
FPC will offer **beginning** lessons for anyone interested in learning how to play in a handbell choir. Once we know of interest, we will plan a schedule for lessons on ringing techniques. Some knowledge of reading music is recommended, although proficiency is not necessary.

If interested, please call, text or email: Rhonda Barr (319-936-5998; rhondabarr75@gmail.com)

Handbells



Elders Asked to Train for Home Communion



On Sunday, July 17, after worship, Rev. Gary Burnett will train Elders to serve home communion. Anyone ordained as an Elder is eligible for this training. Teams of Elders will then be able to provide this sacrament to those who are unable to receive it in person. Elders past and present are encouraged to attend this one-hour training.

Note: Those who wish to receive home communion should contact the church office (319) 351-2660.

The 2022 Nominating Committee Will Begin Its Work Soon.

We are looking for possible Elders, Deacons, and members of the Nominating and Endowment Committees for 2023. Please let one of the following people know if you have suggestions. Thank you!

2022 Nominating Committee:

Rhonda Barr, rhondabarr75@gmail.com

Anita Burnett, burnett.anita1@gmail.com

David Carlson, davidcarlson110@gmail.com

Nancy Gardner, nancy.hayes.gardner@gmail.com

Leann Graves (moderator), lgraves@mchsi.com





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

Bob and Millie Youngquist, Coordinators

FPC Endowment Funds Awarded

It is always exciting to announce the ways our FPC Endowment has been helping to advance the realm of God in the world around us. If you have been reading our newsletter columns, church bulletin announcements and listening to church worship service announcements, you have been quite aware that we have just completed our 2022 endowment distribution. Announced initially in February, all applications for endowment support were due by May 4. Maintaining an announced period to honor grant requests has greatly helped the endowment committee to address as many needs as possible with the funding we have available. Following the May deadline, the FPC Endowment Committee met and approved several grant requests for funds from church and local groups:

Dodekah Ministry – This FPC ministry is a 12-month program dedicated to team building, history learning, theological thinking and serving the community. It will culminate with a two-week international trip exploring the Scottish history of the Presbyterian Church. The Endowment Committee approved awarding \$1,000 to cover program expenses for every new person signing up for this program.

Ordination Studies – The Endowment Committee awarded \$1,750 for the cost of Anna Sheetz's final seminary class at the Dubuque Theological Seminary.

Domestic Violence Intervention Program Capital Campaign – The Endowment Committee approved DVIP's request for a \$25,000 pledge over three years to help them build a new shelter that will double their capacity to serve victim-survivors of abuse, human trafficking, and harassment. DVIP has served the Iowa City community for over 30 years and over the past two years has seen a dramatic increase in requests for help. In May of 2022, their hotline calls increased by 28%. They are currently in their "silent" phase of fundraising, they plan to go public in the next six months and to break ground for their new facility in Spring of 2023.

Discipleship, Leadership to Equip and Empower African Churches Project - Pastor Theogene

Havugimana has established a 501c3 organization, Enihakole Ministries, to support African immigrants in Eastern Iowa and communities in Africa. \$6,000 was approved by the Endowment Committee to cover rent in their Cedar Rapids location.

In future years, please watch for news of our endowment distribution, which will usually come in early spring. The necessary application forms are always online on the church website. If we find we have additional funding as the year moves on, we will have an additional funding period as well; however, one distribution period is now becoming standard for each year.

Thanks to all who have given in many ways to support the FPC Endowment. Truly, it is a joy to see this fund reach out to support God's work in our church, our community and our world.

You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

[2 Corinthians 9:11](#)

**FOLLOW US
TO FACEBOOK**



Follow, Like, and leave a Comment!

We would love to hear from you!

Find us by simply searching

"First Presbyterian Church Iowa City"

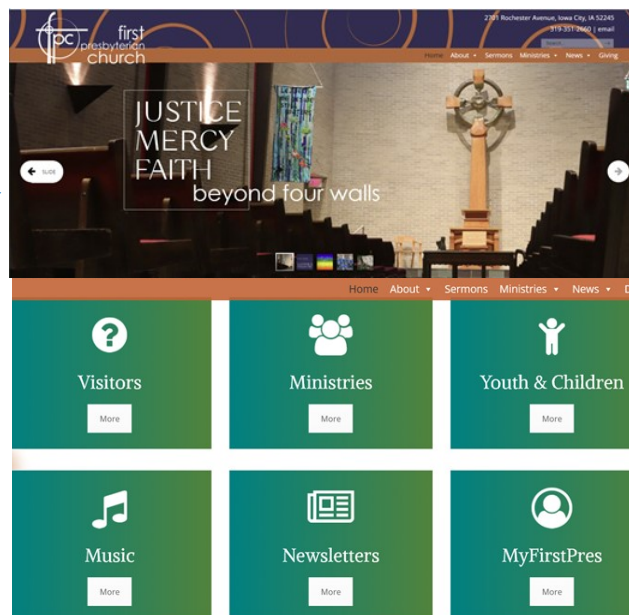


Prayer Post

This outward sign of FPC's investment in the neighborhood and the Iowa City community continues to receive prayer requests and give out Bibles.

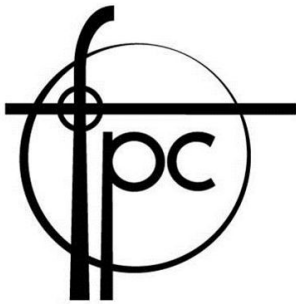
To learn more about the Prayer Post, stop by and see how to *Pray More, Worry Less*; located along the Rochester Ave. sidewalk.

Check out the website at firstpresiowacity.org to see all of the summer activities. While you're there sign up for *My First Pres* – a portal that allows you to update your contact info, add family photos, see and print the most up-to-date directory, view the church calendar, see your financial gift, and set up online giving, and so much more.



1. Scroll down the HOME page, click on the **My First Pres** square.
2. You will be asked to enter your first name, last name and email. Enter this info and click "Find Me."
If the system can't find you, you may not have an email in the system —call Tammy Schroeder (351-2660).
3. You should see a note congratulating you on setting up your account.
4. Once you see that note, check your email for your username and temporary password.
5. You will be able to change password once you login.

First Presbyterian Church
2701 Rochester Ave.
Iowa City, Iowa 52245

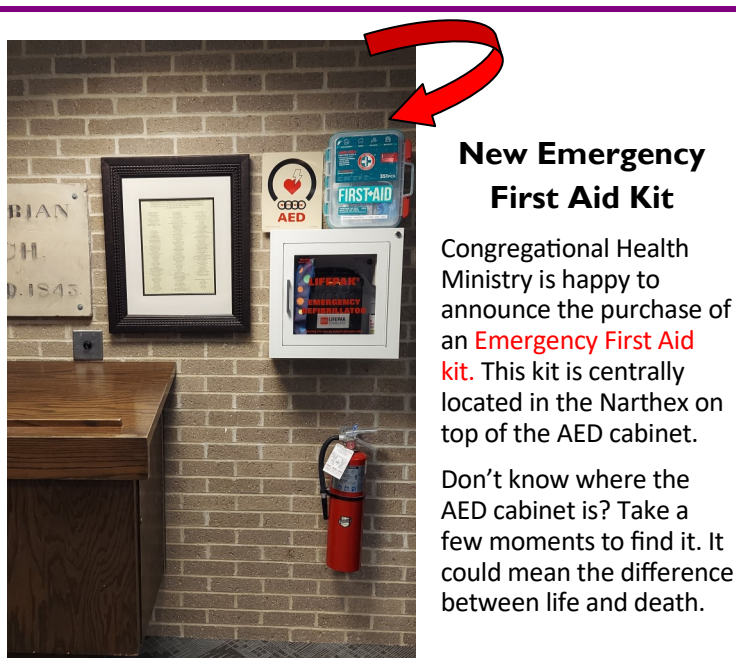


Public Office Hours:

9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Monday–Friday
except holidays or when announced

Ph 319-351-2660

www.firstpreswacivcity.org



**New Emergency
First Aid Kit**

Congregational Health Ministry is happy to announce the purchase of an **Emergency First Aid kit**. This kit is centrally located in the Narthex on top of the AED cabinet.

Don't know where the AED cabinet is? Take a few moments to find it. It could mean the difference between life and death.

Bible Quiz

Careful readers of Mark's gospel will discover that the writer favored a certain word. It indicated how quickly certain events transpired. The word is found four times in the first chapter of Mark and 19 times in the remaining 15 chapters (NRSV). Choose the correct word:

- A. Momentarily
- B. Instantly
- C. Occasionally
- D. Immediately



Answer: D (It's first used in Mark 1:12, NRSV.)

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