

FIRST'S FAMILY



March 15— April 15
2023
 Volume 67 Issue 2

Palm Sunday



Maundy Thursday



Easter Vigil



As we approach Easter, I have a confession to make: my worship sensibilities come from what is often called a “low church” tradition. The services I have loved the most have been quiet and subdued ones: the solemn call to Holy Lent of Ash Wednesday, the stark words about the final moments of Jesus’s life that we share during Tenebrae, and the more modern Service of the Longest Night that many churches offer around Christmas. I feel most at home when we are left to contemplate our own mortality and to use that contemplation to spur us into action. Which is one reason why I’m new to the practice of the Easter Vigil! As we approach Holy Week without a worship director for the first time, I need your help to understand what all the moving parts of the service mean to you, what role they play in the life of the church, and also to make sure that we prepare the grounds and sanctuary for both the Vigil and for Easter morning. I hope that this can be the first of many times we come together as a church and pastor to share our hopes for a service, plan to make those hopes a reality, and reflect on how the process has brought us closer to God.

Before the Easter Vigil, though, comes our remembrance of Jesus’s final days in Jerusalem. We begin with Palm Sunday on April 2 and continue with a potluck soup supper for Maundy Thursday on April 6. Why a soup supper? Maundy Thursday is our church observation of the Last Supper Jesus has with his disciples. At that supper he shared his final hopes and reassurances with them and left them with a new commandment (or, in Latin, *mandatum*, from which we get Maundy): to love one another. So it’s appropriate that we commemorate Maundy Thursday with a meal of our own (even if we leave the traditional humble service of footwashing for another year). Following dinner, we’ll take some of our bread and imagine ourselves there with the disciples and Jesus on that night as we re-enact the beginnings of our own tradition of communion.

After we have shared our meal and the sun begins to set on Thursday, we will move into the sanctuary for a service of shadows, Tenebrae. In the dim light, we will remember Christ’s final moments on the earth with a

series of readings and responsive songs that leave room for us to consider the ways in which death and abandonment often go hand in hand, leaving in silent darkness to contemplate those brief moments when the world was without Christ. While Tenebrae is typically a Thursday service, it really marks the sunset beginning of Good Friday.

I hope that you all are having a meaningful Lent; as I write this, I’m coming off of meetings with Worship and Arts, Christian Education, and Finance and preparing my own report for the Session. As you receive this newsletter, I will be out of the office, tying up some real estate matters in Ankeny and attending my class at the Leadership Center for Social Justice in Minneapolis. But I’ll be back on the 19th, and look forward to seeing you in worship and joining you in conversations about how we mark the Great Vigil of Easter together as a church.

Grace and Peace,

Nathan

Inside this issue:

Session Highlights	2
Holy Week Schedule	
One Great Hour of Sharing	3
Notes from the Director of Music	4
First’s Family	5
Christian Education Ministry	6 & 7
World of Slogans	8
Friends of Pasrur Thank You	
Endowment / Memorial	10
Nominating Committee	11



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH U.S.A.

2701 Rochester Ave. • Iowa City • Iowa • 319-351-2660 • www.firstpresidiowacity.org

Session Meeting Highlights of February 2023

Jeremy Fletcher, Clerk Pro-tem of Session

The Session held its regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on February 21, 2023, with all elders present. Discussion was held concerning how to make the church programming more inclusive and the Session received a list of resources to use for this purpose. The Session received a report concerning Chitoka Webb, a seminary student under care of the Session who is seriously ill with organ failure. Inquiry is being made to determine what help the Church can provide. The Church will host a "meet and greet" for the Presbytery's Transitional Executive Presbyter on April 21 from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. in Ryerson Hall. The communion calendar was changed to move the planned service of Communion on Maundy Thursday to Easter Sunday. The Session approved the use of the sanctuary by Oberlin College Choir on March 25 for a concert.



Palm Sunday: April 2

9:00 am *Christian Education*
9:30 am *Breakfast for All*
10:30 am *Worship with Palm Processional*

Tuesday: April 4

6:00 pm *Confirmand Reception with Session*

Maundy Thursday: April 6

6:00 pm *Soup & Celebration of the Last Supper*
7:00 pm *Tenebrae Service*

Holy Saturday: April 8

7:00 pm *Celebration of Light, Word, Water, and Holy Communion*

Easter Sunday: April 9

9:00 am *FPC Family Breakfast*
9:45 am *Easter Egg Hunt*
10:30 am *Celebration of the Resurrection with Holy Communion*

One Great Hour of Sharing – Our First PC(USA) 2023 Special Offering

At the conclusion of World War II, Protestant churches in the U.S. appealed for relief and reconstruction of devastated areas, primarily in Europe and Asia. A program called “One Great Hour” broadcast on March 26, 1949, closed with a request that listeners attend their local church and make a sacrificial contribution. It was estimated that more than 75,000 churches world-wide participated. The next year, the offering was repeated, using the name “One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)”. Over the past 70 years, OGHS has provided Presbyterians a way to share God’s love with our neighbors in need around the world.

Three programs are supported by this offering: 32% goes to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), 36% to the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP), and 32% for the Self-Development of People (SDOP). Each works in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Recent OGHS outcomes have included:

\$3.1 million granted by PDA for the U.S. and 15 countries.

80 PHP grants, totaling nearly \$1 million, impacting the U.S. and 22 countries.

Over 5,000 projects in economically poor communities in the U.S. and around the world have provided the opportunity to develop solutions to their own challenges.

Over 3,000 people around the world trained in food production.

276 certified Earth Care congregations helped care for our planet.

Over 50,000 trees planted around the world, with **786** congregations purchasing eco-palms for sustainable forestry and livelihoods.

There are four differently focused PC(USA) Special Offerings each year. [Please be joyful and generous in giving to each, with this first being One Great Hour of Sharing.](#)

Donations are being accepted though Easter Sunday, April 9th and can be made via our website at <https://firstpreswac.org/donate-online/> or by check payable to First Presbyterian Church, with One Great Hour in the memo line.



The Reconciliation Ministry of First Presbyterian Church is delighted to announce a presentation by Dr. Louis Licht following worship on March 26, in Ryerson Hall.

Come and hear Lou’s presentation: Ecolovillage, Ecolofarm and Ecolotree—a career that his farmer dad never understood.

This talk involves the audience in designing a future Iowa where fear, greed and fun can lead to a reset in our rural state lifestyle. Fear in an unsustainable water source and air pollution, greed in adopting new valuable crops and unfunded objectives like wildlife diversity, and fun in bringing it all together.



J. Kyle Coleman,

Greetings, FPC family!

The peace of the Lord be with you.

As we wander through the season of Lent together, remember that we do not do so aimlessly. We seek Jesus: within ourselves, within the body of believers we are

surrounded by here, and in the world outside. As we conduct our solemn search, we may find things within our hearts that we ought to change—that is okay, that is being human. We may also find, along the way, how great our need for Jesus and His love really is. The great beauty of all this is finding that Christ's love is *always* here; for us and for our tired world. Lent is a time to search, not because Christ is absent, but because we so often wander away. Thanks be to God that the shepherd is faithful in seeking His sheep that forget they are His.

The music our vocal and handbell choirs are offering this season are appropriate for the solemnity of our fast, yet never absent of the light of Christ at the end of the tunnel. "Surely, He hath borne our griefs," is a straight-forward telling of the sufferings of Christ, with the tag "the chastisement of our peace was upon Him." Indeed, He suffered that we may have peace. While drawing attention to the Lord's sacrifice, "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," culminates in a call for us to respond to His "love so amazing, so

divine," by offering Him our own "souls, [our] life, [our] all." "Let nothing ever grieve thee," asks us—in the middle of the lenten days—"Why brood all day in sorrow? Tomorrow will bring thee God's help."

Indeed, there is an end to the wilderness. The ancient motet, "Sicut cervus," acknowledges the longing we feel at this point for the Lord, "as a deer longs for flowing streams," (Ps. 42:1, *NRSV*). JuBELLation will ring out "O The Deep, Deep Love of Jesus," which proclaims that Christ's love (what our souls long for most) is "boundless, free." On Palm Sunday, "Hosanna to the Son of David," recreates the tension of the day Jesus rode into Jerusalem to a fanfare of palm branches. Despite all this excitement, just days later, His closest friends would abandon Him. On Maundy Thursday, we will reach the height of tension in Christ's Passion. We remember His foreboding last supper with His disciples—who surely did not understand the gravity of the moment—and His betrayal by the same. Christ's obedience, even unto death on the cross, is a heavy gospel. Grieve not, however, for with "Christus factus est," we know that in this obedience, God "exalted Him and gave Him the name that is above every name," (Phil. 2:9, *NRSV*). Lastly, suspended in this time, as Jesus is suspended on the cross, "Behold, the Savior of Mankind," looks to our Salvation in simple awe. In our speechless, shaken onlooking, a glimpse of blessed hope: "But soon He'll break death's envious chain and in full glory shine."

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage.

Reconciliation Ministry is sponsoring a presentation:



Palestine and Israel: A Journey of Pilgrimage & Education

A year ago, Doug and Julie Olson of Wauke, Iowa had the privilege to participate in a life-changing study pilgrimage to the Holy Land sponsored by the Des Moines Presbytery. On April 30, at 11:45, they will share a presentation of their experiences in Coover Lounge. Their presentation will include sacred sites from the life and ministry of Jesus and information concerning the ongoing conflict in Israel/Palestine garnered through meetings with Christian, Muslim and Jewish communities and individuals working to bring peace to the area through nonviolent means.

First's Family

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

March 15–31

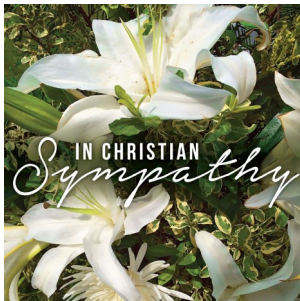
3/17 Michael Anderson
3/17 Uriel Kunangika
3/18 Jeff Orris
3/19 Sharon Raffensperger
3/19 Elizabeth Aubrey
3/21 Gerald Lowry
3/22 Joe Paulsen
3/24 Kitty Chadima
3/24 Soren Miller
3/25 Mary Bergman
3/26 Andrew Marsh
3/29 Braxton Burtness
3/30 Sara Burton
3/31 Doris Yoder



April 1–15

4/1 Leroy Bain	4/7 Ryan Dehner
4/1 Milord Byamungu	4/7 Trevor Smith
4/2 Caleb Davis	4/9 Joyce McMaster
4/3 Bill Follows	4/9 Lee Kirsch
4/3 Sue Olson	4/10 Jack Edwards
4/3 Travis Martin	4/12 Glenn Van Roekel
4/4 Bob Dillin	4/13 Jeremy Fletcher
4/6 Aimee Orris	4/14 Elaine Tarnutzer
4/6 Allie Hurt	4/15 Maeleen Thorius

We extend our deepest sympathy:



To the family and friends of **Dorothy Seeböhm**, who passed away on February 13, 2023.

To the family and friends of **Dorothy (Dottie) Hoak**, who passed away on March 5, 2023.

To **Mary Jo Keith**, whose mother **Barbara Rosfjard** passed away on February 24, 2023.

Congregational Health Ministries

The Congregational Health Ministries Team is again screening blood pressures and offering consultation on the **FIRST SUNDAY** of EACH MONTH.

Be kind to your heart, and keep your blood pressure in the normal range!

We are also planning a community CPR and AED training session on April 16, stay tuned!



Known
to have been
Hospitalized

Aurelia Marrs, Betty McNeal and Jamie Helmick



To **EVERYONE** who donated peanut butter and jelly for the CommUnity Spread the Love campaign. FPC donated 95 pounds of PB & J along with a few other items.

WAY to GO FPC!

Our next theme will be *Menstrual March*; seeking donations of menstrual hygiene items.

UPCOMING EVENTS!

5th–8th Grade Youth Group Schedule:

Sunday, March 19, 3–4:30 p.m.

BIG EVENT. We'll meet at the UCC Church to see what they have for us! Afterwards, we'll head back to FPC for a POTLUCK meal from 5–6 p.m.

Sunday, March 26, 4–5 p.m.

We'll meet in the Young Youth Room at FPC and discuss Luke 9–19. Afterwards, we'll have dinner in Ryerson Hall from 5–6 p.m.

Sunday, April 2, 4–5 p.m.

We'll meet in the Young Youth Room once again to discuss Luke 19–23 and how the Sacrament of Communion started.

Sunday, April 9 – NO YOUTH GROUP. Happy Easter!

Sunday, April 16, 3–4:30 p.m. BIG EVENT

We'll meet at **CSA Farm Wild Woods** to do some Spring Cleaning around the farm. Then, we'll head back to FPC for a POTLUCK meal from 5–6 p.m.

Sunday, April 23, 4–5 p.m.

We'll begin preparing for Youth Sunday, which will be Sunday, May 14. Dinner will be hosted from 5–6 p.m.

Sunday, April 30, 4–5 p.m.

We'll keep working on Youth Sunday, which will be Sunday, May 14. Dinner will be hosted from 5–6 p.m.

Sunday, May 7, 4–5 p.m.

We'll put it all together and see what we've come up with for Youth Sunday!

Sunday, May 14–Youth Sunday!

No Youth Group – Happy Mother's Day

Sunday, May 21, 3–4:30 p.m.

Prepare yourself for the BIGGEST GAME YET! Our last regularly scheduled Youth Group – we'll see who will conquer the others in a game devised by Anna herself! Potluck meal from 5–6 p.m.

Easter BREAKFAST

On Sunday, April 9, bring a dish to share for our FPC COMMUNITY POTLUCK BREAKFAST!

We'll meet together, eat, and celebrate the miracle of Easter Morning!

9 a.m., Join us in Ryerson Hall, bring a dish to share and an empty tummy to fill!

9:30 a.m., Easter Egg Hunt for Children and Youth who are in attendance

Friends, family, neighbors and strangers are all invited into our doors to celebrate Easter with us!

THANK YOU!

A Special THANK YOU to those families, ministries, and individuals who have provided Sunday Night Dinners this Ministry Year!

It is such a highlight of Sundays for students and leaders. We couldn't have such a successful program without your contribution.

The Christian Education Ministry would LOVE to diversify our team!

We need new input to know what programs to plan for adult education, youth education, and family activities! We meet once per month, so it's not a big time commitment. We just want to hear your voice. Please contact Lara Marsh or Jen Adams today:
marshlara5@gmail.com or jenbadams08@gmail.com.

JOIN US



Save the Date!

Twists & Turns Vacation Bible Xperience at FPC

Sunday, July 30–Thursday, August 3

5–8 p.m. Each Night

Join us at Twists & Turns™ to spin the spinner, beat the clock, skip ahead, level up, and play to win! Twists & Turns is a fantastical celebration of games of all kinds. From classic tabletop games, to strategy games, to video games and more, kids will play their way through VBX in fun locations such as the Bible Study Game Room, Wild Card Crafts, Multi-player Missions, and Skip Ahead Snacks! But more importantly, they'll see Jesus through the eyes of one of His closest friends and discover that trusting Jesus as Savior and following Him changes the game entirely! Register on Easter Sunday at First Presbyterian Church!

Do you want to be involved in VBX this year?

Consider using your gifts to make this the best VBX yet!

- **VBX Planning Team, Need two teams**
- **VBX Decorating Team**
- **VBX Rally Team**
- **VBX Group Leader Team, 8 Teachers Needed**
- **Dinner Team, 5 Dinners Needed**

Interested? Please consider talking to Anna Sheetz or connect at Anna.Sheetz@firstpresiohacity.org OR visit the VBX Table in Ryerson Hall on Easter Sunday!

In the World of Slogans, Which Ones Catch Your Eye?

~ Nancy Gardner, Moderator, Stewardship Committee

If I asked you to match up the following slogans with their respective brands, could you do it? Let's try: (Answers are listed below, no peeking!)

- The quicker picker-upper
- Just do it!
- You're in good hands
- Eat fresh!
- What's in your wallet?

Admit it, when you're at the grocery store in need of paper towels, and you pass the stacks of Bounty, don't you hear the waitress call out... "Bounty, the quicker picker-upper"? I know I do. I also visualize the two palms coming together to show that I'm "in good hands with All-State". These companies know how to connect with people, how to tell you what they're all about in four words or less. What about us? Could you tell someone what FPC stands for in simple, memorable terms?

If we want people to give of their time, talents, and money, we have to tell people who we are, and how FPC stands out from all the other organizations vying for their resources. What do we offer that will make people think of our "slogan" as

they drive by the church, as they interact with our members, and as they attend worship? Not too many organizations can talk about bringing people to God through a relationship with Jesus Christ and the attainment of eternal life in heaven. That's probably something worth broadcasting.

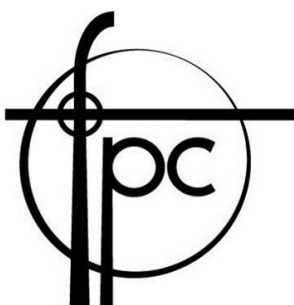
The Stewardship Committee is currently working its way through a book by J. Clif Christopher called *Not Your Parents' Offering Plate*. Each chapter presents numerous insights into the importance of communicating the church's mission to the congregation and those outside of the church. People need to believe in the mission of any organization to which they wish to give, and our church is no different.

So, think about it, are we clear in what we stand for?

Are we communicating our unique slogan to everyone we encounter? As Martha Stewart is known to say, "It's a good thing!"

(Answers: Bounty, Nike, All-State, Subway, Capital One)

Stewardship Committee Members: Liz Bolin, Karen Hurt, Rick Boland, Stephanie Stamp, Nancy Gardner, Ken Miller (church treasurer), Nathan Willard (pastor)



Thank You

The Friends of Pasrur is delighted to announce that 100 scholarships were provided by donors for impoverished Christian girls (K–10) hoping to attend the Pasrur school in 2023–24. In addition, four girls were given scholarships for their post-secondary education (10–12).

Despite the pandemic, the flooding in Pakistan, the uncertain economy, and a decrease in church numbers, you have once again shown the generosity of the First Presbyterian Church in Iowa City. Young Christian girls in the outlying villages around Pasrur, Pakistan will be able to go to school for the coming year. They will receive tuition, room and board, uniforms, and books. They will get medical check-ups, vaccinations, and fruits and vegetables from the large kitchen garden.

Thank you for doing God's work on earth.

Jane Cranston
Friends of Pasrur



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

Bob and Millie Youngquist, Coordinators

Planned Giving is Not Only for the Wealthy

Did you know? The word “bequeath” comes from an Old English word that means “to say, speak to, exhort.” Making a bequest to the church in your will is a simple, effective way to speak into the future of your faith community and encourage our church’s growth for the long term.

But did you also know? According to the 2020 Gallup poll, 54% of Americans do not have a will. Reasons include, “Haven’t gotten around to it,” “It’s not urgent,” and “I don’t have a lawyer.”

Without a will, the distribution of your estate – no matter how small or large – is determined by the laws of your state. The state may not include all the people you would like to benefit, and it won’t include any charities or religious organizations you wish to support. Have you made a will yet?

You can give different kinds of gifts to the church in your will. You can give a dollar amount, or percentage, or real estate, stocks, business interests, artwork, and copyrights or royalties. There are also so many more ways to give.

Many of us hear the term “Planned Giving” and think that this is something that only wealthy people can do. This is not true. Anyone can plan to give a gift to their church in their will and the Endowment Fund of our First Presbyterian Church accepts both large and small gifts. We believe that everyone should have a written estate plan and encourage you to consider giving to the future of our church.

As Christians, we need to be good stewards of that which God has provided to us. Our church has set up the Endowment Fund as a way for us to say that we believe in the future of our church. You can continue your current giving level after death, give to scholarships, or local / global missions. You can also give to property maintenance, specific church programs or just the future general needs of the church. We can meet with you to discuss your vision for how you would like to support our church’s future ministry through your will or even a direct gift today. We would be so glad to visit with you.

Bob and Millie Youngquist,
FPC Endowment/Memorial Coordinators
endowment@firstpreswacacity.org
319-653-4673

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life. 1 Timothy 6:17–19

Bible Quiz

The night before Jesus’s crucifixion, he demonstrates humble service by washing his disciples’ _____.

- A. hands
- B. feet
- C. hair
- D. supper dishes



Answer: B (See John 13:1-17.)

The 2023 Nominating Committee Will Begin to Meet Soon!

The Nominating Committee is looking for possible Elders, Deacons, and members for the Nominating and Endowment Committees for 2024. Please let one of the following people know if you have suggestions. We also welcome self-nominations. Thank you!

2023 Nominating Committee: Rhonda Barr, Anita Burnett, Perry Ross, Mary Ellen Stamp, and Leann Graves (moderator)



Did you know that ... email 'spoofing' isn't the same as being 'hacked'?

Spoofing is an "impersonation" of an email (like our pastor and staff) that the computers can't differentiate. That's why it is important to check the *sent from* email address. If the email looks odd, double check.

FPC has good email protection against hacking (which is stealing an email address).



EMAIL
SPOOFING

Community Prayer Box

Spring is on its way, and what a great time to let worries melt away and sing praises to God! Stop by the Prayer Post and do just that!

Pray More ... Worry Less



Join the FPC Book Club

March 28, we will discuss the book, American Nations by Colin Woodward.

Meetings are at 11:30 in person in Coover Lounge or via Zoom.

For more information and for the Zoom link, contact Mary Linn at jmLnn@aol.com.



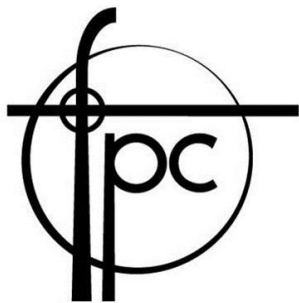
It's easy as 1, 2, 3

1. Go to Facebook.com
2. Search for First Presbyterian Church, Iowa City
3. Click



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.firstpresbiowacity.org



“What’s your name?” ... Name Tags!

Wearing your name tag is not just for special occasions or when you are serving in worship or fellowship.

Many of us need a reminder of names. Our guests and new members really appreciate being able to put your face and warm welcome together with the name on your tag.

Name tags are located near the elevator and the coat racks to the right of the Sanctuary entrance.

If you’d like to have a name tag, make a note on the attendance pad or leave a note in the office.

So, put on your name tag and enjoy more conversation!

First Presbyterian Church Staff

PASTOR

Nathan Willard

nathan.willard@firstpresbiowacity.org

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Anna Sheetz

anna.sheetz@firstpresbiowacity.org

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Tammy Schroeder

tammy.schroeder@firstpresbiowacity.org

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

J. Kyle Coleman

kyle.coleman@firstpresbiowacity.org

ORGANIST

Melissa Moll

melissa.moll@firstpresbiowacity.org

VIDEO PRODUCTION SPECIALIST

Caleb Davis

calebdavisace9@gmail.com

SEXTON

Gerald Hill

gerald.hill@firstpresbiowacity.org

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Tammy Foster

tammy.foster@firstpresbiowacity.org

MANAGER OF FINANCE & PURCHASING

Krista Livingston

finance@firstpresbiowacity.org

ENDOWMENT & MEMORIAL COORDINATORS

Bob & Millie Youngquist

endowment@firstpresbiowacity.org

2701 Rochester Avenue, Iowa City, IA 52245
319-351-2660 www.firstpresbiowacity.org