

FIRST'S FAMILY



**March 15—April 15
2018**
Volume 62 Issue 3



Holy Week Worship Schedule

Palm/Passion Sunday: March 25

9:00 am [SPACE] Educational Opportunities
10:30 am Worship

Maundy Thursday: March 29

7:00 pm Worship with Communion, Tenebrae

Great Easter Vigil: March 31

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

Easter Sunday: April 1

9:00 am Breakfast and Egg Hunt
10:30 am Celebration of the Resurrection



Join us for Breakfast beginning at 9 a.m.

We are asking everyone to bring a dish to share.

If your last name starts with
A–N, please bring a sweet dish.

If your last name starts with
O–Z, please bring a savory dish.

There will be an Egg Hunt at 9:30 a.m.

**We are excited to share this
miraculous morning with you!**

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FPC is the First Certified Earth Care Congregation in Iowa

Earth Care Congregations are committed to the "Earth Care Pledge" and accomplished a specific number of actions toward caring for God's earth. FPC recently filled out a survey to become certified for this recognition.



Earth Care Pledge

Peace and justice is God's plan for all creation. The earth and all creation are God's. God calls us to be careful, humble stewards of this earth, and to protect and restore it for its own sake, and for the future use and enjoyment of the human family. As God offers all people the special gift of peace through Jesus Christ, and through Christ reconciles all to God, we are called to deal justly with one another and the earth.

1. Our **worship** and discipleship will celebrate God's grace and glory in creation

(Earth Care cont. on page 3)



Dear sisters and brothers of First Presbyterian Church,

The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

This year Easter Sunday and April's Fool's Day coincide. This seems especially relevant in our home region. I love Iowa City. Nevertheless, over the years I have come to realize just how irreligious the place is. On more than one occasion a good, open-minded and progressive Christian has described to me being shamed into silence because he or she spoke of having a faith to the wrong person. To be mocked is no fun: It makes you feel foolish.

Paul speaks of those who love Jesus Christ as being fools—clowns—for Christ's sake. He was responding to the Corinthian Christians who considered themselves Paul's intellectual superiors. We may recognize the feeling: We can be made to feel pretty foolish sometimes, especially when it comes to this whole business of Jesus's resurrection. The *Scientific American* March 2017 *Skeptical* section tore into the belief, gently asking how intelligent people can embrace such nonsense. I consider myself a moderately intelligent person, and I have been mulling my response ever since reading the article.

Here it is, in brief. In the Newtonian physics of the last century, the physical universe in which many educated persons believed did not allow for resurrection. It was considered physically impossible.

The times have changed, however. In the weird quantum universe in which it seems we really live, miracles have been upgraded a bit. As unlikely as it seems, resurrection may be possible, however remote the possibility may be. Put differently, resurrection is not impossible: It is merely an extremely low probability event.

We know that low probability events do happen in the everyday world. A few years ago on a very windy day, a 10-year-old English girl named Laura Buxton released a red balloon with her contact information attached. Some time later, another 10-year-old girl named Laura Buxton found that the red balloon landed near her home. The two did not know each other, yet they looked similar to each other and had similar likes and hobbies.

Statisticians would note that the odds of this happening only once are very slim, but not impossible. A more careful examination of the circumstances might even lead to the conclusion that the odds are better than slim.

Nevertheless, for those of us with overly active imaginations, most events in life that we can imagine may have a very low probability of happening; yet they cannot be discounted altogether just for the reason of statistical probability. Indeed, we might tell ourselves that "every dog has its day," that is, even a very low probability event sometimes can happen.

Some contemporary scientists try to dodge this conclusion

by emphasizing the whole idea of multiple universes. According to this theory, everything that happens in our own universe is 100% sure and predictable, and resurrections are precluded. Yet what is true about our universe doesn't preclude the possibility of resurrection in some other universe. In other words, unlikely events like the resurrection are not precluded "out there, somewhere." They are just outsourced to alternative universes and precluded from our own.

At the same time, other scientists pose the theory of multiple universes or M (string theory) as virtual facts, although as facts they may lie outside of our ability to prove definitively. So scientists also invite us to have faith in their math and conclusions.

I am game to opening myself to the possibility that they are right, embracing that their guess is a highly reasoned one. Yet it is still a guess, a leap of imagination. I would just like the same courtesy. Nothing I have stated is proof of resurrection or even the possibility of it. I am merely suggesting a quid pro quo, faith for faith. In similar manner, as should scientists be of their certitudes, you and I should also be highly skeptical of our own.

I don't have math on my side to prove the resurrection. I do embrace it on faith based on mystical experiences of the Risen Christ experienced by more people than just I, as well as the number of changed lives I have witnessed in my past 60 years.

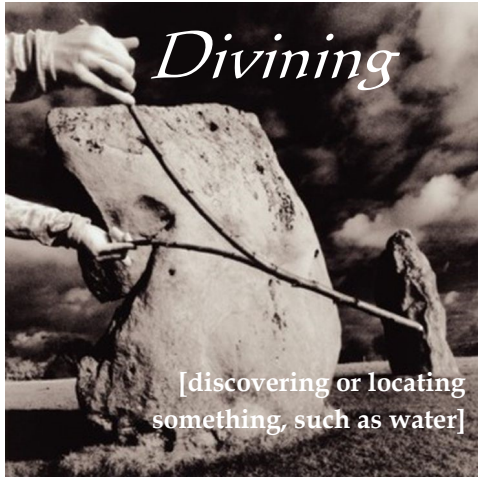
I believe that our beloved irreligious friends should have all the room they need to believe or not to believe whatever they wish. Furthermore, they seem to take such delight in teasing us that it would be a shame to ruin their fun.

Yet, as we hear the same unbelievably improbable story of the Risen Christ and the invitation to be Christ's clowns, you and I should take comfort in the words of a genius who may or may not have possessed a faith. Albert Einstein once observed that "Great spirits are always opposed by mediocre minds." Ain't it the truth!

So believe all you want: I do. Be a fool, and Happy Easter!

With love, your pastor, Sam





This Lent, we will help each other search for the divine in our world during this season of journey, preparation, and contemplation. Starting with Jesus in the barren wilderness, we go in search of the baptismal water found in our celebration and renewal of baptism at the Easter Vigil. What do you use as your divining rod? How do you search for water? Where do you find the divine?

Join us for the final evening in the Wednesday Lenten Series "Divining: Stories of Faith." We will begin at 5:30 p.m. in Ryerson

Fellowship Hall for a soup-supper followed at 6:00 with worship and the sharing of Andreas Soemadi's faith story. We will finish at 7:00. Plan to join us for a time of fellowship, worship and listening to others' stories during this time of reflection.

Lenten Worship:

Sundays 10:30 a.m. (Lent I is February 18)
Palm Sunday, March 25, 10:30 a.m.
Maundy Thursday, March 29, 7:00 p.m.
Great Vigil of Easter, March 31, 7:00 p.m.
Easter Sunday, April 1, 10:30 a.m.



(Earth Care cont. from page 1)

and declare that God calls us to cherish, protect and restore this earth.

2. In **education**, we will seek learning and teaching opportunities to know and understand the threats to God's creation and the damage already inflicted. We will encourage and support each other in finding ways of keeping and healing the creation in response to God's call to earth-keeping, justice and community.

3. Our **facilities** will be managed, maintained and upgraded in a manner that respects and cherishes all creation, human and non-human, while meeting equitably the needs of all people. In our buildings and on our grounds we will use energy efficiently, conserve resources, and share what we have in abundance so that God's holy creation will be sustainable for all life and future generations.

4. Our **outreach** will encourage public policy and community involvement that protects and restores the vulnerable and degraded earth as well as oppressed and neglected people. We will be mindful that our personal and collective actions can positively or negatively affect our neighborhood, region, nation and world. We will seek to achieve environmental justice through coalitions and ecumenical partnerships.



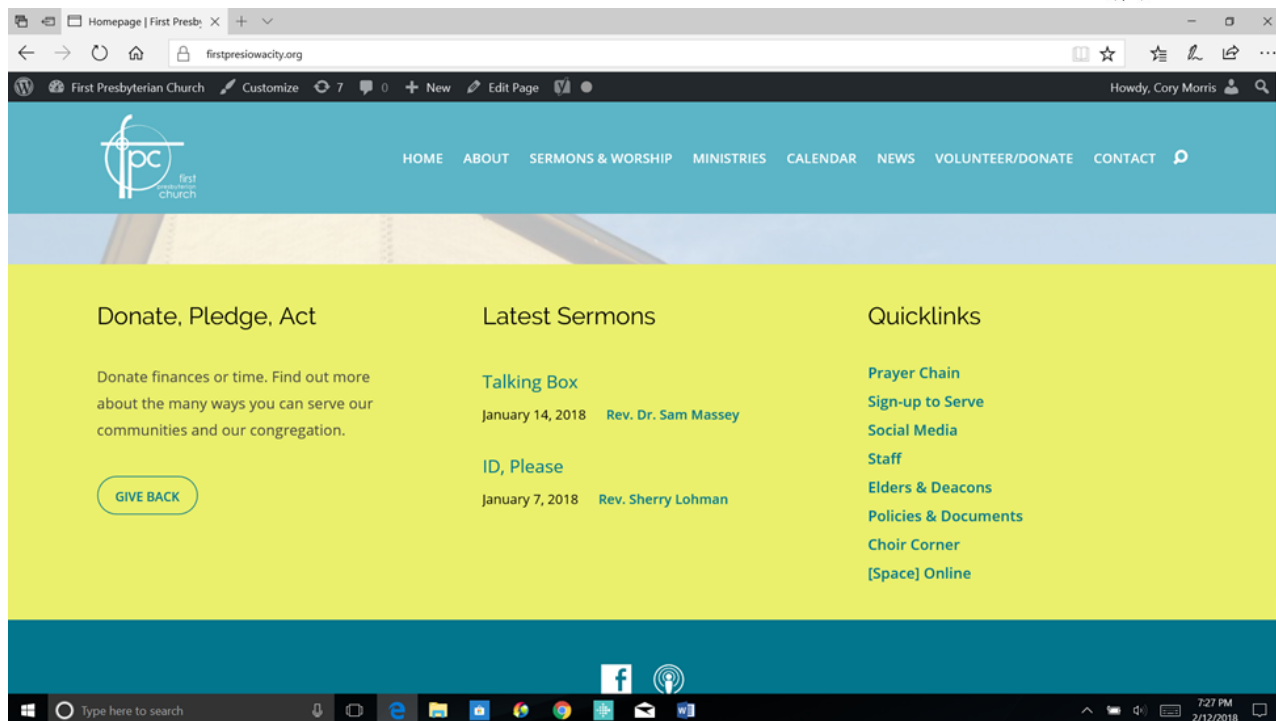
With this commitment in mind, **we are hosting an Interfaith Power & Light program on Saturday, April 14 from 9:00 a.m.–noon.** You will learn how to take steps to save money and energy at home, make a faith-based pledge to reduce your carbon footprint and explore efficiency and renewable energy in this program called Cool Congregations. Cool Congregations also contributes to global poverty solutions, for the poor of the world are suffering the most from climate change. REGISTRATION REQUIRED—deadline is April 10.

Register for this FREE workshop at www.iowaip.org, click "Upcoming events."



From the Deacon's Bench

One of the ministries of the Deacons is the Prayer Chain. The mission of the Prayer Chain is to provide support through prayers for individuals who are going through difficult times or prayers of thankfulness and praise when individuals have joyful news. To submit a prayer request you can go to the FPC website www.firstpreswacivcity.org and select the link **Prayer Chain** at the bottom of the page.



Prayer requests submitted through the FPC website are automatically sent to the deacon moderator, who then sends it to all of the members of the Prayer Chain distribution list. These members will receive the prayer request where they can include these requests in their own prayers to God.

Spring Care Packages



Each fall and spring, the Board of Deacons sends care packages to members who are away at college or serving in the military. Boxes of practical, and not-so-practical, items are sent to let those who are far from home know they are close in thoughts and prayers. Would you like to have your family member receive a care package? If so, please e-mail Rhonda Barr at JOBTennis@mchsi.com, by April 6. Please include an updated mailing address for each person to receive a care package.



Oops! If you have an interest in joining the church and missed the last opportunity, please contact Pastor Sam at 319-351-2660 or sam.massey@firstpreswacivcity.org.

First's Family News

NewsLetter DEADLine

The newsletter is designed to convey the life of the church to the congregation and to the broader church community. **The 1st of each month is the deadline to submit articles for inclusion in newsletters** for the 15th of the current month to the 15th of the following month. Articles no longer than 400 words should be submitted to tammy.foster@firstpresioacity.org. Thank you!

March 15-31

3/17 Keith Long
3/17 Earline Moll
3/17 Michael Anderson
3/18 Jeffrey Orris
3/19 Sharon Raffensperger
3/19 Elizabeth Aubrey
3/21 Gerald Lowry
3/22 Joe Paulsen
3/24 Cooper Kirschling
3/24 Soren Seidel
3/25 Mary Bergman
3/26 Rebecca Blair
3/26 Andrew Marsh
3/30 Sara Burton
3/31 Doris Yoder

April 1-15

4/1 Leroy Bain	4/9 Joyce McMaster
4/1 Milord Byamungu	4/9 Lee Kirsch
4/2 Bonnie Bender	4/9 Billie Feagins
4/3 Bill Follows	4/10 Jack Edwards
4/3 Sue Olson	4/12 Glenn Van Roekel
4/3 Travis Martin	4/12 Philip Bergman
4/4 Bob Dillin	4/13 Bob Yager
4/6 Aimee Orris	4/13 Jeremy Fletcher
4/7 Trevor Smith	4/13 Lauren Fehr
4/8 John Koch	4/14 Elaine Tarnutzer
4/8 David Puderbaugh	4/15 Maeleen Thorius
4/9 Lee Van Voorhis	



**Known
to have been
Hospitalized:**

**Joe Stockman and
Jan Wicks**

Our condolences to:

The family and friends of **Kwan Rim**, who died on March 5 in Seoul, S. Korea. Services were at First Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, March 13, followed by lunch in Ryerson Fellowship Hall.

Congratulations!

Ruby Josephine Anderson, was born February 12, to **Sarah Schwartz** and **Michael Anderson**.

Conner Graves graduated magna cum laude from Iowa State University last December with a BS degree in Chemical Engineering. Conner is the son of **Leann** and **Joe Graves**

Spring is Coming!

When you have seedlings or produce, please remember to bring some to our produce exchange in our fellowship hall for sharing with the rest of the congregation.

February 2018 Session Highlights

Clerk of Session, Nancy Weber

The session met February 20 in Coover Lounge at 7 p.m. Pastor Sam called the meeting to order and lit the Christ candle. Elder Sharon Raffensperger offered opening devotions and read Ephesians 1:3 on “Blessings,” then led us in prayer.

We welcomed Pastor Tim Dick, Representative of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, who explained the role of a Commissioned Ruling Elder, the process of becoming one, and how the FPC session would support a CRE. His explanation was given in preparation of Session interviewing FPC Elder Gary Olson at the March 2018 meeting for enrollment to become a Commissioned Ruling Elder.

Jeremy Fletcher from REALM Planning passed out the “FPC Church Ministry Organization Plan 2018” and asked Session to take a look at it over the next week or two, and offer feedback to him or REALM co-chair and elder Carol Ulch.

Three baptisms were noted. On January 28, 2018, Lucas William Edwards, son of Rachel and Jack Edwards, was baptized by Pastor Sam Massey, and on February 4, 2018, Scarlett Marie Sales and John “Jack” David Sales III, children of Christine Walsh and John Sales, and grandchildren of elder Nancy Gardner, were also baptized by Pastor Sam.

The February 12, 2018 birth of Ruby Josephine Anderson, daughter of Sara Schwartz and Michael Anderson was noted.

Three deaths were noted. Dick Dustin passed away on January 16, 2018. His funeral was held at FPC and led by Pastor Sam Massey. Hazel Long passed away on January 25, 2018, and a memorial out of state will take place at a later date. On February 14, 2018, Boni Swails passed away, with columbarium interment on February 24, 2018, and Pastor Sam Massey officiating.

The recent website activity report was attached.

Finance moderator and elder Dale Kraus announced the 2018 budget was approved, and current financial status looks good.

Minutes of the January 16, 2018 stated session meeting were approved, as were the minutes of the February 11, 2018 congregational meeting, and the minutes of the February 12, 2018 Capital Campaign Implementation Team task force meeting

Session approved the re-commission of elder Richard Van Rheeden and deacon Judy Terry to Presbytery.

A motion to revise the endowment articles was approved by session members in attendance. The endowment articles to replace are listed immediately below (excerpts

pg. 2, section d, i, ii, iii and iv. adopted Aug 8, 2010):

d. To create an Endowment that will be maintained in perpetuity and which shall consist of two parts (see Attachment 1):

- i. Restricted—whereby the donor specifies how and for what the gift to this fund shall be used. Examples are the Updegraff Fund and the Columbarium Fund.
- ii. Unrestricted Funds—whereby the donor does not specify how the gift shall be used.
- iii. The principal of gifts, devises and requests to the Endowment shall be held as a whole unless, by the terms of any such gift, a specific purpose is stated whereby the gift shall be held and distributed in accordance with the directions of the donor.
- iv. The Endowment shall not be used to substitute for, or enrich, the annual budget of the Church, nor shall it be loaned. The corpus of the Endowment, as of the adoption of this revised Plan shall be \$600,000.

This will be replaced with the following proposed revisions and options:

d. To create an Endowment that will be maintained in perpetuity and which shall consist of two parts (see Attachment 1):

- i. Restricted—whereby the donor specifies how and for what the gift to this fund shall be used. Examples are the Updegraff Fund and the Columbarium Fund.
- ii. Unrestricted Funds – whereby the donor does not specify how the gift shall be used.
- iii. The principal of gifts, devises and requests to the Endowment shall be held as a whole unless, by the terms of any such gift, a specific purpose is stated whereby the gift shall be held and distributed in accordance with the directions of the donor.
- iv. The Endowment corpus shall not be used to substitute for, or enrich, the annual budget of the Church, nor shall it be loaned.
- v. The annual earnings of the unrestricted portion of the Endowment, to a maximum of 50 percent, may be used to supplement the General Fund of First Presbyterian Church. An amount equivalent to such a percentage shall be reserved by the Endowment each year until the date of October 1. If Session does not request the transfer of those funds by this date, the Endowment may use these funds for other purposes authorized by this Endowment Plan.

Session approved the decision to rescind the following motion, approved at October 17, 2017 session meeting: "Equipping Ministry proposed an ecumenical intergenerational program ('mini Synod School') tentatively planned for June 7-9, 2018 at First Presbyterian Church. A planning committee, consisting of session members from different ministries as well as members from the congregation, will be assembled to plan and coordinate the program."

Session authorized the Finance Committee to explore opportunities that address needs identified in FPC's Strategic Plan that also have the potential to generate long-term income by leveraging assets and other resources through various financial avenues, partnerships and organizational structures in the greater Iowa City area.

Church officers for 2018 were approved, with Larry Bruner as treasurer, Dale Kraus as vice-president, Jeri Smith as president.

Session approved the replacement of the wooden folding chairs in the storage closet used in Ryerson Fellowship Hall, using unrestricted and undesignated accumulated memorial funds (estimated cost: \$1,305 plus tax, out of \$1,833 total) to buy 50 new ones and a storage rack.

A motion was approved to create a Green Initiatives 20-account and to begin soliciting designated donations for the Green Initiatives 20-account via the giving kiosk, the website, and an offering for seed money. The fund monies will be dispersed by Servanthood Ministries.

July 2018 RAGBRAI provides an opportunity for fundraising for FPC. A motion proposing an overnight, plus hosting dinner, with proceeds and other opportunities for fundraising to be designated with Servanthood ministry distributing as needed, was approved. This motion implies approval of offering our buildings and grounds to be offered by our volunteers to host RAGBRAI events and riders. We've been asked by a group from Pella to serve as their host.

Session approved a special offering to be held to provide funds for an undocumented immigrant family in need. (Explanation: Elder Michelle Bessman became aware of

the father of a fifth grader at her school—the father also has a wife and three other children, including a baby at home, and is the sole breadwinner—being picked up by police and accused of being unregistered. He is currently in federal custody in Mt. Pleasant.) The family is in dire straits. Servanthood will solicit the congregation for tangible items such as diapers (size 4), toilet paper, toothpaste, shampoo and baby wipes. Money is also needed to pay bills, and so the request was to ask the congregation for monetary aid also. Additional note: 80% of immigrants picked up for lack of registration, if they are released on bond, are eventually released and not deported. If bond cannot be paid, however, 80% of these persons are deported with little due process. Clearly justice cannot be done if bond is not provided, although right now financial needs for the family are primarily related to survival.

A special session meeting was called for February 25, 2018, at 9 a.m., in room 14, to welcome three new members.

A fundraising task force report was given by elder Richard Van Rheeden. The Robert Burns birthday celebration is in the planning stage, and will include haggis, a bagpiper, and a silent auction. A fee of \$20/person is being considered, and the date is set for January 25, 2019.

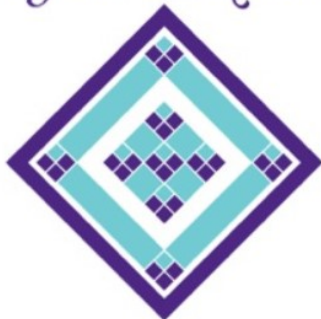
The trunk sale will be held the second Saturday in June of each year. The fundraising task force is still exploring the idea of FPC becoming a possible source for Coralville, Iowa City city meetings.

Elder Van Rheeden passed out an article about restaurants exploring alternatives to plastic straws—perhaps we might offer a metal straw with the FPC logo on it.

Elder Nancy Gardner reported that we hosted another successful Parents Night Out. Elder Ann Grosscup provided food for the children.

Elder Vern Dengler closed the meeting with prayer. The next session meeting will be held March 20, 2018 at 7 p.m., in Coover Lounge.

Prayers & Squares



Prayer Squares available on the Narthex Table

Please feel free to take a *Prayer Square* during this Lenten Season; it is filled with comfort, love and prayers made for you by the hands of our Needles, Hooks and Yarn group.

*Simply hold this small token
and know that someone
cares about you.*





Worship & Celebration Ministry

*Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth.
Worship God with gladness!
come into God's presence with singing.*

YOUTH CHOIR

Youth Choir is open to 4th–12th graders interested in singing and leading worship through music. We work throughout the year to sing, play, and read the Word of God so that the youth can lead worship several times throughout the year. Rehearsals are held Thursdays twice a month from 7:30–8:30 p.m. Contact Leah Bergman at leah.bergman@firstpreswac.org or call the church for more information.

Youth Choir Schedule

(Grades 4-12)

March–May 2018

Thursdays, March 1, 8, AND 22

7:30-8:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 10

7:30-8:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 31

6:30-9 p.m. Youth Choir sings and leads at Easter Vigil service

Sunday, May 13

9:30-11:30 a.m. Youth Choir sings and leads worship for Youth Sunday

Thursdays, April 5 AND 19

7:30-8:30 p.m.

Youth Choir will not meet during the summer. Rehearsals start up again in September.

Baby Music Class

**Suzuki music class for babies and toddlers,
from birth through age 3, with a parent or Caregiver**

**Winter session runs
January 9–March 27**

**Join any time during the
session!**

**When:
Tuesdays 9:30–10:30 a.m.**

**Where:
First Presbyterian Church**

**2701 Rochester Ave,
Iowa City, IA 52245**



Songs, rhymes, stories and rhythm instruments are used to teach musical concepts, language and pre-reading skills, numbers, physical coordination, social and emotional skills, and much more!

Suzuki approach emphasizes positive communication and repetition, within a calm, nurturing environment

Parents learn to be active observers of their child's learning process, and build a repertoire of lullabies, action songs, and rhymes, with techniques for using them at home.

Class is ongoing—new students may join at any time.

Try out a class for free at any time!

For more information: www.firstpreswac.org, leah.bergman@firstpreswac.org, 319-351-2660

“When the Immigrant Resides with You in Your Land

... you shall not oppress the immigrant. The immigrant who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the immigrant as yourself, for you were immigrants in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God” (Leviticus 19:33-34 and 24:22).

What does it mean to love Jesus Christ in a society hostile to unregistered immigrants, the very ones for whom God says we must care, the ones whom Jesus called the least of his sisters and brothers? We will be discerning this very question on Sunday, April 15, 22 and 29, following worship, approximately 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. Light snacks will be served. Childcare will be provided if requested by April 1 (please contact Pastor Sam). Be looking for reading material to be mailed out beforehand.



On April 22 we will celebrate Earth Day in worship by singing, speaking, listening, and exploring ways to praise God’s beautiful creation. Come to worship at 10:30 a.m. ready to think about how to care for God’s world.

One Great Hour of Sharing – Special Offering

During Lent, Presbyterians have participated in the longstanding ecumenical effort of One Great Hour of Sharing. We have shared God’s love by giving to ministries that provide relief to those affected by natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support towards the self-development of poor and oppressed communities.

How does your money help?

32% goes to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance –

Working alongside communities as they recover and find hope after natural or human-caused disasters. In the fall of 2017, immediate relief was provided to Harvey, Irma and Maria hurricane devastation.

36% goes to Presbyterian Hunger Program – Supporting initiatives that create sustainable food systems and alleviate root causes of poverty so that all may be fed. For example, Action for Rural Women’s Empowerment

provides support and land rights training in Uganda for property retention. These efforts work to address long-term care of the earth to end hunger and poverty for the most vulnerable.

32% goes to Self-Development of People – Providing resources and education to oppressed and disadvantaged communities working to overcome poverty and injustice through initiatives they own and directly benefit from. For example, The Genesis Youth Organizing Internship Project is supported through funding. This project is comprised primarily of low-income minority youth seeking to disrupt School-to-Prison Pipeline related problems in Oakland, California.

First Presbyterian Church will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Palm Sunday, March 23, 2018.

Your prayerful support is appreciated.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Appreciation

Presbyterian Mission: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has shared appreciation for the FPC congregation’s financial gifts to support Texas, Puerto Rico and Florida relief efforts following hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria. The Rev. Dr. Laurie A. Kraus, Director of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance writes, *‘Your gift is perfect, a blessing from God above in a moment where it is most needed here below.’*

Monthly Mission

Feminine February was fantastic.
Thanks to all who contributed.



Now on to *March Hair and April Showers.*

Shampoo, conditioners, soaps, combs, brushes, toothbrushes and toothpaste, wash cloths and your imagination for the next two months should fill our basket to overflowing. We welcome items from your hotel stays, and think about a family trip to the Dollar Store. For more information, contact Judy Terry 319-499-8168.



Equipping Ministry



Youth Group Schedule:

Thursday, March 22, 6–8:30 p.m.

The Junior High will finish their discussion of Luke, and the Senior High will discuss the Mission Trip. **Youth Choir meets at 7:30**

Thursday, March 29, 6–8:30 p.m.

CHURCH—WIDE POTLUCK at 6 p.m. We'll all attend the Maundy Thursday service together afterwards.

Thursday, April 5, 6–8:30 p.m.

Senior High finishes their College Prep series with a lesson on Time Management. Junior High finishes their Gospel of Luke series.

Youth Choir meets from 7:30-8:30pm

Thursday, April 12, 6–8:30 p.m.

We continue our *Tough Topics* series discussing alcohol and how it effects our body, mind, and social life. We'll play a BIG GAME afterwards.



Save the date!



Pentecost Sunday
May 20, 2018

Check out [SPACE] Online

[SPACE] online is a whole new way to experience faith at home and on the go!

You'll find:

- Bible Study that will walk through the whole Bible in a year (with some Pondering Points to get you thinking).
- All the Sunday morning classes and materials, so you can catch up at home
- Recommended podcasts, books, and blog posts

Find it on www.FirstPresIowaCity.org
Scroll ALL the way to the bottom of the homepage
Click [SPACE] Online.

Equipping Ministry

[SPACE]

Sunday, March 18, 9 a.m. *

ReAffirmation (For 6th graders–adult): The Gospel of Mark

Confirmation: SPRING BREAK! See you next week

FPC Kids (For Elementary Ages): Abigail Intervenes

First Looks (Preschoolers): Andrew & Peter, John & James

Sunday, March 25, Palm Sunday, 9 a.m. *

ReAffirmation (For 6th graders–adult): Luke 24

Confirmation: Welcome to the Church!

FPC Kids (For Elementary Ages): God made peace with us

First Looks (Preschoolers): Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 1, EASTER SUNDAY

Join us Easter Sunday morning for a breakfast, beginning at 9 a.m.

**We'll have an Easter Egg Hunt beginning at 9:30 a.m. and
share the Gospel Story afterwards! Please join us!**

Sunday, April 8, 9 a.m. *

ReAffirmation (For 6th graders–adult): What is Justice?

FPC Kids (For Elementary Ages): A Patience Proverb

First Looks (Preschoolers): Saul to Paul

* The **Wired Word** will continue to meet in Coover Lounge each week, for 9th graders to adults. Check out the **What's Happening** board for the next week's topic!

Faith in a Whole New Way



**The FAMILY RESOURCE ROOM
will be opening Easter Sunday!**



Food Buying Club Welcomes New Members

You are invited to join our food buying club that purchases monthly from United Natural Foods (UNFI) and Frontier Co-op, both major wholesale suppliers for New Pioneer Co-op. UNFI carries a wide variety of organic, vegan, low-salt, and gluten-free foods; Frontier Co-op carries herbs, teas, supplements, and personal care products. We pick up our purchases at First Presbyterian Church (our church liaison is Rhonda Barr) on the third Thursday of the month. This 37-year-old buying club is named "Koinonia," from the Greek word meaning fellowship. We remain committed to our original goals – buying quality food inexpensively, discouraging over-packaged food, and promoting good health. Member households assist with the food pick-up and distribution 2-3 times a year and currently pay no fees. If you are interested in more details, contact coordinator Christine Mullen at christine.mullen@mchsi.com (337-5716).



Prayer Shawl Ministry Going Strong at FPC

The **Prayer Shawl Ministry** came about through the Needles, Hooks and Yarn small group. In 2005, a few ladies got together to "just" knit and spend time together. It was decided that we would take on mission work by providing hand-made hats, mittens and scarves to local charity organizations. We also began doing sweaters for the *Guidepost* project.

As news of our group began to grow, we were offered donations of yarn from members of the congregation. We received a variety of yarns—mostly older acrylic yarns that worked perfectly for the winter wear. As our group grew, we ventured out into other projects—helmet liners for soldiers, specialty winter wear for arctic fishermen and the prayer shawls, just to name a few. Currently, we have about 10 different charities we donate our goods to.

We distributed our first prayer shawl in 2007 to Sharon McMillan to comfort her as she valiantly fought cancer. Only 8 shawls were given out that year, but it was clear we had found our mission project. The shawls are incredibly meaningful and show a tangible example of God's presence in our lives, not only to those who receive the shawls but for those who make them.

The more seasoned members began to make shawls with greater design and patterns. We have a library of several patterns—beginners to advanced from scarves to shawls and most things in between. Over 170 shawls have been delivered to those in need of comforting since this ministry began in 2007.

We have a few on hand at the church, so one is always close when needed. Our most impressive shawl was made for Pastor Sam during his time of surgery in 2010. It was over 6 feet long and about 5 feet wide. Several members each made a strip – similar to a scarf and then they were sewn together for the final shawl.

The yarn for the shawls is bought primarily by the person making the shawl. We try and use nice, soft and washable yarn. It is important not to use anything scratchy as our goal is comfort. We have several baby blankets on hand, as well, for the newest members of the FPC family. We have also done fleece tie blankets for children who may not enjoy a shawl as much as a blanket to snuggle up in.

We try to keep an eye open for sales and stock up. Anyone wanting to donate yarn or contribute to the purchase of yarn can always do so; it is greatly appreciated.

Tammy Schroeder has a running list of all the shawls/blankets delivered; if you are visiting a person and are curious if they have received a shawl/blanket, give her a call. If they have not, this is the perfect time to swing by the church, pick one up and deliver this lovely gift.

Needles, Hooks and Yarn meets most Saturday mornings from 9-11 a.m. We currently meet at Legacy Senior Living. Anyone interested in learning to knit or crochet is encouraged to stop in. Contact Jeri Smith or Tammy Schroeder for more information on the prayer shawls or the knitting group in general.





Johnson County CROP Walk

As in past years, Team FPC will be participating in the Johnson County CROP Walk on **Sunday April 8.**

CROP stands for Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty. It is an interfaith organization under Church World Service, but is not limited to faith groups. The program was started after WWII when Midwestern farmers donated part of their grain to European countries recovering from the war. It has evolved to become a worldwide program helping people in countries that struggle with hunger and poverty.

CROP also plays a huge role right here in Johnson County and raised over \$27,000 in 2017. A quarter of that amount, nearly \$7,000 went directly to the Johnson County Crisis Center.

Crop Hunger Walks help to provide food and water, as well as resources that empower people to meet their own needs. From seeds and tools to wells and water systems, to technical training and micro-enterprise loans, the key is people working together to identify their strengths and their needs, something CWS has learned through some 75 years of working in partnerships around the world.

If you are interested in joining the FPC CROP Walk team, please contact Cathe Franz at ajmommy@mchsi.com. She will also be available in Ryerson Fellowship Hall over the next few weeks before and after the service for anyone who is interested in picking up their donation packet.

The walk will begin and end again this year at the Crisis Center Free Lunch building at 1105 Gilbert Court. Registration will start at 1:00, and the walk will begin at 1:30.



Join Dr. Marty Carpenter and Professional Coach Janice Baldes for a couples retreat. Open to all at Coralville Public Library. Sponsored by First Presbyterian Church, Iowa City.

Registration opens Monday, April 2. Limited to 32 couples, \$50/couple Scholarships are available. Don't get cut from the team.

Come beef up your relationship playbook! For more details: judy.whitford@firstpresioiwacivity.org

Pasrur Christian Boys School Now Has a Matching Grant

In Pakistan, education is a longed for commodity



These are pictures of the Sargoda Christian Boys School in the town of Sargoda. Left: The little boy is imitating the boys who are able to go to school, doing their exercises. Many children do not have access to education. Right: The boys are coming in their new uniforms on the first day of school.

Presbytery of East Iowa has set up a commission to raise funds for a Pasrur Christian Boys School (PCBS) in Pasrur, Pakistan. We now have a matching grant for the PCBS from Herb and Janice Wilson. **This means any donation made after November 18, 2017 will be doubled.**

We send this with great appreciation to all those who have contributed to the Pasrur Christian Boys School fund. To date, we have raised \$144,000 of the needed \$200,000 to make the dream of this school a reality. Our goal is to have the construction completed by this fall. Please help us make this dream a reality by donating now to the PCBS fund.

Donations may be sent to:

Presbytery of East Iowa

Attn: Pasrur Christian Boys School
1700 S. 1st Ave., Suite 23 Iowa City, IA 52240

Please go to our website for more information: peia.org/pcbs

Memorial for Veda's husband, Javaid Gill

Please keep Veda Gill (PEB Executive Director), her four sons, and their extended family in your prayers in the difficult days ahead as they mourn the loss of her dear husband, Javaid Gill. If you would like to make your donation a memorial gift, just note "for the Javaid Gill memorial fund" on the check.

All funds received through the memorial fund will go toward the completion of the Pasrur Christian Boys' School building project. Cards can be directly mailed to Veda Gill, 306 Lincoln Drive West, Ambler, PA, 19002-3809.



**This is the FINAL Book and Bake Sale
(unless some one volunteers to take it on.)**

Used Books and Bake Sale Fundraiser

Co-sponsored by Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team and Four Oaks Iowa City will be held **Friday, April 6, 3–6 p.m. and Saturday, April 7, 8–11:30 a.m.**, in the **upper level** of the church. ***We will need the support of all our church members to make this a success.***

Proceeds from the sale go to help local human service organizations our PW Coordinating Team supports and Four Oaks Iowa City, which provides a multitude of vital social services to the children and families in our community.

- **Sign up** to help today in Ryerson Fellowship Hall.
- **Take a flyer** to display at work, on your car window, or any place you think it will be noticed.
- **Bring donations** (books, puzzles, DVDs or CDs) **starting Monday, April 2 to April 5.**
- **Bake something** (bring on **Friday, April 6, or Saturday, April 7, before 8 a.m.**)

**Questions: contact Sharon Raffensperger,
351-6995 or jsraff63@gmail.com**

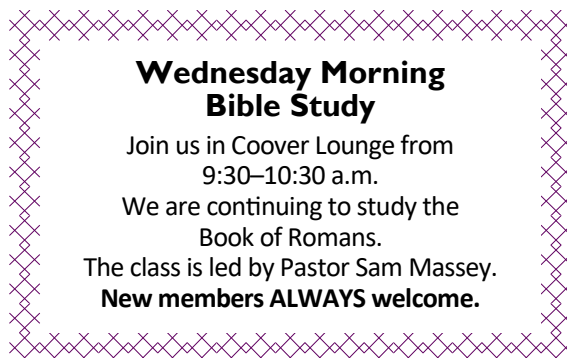


**Needles,
Hooks
& Yarn**

This small group comes together to share each others' company while we knit and crochet.

If you would like to join us, we would love to have you. We meet at Legacy Ridge from 9–11 a.m. on Saturday mornings.

For more information, contact Tammy Schroeder at 351-2660



**Wednesday Morning
Bible Study**

Join us in Coover Lounge from
9:30–10:30 a.m.

We are continuing to study the
Book of Romans.

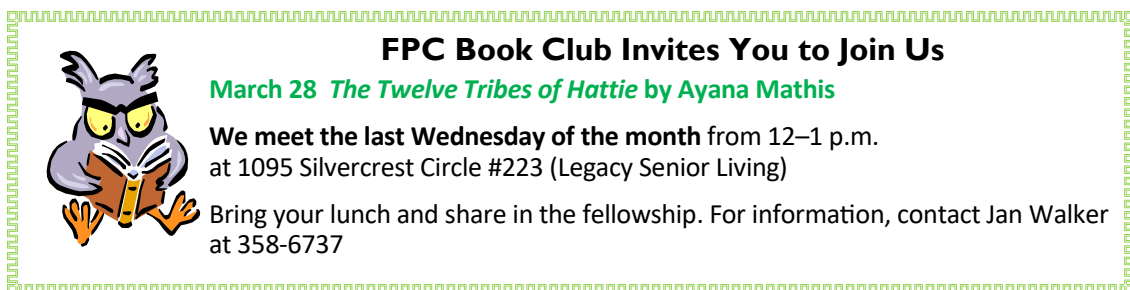
The class is led by Pastor Sam Massey.
New members ALWAYS welcome.



Eat Out Group , March 22

MIDTOWN
Family Restaurants

**Hwy 1, near Walmart
Gary & Anita Burnett, Hosts
319-325-7640**



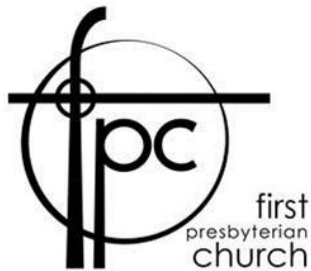
FPC Book Club Invites You to Join Us

March 28 *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie* by Ayana Mathis

We meet the last Wednesday of the month from 12–1 p.m.
at 1095 Silvercrest Circle #223 (Legacy Senior Living)

Bring your lunch and share in the fellowship. For information, contact Jan Walker at 358-6737

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



Public Office Hours:

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday – Friday
Ph 319-351-2660 www.firstpresidiowacity.org
Except holidays or when announced

Let's Beautify Our Sanctuary This Easter!

The Deacons are taking orders for Easter plants. These plants are given in honor or memory of a loved one. They will glorify God and add to the beauty of our Sanctuary this Easter. The plants will be delivered by our Deacons after the April 1 Easter service to our at-home members.

The cost for each plant is \$15 and checks need to be made to First Presbyterian Church. Order forms are available at church or plants can be ordered by calling Susan Van Duyn-Phipps, 338-4132.

Orders need to be placed by March 25. Any donations left over after the plants are paid for will be donated to the Deacons Emergency Fund. The Deacons want to recognize your generosity and thank you for your participation!



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