

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

### **Palm/Passion Sunday: April 14**

9:00 am [SPACE] Educational Opportunities  
10:30 am Worship, Veda Javaid Gill preaching

### **Maundy Thursday: April 18**

7:00 pm Worship with Communion, Tenebrae

### **Great Easter Vigil: April 20**

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

### **Easter Sunday: April 21**

9:00 am Breakfast  
10:30 am Celebration of the Resurrection

## A COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT



### **Save the Date!**

**Holy Saturday, April 20, 1 p.m.**  
**Community Easter Egg Hunt at FPC!**

**Consider donating a bag of candy,  
treats, or plastic Easter Eggs.**

#### **Inside this issue:**

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### **Join us Easter Sunday, April 21 at 9 a.m. for a Resurrection Potluck Breakfast.**

If your last name starts with A—M, Please bring something savory.

If your last name starts with N—Z, Please bring something sweet.

Please note that the Easter Egg hunt has been changed to Saturday in order to invite the community.

## ***Dear sisters and brothers of First Presbyterian Church,***

The peace of the Lord be with you!

I received an email the other day from Elder and Men's Group member Tom Martin that I found particularly inspiring. He has given me permission to share it. I will do so below, in a moment.

In the way of introduction, last Sunday was a Communion Sunday, necessitating that the sermon be short and sweet. I can't say that it will ever make it into my "greatest hits album," yet I hoped it would be of practical assistance. As preachers realize, there is a rhythm to preaching, and part of the rhythm is that no matter how bad a sermon is one Sunday, you hope people will show up the next. You also hope that even on your worst day, somebody will get something out of your efforts. Finally, you recognize that the sermons the preacher anticipates to be received as the 8<sup>th</sup> wonder of the world typically fall flat, while those preached with some embarrassment are the ones God can use to communicate something important to the listener: not the preacher's words, but God's Word; not the preacher's strength or ability, but God's strength working through the preacher's weaknesses.

When I do get occasional feedback, I am always perplexed by what people think I said during a sermon that either upset them or really helped them: Typically I don't recall saying those things and they are nowhere in my notes! It strikes me that God has spoken in ways to those listening that neither came out of my mouth nor were intended by me. Nevertheless, God took the opportunity to speak to the person who had shown up that day who really needed to hear from God, apart from any human utterance.

Last Sunday, the sermon being one during which we would celebrate the Lord's Supper, I spoke about "God showing up." God showed up at worship for the prophet Isaiah; God showed up at the workplace of Peter, James and John; God showed up on Paul's work trip to Damascus; God showed up to the Emmaus-bound disciples in a text that voices the words of institution of the

Lord's Supper ("When the Risen Christ was at the table with his disciples, he blessed the bread and gave it to them and their eyes were opened and they recognized him."): The list goes on. I also told some stories about God showing up. As you can see, nothing too complex!

Here was Tom's email in response the next day:

**About 1:30 yesterday I went out to get 3 days of mail that had just been delivered. Yes on Sunday. As I approached the incline to the street my feet suddenly went faster than my upper body. In less than an instant I took a dead cat bounce on my left hip bone. I laid there for a few seconds wondering if I broke something or did it just hurt REAL bad. As I slowly got up I realized He must have showed up in the blink of an eye as I was on the way down to slip a cushion in for my hip to "bounce" on. So now all I have is a big ugly bruise and soreness but no break. Thank God for showing up.**

In seminary, we learned that it is not preachers who preach sermons, but the entire people of God. It begins long ago, when churches support persons who feel called to ministry to go and explore those calls. Those discovering the meaning of an inward "still, small voice" go to seminary and often learn the original languages in which the Bible was written. They experiment with theological systems that allow for the interpretation of texts, study how to organize a sermon and speak, and much else. Yet even when the preacher shows up on a Sunday morning, showered and shaved, ushers, musicians, fellowship providers, Sunday School teachers, bulletin preparers, video and sound technicians and a host of hundreds also show up to support the delivery of the sermon.

Yet still more must be said. In our tradition, the Spirit of God must show up also and take all of our efforts and words and turn them into an experience of the Word of God, something larger and greater that occurs beyond our comprehension. Yet still more happens!

Once Sunday worship concludes, the sermon is not fully preached until people take whatever Word from God they heard and do something with it. Notice what I am not saying: People don't take the literal spoken words of the preacher and implement them. That would be disastrous, in my opinion, and would turn preachers and sermons into idols. No, it is the Word heard and then experienced in the worship service by worshippers, apart from anything the preacher thinks, believes or says that completes the sermon only as it has practical implication in daily lives.

Back to Tom, our poster child for the purpose of illustrating how a sermon is meant to be heard and enacted. In the sermon I said nothing about the risks of old bones falling on ice. In no way did I suggest that God shows up with pillows. When I read Tom's email, I couldn't even make sense initially out of what he was saying! Yet in the moment, Tom felt assured by God that God literally had Tom's backside in the moment of the fall. Tom doesn't suggest that he will always be spared broken bones or hardship. Yet Tom grasps that God's larger purpose for Tom precluded him from breaking his hip last Sunday afternoon. For Tom, the Word of God is active, present and in a particular moment, was on ice.

God has called me to preach, empowering me to overcome a small speech impediment and lots of anxiety when I address crowds publicly in order to do so. Yet this gift has no meaning without all the persons who – in the past and present – make hearing the Word possible. Furthermore, the gift is empty if it weren't for folks like Tom who can cut through the dross, chaff, fluff and even my human words, to hear God's Spirit say a Word to him.

I was humbled to hear from Tom and grateful for his contact. I share this thought with you in the hope that you will look beyond Tom and me and see the possibilities for your own walk with God. Thank you Tom!

With love and blessings, your pastor,  
Sam

## Announcing the “Meet Your Neighborhood Deacons” Event — Sunday, March 31

Come join us after worship on Sunday, March 31 in Ryerson Fellowship Hall to meet your neighborhood Deacon sponsor and grab a quick snack. We would love to get to know you better! This is your chance to share with us Deacons any joys, concerns and ideas that you may have on how we can better serve you. Feel free to represent your neighborhood on Sunday March 31 by wearing clothing or accessories that match your neighborhood’s color code to church. We would really love to see you there!



|                 |                                  |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Blue</b>     | Moses Kasiriba and Steph Paulsen |
| <b>Burgundy</b> | Brian Kleis and Deb Boland       |
| <b>Fuchsia</b>  | Linda Couch and Jeff Orris       |
| <b>Green</b>    | Judy Terry and Bonnie Bender     |
| <b>Orange</b>   | Chitoka Webb and Sarah Klemuk    |
| <b>Purple</b>   | Jen Adams and Pam Kautz          |
| <b>Red</b>      | Dan Thedens and Becca Morgan     |
| <b>Teal</b>     | Jeri Smith and Jeff Orris        |
| <b>Yellow</b>   | Barb Stanerson and Nancy Ross    |

Do you know what color code is assigned to your neighborhood? Your church name badge is a clue. If your name badge has a colored sticker on it, that is your neighborhood color code. Deacons will be updating name badge stickers soon. Also, an Iowa City area map is on display in Ryerson Fellowship Hall with the neighborhood boundaries drawn out so you can see who your Deacon sponsor is for your color-coded neighborhood. Be sure to **WATCH your email inbox or your postal mail box for an introduction letter from your neighborhood Deacon sponsors to appear in the very near future. This letter will also notify you of your neighborhood’s color code if you did not already know before.**



One Great Hour of Sharing is the single largest way Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. Join with Presbyterians worldwide to provide relief from natural and human-caused disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God’s love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities. The Presbyterian Hunger Program receives 36 percent of undesignated gifts, while Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance each receives 32 percent.

Please join us as we receive the One Great Hour of Sharing on Palm Sunday, April 14, 2019.

Remember, if we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!



## 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 our thoughts and prayers. Would you like to have your family member receive a care package? **If so, please e-mail**

**Jeff Orris at**

**jorris@mchsi.com, by April 12.**

Please include an updated mailing address for each person to receive a care package.



## Let's Beautify Our Sanctuary This Easter!

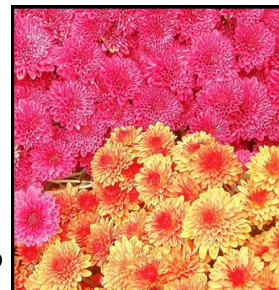
The Deacons are taking orders for Easter plants. These plants are given in honor or memory of a loved one. They will glorify God and add to the beauty of our Sanctuary this Easter.

The 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 Bonnie Bender, 319-430-8717.

Orders need to be placed by April 14.

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!



On Sunday, April 28 we will celebrate Earth Day with a paperless worship service. We will celebrate 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.



## Prayer Center

### Open beginning March 10

Located on the lower level at the end of the hallway to the right, the prayer center is open to all beginning March 10. It is available any time the church is open for anyone who needs a few moments of quiet, guided prayer and meditation, or ideas to take home to pray.

## 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.*





# 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@firstpreswiowacity.org](mailto:tammy.foster@firstpreswiowacity.org). Thank you!*

## March 15-31

3/17 Keith Long  
3/17 Michael Anderson  
3/18 Jeff Orris  
3/18 Michelle Stevens  
3/19 Sharon Raffensperger  
3/19 Elizabeth Aubrey  
3/21 Gerald Lowry  
3/22 Joe Paulsen  
3/24 Kitty Chadima  
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



4/1 Leroy Bain  
4/1 Milord Byamungu  
4/2 Bonnie Bender  
4/3 Bill Follows  
4/3 Sue Olson  
4/3 Travis Martin  
4/4 Bob Dillin

## April 1-15

4/6 Aimee Meardon-Orris  
4/7 Trevor Smith  
4/8 John Koch  
4/9 Joyce McMaster  
4/9 Lee Kirsch  
4/9 Billie Feagins  
4/10 Jack Edwards  
4/12 Glenn Van Roekel  
4/13 Bob Yager  
4/13 Jeremy Fletcher  
4/14 Elaine Tarnutzer  
4/15 Maeleen Thorius

## Our condolences to:

The family and friends of **Jan Wicks**, who died on February 26. Jan's service was led by Pastor Sam at First Presbyterian Church on Sunday, March 3. A reception in Ryerson Fellowship Hall followed the committal at the columbarium.



**Known  
to have been  
Hospitalized:**

John Raffensperger,  
Dorothy Hoak, Jan and  
Al Wicks

## Spring is Coming!

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

Session met Tuesday, February 19, 2019, 7 p.m. Written reports were provided by Pastor Sam and Commissioner to the Presbytery of East Iowa. Severe winter weather caused ministries to not meet in January.

Nancy Gardner shared opening devotions based on Ephesians 5:1-7. How often do we give God the second-rate option rather than giving our best? God gives us God's best. How can each of us give God our best?

Clerk's verbal report stated that further questions to the FPC website analytical documents can be addressed to the Clerk. Candidate Amanda Edwards's thank-you note was shared. The written report noted the dates of significant FPC events.

Dale Kraus, Finance Cluster Moderator, did not recommend January 2019 financials be approved as presently received. Software issues are in the process of being corrected. Due to software issues, Pastor Sam Massey repaid his 2018 overpayment also in 2018. Pre-paid pledges for the year are included in January 2019 revenue.

Pastor Sam Massey shared that he is planning to be away for his 35th anniversary trip, March 4, 2019 – March 23, 2019. Leah Bergman and Anna Sheetz are covering responsibilities during this time.

#### MOTIONS APPROVED:

- Approve minutes of stated session meeting January 15, 2019.
- Session finalized 2018 Annual Report prior to sharing with congregation January 29, 2019.
- Approve minutes of Congregational Meeting February 3, 2019.
- Session email notified of Free Lunch fundraiser immediately following worship Sunday, March 10, 2019.
- Session received 2018 Statistical Report electronically on February 13, 2019.
- From Capital Campaign Implementation Taskforce (CCIT) and Buildings and Grounds: As part of the Elevator Project, approve the hiring of Patrick Budelier, organ technician, for the following services for protection of the organ during the upcoming elevator installation project:
  1. Design and install a protective barrier around the organ and components, as soon as possible after Easter and prior to commencement of construction related to the elevator.

2. Monitor barrier condition during elevator construction. Implement improvements and/or repairs if appropriate. Improvements may warrant additional payment. Costs for repairs due to elevator contractor negligence will be deducted from payments to said contractor.
3. Upon completion of the elevator project, remove the protective barrier, plus clean and tune the organ.

Approved costs of up to \$30,000 for above stated organ protection, which includes a 10% contingency.

Leah Bergman answered questions about the instrument as well as organ protection and elevator installation cooperation. Dale Kraus stated that approximately \$1,008,711 has been given to the Capital Campaign with approximately \$206,000 remaining to be received. Elders took a tour to physically see the elevator location.

- From session: The Clerk of Session will assign the elder sharing an opening devotion and the elder closing meeting with prayer at each scheduled stated session meeting, April – December 2019.

An update was requested to Dec. 18, 2018 session meeting's approved motions:

- 1) Purchase an umbrella policy for coverage of an additional \$1 million.
- 2) FPC adopt the increase in coverage to \$1 million/\$3 million child molestation/sexual misconduct insurance policy, with Equipping Ministry serving as a commission to put together the child molestation/sexual misconduct church policy to share with session.

The insurance carrier has received all FPC information requested to date to process the supplemental policy; Tom Martin, Finance Cluster member, remains the insurance lead. Finance Cluster has FPC's insurance responsibility; officers are included in the liability and indemnity insurance coverage. Equipping Ministry has responsibility for FPC's child protective policy; stakeholder's review is occurring and the updated policy to be brought to March 2019 stated session meeting. Presbytery of East Iowa's Safe Gatherings is the comprehensive services for background checks and training system (<https://peia.org/safe-gatherings/>). Cost will need to be weighed.

(Cont. on page 7)

*(Session Highlights cont. from page 6)*

Weekends Family Retreat at Camp Wyoming was a time for exciting intergenerational interactions. The Youth Group willingly and thoroughly cleaned lower level areas.

Nancy Gardner has requested that Paul Akin share his 2018 Stewardship Campaign insights to realize the bonus dollars pledged. A nursery supervisor has been hired for administrative tasks. Current nursery staff will continue initiating enrichment activities and interacting with children. Parents Night Out is becoming an outreach ministry to attract young families. JCIC's momentum, particularly Kingdom Center and FPC's interactions, will pick up again when severe weather breaks.

Note of appreciation was made for the Burns Dinner fundraiser. Finances are not finalized, though it appears that approximately \$1,200 was made. Burns Dinner, Saturday, January 25, 2020, is anticipated date.

Commissioner to the Presbytery of East Iowa Richard Van Rheeden highlighted the proposed amendments pulled from the consent agenda for discussion. Three (3) of the proposed amendments, concerning church discipline and limiting free speech, were not approved.

Amy Fletcher closed the meeting with prayer.

Next session meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 19, 2019, 7 p.m. in Coover Lounge. Richard Van Rheeden opens with devotions and Dale Kraus closes meeting with prayer.



The FPC Honoring Your Wishes Program is part of a community-wide program through Iowa City Hospice. This is a program to offer assistance in making health care decisions about the kind of health care one would choose if facing a sudden catastrophic illness or injury, one that would require loved ones to make important but difficult decisions on your behalf. It is about defining what is most important to you, talking with your loved ones, documenting and honoring those wishes. We are considering this a gift to you, and from you to those you love.

The Congregational Health Ministry Team sought approval from Session in May, 2018 to offer this service to our FPC family. In August 2018 we sent three members to the First Conversations Facilitators training and certification program. We are now ready to offer to all adults (age 18 yrs. and older), without cost:

1. A first conversation to talk about what is important to you, and explain the process of making important decisions about end of life planning.
2. Assist in documenting your advance care plan for end of life decisions.
3. Assist in counseling your chosen loved one as your Health Care Agent (DPOA for health care).
4. Notarizing your plan so it is a legal document, and make copies.

5. Store a copy of your plan in a safe and secure location at FPC.

If you have an advanced directive already, that is great. BUT we would still like to have a conversation with you — to make sure your wishes are clearly identified and in writing, as well as communicated with those who love you. We would encourage you to contact one of us to schedule a one-hour conversation with us.

FPC Honoring Your Wishes Facilitators:

Rhonda Barr, Cell: 319-936-5998

Email: [JOBTennis@mchsi.com](mailto:JOBTennis@mchsi.com)

Sue Van Duyn-Phipps, Cell: 515-205-3576

Email: [susanvdphipps@gmail.com](mailto:susanvdphipps@gmail.com)

Maeleen Thorius, Cell: 319-541-3161

Email: [mthorius@southslope.net](mailto:mthorius@southslope.net)

FPC is now offering Notary Public services.  
Contact Tammy Schroeder to schedule an appointment at 319-351-2660 or



## Worship & Arts 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@firstpreswacity.org](mailto:leah.bergman@firstpreswacity.org) or call the church for more information.

### Youth Choir Schedule

(Grades 4-12)

March–May 2019

#### Thursday, March 28

7:30-8:30 p.m. rehearsal

#### Thursdays, April 4 AND 11

7:30-8:30 p.m.

#### Saturday, April 20

Lead at the Easter Vigil service.

Rehearse 6:15 p.m.

Worship at 7 p.m.

#### Thursdays, May 2 AND 9

7:30-8:30 p.m. rehearsal

#### Sunday, May 12

Youth Sunday

Youth lead in Worship

### 2019 Communion Dates:

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| January 13  | Baptism of the Lord                           |
| February 10 | 5th Sunday after Epiphany                     |
| March 3     | Transfiguration                               |
| April 18    | Maundy Thursday                               |
| April 20    | Great Vigil of Easter                         |
| May 12      | Easter tide IV                                |
| June 9      | Pentecost Sunday                              |
| July 14     | 5th Sunday after Pentecost                    |
| August 11   | 9th Sunday after Pentecost                    |
| September 8 | 13th Sunday after Pentecost (kick-off Sunday) |
| October 6   | World Communion                               |
| November 24 | Reign of Christ                               |
| December 15 | Advent III                                    |



### First Pres Drum Circle Sunday, May 19 after worship

Come and try your hand(s) at drumming after worship on May 19. We will welcome Tereasa Evans from West Music to guide and teach us this wonderful art. This will be just the beginning of an exciting new venture for First Pres. Those who are interested in this will have the opportunity to continue drumming in worship and in the community as we purchase our own set of world drums. This activity is for people of all ages! No music/percussion background needed! Come see what it's all about!





## Do you have a comprehensive estate plan?

As Billy Graham approached his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday, he wrote a book entitled “Nearing Home – Life, Faith and Finishing Well.” It is published by Thomas Nelson. Here, Billy Graham shared many biblical promises about what lies ahead, but in one chapter he talked about the importance of getting one’s affairs in order with end-of-life decisions.

Billy Graham mentions a well-loved attorney who unexpectedly died of a heart attack in his early seventies. For many years, this attorney had helped clients with advice across the gamut of legal matters. The attorney had been known for his practical wisdom and common sense. However, shortly after his funeral, the attorney’s family made the shocking discovery that he had never prepared his own estate plan.

His family was unaware of his assets except for the fact that he had occasionally mentioned leaving some of his estate to his church and other charities as well as to a widowed sister. In the end, none of these verbal wishes were fulfilled because nothing had been put down in writing. It took many months and much expense to sort out his affairs – all of which could have been much easier if he would have merely completed his own estate plan.

As you can see, it is easy even for an attorney to put off life decisions of this sort. Just know that having your estate thoughts down in writing can bring peace of mind to you as well as your family. Your plan can always be revised later in life. Avoid putting this off. Be sure to see a professional advisor who can help you through this process.

Billy Graham commented that “God is just as concerned about what you are going to do with your possessions after your death as He is with what you are doing with them right now.”

One option you might consider is tithing support for our church through your estate plan. In other words, you could set aside one tenth of your estate to support our church in its ministry. If you have been in the habit of tithing, this may seem like an obvious approach in your decision making. But, whether or not you tithe, just remembering to include FPC in your final plans would be a great blessing to our church as it can help to ensure its future. After all, it is our church family that has continued to enrich our earthly lives by offering a community with the saints – a life in covenant with other believers. That’s pretty meaningful!

If you have made plans to include our church in your estate plans – whether or not through tithing, please let us know so we can thank you with membership in **The 1840 Legacy Society**. This might also encourage others to do the same. A brochure about the **1840 Legacy Society** is available among the pamphlets in the church narthex.

To make a confidential inquiry about **The 1840 Legacy Society**, please contact:

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

OR

The Rev. Dr. Samuel Massey, Pastor:  
sam.massey@firstpreswacivcity.org  
319-351-2660

### Needles, Hooks and Yarn

This is a small group who come 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 FPC from 9–11 on most Saturday mornings. For more information, contact Tammy Schroeder at 319-351-2660.



### Have instant access to the contacts and events

at FPC anytime,  
anywhere, from your cell  
phone, using the  
*Church Life* app.

Download the app; Login —  
using the same username and  
password you use for  
**MyFirstPres**.

If you have not yet signed up for **MyFirstPres** on  
the website, please do. Simply click on the circle  
located on the homepage and create an account.  
If you have questions, contact Tammy Schroeder,  
319-351-2660.



## *Reconciliation Ministry*

### **FPC — Building Community with Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity (IVHFH)**



As part of our Capital Campaign's "Mission Tithe" since 2017, First Presbyterian Church (FPC) has contributed \$45,000 to IVHFH to help fund both Interfaith and Women Build projects. This spring we need to mobilize FPC members and friends to participate in the following two building projects and a run / walk fundraising event.

#### **The Interfaith Build**

For more than 25 years, Habitat has worked with congregations of various faith traditions. Because each of the major religions is organized around common values of love, kindness, justice, and service, partnering with Habitat for Humanity is an ideal way to put our faith into action.

FPC will be working on a zero lot line home at 2664 Blazing Star Dr., Iowa City (with St. Andrew's members next door at 2674). Our groundbreaking ceremony will be at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 24. Please plan to attend. The wall build will be done on Saturday, March 30, in two work shifts (8-12 / 1-5). **Ideally, FPC will have 20 volunteers for each shift.** Tools, protective gear, t-shirts, food, and water will be provided. Even if you can't accurately swing a hammer, there will be useful roles for all.

A sign-up sheet for individuals 16 years of age and older to work on March 30 will be available in Ryerson Fellowship Hall beginning on Sunday, March 10. Other work days and times will be identified in the near future.

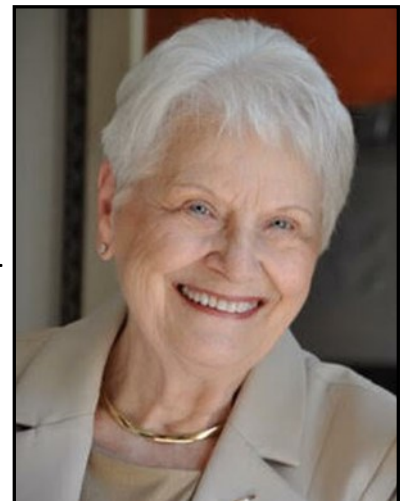
Questions? Contact John Barr at [BarrJohnO@sau.edu](mailto:BarrJohnO@sau.edu) or 319-541-3213.



#### **The Doris Preucil Women Build**

Women Build is a program to engage and empower women in construction. The goal is not to exclude men, but to include women who may not feel comfortable volunteering at a male-dominated construction site. Women Build also highlights and honors the talented and hard-working women in our community.

This year's 11<sup>th</sup> Women Build honoree is Doris Preucil. An active FPC member for over 50 years, Doris is the founder of Iowa City's renowned Preucil School of Music. After more than 60 years of teaching children with the family-centered Suzuki Method, Doris knows that stability is crucial to children's success. "I've always supported Habitat for Humanity since I first heard of it from former President Jimmy Carter," she says. "It's a family thing, and we know the more that the children's lives can be organized, the better they will do in school and out in the world." A supportive home environment is important for childhood stability.



*(Continued on page 11)*

# Reconciliation Ministry

(Continued from page 10)

The groundbreaking ceremony for this home at 2629 Blazing Star Dr. will begin at 9 a.m. on Thursday, April 4. FPC members are encouraged to attend this event, which will be followed immediately by the wall build (see above information for related on-site details). Wall build shifts are anticipated to be from 10—12 and 1—5 p.m. **Ideally, FPC will have 10 volunteers for each shift.**

Volunteers are needed to help with construction, serve on the Women Build committee, take photographs, and assist with staff-related events. Be a TEAM (Together Everyone Accomplishes More) Build sponsor by making a contribution to the Doris Preucil Build and coordinating volunteers to build the home. To volunteer, including for work shifts on April 4, email [leda@iowavalleyhabitat.org](mailto:leda@iowavalleyhabitat.org). For more information go to <https://www.iowavalleyhabitat.org/women-build.html>.

## The Christine Grant 5k Run / Walk

The Women Build committee is hosting this event on Saturday, May 4, beginning at 7:30 a.m. at Terry Trueblood Park (check-in at shelter 2). What a wonderful way to celebrate the arrival of spring after a long, chilly winter! Proceeds will support construction of the Women Build home honoring FPC member Doris Preucil.

In 1973, Dr. Grant became the first women's athletic director at the University of Iowa. She is perhaps best known as a fighter for gender equity in athletics, which included testifying before Congress and serving as a consultant to the Civil Rights Title IX Taskforce.



Opportunities to support this event include being a volunteer, a run / walk participant, a sponsor or a donor. Donate by going to: [www.giveeffect.com/campaigns/9980-2019-christine-grant-5k](http://www.giveeffect.com/campaigns/9980-2019-christine-grant-5k). Register as a Run / Walk participant at: [https://secure.getmeregistered.com/get\\_information.php?event\\_id=131664](https://secure.getmeregistered.com/get_information.php?event_id=131664)

## FPC Book Club

**March 27**

*The Boys in the Bunkhouse,*  
by Dan Barry

**April 24**

*Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family  
and Culture in Crisis,*  
by J.D. Vance

We gather together at  
Legacy Pointe Parlor (1020  
S Scott Blvd) on the last  
Wednesday of the month  
from noon to 1 p.m. **New members  
WELCOME!**

Bring your lunch and join in the  
conversation. For more information,  
contact Jan Walker at 358-6737.

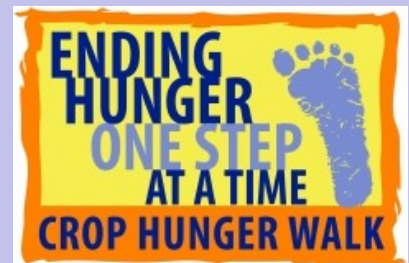


## CROP Walk 2019 — What is the point of Walking?

Hungry people in developing countries typically walk as many as six miles a day to get food, water and fuel and to take their goods to market. We walk to be in solidarity with their struggle for existence. We walk because we want to end hunger — one step at a time.

CROP Walks are community-based and interfaith. They have an impact globally and locally. 25% of funds raised here will go to CommUnity (former the Johnson County Crisis Center). In 2018 there were 800 CROP Walks in the United States. 87,000 people walked to aid in the fight against hunger, and more than \$8,000,000 was raised.

Please walk and support us this year in the fight against hunger and poverty. Walker packets will be available at the CROP Walk table in Ryerson Fellowship Hall before and after services for the month of March.



Contact Cathe Franz with questions at [ajmommy@mchsi.com](mailto:ajmommy@mchsi.com).



## Equipping Ministry



The “Pirate’s Cove; X Marks the Spot” Vacation Bible eXperience this year is created by Anna and Layne Sheetz for FPC Iowa City. Layne’s brother is writing the music, Youth will illustrate the stories, and **it’s all... about... WOMEN!**

The adult class will offer a different look at the Biblical woman and discuss modern feminist and womanist issues.

Youth will have a justice-oriented class with a Lock-In on Wednesday, August 7 and Mission Day on Thursday, August 8.

Mark your Calendars: August 5–8, 5–7:30 p.m.  
Dinner will be provided at 5 p.m.  
VBX will begin at 5:30 p.m.

**Come learn about the Biblical women you have never heard of and learn about the Mother God who loves you!**

*If* this sounds like something you would like to help create, lead, or serve at – please contact Anna Sheetz or come to the planning meeting on Tuesday, March 26 from 5–7 p.m. in the Beach Room.

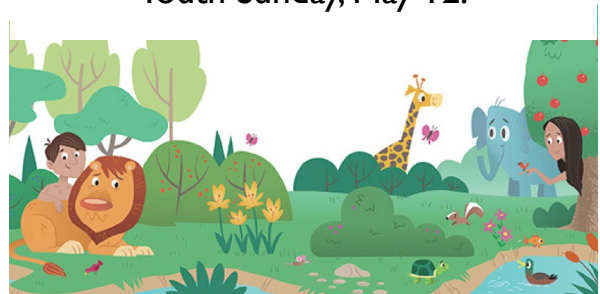


On February 22–24, two students of the Confirmation class of 2018–2019 attended the Confirmation Retreat at Camp Stronghold. It was an amazing weekend where we got to ‘plant’ a church, decide what committees to have, vote on Ruling Elders or Deacons, and a communication lesson! Along with 5 other youth groups, about 40 other youth, and about 15 other leaders, it was great to learn how to be Presbyterian! Thank you Fearless Jeremy Fletcher for your awesome leadership!



The Chili Cook-Off was such a successful youth group fundraiser last year that we are doing it again! Youth are hosting the 2nd Annual Great Bowls of Fire Chili Cook-Off Sunday, May 5 right after church! Come participate yourselves with your best, tongue-taming chili to share!

FPC Kids will look at the Bible on Sundays April 28 and May 5. All students in 2nd grade and older will receive a gift Bible from FPC on Youth Sunday, May 12.





## Equipping Ministry



### Lenten Challenge: Walk to Jerusalem

Join us as First Presbyterian Church tries to move 6,333 miles to Jerusalem this Lent! Beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 6, begin to track (or guess at) how many miles you walk, run, hike, exercise – whatever you do each day.

- Each day or week email your miles to Anna.Sheetz@firstpreswacivcity.org
- Fill out a “Walk to Jerusalem” on Sundays.

Check the Equipping Bulletin Board in Ryerson Fellowship Hall for our progress and help us create the border by tracing your foot and telling us how you will stay active this Lenten Season.

Let's get active!

### Youth Group begins at 6 p.m. with dinner.

Thursday, March 28: We will continue our Gospel of Mark series by looking at Mark 5-8. Please bring Bibles.

**\*\*Youth Choir meets at 7:30\*\***

Thursday, April 4: Onward to Mark 9-13. Please bring Bibles.

**\*\*Youth Choir meets at 7:30\*\***

Thursday, April 11: We'll complete Mark by looking at Mark 14-16. Please bring Bibles.

**\*\*Youth Choir meets at 7:30\*\***

Thursday, April 18: Church potluck at 6 p.m. and Maundy Thursday Service at 7 p.m. Parents, please be prepared to pick youth up by 8 p.m.

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### Reflections from a Pastoral Counselor ...

*(The Community Pastoral Counseling Service—CPCS—was founded and is still supported by First Presbyterian Church of Iowa City, along with five other congregations. At Pastor Sam's request, The Rev. Bruce D. Williams, pastoral counselor/licensed mental health counselor at the service—will be submitting articles for our benefit and reflection. CPCS is located at the Congregational United Church of Christ, 30 N. Clinton St. in Iowa City. Appointments can be scheduled at 319-337-2519. For more information, visit the CPCS website at <http://www.cpcsofiowacity.org>.)*

All of us are motivated by our own self-interest. It's a given. The issue becomes: to what degree? For the last 2000-plus years, the Christian faith—with the church the primary messenger—has offered an alternative to pure self-interest with its concern for the other person, especially those who struggle and suffer.

My college political science professor—a man not encumbered by sentimentality nor overtly theological—used to say in class: “The best way to ensure your welfare is to ensure your neighbor's welfare.” Wise and compassionate guidance regardless of what umbrella it falls under. Now, if this advice were practiced regularly and consistently, what might the world look like . . . ?



### **We Reached Our Goal!**

We are happy to announce that we have reached our scholarship goal for 2019 and are able to send all of the 100 girls back to school. We can support our post-secondary girls as well. Congratulations to all our wonderful supporters! Truly you are heroes to our impoverished Christian girls in Pakistan.



### **Did you know that FPC has an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator)?**

Do you know where the church's AED is located? IF NOT, take a moment to find it, someone's life could depend on it.



The AED is located outside the sanctuary, in the narthex, on the tan brick wall, above the fire extinguisher between the repository and glass wall.



### **Presbytery Presentation: Pasrur Christian Boys School**

*By Jane Cranston*

*We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say, "It's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem. Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes."*

- Fred Rogers

This year, the Presbytery of East Iowa (PEI) has taken Mr. Rogers as its theme. Mr. Rogers was a Presbyterian minister and viewed his television program as an extension of his ministry. He had so many wonderful quotes that fit perfectly. I used the one above in the presentation.

The Presbytery appointed a commission to raise funds for the purpose of building a Pasrur Christian Boys School. Most of the PEI commission was able to go on the Pakistan mission trip in November 2018 to attend the dedication of the Pasrur Christian Boys School.

On February 9, we gave a presentation to the Presbytery of East Iowa at its general meeting. People who went on the trip attended, dressed in their Pakistani clothes. There was much good news to share and stories to tell. The presentation was very well received. It was wonderful to be able to share the positive results of the Presbytery's commitment to our mission in Pakistan with them.

## Bible Blurb from Our Pastor

*Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.*

*We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.*

For the **word of the Lord has sounded forth from you** *not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming (1 Thessalonians, chapter 1, NRSV).*



Bells have played an important role at First Presbyterian Church. From the first bell that symbolized an early church conflict and possibly ended up in Salt Lake City with Brigham Young and the Mormons, to the bell that calls us to worship every Sunday morning, to the English hand bells that inspire our souls, bells represent our

church history as well as our faith.

The apostle Paul uses the image of the bell to commend the members of the Thessalonica congregation for their active faith. Like being awakened by a bell ringing loudly, the surrounding Greeks in the region have heard of the new life in Christ celebrated by the congregation. The congregation's interior life of worship, training and fellowship, combined with outward hospitality and witness, made the congregation a model of "how to do church" in the ancient world. I must say that you have taught me a great deal about how to do church over the last 10 years.

I confess as your pastor that sometimes I have lapses in confidence. I am not proud of that fact. In some ways the past two years have been very difficult financially for our congregation, and the situation rocked me and drove me to my knees in prayer. We continued forward in ministry and mission, trimming here and there, and yet I wondered if the day of reckoning was not on the horizon.

O ye of little faith! This past year our giving was robust and our stewardship campaign exemplary, allowing us to give our staff members bonuses as well as small raises, doubling our mission budget, fully underwriting our very lean program budgets, and generally facing 2019 with gratitude and confidence. I can say now, greatly humbled, that the "word of the Lord has sounded forth from you" like a bell.

Even as I confess my shortfall in faith, I praise God and give thanksgiving for yours. God willing, this year we will not only proclaim the realm of God and God's righteousness taught by Jesus, but we will also complete the installation of an elevator for our friends with limited mobility and help fund two Habitat Houses.

Every pastor should have the opportunity to serve a congregation as faithful, open-minded, open-hearted and open-handed as First Presbyterian Church of Iowa City. The apostle Paul in the Scripture above, vs. 2, expresses my thoughts and prayers right now:

*We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.*

With love and gratitude,  
Pastor Sam

**First Presbyterian Church**  
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Iowa City, Iowa 52245



**Public Office Hours:**

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

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Based on the interest of the ReAffirmation study this winter, Layne Sheetz is considering leading a Book Study on Debby Irving's Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race. In the introduction, Debby Irving says this:

"In the state that is somewhere between fear and indifference lies an opportunity to awaken to the intuitive voice that says, 'something's not right.' 'What's going on here?' 'I wish I could make a difference.' In my experience, learning to listen to that voice is slowly but surely rewiring my intuition, breaking down walls that kept me from parts of myself, and expanding my capacity to seek truths, no matter how painful they may be. Learning about racism has settled inner conflicts and is allowing me to step out of my comfort zone with both strength and vulnerability in all parts of my life. Racism holds all of us captive in ways white people rarely imagine."

**We need your input!** If you are interested, please let Anna or Layne Sheetz know. You can find a form below. Please return it to the church office or to Anna or Layne on Sunday mornings. Details will be finalized and put into the May newsletter. If you fill out one of these forms, you will receive direct information.



I am interested in the Summer Book Club for Debbie Irving's Waking Up White. I am available on these days:

\_\_\_\_ Sunday \_\_\_\_ Monday \_\_\_\_ Tuesday \_\_\_\_ Wednesday \_\_\_\_ Thursday \_\_\_\_ Friday \_\_\_\_ Saturday

These are 1.5 hour-time slots:

\_\_\_\_ In the Morning (9–12) \_\_\_\_ In the Afternoon (1–4) \_\_\_\_ In the Evening (5–9)

Do you need child care? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ My Email : \_\_\_\_\_