

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm/Passion Sunday: April 5

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

Maundy Thursday: April 9

7:00 pm Worship with Communion, Tenebrae

Holy Saturday: April 11

10:00 a.m. Community Easter Egg Hunt
7:00 pm Celebration of Light, Word, Water,
and Holy Communion

Easter Sunday: April 12

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

Support Camp Wyoming Through FPC Special Offerings during the month of March


FPC's Reconciliation Ministry will be collecting special offerings each Sunday in March to support Camp Wyoming (CW), an outdoor ministry of our Presbytery of East Iowa (PEI). These offerings will support two initiatives. First, we will be providing scholarships for children of racial / ethnic minority FPC families who have had no or very limited prior camping experience. Last year, these scholarships allowed five FPC-member children to attend a session of CW.

Second, we will contribute funds towards a \$125,000 anonymous matching grant to construct a high ropes course and climbing tower at CW. In January, PEI also agreed to match up to \$25,000 for contributions given by congregations with the Presbytery. A short, exciting video about CW can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/387013530>

Individuals wishing to prayerfully donate can use the Special Offering envelopes available in the pew racks, or write a check to First Presbyterian Church with "Camp Wyoming" in the memo line. The electronic kiosk in the narthex can also be used for Special Offerings.



Gloria & Glory Kasiriba, with
their CW cabin counselor



Pastor Sam is suspending routine pastoral calling until concerns pass that he could unknowingly transmit coronavirus from person to person. Please contact him case of an emergency.

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Dear sisters and brothers of First Presbyterian Church,

The grace, peace and healing presence of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

As I write today, the day after Super Tuesday, news of the coronavirus continues to swirl around us. Visiting in the hospital's emergency room the other evening, a beloved parishioner mentioned her own parents' experience of the flu epidemic of 1918.

Her comments led me to consider all the epidemics that I have experienced during the course of ministry, the ones that you too may have endured.

I was a young associate pastor when HIV/AIDS showed every sign of becoming an epidemic. Nobody was sure of how it was shared, yet the presumption was that it must be airborne, particularly in the advanced stages of it. We had a young man hospitalized dying of the disease, and neither the other pastors nor our deacons were willing to visit him. So, I reviewed my Calvin regarding Providence and predestination, claimed my ordination vows, put on my big boy pants, and went to the hospital's isolation ward to see this beloved child of God.

I was not so brave. I took every precaution advised and sat with him, hand on his shoulder. That was really all he needed: human touch assuring him that he was not a pariah. Sadly, I struggle to remember his name right now, although I wish could. I do recall the names of the other persons to whom I ministered who died of that disease, a fearsome illness that now—thank God and science—is much tamed in this country, although not globally.

Susan and I were preparing to go to China to bring our Daniel home when the SARS epidemic broke out there. We were not allowed in, although we were anxious to bring him home prior to him being infected. When the travel ban finally lifted, we went immediately. Airports were vacant. China was empty: The stores, restaurants and tourist sites were

open, yet totally bereft of the tourist trade from which traditionally they benefited. Again, we had gone through so very much to discern that God was calling us to adopt this little boy; nothing led me to think that Susan, Susan's brother, Will and I would experience any problems. God would bring us home safely.

This confidence now may sound naïve. After all, some day, something is going to kill me. While my mother had a happy nursing home experience, I have been in enough of them that the idea of clinging to life no matter what seems to make little sense. I trust that either living or dying can be a mercy, depending on one's age and circumstances.

Also, I admire Saint Aloysius Gonzaga, who died of the plague in Rome at age 23. He caught the disease by scrubbing bedclothes in a Jesuit hospital. I reflected on his statue daily during my summers while passing it at Gonzaga University. Right now, choosing between fire and ice, I think I would rather die by risking my life for a good cause rather than dying after a life-long pursuit of safety so that I might die of old age hooked to machines.

The coronavirus presents another opportunity for us to decide the type of people that we wish to be. I am not suggesting that we should not take normal precautions, including at church. At some point, we may need to skip sporting events and shopping at the mall. I am suspending normal non-emergency pastoral calling for the time being.

Nevertheless, I still hearken back to John Calvin. In the *Institutes of the Christian Religion* that he authored, Calvin noted that we live at risk always: tiles could fall from roofs, horses could go berserk, plague could claim us, and much else. The reason we don't stay home and hide under our beds is that we trust that God will provide a bubble of safety around us, one that allows us to live freely and without fear. This bubble continues



until our time to be called home by God into the resurrection. When we speak of Providence, or even predestination, we mean this bubble of safety that allows us to live confidently and risk ourselves in love and service.

The beloved parishioner of whom I spoke at the beginning of this article urged me not to visit, as coronavirus might have already reached the U. I settled the question long ago, so I did not need to review my decision-making: "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31) was one of the only two questions I asked that evening.

The other was, "Dadgummit, where did I put those stinking car keys?"

With love and blessings, your pastor,
Sam

Grief and Caring Support Group

A small cadre of FPC members are continuing to meet to share our sorrows, grief and loss. The group felt that the empathy of others is extremely valuable and are sharing resources they have found helpful. The Grief Support Group meets the second Sunday of the month after worship in Coover Lounge. We welcome new members. The group abides by strict confidentiality rules. We encourage all who are grieving to join us. If you are afraid of talking, just know you do not have to say a word. Just listen. If anyone is interested in the group or if you have questions, call Maeleen Thorius (319-541-3161) or Sue Van Duyn Phipps (319-338-4132).

March 29 is the “Meet Your Neighborhood Deacons” Event for 2020

The Deacons would be delighted to see you after worship on Sunday, March 29 in Ryerson Fellowship Hall to meet your neighborhood Deacon representatives and share a snack or refreshment. We would like to get to know you better! You can take this opportunity to share with your neighborhood Deacons any joys and concerns or thoughts you may have on how we can stay engaged and better serve you. If you're so inclined, you can represent your neighborhood on Sunday, March 29 by wearing accessories matching your neighborhood's color to church. We would really love to see you there!

Are you unsure who your neighborhood Deacons are or what your neighborhood's color is? Look at your church name tag. Deacons will be updating name tags with colored stickers to match your neighborhood color soon.



Blue	Moses Kasiriba and Steph Paulsen
Burgundy	Rick Boland and Brian Kleis
Fuchsia	Linda Couch and Jeff Orris
Green	Bonnie Bender and Judy Terry
Orange	Sarah Klemuk and Becca Morgan
Purple	Jen Adams and Pam Kautz
Red	Ames Molsberry and Dan Thedens
Teal	Jeff Orris and Dan Thedens
Yellow	Jane Cranston and Barb Stanerson

In addition, the Iowa City area map on display in Ryerson Fellowship Hall shows the neighborhood boundaries, so you can see which is your color-coded neighborhood (if you moved in the past year, this may have changed). Deacons will be sending out letters of introduction soon to say hello and to invite you to the Meet Your Deacons event March 29. Be sure to WATCH your email inbox or your postal mailbox for this! This letter will also let you know of your neighborhood's color code if you didn't already know. We hope to see you soon!

CROP Hunger Walk

Team FPC is participating in the March 29 Johnson County CROP Walk, joining with others in taking a stand against hunger in our world and in our community. You can support this initiative in two ways: 1) Signing up to be a member of our team of walkers, or 2) sponsoring one or more of those walking with your financial support. To join the team please contact Team Captain Paul Akin next to the CROP Walk display in Ryerson Hall after worship on the Sundays between now and March 29, give him a call (319-594-5567), or email him at paulakin13@yahoo.com. To lend your financial support, contact any one of our team members before they contact you!

What are CROP Hunger Walks?

Neighbors walking together to alleviate the ravages of hunger in our community and in our world. People of different ages (children, youth, adults, seniors, entire families), different faiths and various backgrounds – together we raise awareness and funds for international relief and development, as well as local hunger-fighting

Why do we walk?

Hungry people in developing nations 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 to end hunger – one step at a time.

What difference does it make in the world?

\$50 can enable a woman to attend literary classes and change her life forever.

\$110 can provide emergency food supplies for a family of five's needs for a month.

\$140 can give a struggling farm family a new source of income: a pair of pigs. A piglet from each litter is given to another family in need.

\$350 can enable the eldest in a child-headed household of AIDS orphans to receive vocational training so they can support their siblings and themselves.

\$1,050 can support community-based health, hygiene, and sanitation training for an entire community.

What difference does it make locally?

An added feature of the Johnson County CROP Walk is that 25% of the funds raised will be given to the Crisis (CommUnity) Center to provide much-needed assistance to those in our area.

The 2.7-mile Johnson County CROP Walk begins at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 29. Will you “step up” by joining Team FPC, either by walking, or by being a sponsor, or both?

Thank you for your support of and involvement in the Johnson County CROP Walk.



FPC Book Club *News you can use!*
New Meeting Day—New Location



Join us as we gather on the **LAST TUESDAY** of the month at **11:30** at **FPC; room 14** (located on the lower level, to the left). For more information, contact Mary Linn at JmLnn@aol.com

2020 Spring Schedule:

- March 31** The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women by Kate Moore
- April 28** The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate—Discoveries from a Secret World by Peter Wohlleben
- May 26** The Library Book by Susan Orlean

EARTH DAY



On Sunday, April 26 we will celebrate Earth Day with a worship service focused on climate change through the eyes of young people. We will celebrate by singing, speaking, and listening to words and reflections written by the youth of FPC. Come to worship at 10:30 a.m. ready to think about how to care for God's world.

Community Prayer Box

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

Pray More...Worry Less



Save the Date—Save your Books!

The Book and Bake sale is back
Friday April 17, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

and Saturday April 18, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Please see the sign-up sheets in Ryerson Fellowship Hall to help with sorting books, cashiering, making baked goods, or staffing the tables during the sale.

Please bring your books to sell to Ryerson Fellowship Hall starting Monday, April 13.

For assistance with books, call Sally Rickey at 337-9044.

Proceeds to benefit Four Oaks and local literacy programs.

April 4 at 3:30 p.m., FPC Sanctuary

Heather and Bob Youngquist will perform a short recital of vocal music on the topic of motherhood. Musical styles will range from classical art song to musical theater selections—some familiar, and others, less so. Please join them for a spring afternoon of song, followed by some light refreshments. Families are welcome!

Heather holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance from the University of Iowa and a Master of Music degree in Voice with a minor in Opera Studies from Indiana University. She has performed throughout the Midwest in various operas, oratorio, and choral performances. She resides in Coralville with her husband and daughter, with a second daughter due in May.

Robert, Heather's father, is known throughout Iowa and beyond for his accomplishments as a choral director and pianist. He taught vocal music for 41 years at Washington High School in Washington, Iowa, before retiring. He remains active in his retirement as a leader and committee member of various non-profit organizations.

Both Heather and Robert look forward to making music as a duo once again!



Motherhood:

A Voice Recital

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. 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
3/25 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
4/1 Cole Everhart
4/1 Oscar Everhart
4/1 Dallis Meier
4/2 Bonnie Bender
4/3 Bill Follows

April 1-15

4/3 Sue Olson
4/3 Travis Martin
4/4 Bob Dillin
4/6 Aimee Meardon-Orris
4/7 Trevor Smith
4/8 John Koch
4/9 Joyce McMaster
4/9 Lee Kirsch
4/10 Jack Edwards
4/12 Glenn Van Roekel
4/13 Jeremy Fletcher
4/14 Elaine Tarnutzer
4/15 Maeleen Thorius
4/16 Calvin Martin



**Known
to have been
Hospitalized:**
Marguerite Morey



Trevor Smith & Weijing Wu
on the birth of their son,
Arthur Alexander Dean
Smith, who was born on
February 17.

Baptized

We welcome Leda Rose Andrews, daughter of Alicia and Cyrus and sister to Joan into the family of God. Leda was baptized on January 19 at FPC by Pastor Sam.



Tips on preventing influenza AND Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)



We are reprinting the tips for preventing the spread of viral illnesses from the November newsletter. The influenza is still the most relevant virus at this time; however, the potential for a pandemic spread of COVID-19 is a serious threat. The spread of this virus is similar to influenza, so the following tips are the current recommendations (exceptions are for vaccination, none available for COVID-19).

Get vaccinated—the sooner the better! There are many places and ways to get the flu vaccination (VNA clinics, Hy-Vee or other pharmacies, at your doctor's office). Insurance covers this, usually without co-pay.

Stay home if you are ill. You can worship from home on Facebook, where we live stream the service each Sunday. Stay home until you are symptom-free for at least 24 hours.

Passing the Peace: it is best to avoid shaking hands, as this is the most frequent way the virus is transmitted from person to person. Alternatives to handshakes: bow, smile, wave, elbow bumps, a hand on the shoulder. If you do shake hands (as many of us continue to do), use hand sanitizer immediately afterwards. Carry a small bottle in your purse or pocket, always! If you do not have one, make a trip out to the Narthex, where a large bottle is placed for your use.

During worship: Remember that every surface you touch (pew, attendance pad, chair arms) can harbor the flu virus for up to 8 hours after an ill person has touched it. Once you touch ANY surface, it is advisable not to touch your eyes, nose or mouth, where the virus can enter your body readily. Cough or sneeze into a tissue, and throw away immediately into a trash can. If you do not have or cannot reach a tissue in time, catch the sneeze/cough into your sleeve at the elbow. Wash your hands for at least 20

seconds with warm water and soap (sing Jesus Loves Me) or use a hand sanitizer immediately after using the tissue

During Communion: Those preparing the communion bread and juice wash their hands first. Those serving communion use the hand sanitizer before coming forward. If you are concerned about the intinction procedures, use the individually cut pieces of bread and the communion cups at the center station.

During Fellowship: When filling your plate, use serving utensils and NOT your fingers to pick up the food, which is a good way to contaminate the food left for others. Once you have filled your plate, wash your hands or use hand sanitizer before eating your snack. Remember, anything you touched that was also touched by others (utensils, table, chairs, and coffee urn) could be contaminated, and eating is a high-risk time to catch that virus!

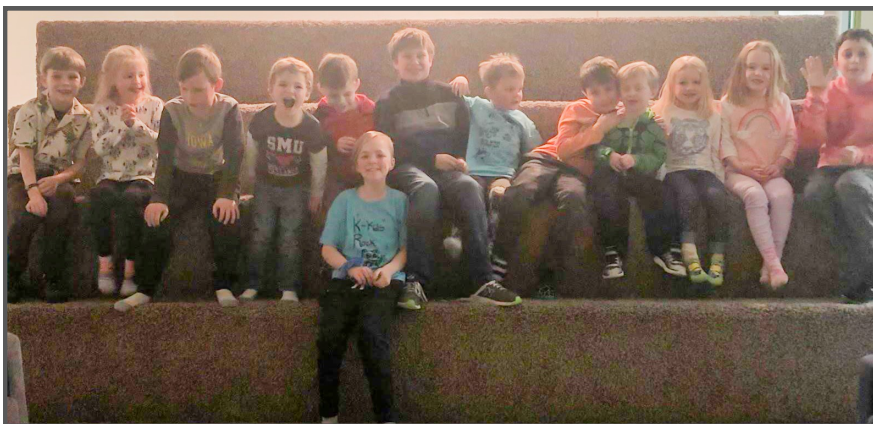
Visit the Congregational Health Ministries board for more influenza and COVID-19-related information.

Updated information can be found through the Iowa Department of Public Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and World Health Organization websites. These links are found below:

- Iowa Department of Public Health: <https://idph.iowa.gov/Emerging-Health-Issues/Novel-Coronavirus>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> and <https://tools.cdc.gov/medialibrary/index.aspx#/microsite/id/403323>
- World Health Organization: <https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>

Parents' Night Out is Coming on March 20!

Spring is coming and so is the March session of Parents' Night Out! Parents of children ages 10 and younger are welcome to drop off their kids on Friday, March 20, from 5:00–7:30 for an evening of fun and a light supper. Parents are then free to enjoy time on their own while adult volunteers supervise the kids. It's a win-win for everyone! Just sign up with Nancy Gardner at nancy.hayes.gardner@gmail.com and let her know who will be attending.



A big shout out to last month's volunteers: Sharon Raffensperger, Mary Linn, Jim Linn, Debbie Beermann, Dave Van Dusseldorp, Michelle Bessman and Kenneth Noble. Thanks so much for making this program possible!



Celebrating 70 Years of One Great Hour of Sharing

by Pat Cole and originally published for *Presbyterian News Service* on March 6, 2019.

First Presbyterian Church will receive our One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Sunday, April 12, during our Easter Worship.

As the world struggled to recover from the ravages of a global war, churches across America bore witness to their faith in a united act of generosity that helped relieve human suffering.

On Easter Sunday in 1949, the offering now known as One Great Hour of Sharing was received for the first time. It brought much-needed aid to people reeling from the destruction World War II, which had ended just four years earlier. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) joined other mainline Protestant denominations as well as Anglican and Orthodox communions in this effort.

The offering has continued to be received every year, and 2019 marks the 70th anniversary of this ecumenical effort to address pressing human needs. Gifts received in Presbyterian congregations today support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self-Development of People ministries.

“For 70 years, gifts from One Great Hour of Sharing have enabled our church and other churches to make a difference for people in distress,” said Bryce Wiebe, director of Special Offerings for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). “Lives are changed thanks to the generous people who give each year to One Great Hour of Sharing. We are grateful for every person who gives.”

The first offering was promoted via a national radio broadcast on the Saturday evening prior to Easter. A host of famous people appeared on the program, including President Harry Truman and actors Gregory Peck and Ida Lupino.

Truman opened the “One Great Hour” broadcast by urging listeners to “build a new world, a far better world in which the dignity of (all humanity) is respected.”

The name of the radio program was adopted into the name of the offering the following year, and it became known as One Great Hour of Sharing.

In the 1960s, the scope of One Great Hour of Sharing was expanded to include both national and international needs. The decision to include national concerns came in an era when domestic poverty was receiving national attention. Today, all three PC(USA) programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing address both domestic and worldwide needs.

For many Presbyterians and other Christians, stories related to the work of One Great Hour of Sharing have become an integral part of their Lenten observance. The One Great Hour of Sharing tradition has continued in part because it has included an emphasis on involving children. Generations of Sunday School children have learned about stewardship and mission support by putting coins into fish banks.

While most congregations receive the offering on Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday, it can be received at any time. Last year Presbyterian gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing topped \$6 million, an increase of more than 7.5 percent over 2017. After several years of decrease, 2018 marked the second year in a row that One Great Hour of Sharing gifts increased over the previous year.

“We are grateful beyond measure that giving to One Great Hour of Sharing is on the upswing,” Wiebe said. “The Special Offerings staff has worked hard to clearly communicate to more and more Presbyterians the good work that is being done around the world because of One Great Hour of Sharing and our church’s three other Special Offerings. We can’t thank Presbyterians enough for their generous response.”

Thank you to Larry Bruner for 20+ years!

For your integrity, wisdom, love, faithfulness, vision, positive spirit and much else! As you retire remember that you are loved and appreciated.



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 on Sundays from 5–6 p.m. Contact Leah Bergman at leah.bergman@firstpreswacivcity.org or call the church for more information.

Youth Choir Schedule

March–May 2020

Rehearsals every Sunday
5:00–6:00 p.m.

Youth Choir leads in worship on:

Sunday, March 22

Sunday, April 5

Saturday, April 11 (Easter Vigil)

Sunday, April 26

Sunday, May 10 (Youth Sunday)

Suzuki Baby Music

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

Tuesdays 5:30-6:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church
2701 Rochester Ave
Iowa City, IA 52245

Try out a class for free at any time!

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

For more information:

www.firstpreswacivcity.org

leah.bergman@firstpreswacivcity.org

319-351-2660

Or visit us on facebook at Suzuki Baby Music Iowa City!

How to make your own Kintsugi project during Lent



The History of Kintsugi

Kintsugi, or Kintsukori, dates back to the 15th century, when, according to legend, shogun Ashikaga Yoshimasa broke his favorite chawan, a Chinese ceramic tea bowl, and sent it back to China for repair. It was returned and fixed, but bound by ugly metal staples. This inspired him to find an elegant way to amend the ceramic, and as a result Kintsugi was born.

Kintsugi pottery pertains to the Zen ideal of wabi-sabi, the concept of embracing imperfection. It means finding pleasure in aged and worn objects, and valuing their blemishes as beautiful. Kintsugi repair also relates to other Japanese expressions, such as mottainai, which means to regret wasting something, and mushin, which means to free one's mind and accept change.

Kintsugi Art Materials

Traditional Kintsugi uses urushi lacquer and rice flour to bind the ceramics together. Today, you can practice the Kintsugi tradition with accessible materials:

Clear epoxy resin or other ceramic adhesives	Scrap paper
Gold mica powder or liquid gold leaf	Masking tape (optional)
Thin disposable paint brush	Paper bag (optional)
Broken ceramic or porcelain dish	Hammer (optional)

If you do not have a broken dish, you can still create Kintsugi art by intentionally cracking an object yourself.

How to Make Kintsugi Pottery Art

Project time: 20-30 minutes

Step 1: Choose your Kintsugi object

Choose the ceramic you wish to apply the Japanese gold repair to. Select one that is used for decorative purposes, not for food or beverage consumption, as epoxy resin can be toxic if consumed. After you've selected which dish you wish to prepare, determine which Kintsugi method to use:

Crack method: Objects are glued back together using golden adhesive. This is the most common Kintsugi method.

Makienashi method: Fragments from the object are made up entirely of the epoxy to replace the missing pieces. This method is ideal for ceramics with chips or parts shattered beyond repair.

Joint method: Portions from two broken ceramics are combined to make a unified dish. The difficult part of this method is finding parts that fit together. To make it easier, select one ceramic to be the main object, and supplement it with small pieces from another one. The broken fragments do not have to fit perfectly together, as you can use the makienashi method to fill spaces between the two ceramics.

Step 2: Prepare the adhesive

If you are using mica powder, mix equal parts mica powder and epoxy resin on scrap paper. Do this right before you are ready to glue the objects together, as this mixture cures quickly. If you are using liquid gold leaf, you will only need the epoxy resin for Step 3. Save the liquid gold leaf for Step 4.

Step 3: Glue your ceramics together

Paint the edges of your broken ceramics with your adhesive, then push the pieces together. The epoxy resin may seep out of the pottery slightly. If you are following the makienashi method, place masking tape on one side of the ceramic where the piece is missing. Ensure it is tightly bound to the dish. Then, fill in the missing piece with epoxy resin.

Tip: Glue smaller pieces together first to make assembling the ceramic easier. To ensure a smooth process, wait for the small fragments to dry for a minute or two before moving on.

Step 4: Create gold lines

If you are using mica powder, sprinkle the powder on top of the cracks when the adhesive is almost dry to brighten the gold. To keep the dish clean, place masking tape around each crack before dusting with mica powder.

If you are using liquid gold leaf, wait until the adhesive has dried (10-15 minutes) before painting on the lines. If you used gold mica powder, you can add additional strokes with liquid gold leaf for a more apparent Kintsugi effect.

Tip: Use an exacto-knife to scrape off the thick layer of the resin for a more delicate, subtle look. If you are using liquid gold leaf, do this before painting on the new lines.

Once you like how the piece looks, wait two days for the adhesive to completely set before using for decor.

After your Kintsugi pottery is completed, you'll now have a new piece of art to exhibit in your home. Don't hesitate to display it with your other antiques—the essence of Kintsugi is about recognizing the beauty in the broken and the unbroken.

Equipping Ministry



2nd Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 11 at 10 a.m.

All members of the community are invited, so be sure to invite friends, cousins, schoolmates, teachers, dance classes, swim classes, and more!



Support the Youth Group by attending *Matilda the Musical* at City High School. Shows will be Friday, April 17 at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, April 18 at 2 and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday April 19 at 2 p.m.



**Get Your Car Washed
and Support the
Dodekah Ministry!**

**Simply Save the Date
now! Saturday, April 25**

The time will be posted in the April-May Newsletter and bulletins.

Sunday Evening Lenten Series

SPEAKER SERIES

Join us for the five Sundays in Lent (March 1–29) from 5:30–7:00 p.m. in Ryerson Fellowship Hall for a soup supper, meditation and sharing. Each week a different person from our congregation will share a part of their faith story. It will be a time of meditation, listening, sharing together and thinking about how life's challenges have had an impact on our faith. If you would like to volunteer to bring soup for one of the Sundays or if you have questions, contact Judy Whitford at judy.whitford@firstpreswacivcity.org.

Teen Breakfast Club will meet at these times in room 14. Please bring your devotion and a Bible!

- ◆ Wednesday, March 25, 5:45–6:30 p.m.
- ◆ Sunday, March 29, 9–9:45 a.m.
- ◆ Sunday, April 5, 9–9:45 a.m.
- ◆ Sunday, April 12, 9 a.m. to prepare for the Easter Morning Breakfast!



The Jeremiah Justice Initiative, formerly known as the Social Justice Book Club, had a great third series of classes. In January-February 2020, the participants looked at contemporary issues, podcasts, music, and discussed the future of the group. The group even added a local community member who found the group through Facebook! Good news is that after Easter, a new book will be chosen and the group will continue! Details will be out closer to Easter, but for now, mark your calendars for:

**Jeremiah Justice Initiative
Sunday, April 19–Sunday, June 28
*Excluding May 24**



Equipping Ministry



- Jr&High School–Wednesday, March 25, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Ryerson Fellowship Hall & Young Youth Room
More John. Bring Bibles and we'll dive right in. Youth Band will meet from 8-8:30 p.m.
- 4th-6th Grade–Sunday, March 29, 6-7:30 p.m.; 4th-6th Grade Room 14
Our next story is one of mystery—a baby, a promise, the stars and more. Let's learn about what God *promises* Father Abraham after the flood and renewal of the earth.
- Jr&High School–Wednesday, April 1, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Ryerson Fellowship Hall & Young Youth Room
John John John! Bring Bibles and we'll dive right in. Youth Band will meet from 8-8:30 p.m.
- 4th-6th Grade–Sunday, April 4, 6-7:30 p.m.; 4th-6th Grade Youth Room 14
We'll have a fun night! Bring running shoes and a water bottle. We'll have an extra special game night!
- Jr&High School–Wednesday, April 8, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Ryerson Fellowship Hall & Young Youth Room
We'll finish John and have a worship night. Bring Bibles and we'll dive right in.
- Jr&High School–Wednesday, April 15, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Ryerson Fellowship Hall & Young Youth Room
Bring a Dish for POTLUCK DINNER. We'll prepare for Youth Sunday! Youth band and projects meet from 8-8:30 p.m.
- Jr&High School–Wednesday, April 22, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Ryerson Fellowship Hall & Young Youth Room
More Youth Sunday Prep. We'll have youth band and projects from 8-8:30 p.m.
- 4th-6th Grade–Sunday, April 26, 6-7:30 p.m.; 4th-6th Grade Youth Room 14
We'll continue our ECHO lesson! Let's learn about the brothers Jacob and Esau—and what they did with the divine promise! Can't wait to see you then!

Dine Out for Dodekah

Simply take coupons with you to our sponsoring restaurants, it couldn't be easier to support Dodekah!

Dine Out for Dodekah

Wed. March 18 All DAY!



Present this to your server/cashier and **20%** of your guest check will be donated to First Presbyterian Church, IC

Dine Out for Dodekah

Thurs. March 26

LUNCH ONLY
11 am to 3 pm



Present this to your server/cashier and **15%** of your guest check will be donated to First Presbyterian Church, IC

Dine Out for Dodekah **Fri. April 3**



NO Coupon Needed

\$1 from every *All-you-would-care-to-eat Chinese buffet* **4-7 pm** will be donated to First Presbyterian Church, IC

PLEASE share with friends & family

Thank You!



FAR OUT PROPHETS

UBX 2020

Are You Ready to go Out of This World?

We're looking for the very best, most excited adults who are prepared to ROCK-IT this summer at SPACE VBX from August 6-9! All you have to do is talk to Anna or Layne Sheetz today to get yourself on the list for one *out of this world ride!*

Annual Congregation and Corporation Meeting Overview

Submitted by Ann Grosscup, Clerk of Session

The annual congregation and corporation meeting of the First Presbyterian Church, Iowa City was held Sunday, February 2, 2020. Pastor Sam Massey opened with prayer after a quorum was declared. Attendees' attention was directed to the 2019 Annual Reports available on the tables. Pastor Sam positively noted the important report submissions by many. There were no questions or comments from the floor regarding the report.

Dale Kraus, Finance Cluster Moderator, presented the 2019 end of year financial report. The 2019 annual budget was \$622, 000. Operating budget income from contributions, including pledges, fell short, totaling \$594,118. The four annual PC(USA) special offerings and FPC earmarked projects resulted in additional income of \$91,229. This latter income amount

reflects giving outside of the 2019 general operating budget. Unfortunately, actual expenditures totaled \$692,925. (This amount includes the non-operating budget income of \$91,229.) Operating expenditures went over budget by \$17, 900 due to unanticipated Building and Grounds expenses. The Building and Grounds Reserve Fund was depleted when \$10,322, was transferred to the general operating budget. The 2019 year-end deficit was reduced to \$7,579.04; the final 2019 expenses were accordingly adjusted to \$601,696.37. There were no financial questions from the floor.

Pastor Sam Massey shared that session chose no staff reductions although no staff will receive a raise in 2020. As evidenced by the congregation's support of projects outside of the general operating budget, monthly

offerings will be taken to support FPC earmarked projects and the four PC (USA) special offerings.

Pastor Sam Massey left the room when Dr. Rebecca Blair, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of East Iowa, took over moderating the meeting for the Pastor's Terms of Call. Nancy Gardner, A&P Cluster moderator, stated the 2020 Terms of Call will remain the same as 2019. She reiterated there are no staff raises in 2020.

Motions Approved:

- The renewed Terms of Call were unanimously approved.
- Session will read and approve these congregational and corporation meeting minutes.
- Adjourn meeting with prayer.

Rebecca Blair closed the meeting with prayer.

Session Highlights from February 2020

Clerk of Session, Ann Grosscup

Elders gathered at 7PM with a quorum noted prior to Pastor Sam calling the meeting to order by the lighting of the Christ candle. Sharon Raffensperger shared devotions and opening prayer based on Psalm 73:23, 'I am with you.'

MOTIONS APPROVED:

- January 2020 financials
- Minutes of stated session meeting 01.21.2020
- Minutes of congregational meeting 02.02.2020
- 2019 Statistical Report
- Agreement to reinstate , amend and extend the Endowment Consultant agreement for calendar year 2020
- Burns Dinner be held Saturday, 01.23.2021. Proceeds beneficiary to be determined.
- James Liang and Cynthia Chou-Liang's Columbarium request. James was interred 02.10.2020.
- Equipping Ministry request to host a car wash in the church parking lot on Saturday, 04.25.2020, to benefit the Dodekah Ministry.
- Transfer of membership for Amanda Edwards to Central Congregational UCC, Atlanta, GA.
- Transfer unspent FSA funds of \$500 from FY 2018 and \$500 from FY 2019 (total of \$1,000) to the corresponding employee's Professional Development account funds for use in FY 2020.

- A. Any proceeds coming from the Hamburg Inn to be put into a fund for Reconciliation Ministry to draw from.
- B. Communicate to the congregation the ability to use Amazon Smile to raise funds for Reconciliation Ministry to draw from.
- C. (Pending approval from Pastor Smith) Schedule a Barnes and Noble fundraiser.
- D. Green Team to periodically sell garden products on FPC lot. (Cart will be stored next to the garden or behind the shed.)
- E. Green Team to apply for seed money through City of Iowa City Grant

Status reports were given for the Task Forces—Lil Creations Academy Advisory Committee; Volunteer; Treasurer Position; and FPC Fundraising.

Leann Graves informed that all 100 girls have academic scholarships to attend the Pasrur Christian Boarding school.

Reminder: Appreciation reception for retiring FPC Treasurer Larry Bruner, Sunday, 02.23.2020, immediately following worship.

Michelle Bessman closed with prayer.

- Next meeting: March 17, 2020, 7 p.m. in Coover Lounge
- Cathe Franz, Opening Devotions; Dwight Miller, Closing Prayer



MONEY MATTERS

Dale Kraus, Interim Treasurer

	Contributions	Misc. Income <small>Building Use, Walker Trust, Bank interest, etc.</small>	Total Income	Total Expenses	Over/Short
January	\$66,195.16	\$155.73	\$66,350.89	\$50,794.06	\$15,556.83
February	\$46,509.16	\$140.86	\$46,650.02	\$51,213.26	-\$4,563.24
2020 Totals	\$112,704.32	\$296.59	\$113,000.91	\$102,007.32	\$10,993.59

Support the Common Fund Through FPC Special Offerings during the month of April

As people of faith, we want to help our neighbors in need. But what is the best way to help those asking? Local congregations are routinely approached for assistance and have similar difficulties determining whether a request is really legitimate. Even if the need is valid, will a cash contribution actually get used for its intended purpose? Are additional services needed?

In response to these concerns, the Common Fund was created by the Consultation of Religious Communities (CRC), of which First Presbyterian Church (FPC) is a founding member. CommUnity (formerly the Crisis Center) at 1121 Gilbert Ct. was chosen to administer the Fund because of its long-term experience and skill in handling crisis situations. At CommUnity, the Common Fund supports the Basic Need Program, specifically for housing and utilities. Clients also receive guidance in addressing underlying causes to help prevent situations from recurring. Funds are not given directly in cash; vouchers or checks are directed to the need. This program can provide up to \$100 towards past due rent, water or energy bills, assisting about 20 households each week. Further details can be found at <https://builtbycommunity.org/basicneeds/>

Annually the CRC aspires to distribute \$36,000 via the Common Fund, with \$3,000 coming from members and friends of FPC in recent years. Our Special Offering each Sunday during April is a new mechanism for providing donations. Individuals wishing to prayerfully donate can use the Special Offering envelopes, available in the pew racks, or write a check to First Presbyterian Church with "Common Fund" in the memo line. The electronic kiosk in the narthex can also be used for Special Offerings. Questions can be directed to John Barr at BarrJohnO@sau.edu

Letter to Pastor Sam and the Session,

Dear Friends,

My year as honoree for the Habitat for Humanity 2019 Women Build has ended. It was a wonderful experience working with so many dedicated people and making friends with the lovely Sudanese family for whom the house was built. But the greatest was being surrounded by so much love.

First Church gave the first large gift to "my house." This was very encouraging as at first I was concerned about my ability to raise all of the funds needed. As it turned out, we raised more than ever before. First Church followed this gift with tremendous support throughout the year, and with the help of John Barr supplied many volunteer builders.

I am forever grateful to you for your support of this project that I care so much about.

Thank you!

Sincerely yours,

Doris Preucil

Doris Preucil



Congratulations!

Together we did it! Donors from First Presbyterian Church and our many friends sponsored 100 girls to go back to school this year. All 100 girls will have tuition, books, uniforms, lodging, and food for the coming school year which begins in late March. On behalf of the girls whose lives you have changed forever, we thank you!

Friends of Pasrur

Added note: Are you interested in joining Friends of Pasrur, the group that oversees the scholarship program to support the education of our Christian girls in Pasrur, Pakistan? Please join us at our next meeting on Sunday, April 19 after worship in Coover Lounge. Contact Leann Graves (Lgraves@mchsi.com) or Nancy Gardner (nancy.hayes.gardner@gmail.com) if you'd like more details. We hope you can join us!

What is planned giving?

*Bob and Millie Youngquist,
Endowment/Memorial Coordinators*

Often in this column we have offered thoughts and suggestions about planned giving. But just what is planned giving and how is it different from our standard support of the church? We recently came across an article from the United Methodist Church Foundation that puts all of this in strong perspective and we would like to share from it here.

"Planned giving is all about giving for the long term. Endowment funds are invested to help ensure that the church can continue its mission and ministry beyond our lifetimes. When we make a planned gift, we are giving to something that will continue in perpetuity. Part of the sense of satisfaction that comes from making a planned gift lies in the knowledge that we can make a lasting impact; we can leave a legacy for generations yet to come."

We have known individuals who deeply believed in supporting a special cause. For many years, they dropped off a generous check annually to help underwrite that cause financially. But knowing that the day would sometime come when they were no longer living and knowing that they wanted to support their cause in perpetuity, they created an endowment. The endowment was designed to be large enough that it could yield their standard donation on and on into the future. Now, past their lifetime, their check still arrives right on time each year to support the cause they always believed in and always wished to underwrite. And each year that check continues to grow as their endowment continues to be wisely invested. What a satisfaction to leave such a gift!

"Most church members think of giving in terms of plate offerings. Typically, they make a pledge to a stewardship or capital campaign based on anticipated annual income." This is deeply important for sure. However, by contrast, "a planned gift typically comes from accumulated assets rather than annual income. A planned gift can be a once-in-a-lifetime gift. In many cases, it may require the assistance of an attorney or other professional financial advisor."

"Planned gifts can be as varied as the interests of the donor. They can include such items as stocks and bonds or other appreciated securities, insurance policies, retirement plans, art or antique collections, real estate or other assets. The gifts may be made through such vehicles as trusts, charitable gift annuities, a donor advised fund or a bequest in a will. Often a donor will meet with a financial planner to decide how to fund the gift."

Such thoughts as these are so deeply important in life. In terms of our church, endowments and memorials can keep giving long after the giver is no longer with us. Long after their earthly lives, their legacy continues to bless the church that they have loved and its ministry is financially supported for future generations.

It is all too easy in our busy lives to put off end-of-life planning. No matter what age we may be, we all tend to think we will have many years before we need to make such decisions. Most everyone agrees on the importance of having such a plan and the importance of having a will. The best thing is to start working on it. Get it created. Decisions can always be adjusted as life moves on. But having an estate plan in place is a great blessing both to the giver and the future recipients.

At FPC, those members who place the church in their wills or make a one-time gift of at least \$5,000 are recognized in our 1840 Legacy Society – so named because of the founding date of our church. Please let us know if this is true in your case and we'll be sure to list you as a member of this honored group so that you may be an inspiration to others.

Looking for Bible Study? We've got 2 on Wednesdays!



Join Pastor Sam from 9:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m. to study the Book of Isaiah. Then again from 6 p.m.–7 p.m. as the Book of Mark is discussed.

Both studies meet in the Pastor's Place; lower level.

Invite your friends and join us for a relaxed conversation about the Bible. For more info, contact Pastor Sam at 319-351-2660 or sam.massey@firstpreswacivcity.org



Needles, Hooks & Yarn

Mark your calendar to join us at FPC from 9–11 a.m. on Saturdays for the weekly gathering of this lively group who knit and crochet.

For more info: Tammy Schroeder 351-2660



The Deacons invite you to make a memorial donation in memory or in honor of the ones you love this Easter. Your gift of \$15 will help cover the cost of the plants purchased by the Deacons to be placed in the sanctuary to give glory to God! Any monetary gifts that exceed the cost of the flowers will be deposited in the Deacons' Emergency Relief Fund, where the funds are used to help others during times of hardship as God calls us all to do. Please note that the Deacons no longer deliver plants to members' homes after Easter. In order to use your gift as a tax deduction, members who make memorial gifts cannot reserve those plants to take home after the Easter service. **To make your gift, simply fill out the form at the table in the narthex and return it to the church office with your donation by April 5.**



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

Join us for an Easter Sunday Potluck Breakfast.
Beginning at 9 a.m. on Sunday, April 12, please bring a dish to share with FPC family and friends! We can't wait to see you then!

**Save the Date for
First Presbyterian's
1st All Church BBQ!**
There will be hamburgers, hot dogs, carnival games and more. All happening right after worship in the lower level parking lot!
Save the date and invite family and friends!
Sunday, May 17, 11:30 a.m.



*Happy Easter!
your FPC Staff*

First Presbyterian Church Staff

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