

June 9 — Pentecost Offering

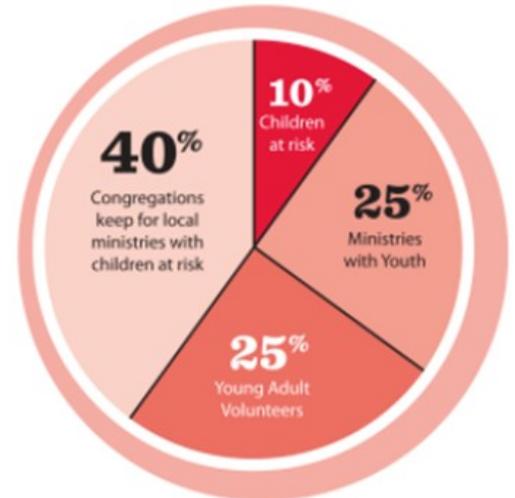
A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps FPC encourage, develop, and support its young people and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering will be sent to support Camp Wyoming, our local Presbyterian-run church camp.

Camp Wyoming is a place for young people to nourish a life of faith and to experience the presence of God in their lives in a natural setting. Camp Wyoming is able to extend the Presbyterian Church's Christian Education program beyond our individual church congregation. Camp Wyoming plays a pivotal role in the spiritual and personal development of young people throughout eastern Iowa. Camp Wyoming has had an impact on tens of thousands of children, youth, adults, and families since it began in 1960.

The remaining 60% of the Pentecost Offering is used to support the Presbyterian Mission Agency. The Pentecost offering is a Christian discipline of stewardship in which the whole church is able to act in witness to Jesus' injunction that "whoever welcomes one of these little ones, welcomes me."

Please consider making a special donation to support these ministries during the month of June. Pentecost offering envelopes will be available in the pews and at the Kiosk May 26–June 23.

For more information about the PC(USA) Pentecost Offering or to make an online donation visit <http://specialofferings.pcusa.org/pentecost>. For more information about Camp Wyoming or to make an online donation, visit <https://campwyoming.net/about/camp-wyoming/>




Justice June

what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?—Micah 6:8

Worship during the month of June will be about seeking justice for marginalized communities and people through prayer, song, and scripture.

- June 2: Disability Inclusion
- June 9: Day of Pentecost and cultural inclusion
- June 16: Trinity Sunday and LGBT+ justice
- June 23: Refugee and Immigrant justice
- June 30: Women's equality



Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day
Church Office Closed Fridays

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Dear sisters and brothers of First Presbyterian Church,

A friend of ours is preparing to go to seminary and has taken the time to read the *Theological Declaration of Barmen*, adopted the last three days of May 1934. By my count, that is 85 years ago this month. Theologian Karl Barth was the major author; that is to say, after a long conversation with his peers who left the room to take a nap one afternoon, Barth sat down and put all their thoughts together. The document was written to oppose Adolph Hitler, who had pulled off the economic miracle of a lifetime. Germany thrived, and people saw no problem in the merger of Christianity, politics and militarism that Hitler and his National Socialist party represented. Christians who called themselves evangelical, who were seen to be overly attached to an educated and deep reading of the Bible, begged to differ. Hitler's hate speech and militarism were bothersome. Yet, to be clear, these evangelical Christians were especially concerned about Hitler's decision to make himself virtual pope over all the churches. By the time they found their voice to oppose Hitler's more draconian policies, they were in the camps with Jews, gays, gypsies, Freemasons, socialists and others whom Hitler distrusted. It was the "liberals" of that age who sided with Hitler. Without any transcendent moral commitments other than the German state, they embraced whatever benefited them. Keep in mind that by 1934, German Christians and churches were badly divided over Hitler, including his hate speech and his policies.

It is a dangerous position to read our current situation as being exactly like that of pre-war Germany. For example, the word "evangelical" has been co-opted by persons with theological and political positions that feel pretty dangerous: Their assertion that the present government is God's will echoes the liberal theologians of Hitler's Germany. Meanwhile, "liberal" in our country often means singularly irreligious and often equated with one political party, making any candidate of that party who is willing to speak freely about his or her faith an anomaly: perhaps a bit dangerous, too.

Nevertheless, Christians of every generation should be conscious of Jesus' warning found in Matthew 6:24–33; 7:15–23:

No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth. Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the

grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you— you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorns, or figs from thistles? In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will know them by their fruits. Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many deeds of power in your name?' Then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; go away from me, you evildoers.'

Jesus knows that deceitful people will speak freely of God in one breath; then they will seek to seduce the unwary with promises of wealth and security in the next one. In the same sermon from which I quote above, Jesus also said this: "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it."

The small group of German evangelicals who protested Hitler in 1934 had the following to say in the Barmen Declaration, and it is worth reading in my opinion:

In view of the errors of the "German Christians" and of the present Reich Church Administration, which are ravaging the Church and at the same time also shattering the unity of the German Evangelical Church, we confess the following evangelical truths:

"I am the Way and the Truth and the Life; no one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6

"Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved." John 10:1, 9

Jesus Christ, as he is attested to us in Holy Scripture, is the one Word of God whom we have to hear, and

(Pastor Sam cont. on page 6)



FPC — Continuing to Build Community with Habitat for Humanity

As part of our Capital Campaign's "Mission Tithe" since 2017, First Presbyterian Church (FPC) has contributed \$45,000 to Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity to help fund both Interfaith and Women Build projects. This spring and summer, we'll be mobilizing FPC members and friends to volunteer for the following building projects. Please consider joining together with others to help on these projects by volunteering to work on a morning or afternoon shift, Thursdays through Saturdays

The Interfaith Build

Since March 30, small numbers of FPC and St. Andrew members have joined with others from Christian, Muslim and Hindu faiths to build walls for our Interfaith Build home at 2774 Blazing Star Dr., Iowa City (and its adjacent zero lot line Interfaith neighbor).



Since 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.

For more information about the Habitat Interfaith Committee, go to: <https://www.iowavalleyhabitat.org/interfaith-committee.html>. To register as Interfaith volunteer builder, go to <https://build.iowavalleyhabitat.org/charities/5390/volunteer>.

The Doris Preucil Women Build

The Women Build program engages and empowers 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 11th 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.

For more information on the Women Build go, to: <https://www.iowavalleyhabitat.org/women-build.html>. To register as a Women Build volunteer builder, go to: <https://build.iowavalleyhabitat.org/charities/5390/volunteer>.

On Saturday, May 4, The Women Build committee hosted the Christine Grant 5k Run / Walk event at Terry Trueblood Park. 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. Hundreds of volunteers, walkers and runners enjoyed a beautiful spring day for this event. Proceeds from this event support construction of the Women Build home.

Questions about FPC's involvement with Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity can be directed to John Barr at BarrJohnO@sau.edu



Mark your
Calendar



FPC Men's Group will be taking a summer break. Our last gathering until fall will be Wednesday, May 22. Any questions should be directed to John Barr at barrjohno@sau.edu

FPC Book Club Invites You to Join Us

May 29, *A Long, Long Way* by Sebastian Barry

We gather at Legacy Pointe (1020 S. Scott Blvd) on the last Wednesday of the month from noon to 1 p.m. Bring your lunch and share in the conversation.

New members are always welcome. For more information, contact Jan Walker, 358-6737.



Domestic
Violence
Intervention
Program

FPC proudly supports the efforts of DVIP and is hosting a Summer Collection Drive. Check the "Needs" list attached to the round tub located under the Reconciliation bulletin board in Ryerson Fellowship Hall.

Items needed:

- Personal Care items
- Non perishable Food
- Baby formula & diapers/wipes
- Coffee & creamer
- Allergy meds & Antacids
- XL twin bed sheets

Join this group of knowledge seekers on Wednesday mornings from 9:30–10:30 a.m. in Coover Lounge. This Bible Study is lead by Pastor Sam.



Stop in May 22 and 29 to check it out before the summer break. Study resumes September 25. For more info, contact Pastor Sam at sam.massey@firstpreswacivity.org.

Pastor Sam's Time Away

By the time you receive this communication, Pastor Sam will have completed one week of his study leave May 13-17, and plans to vacation beginning mid-July through mid-August. He thanks the staff and guest pastors from our congregation who will be filling the pulpit during this latter period. They are Paul Akin, Dana Martin, Anna Sheetz and Layne Sheetz. Pastor Sam also thanks the congregation and officers for their patience as he pursues much needed education and relaxation.

Join First Pres
at Pride

June 15, 2019



Parade is at noon
Festival is 1–6 p.m.

Anyone who wants to show the love of God to people in the LGBTQ+ community who have been hurt by religion are encouraged to attend.

Contact Jamie at Jamieraye@gmail.com or stop by the sign-up table starting May 12.

First's Family

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

May 15-31

5/16 Faraja Bigaba
 5/21 Leticia Mahinga
 5/22 Jim Claypool
 5/23 Nancy Gardner
 5/25 Ila Howe
 5/25 Aziza Bigaba
 5/26 Kathy Follows
 5/26 Ann Robinson
 5/27 Chris Miller
 5/27 Brian Morris
 5/30 Jane Cranston
 5/30 Brenda Bradley
 5/31 Ann Feddersen

June

6/3 Dale Kraus
 6/3 Karen Hurt
 6/3 Amy Fletcher
 6/4 Alice Martin
 6/6 Rebecca Bigaba
 6/7 Susan Massey
 6/8 Jennifer Adams
 6/9 Arielle Soemadi
 6/11 LeeAnn Koch
 6/12 Paul Maxwell

6/12 Don Ross
 6/13 Randy Howe
 6/15 Dale Sheets
 6/15 Emmanuel Kunangika
 6/16 Lara Marsh
 6/16 Marta Muilenburg
 6/16 Jocelen Hamilton
 6/17 Warren Jensen
 6/19 Kathryn Feagins
 6/20 Nancy Warren
 6/20 Roxanne Gustaveson
 6/20 Amy Dunkle
 6/21 Gwyneth Forsythe
 6/22 Ruth Westfall
 6/22 Lydia Smith
 6/23 Sue Maccarillo
 6/23 Brent Morgan
 6/23 Jack Degner
 6/25 Pete Van Gerpen
 6/25 Layne Sheetz
 6/25 Israel Mahinga
 6/28 Pauline Miller
 6/29 Laura Dowd
 6/29 Elliott Soemadi

July 1-16

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

Heartfelt 
THANKS
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS! This church would not succeed without your amazing work, humble service, and beautiful wisdom. We will celebrate YOU on Sunday, May 19. Join us after worship with a delicious cake to celebrate the end of this sweet educational year!



Known to have been Hospitalized:
Dottie Hoak, Eric Scholtz, John Raffensperger and Jason Weeks.



Our condolences to:
 Sharon Raffensperger and family of **John Raffensperger**, who passed away April 22. His service was held at FPC on April 29 and was led by Pastor Sam



from Congregational Health Ministry Team

What is an "advance directive?" What is a "health care agent?" The terms are quite confusing. Here are some definitions that may help you with some important decisions about your health care options.

Advance Directive: a legal document signed by a competent person to provide guidance for medical and health-care decisions (such as the termination of life support or organ donation) in the event the person becomes incompetent to make such decisions.

Living Will: a document in which the signer requests to be allowed to die rather than be kept alive by artificial means if disabled beyond a reasonable expectation of recovery.

Palliative Care: medical and related care provided to a patient with a serious, life-threatening, or terminal illness that is not intended to provide curative treatment but rather to manage symptoms, relieve pain and discomfort, improve quality of life, and meet the emotional, social, and spiritual needs of the patient.

Hospice: a program designed to provide palliative care and emotional support to the terminally ill in a home or homelike setting so that quality of life is maintained and family members may be active participants in care.

Health Care Agent: one who is authorized to make health care decisions for or in the place of another, who is

incapable of making those decisions. This is also referred to as the Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care.

Honoring Your Wishes (HYW) is a community-wide program to address the advance directives of all adults, aged 18 years and older. The FPC HYW facilitators will be holding INFORMATIONAL sessions once a month during the summer and fall months. This is meant to be an informal session when we can give you information, and address questions. Anyone may come, as many times as you would like!

Sessions will be held in Coover Lounge after worship on the second Sunday of the month, starting on June 9.

FPC Honoring Your Wishes Facilitators:

Rhonda Barr, Cell: 319-936-5998
Email: JOBTENNIS@mchsi.com

Sue Van Duyn-Phipps, Cell: 515-205-3576
Email: susanvdphipps@gmail.com

Maeleen Thorius, Cell: 319-541-3161
Email: mthorius@southslope.net

*"I enthusiastically appreciate FPC offering to help fill a long-identified need. The quality of life questions certainly prompted thought! And I thought all was already covered with my health care directives."
Ann Grosscup*

(Pastor Sam cont. from page 2)

whom we have to trust and obey in life and in death. We reject the false doctrine that the Church could and should recognize as a source of its proclamation, beyond and besides this one Word of God, other events, powers, historic figures and truths as God's revelation.

As political candidates visit Iowa this summer through caucus time, many citizens will get sucked in by a message of economic prosperity papered over with religious language: "Lord, Lord." Not only will money and security be put on the table, but so will other very suspect and selfish incentives, all in the name of Jesus. We might consider how even secular authors are starting to squirm about what comes next:

Proximity to an amoral leader reveals something depressing. Accomplished people lacking inner strength can't resist the compromises necessary to survive [such a leader], and that adds up to something they will never recover from. It starts with your sitting silent while [the leader] lies, both in public and private, making you complicit by your silence. In meetings, assertions about

what "everyone thinks" and what is "obviously true" wash over you, unchallenged . . . all of those present (participate in) a silent circle of assent. Of course, to stay [on the] team, you make further compromises. You use [the leader's] language, praise [the leader's] leadership, tout [the leader's] commitment to values. And then you are lost. [The leader] has eaten your soul. (May 2, 2019 New York Times editorial)

These are times that will either eat our souls or prove them faithful. You might do an ethical inventory and consider to whose voice you are listening. Please don't be naïve, either accepting uncritically someone's profession of faith or rejecting someone out of hand because he or she does use faith categories that both you. Engage the speaker, look at the fruit of that person's life (especially if they advocate for justice, mercy and faith, as Jesus did; also check out Matthew 23:23), accept that no politician is a messiah and be prepared to hold anyone for whom you vote accountable.

Love and blessings, your pastor, Sam

Congratulations

Class of 2019



Josh Fletcher is the son of Amy and Jeremy Fletcher. He has an older brother, Erick, who will be a senior at Coe College next fall.

Josh was in second grade when he and his family joined the FPC community and has been active in the life of the church from the start. He has been a regular participant in Sunday School, Youth Group, and the youth choirs. He was confirmed in 2014. Through Youth Group, Josh has participated in many service opportunities and mission trips. Most memorable are trips to serve with The Door in Chicago and on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota. Our family is thankful for the loving environment the FPC community has provided for Josh and the rest of our youth. So many of you have played an important role in helping Josh grow in his faith.

Josh is graduating from City High School, where he has been an excellent student, enjoying math and science in particular. He ran cross country for four years and was a team captain this year. He also ran middle and long distances in track for three years. Josh played

several villainous roles in City High School's performance of *Les Miserables* this spring. While these characters are nothing like the Josh we all know, he had a lot of fun participating in his first musical. Josh's passion is playing the trumpet. For four years, he has played in City High School's marching band, concert bands, and jazz bands. He is the principal/first trumpet in both the Wind Ensemble and Jazz Ensemble and was a member of the All-State Concert Band. Josh has been taking private lessons from Dennis Pedde for several years. Thanks, Dennis!

Josh will attend Iowa State University next year, where he will study engineering. He is particularly interested in aerospace engineering and plans to continue playing trumpet in one of Iowa State's concert and/or jazz bands.



**Miss someone?
Please let us know!**

If you are traveling this summer, in your absence please make sure you continue to support First Presbyterian Church financially. Thank you!



The "Pirate's Cove; X Marks the Spot" Vacation Bible eXperience this year is created by Anna and Layne Sheetz for FPC Iowa City.

It's all ... About ... WOMEN!

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!

Enroll Online today at www.firstpresioiwacity.org on the Youth Ministry page



Worship & Arts Ministry

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



Thank you to everyone who participated in worship music leadership this year! The volunteers who gave of their time and talents to serve in Sanctuary Choir, Youth Choir, JuBELLation, FPC Brass and Woodwind ensembles, Churchestra and soloists have helped to provide meaningful worship throughout the year. God bless you and see you in the fall!

Summer soloists

Our singing and instrumental choirs graciously provide worship leadership from September through June. For the Sundays from June 16–Sept. 1, they will get a well-deserved vacation. During that time we welcome soloists to provide music each Sunday for our 10:30 a.m. service. Adults who have musical gifts you'd like to share, whether vocal or instrumental, college students home for the summer, children and youth who have appropriate repertoire for worship—all are welcome to sign up for a Sunday of music leadership. There is a sign-up sheet on the choir room door (down the hall near the bathrooms), or you may contact Leah Bergman at 351-2660 or leah.bergman@firstpresbiowacity.org.



Summer "Drop-In" Choir

Are you interested in singing in choir but don't have the time to commit during the year? Have you wanted to give it a try but feel intimidated? Do you want to try something new and creative with a low commitment this summer? Come on the first Sunday of the summer months (with the exception of June—that month we sing June 9) to the FPC summer "Drop-In" choir!

When: Sundays June 9, July 7, August 4, and September 1

Time: 9:15 a.m.

How: Just show up on Sunday morning at 9:15 a.m. We will learn an easy, fun, accessible piece of music and then sing it during worship that day!

Who: Anyone willing to give this a try. Ages 10 and up welcome!

Bring friends and family and have fun making music with one another!

Iowa City Flute Choir Concert, Sunday, June 2 at 6 p.m. First Presbyterian Church

The Iowa City Flute Choir is a semi-professional flute choir made up of local professionals and adult amateurs in Iowa City and the surrounding areas. In November 2018, ICFC was formed by a group of four professional flutists (Rose Bishop, Dr. Keith Hanlon, Heather Neuenschwander and Liz Vergili) with the purpose of creating a fun, low-stress flute ensemble that still can perform with high standards. The group has quickly grown in popularity and expanded to include piccolo, C flute, alto flute, bass flute, and contra bass flute.



Visit the Prayer Center and Labyrinth

Prayer Center

The prayer center is open to all who are seeking a calm environment for prayer and reflection. It is available any time the church is open for anyone who needs a few moments of quiet, guided prayer, and meditation.

The prayer center also contains many take-home ideas for ways to incorporate prayer into your everyday life as an individual and as a family.

The prayer center is located on the lower level at the end of the right-hand hallway (just past the family resource room).

Labyrinth



Did you know that the church has a labyrinth and meditation garden located at the bottom of the parking lot?

You might consider making a ritual of visiting and walking the labyrinth this summer. If you live close by, make it your mid-week devotion. Or, in the absence of pre-worship activities this summer, come early on a Sunday and ready yourself for worship by walking the labyrinth.

Not sure what to do?

How to Walk a Labyrinth

1. Enter the space slowly, calming and clearing your mind.
2. You may choose to use a repeated prayer, mantra or chant.
3. Open your senses and focus on the process of taking slow and deliberate steps.
4. Bring to mind a prayer or spiritual question to contemplate during the walk to the center.
5. Reaching the center, pause to reflect, pray, listen for an answer or for deeper revelation.
6. Now begin the return journey.
7. Pray or reflect further.
8. Upon exiting, use further reflection, prayer, or journaling to absorb the experience.

The Five Finger Prayer



2019 Communion Dates:

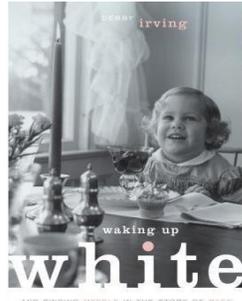
January 13	Baptism of the Lord
February 10	5th Sunday after Epiphany
March 3	Transfiguration
April 18	Maundy Thursday
April 20	Great Vigil of Easter
May 12	Eastertide IV
June 9	Pentecost Sunday



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

BOOK CLUB

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



This group will meet from 6:30–8 p.m. on Sundays from June 9–August 4. This class is open to high school teens to adults. We will meet in Coover. Please contact Layne at Layne.Sheetz@firstpresbiowacity.org if you would like to join us!



Summer Nights is a gathering that meets during the summer. The idea is to give families a chance to get to know each other better while also making space for their kids to play!

If you are interested or have questions, please talk to Layne or email him at layne.sheetz@firstpresbiowacity.org

Save the Date for the kick-off of this ministry on Friday, May 31 at the Sheetz's house for dinner and a campfire!



FOUNDATION

Foundation Bible Study is a **Summer Sunday morning Bible Study**. Based on the concept of *Lectio Divina*, this will be an opportunity for all ages to discuss the Bible in a whole new way. This is a flexible study for flexible summer schedules. Each Sunday during the Summer from June 2–August 18, we'll work through the Bible – from Genesis to Revelation. We'll meet from 9:30–10:15 a.m. in Coover Lounge. A light breakfast will be available.

YOUTH

May 16, 2019; 6-8:30 p.m.

Join us as we wrap up the youth group year. We'll discuss the joys, junk, and Jesus in both our large group and small group.

May 23, 2019; 6-8:30 p.m.

Bring a potluck dish to share and get ready for the BIGGEST.GAME.YET! Families are invited to join, and drivers will be needed. Bring running shoes and get ready to rumbbleee!

We'll miss you over the summer, but check out the Out & About, the Potluck Movie Nights, and the VBX Schedule!

Youth Group will resume again Thursday, August 22 from 6-8:30 p.m.

OUT & ABOUT

Youth are invited to join Layne Sheetz Summer Mondays at 11 a.m. for an Out & About Bible Study. We'll meet at various places around town. Email Layne.Sheetz@firstpresbiowacity.org for more details.

Do you have any Legos that you'd like to donate? Parents' Night Out is in need of more Legos for all the creative construction that takes place each month. Please contact Nancy Gardner at nancy.hayes.gardner@gmail.com if you have Legos that need a new home! Thank you!





SUPER SUMMER ADVENTURES

This Summer, we have two SUPER SUMMER ADVENTURES!

On Monday, June 10, we will go to **LOST ISLAND WATER PARK!** Tickets are \$27 and lunch is on your own.

On Monday, August 19, we will go to **ADVENTURELAND.** Tickets are \$45 and do include lunch.

Please RSVP to Anna Sheetz by Sunday, May 23 if you are interested.

*Drivers are needed for these events, especially so adults. Please consider joining us for these fun days in the sun!

End Of Summer Camping Trip

Lake MacBride Camp Ground

August 23–25
Due to this being a busy weekend, the final date to sign up is Sunday, June 13.

block PARTY

Kick off your Summer Block Party Saturday with **FPC's First Neighborhood Block Party!**

Join us from 1–3 p.m. on Saturday, June 22 for some tasty summertime treats, water games, and family fun! Bring the whole crew and set up shop on our lawn with a picnic of your own or just come for the snacks and games before you head downtown for the **Iowa City Block Party!** For questions, please contact Layne.Sheetz@firstpresiwacity.org.

It All Started with Her; It All Started with a Hero



A look at Women in film. Join us for a Potluck Dinner and movie night in the Youth Room beginning at 5 p.m.

- Thursday, June 27; *Wonder Woman*
- Thursday, July 11; *Captain Marvel*
- Thursday, July 25; *Black Panther*
- August 15; *Hidden Figures*

Community Prayer Post



Coming Soon!

Keep an eye open for the new prayer post that FPC is sharing with the community (located on Rochester Ave.).

Here is how it works — Open the mailbox and write your prayers on the slips provided, place them in the secure slot and release your concerns. Think of this as a mailbox to God!

The prayers will be collected and shared on Sundays.

Information about FPC and what we offer will be available inside the mail box.

This Outreach initiative has been funded by your generous financial support of the 2019 budget.

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>.)

Frequently, there’s a tension between culture and faith—due in large part to a difference in foundational principles. Whereas the culture emphasizes earning what you get (fairness) with the goal being success (winning), faith accentuates grace (unmerited favor) with its goal being faithfulness (steadfastness). Living in both worlds can be akin to a person with one foot on a boat and the other on the dock. If the boat drifts enough, maintaining the stance becomes untenable.

The scripture scribes may have had this tension in mind when they wrote about being in the world but not of the world. And

there may be times when we want to put both feet on the boat to see where the drifting takes us, while other times both feet on the dock seems more enticing. Framed yet another way: when the other driver is pulled over by the law for some infraction, we may want justice (fairness). But if we are pulled over, we often long for mercy (grace).

So, the issue becomes: how do we structure accountability while allowing for second chances? How do responsibility and forgiveness travel together? Sometimes mental health therapy facilitates the discovery of answers. And other times it assists with clarifying the questions. *Bruce*

Youth Triennium Schedule



Saturday, June 8, 3-5 p.m.

FPC will host the Triennium Mixer. Please save the date and join us so you can meet the members of the Eastern Iowa delegation!

Saturday, July 13, 10-2 p.m.

Travel to the Presbytery picnic, where the delegation will be prayed over and blessed.

Sunday, July 14

Please join us at Church so the community of FPC can bless our time at Triennium.

Tuesday, July 16, early

Times will be narrowed down but please come to FPC and we will journey to Davenport together. *ADULT DRIVERS NEEDED to transport the 10 people to Davenport.

PARTY, WORSHIP, LEARN for 4 DAYS

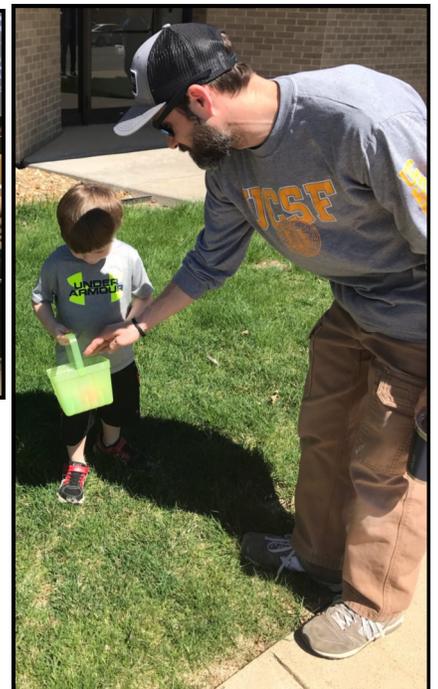
Saturday, July 20, late

*ADULT DRIVERS NEEDED to pick 10 people up from Davenport. I expect to be at FPC by 8 p.m. Times will be narrowed down as we get closer to date.



The Free Community Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 20 was a HUGE HIT! With over 1,000 eggs hid around the grounds of FPC, we had a lot to offer! Over 200 people attended this event, with the far majority being our neighbors. It was a wonderful example of community—older kids sharing their eggs with smaller kids and strangers becoming friends. We look forward to hosting this event next year—with a few tweaks!

A special “Thank You” to Layne Sheetz, Jamie Helmick, Cathe Franz, Michelle Bessman, Ryan Brentner, Nile Franz, Charlie Faden, Kenneth Noble, and Lily Chong, for all their incredible help!



Welcome New Members, April 14, 2019



Congratulations to our 2019 Confirmands!

This graduating Confirmation class was the largest class that I, Anna, have ever taught here at First Presbyterian Church. We used the most recent PC(USA) Confirmation material, *Big God, Big Questions*, and it was well-received by mentors and teachers alike!

Welcome to the FPC Family!

Braden Brentner, son of Stephanie and Jonathan Brentner (Perry Ross); **Jack Degner**, son of Kate and Matt Degner (Jeremy Fletcher); **Evelyn Greimann**, daughter of Chris and Chad Greimann (Lara Marsh); **Max Jacobus**, son of Laura and Jim Jacobus (Tom Martin); **Grace Kirschling**, daughter of Jen and Brian Kirschling (Nancy Ross); **Elaine Suh**, daughter of Hong Suh and Sunhyoung Lee (Mary Linn) (not pictured)



Needles, Hooks and Yarn Summer Schedule

Mark your calendar to join us at FPC 9–11 a.m.
on Saturday June 8, July 13, & Aug. 10.
(We will resume meeting weekly Sept. 14.)

For more info, call Tammy Schroeder, 351-2660.



April Session Highlights

~submitted by Ann Grosscup, Clerk of Session



At 6 p.m., Pastor Sam called the special session meeting to order with prayer before a potluck meal was shared with Confirmands, their parents, sponsors, and staff.

The Confirmand's sponsors introduced the youth, reviewed their mutual learning and recommended FPC membership. The Confirmands then shared their written statement of faith, memorized Bible passage and project.

Confirmands and sponsors were as follows: Braden Brentner / Perry Ross, Jack Degner / Jeremy Fletcher, Maxwell Jacobus / Tom Martin, Evelyn Greimann / Lara Marsh, Grace Kirschling / Nancy Ross, Elaine Suh / Mary Linn

Elders posed faith questions to the Confirmands and Pastor Sam led membership vows before session motion to receive into membership passed. Anna Sheetz closed with prayer, then elders congratulated each youth individually.

At 8 p.m., a quorum was declared for the stated session meeting before Pastor Sam Massey lit the Christ candle. Michelle Bessman opened the meeting with devotions. The reading reminded us, as Christ's disciples, to act in our everyday lives when we witness social injustice. She then led prayer.

Written reports were electronically shared prior to the meeting: Clerk's, Pastor's, Equipping Ministry, REALM Planning, Reconciliation Ministry, Administration and Personnel Cluster and Deacons.

March 2019 financials were presented. Approval was not recommended; software issues continue. With tax season now over, it is anticipated resolution will forthcoming. The Walker Trust annual amount remains unknown. The first quarter revenue is a bit behind but Finance is not overly concerned as of yet. Building and Grounds Cluster going over budget is of concern due to the frequency of needed snow removal in the first quarter and lawn service hasn't taken any funds yet. The Building Fund's cumulative reserve of \$10,000 may not cover the anticipated overage. On the positive side, boiler repairs this year should be null.

Pastor Sam relayed he is planning to begin conducting roughly 40 home communions the week after Easter. Time for reading in preparation of sermons was also noted. Elders' attention was called to the professional education dollars already spent to take advantage of early registration for two upcoming conferences, conflict management plus connecting nature with faith.

Approved motions:

- Revised minutes of stated session meeting March 19, 2019.
- Dates for the 2019 *Special PC(USA) Offerings*: April 14, One Great Hour of Sharing; June 9, Pentecost; October 6, Peace and Witness; December 15, Christmas Joy.

- The Commission's recommendation that Becca Morgan be ordained and installed as deacon.
- New member meeting minutes, April 14, 2019.
- Ordination and installation of Leann Graves, elder, and Becca Morgan, deacon, on Sunday, May 19, 2019.
- The Session / Recommendation endorsing Chitoka Webb as an Inquirer in the Presbytery of East Iowa.
- Friends of Pasrur to offer the congregation the opportunity to contribute to the Scholarship Fund for the 100 girls who live in the Boarding House at the Pasrur Christian Girls' School, as well as the Scholarship Fund for the girls who continue on to secondary education, *up to four times yearly*.
- Reconciliation Ministry recommends Deacon Steph Paulsen inform the congregation of the scheduled deportation of her student's family, legal efforts to reverse asylum status denial, and how the congregation may provide financial assistance to help defray expenses.
- The second annual Burns Dinner to be held Saturday, January 25, 2020, with proceeds to help defray expenses incurred during the implementation of the child protection policy.
- Elect Elder Rhonda Barr to serve as Chitoka Webb's liaison during her Inquirer status.
- Elect Ruling Elder Dwight Miller to be a presbytery commissioner. Richard Van Rheeden was thanked for his service.
- Equipping Ministry recommends the following:
 - a. Equipping Ministry recommends that all Staff Members go through the Safe Gatherings training.
 - b. Equipping Ministry recommends that all volunteers:
 - i. Get a background check through the program already in use. Tammy Foster will keep these records, as she is doing currently.
 - ii. Receive a PDF file or a printed copy of the Policy. Volunteers will need to read through this, understand the expectations, and covenant to abide by this policy. Staff will be responsible for ongoing training for their volunteers. Tammy Foster will also attach the signed covenant with their background check in her files.
 - ii. If there is a less frequent program, such as VBX, etc., there will be a training session on the policy before the program begins.
 - iv. If there is a change in the policy or new information is

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added, there will be a training session with volunteers.

c. Approval to volunteer will be given to those who pass their background check and return their signed policy in an appropriate time.

d. This will be implemented beginning in August 2019.

Anna Sheetz was tasked with working with Tammy Foster to secure background checks under lock and key.

All staff (12) going through Safe Gatherings at \$40/person will cost \$480. The Department of Human Services (DHS) annual cost of \$170 for background checks is already in the Equipping Ministry budget. Volunteers for the purpose of a required clean background check are: Youth Group Leaders, Parents Night Out volunteers and VBS volunteers. Ministry members providing Thursday night Youth Group meal will not be considered volunteers in need of a background check.

The concern was shared that a committee approve a person to volunteer when the background checks shows a flagged record. The current practice will continue: a red flag on the background check excludes volunteering.

Equipping Ministry will communicate the implementation of the revised Child and Youth Policy to the congregation through bulletin and newsletter.

- The Fundraising Task Force recommends that 2019 Burns Dinner proceeds (\$1,318.05) be directed toward costs of implementing the Child and Youth Protection Policy.

Other business:

Richard Van Rheeden was tasked to put together a proposal for May session meeting regarding the needed upgrade of the internal server system for optimal livestreaming.

Our individual mobile devices tap the wifi bandwidth to the extent that the worship livestreaming suffers. There was discussion about adding a technology upgrade to the Capital Campaign (approximately \$240.)

Steve Smith reminded of Zoom training at May's session meeting. He will email instructions beforehand though assured using Zoom is easy, user-friendly. Elders were reminded to bring a mobile device to the May session meeting to learn video conferencing. He also noted the community's Active Shooter training was cancelled; he will pursue training elsewhere.

Noted the poor quality of the sanctuary pews as the removed pews were examined.

Inviting the City High football team to help, as a community service project, to help unload the pumpkins for the Dodekah Ministry fundraiser was suggested.

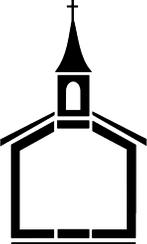
Tony Warren closed with prayer.

Next Special session meeting: Sunday, May 5, 2019, after Chili Cook-off

Next Stated session meeting will be held May 21, 2019, 7 p.m. in Coover Lounge

Ed Cranston has opening devotions and prayer; Leann Graves closes session meeting with prayer.

Session will be meeting with Anna Sheetz based on her request to pursue Inquirer status in the Presbytery of East Iowa.

MONEY  **MATTERS**

Larry Bruner, Treasurer

	Contributions	Misc. Income <small>Building Use, Walker Trust, Bank interest, etc.</small>	Total Income	Total Expenses	Over/Short
1st Quarter	\$143,771.09	\$727.50	\$144,498.59	\$166,645.80	-\$22,147.21
April	\$47,846.34	\$331.30	\$48,177.64	\$54,720.14	-\$6,542.50
2019 Totals	\$191,617.43	\$1,058.80	\$192,676.23	\$221,365.94	-\$28,689.71

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Summer Public Office Hours:

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday – Thursday

Ph 319-351-2660 www.firstpresioiowacity.org

Except holidays or when announced

FPC Elevator Project Placed on Pause

On Wednesday, May 1, two formal bids for construction of an elevator at FPC (running from the lower level to the choir loft) were submitted. Both bids greatly exceeded the cost of the project as estimated by our design consulting firm, RDG, to be \$345,000. As a result, the Capital Campaign Implementation Taskforce (CCIT) and the Buildings & Grounds Committee recommended to Session that both of these bids be rejected due to their much higher than expected costs. In a special meeting on May 5, Session approved this recommendation. These actions rule out the construction of our elevator in 2019.

During the week of May 6, RDG's Dan Rice will be initiating interaction with the two construction firms that submitted bids in order to determine the basis for discrepancies from his estimate, possible other reasons for higher than anticipated bid costs, and possible savings. Further, he will reassess RDG's own estimate.

Based on the findings from this analysis and the financial status of the Capital Campaign, it is anticipated that our new goal will be to complete the elevator project in 2020. The bid process would begin much earlier in order to increase the number of viable bidders. Construction would begin after Easter and conclude by the end of October, 2020. Please keep the successful completion of this project in your prayers.

Questions or comments may be sent to John Barr, CCIT chair, at BarrJohnO@sau.edu.

Memorial Funds at Work at FPC

Over the years First Presbyterian Church has been blessed by many memorial gifts. Designating the church as a beneficiary of memorial gifts is a way of making a personal faith statement. It gives your friends and family the opportunity to contribute to a cause that has been important to you throughout your life. Many times, funeral plans are made quickly. You can help your family and your church family by setting your memorial wishes up in advance.

You may or may not have noticed, but improvements are being made to the lower west entrance of the church. Old worn-out shrubs have been removed, a drainage problem has been corrected, fresh mulch has been laid and stones have been added and reset. New shrubs, perennials and a memorial bench will be added soon, perhaps by the time you read this article.

This project was made possible by memorial funds, generously given in memory of Joe Zajicek and Richard and Estyl Breazeale. These improvements will be enjoyed for years to come.

Consider designating First Presbyterian Church as the recipient of memorial gifts when making funeral plans — inform your family and friends of your final wishes. These gifts may be Non-Designated or be Designated for a specific program or use within the church.

Our church has purchased many useful and meaningful items with memorial funds. Some examples of these include:
Automatic Door Openers — In Memory of Grace Olmstead
Meditation Garden Roses — In Memory of Bill Terry
Family Parking signs — In Memory of Bob and MaryAnn Woodburn
Free Lunch aprons — In Memory of Cedric Lee
Trees — In Memory of Toni DeRyke and Michael Morrison and Bonita Swails

The Endowment and Memorial Committee is happy to answer questions you may have about Memorial gifts. We encourage you to include FPC when making your future plans.

Millie and Bob Youngquist, Endowment/Memorial Coordinators and The FPC Endowment/Memorial Committee

***"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."
Matthew 6:21***

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