

FIRST'S FAMILY



May 15 — June 15
2021
Volume 66 Issue 5

Are you interested in contributing to our online worship?

Contact Leah Bergman at leah.bergman@firstpreswacivcity.org and she can help match you with a Sunday and the scripture lessons that go along with it. Then you'll record yourself at home, send her the video and she will incorporate it into the worship service for that Sunday!

Here are some ways you could offer to volunteer during this time:

- Read or act out one or more of the scripture lessons for the day
- Read a prayer or other part of the liturgy for the day
- Play or sing some special music
- Dance, draw, paint, take a picture

We are especially looking for those who like to lead hymns either vocally or on instruments.



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We don't want you to miss a thing...



Please take a moment to review your information on My First Pres. Has your phone

number changed? Email? Have you moved? Is your birthday listed? Do you have a family photo to add?

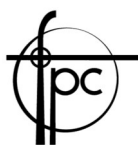
See the back page of this month's Newsletter for step-by-step directions on how to log on to My First Pres.

Need help? Forgot your password? Contact Tammy Schroeder at tammy.schroeder@firstpreswacivcity.org or by calling the church office at 319-351-2660

Evening Prayer Service via Zoom Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.

Evening Prayer services will continue on Wednesday evenings on Zoom. These are evening prayer services from 7:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m. consisting of prayer, scripture, simple sung responses, and silence.

Check the FPC Daily email and Facebook, or contact Leah at leah.bergman@firstpreswacivcity.org for Zoom login information.



Dear Members and Friends,

Message from Pastor

Will you join me for two Bible studies – May 27 and June 3?

The first is “So, You Think You Know the Old Testament!” I think you’ll be in for a surprise in this study of Genesis 38, Judges 19 and 2 Samuel 13. Read them. See if you can see any connection between them or come up with some thoughts about why these particular stories are included in the Old Testament.

This class will be Thursday, May 27, at 7 p.m. via zoom. All you’ll need for the class is to have a Bible nearby and a willingness “to go where no one (well, only a few hundred) has gone before.”

The second Bible study, Thursday, June 3, will draw on an aria (“Vissi d’arte” from the opera Tosca), a song (Bring Him Home from Les Miserables), a rap (Fear) from Pulitzer Prize winning rapper Kendrick Lamar, and the Psalms.

This class will also be at 7 p.m. via zoom. You might listen ahead of time, but that’s not necessary.

What can I tell you about these studies except that the first Bible study was an eye opener for me and the second builds around music that never fails to move me to tears.

These studies will take an hour, give or take depending on what happens in our conversation.

With gratitude,

Terry
he/him

FPC Congregational Health Ministry Team

Are you vaccinated for CoVID-19?

It is now easier than ever, and the vaccine supply is plentiful! While vaccines are offered to all people 16 years and older, there will soon be vaccines for children 12 to 15 years of age.

Please consider getting yours SOON, so we can more safely join together to worship at FPC (hopefully very soon)!

Where to get a vaccine:

Hy-Vee Pharmacies – walk-ins and appointments.

CVS Pharmacies – walk-ins and appointments.

Towncrest Pharmacy – scheduled appointments

Nu-Cara – scheduled appointments

Costco Pharmacy – scheduled appointments

North Liberty Pharmacy – scheduled appointments

Mercy Hospital – scheduled appointments

UIHC – scheduled appointments (My Chart)

Go to: [Vaccinate.iowa.gov](https://vaccinate.iowa.gov) to find your closest vaccination provider. If you don’t have internet, or need assistance, you can call 211 or (800)244-7431.

Questions? Call, email or text me.

Rhonda Barr, rhondabarr75@gmail.com or 319-936-5998



JJ DeRyke to be Honored by Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity

Long-time FPC member the late JJ “Jake” DeRyke will be honored this summer by the Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity (IVHH) for his numerous involvements with Habitat for Humanity, both locally and out-of-state.

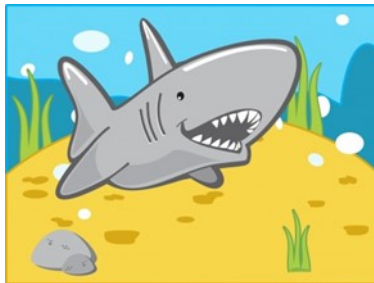
In a meeting on April 23rd arranged by FPC’s Reconciliation Ministry, IVHH Executive Director Heath Brewer noted that they will be using a new procedure for the upcoming construction of five homes in the Iowa City area. These homes will be prefabricated off-site and then set on locally-installed foundations. Garages will then be constructed onsite.

Heath and his staff plan to encourage FPC member participation in the construction of a garage in Jake’s honor that will be dedicated in a formal ceremony this summer. Further details, including the construction schedule, are pending. During our recently concluded Capital Campaign, FPC members helped fund and build three IVHH homes on Blazing Star Drive in Iowa City.



Shark Tank with a Twist!


Background: This past winter, FPC sponsored two Black business entrepreneurs, Rachael Scott and Pastor Theogene Havugimana, in the University of Iowa’s Pappajohn School of Business Venture School. For seven weeks, Rachael and Pastor Theo, along with their team members, developed a business plan and the knowledge required to successfully start up a new enterprise. Now comes the work of financing their ideas to make their dreams a reality.



So what’s the Shark Tank Twist all about? Like the TV show *Shark Tank*, both Rachael and Pastor Theo will present a “7-minute pitch” to entice viewers (you sharks) to support their business. However, unlike the TV show, you’ll be donating to the business idea, not actually becoming a business partner. It’ll be easy, it’ll be fun, and you’ll know that you are supporting two up-and-coming business owners.

So how will this work? On **Sunday, June 6 at 11:30 via Zoom**, Rachael and Pastor Theo will each present their “pitch” for their business idea. During the pitch, you’ll learn about each business plan and how your financial donation can put the plan into action. There will also be time after the pitch to ask questions of each entrepreneur. Donating any amount will be easy, and we’ll tell you how during the pitch.

Are you in? We hope so! Only 30 minutes of your time will help you decide how you might support our Venture School graduates. Give a little, or give a lot, it’s all good and all extremely appreciated! Questions? Ask anyone on the REALM Committee: Jeremy Fletcher, Lara Marsh, John Clark, Jeanie Wade-Nagle, or Nancy Gardner.

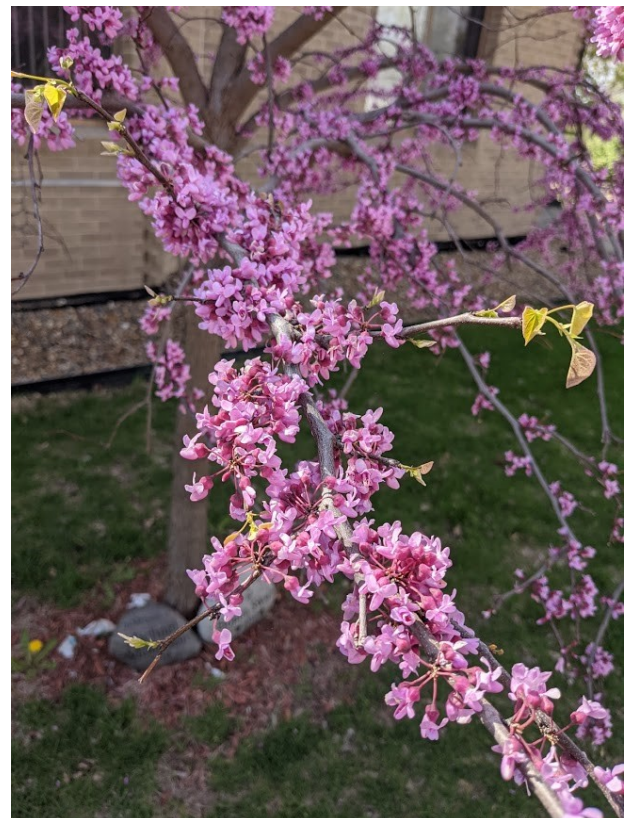


**FPC Book Club invites
you to join them on Zoom**

We meet on the last Tuesday of the month, January through May, at 11:30 a.m. We meet on Zoom; contact Mary Linn at jmLnn@aol.com for link or more information.

May 25: A Confederacy of Dunces by John Kennedy Toole

Spring has sprung at FPC!



First's Family

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

May 15-31

5/22 Jim Claypool
5/22 Sarah Cranston
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
5/30 Ashlyn Woodburn
5/31 Ann Feddersen
5/31 Guerin Thompson



Birthday Blessings

June 1-15

6/3 Dale Kraus
6/3 Karen Hurt
6/3 Amy Fletcher
6/6 Rebecca Bigaba
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



*Known
to have been*

**Sherry Lohman and
Judy Terry**



We extend our sincere sympathy to LeeAnn Koch and family of **John Koch**, who died on April 29. A private family service for John was held at First Presbyterian Church on May 6 and officiated by Pastor Terry Purvis-Smith.

Needles, Hooks & Yarn

Reminds everyone to be safe.
If you need knitting supplies, contact
Tammy Schroeder.



Hip-Hip-Hooray — It's Time to Celebrate Our Graduates!

Next month we will spot-light the graduating (high school & college) members of our FPC family.

Please send a photo and short bio
Tammy.Schroeder@firstpreswacivcity.org by
June 1.



Families and children of 6th grade and younger are invited to join us each Sunday for “Sunday Funday”!

We will meet weekly from 9:30–10 a.m. for a ZOOM Sunday School. Each week we read a simple story from the *Growing in God’s Love Bible*, pray together, and just have fun.

Then in the afternoon, we’ll meet around town for our God in the Wilderness program, when we explore, play, and laugh together from 1–2 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 16

ZOOM Sunday School meets with the reading of “The Lord’s Prayer” on page 338 in the *Growing in God’s Love Bible*.

God in the Wilderness will meet at the Devonian Fossil Gorge. Be sure to wear water shoes and sunscreen! This will be the last event of God in the Wilderness, where we explore, play and laugh together.

SUNDAY, MAY 23

ZOOM Sunday School meets with the reading of “Pentecost” on page 288 in the *Growing in God’s Love Bible*. Equipping Ministry member Jen Adams will be the leader. This will be the last meeting of Zoom Sunday School this school year.

Interested in more information? Email Anna.Sheetz@firstpreswac.org today!

<p>The Wired WORD An Adult Curriculum</p> <p>Scripture-based study and discussion about current issues in the news.</p>	<p>We’re excited to see you each and every Sunday.</p> <p>Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89921391094?pwd=UTFieVdqcvGwZnhKQ2lOS2grNkNFQT09 Meeting ID: 899 2139 1094 Passcode: 134376</p>
<p>We hope you will think about joining us even if you have not been with us recently. Since we are not seeing one another at church it feels good to connect each week. We have a consistent group of 8-10 participants, and new people are always welcome. Please email Judy.Whitford@firstpreswac.org to get the latest topic!</p>	

YOUTH GROUP

CURRENT SCHEDULE

We will continue to meet on ZOOM for the time being.

4th–6th grade meets on Wednesdays from 3:30–4:30 p.m.

7th–12th grade meets on Wednesday from 4:30–6 p.m.

Both Groups will use this meeting: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84314271767?pwd=dDBNU1ppMVpzQTB4VzNOZmc4ZS84QT09>

Meeting ID: 843 1427 1767

Passcode: 242461

May 19, 2021

4th–6th Graders will meet and review the year, share disappointments from Zoom youth group and hopes for next year!

7th–12th Graders. will meet and discuss what this summer looks like. There will also be a review.

May 26, 2021 *Last Group of the Year!*

4th–6th Graders will meet from 3:30–4:30 p.m. to play a couple end of the year games..

7th–12th Graders will meet from 4:30–6 p.m. to have a Zoom Game night.

7th–12th Graders will meet and discuss what the summer mission project will look like.

Do you have any questions, ideas to add, or concerns? Please email Anna.Sheetz@firstpreswacity.org



Each month, there will be 3 crafts with supplies prepared and ready to take home! These will be located in the entry (immediately inside the front door of the church). There will be instructions and all the materials needed per kit. Take one craft or all three! Once prepared, pictures can be posted with the hashtag #FPCCraftingClub. Crafts will be available on the 15th of each month.

May Crafts are "Paper Plate Snails," "Grown Borax Crystals," and "Sponge Water Ball Craft." Come find these on May 15.



Equipping Ministry's Summer Planning is in the works! Check back in the next Newsletter to see what we come up with! Interested in volunteering this summer? Email Anna.sheetz@firstpreswacity.org for more information.



Angels Watch Over You

By Jane Cranston for Friends of Pasur

When I was little, I shared a room with my sister. Every night after we said our prayers, we would say, “Angels watch over you” to each other. It was comforting to know that we would be protected while we slept.

When I got older, I came to realize that bad things, terrible things, can happen even to children, despite entreaties to angels. Children, especially girls, are exploited in cruel ways. Horrors beyond imagining occur and no amount of incantation is able to prevent it. It is one of those hard truths that you wish you didn’t know. But I have also learned that there are real angels, and they are not the blue, wispy, floating visions of Chagall. They are people who quietly go about changing the world for the better. They make good things happen. One of those good things is the funding of the Pasur boarding school. Donors, who are mostly members of our church, make it possible for impoverished Christian girls in Pakistan to have tuition, room and board, books, and uniforms provided for them.

The girls refer to their sponsors as their “mothers in Iowa.” They and their families are beyond grateful. In Pakistan, the girls are part of an impoverished, oppressed minority living in a harsh patriarchal system. Many of the parents are bonded laborers. Our sponsors work in a variety of ways to help at-risk Christian girls to be safe, well-cared-for, and educated.

Hanging on my bedroom walls are a collection of Chagall’s dreamy blue angels prints. They include the two you see here. Seeing the angels on my walls brings back that comforting memory of “angels watching over us,” protecting us from harm. It is no small thing to save a child from exploitation and abuse. It is, in fact, a gift worthy of an angel.



Family Night at Little Creations Academy

Part 1: Health & Safety Night at Little Creations Academy

by Nancy Gardner

April 1 was a perfect evening for the third Family Night of the school year at Little Creations Academy. This event focused on the theme of Health and Safety and provided a number of interactive stations that promoted good handwashing, healthful food choices, daily exercise, wearing a mask, and proper use of hand sanitizer. FPC volunteers Sharon Raffensperger, John Barr, Mary Linn, and Sally Rickey partnered with students from the U of I Nursing Program to ensure that everyone had a good time learning such important information. As always, each child received a bag with books and items relating to the theme, such as jump ropes and infant crawling toys. A delicious dinner and door prizes topped off another successful family event!



Note: These family events are sponsored through the Iowa City Social Justice and Racial Equity grant program. Pictured above is Sally Rickey helping students learn the correct amount of hand sanitizer to use.

Part 2: Sun's Out, Fun's Out!

Sun's Out, Fun's Out will be the theme of the fourth and final Family Night of the 2020-2021 school year at Little Creations Academy. On Monday, June 7, from 4:30-7:00, there will be plenty of fun and games to get summer break off to a great start! **Volunteers will be needed**, so if you want to have fun with some great kids, contact Nancy Gardner at nancy.hayes.gardner@gmail.com to volunteer!



Sharon enjoyed handing out books and games.



Mary looks on as a student checks the machine to see if his hands are clean.



John stands ready to jump in at the exercise station.

Successful Outdoor Clean-up Day

In response to a call from our Buildings and Grounds Committee, FPC members came together distanced and out-of-doors on May 1st for the first clean-up event of the year. Projects completed include: raking leaves from ornamental beds along Rochester Ave; clearing leaves and tree debris from lawn areas on Mt. Vernon Dr; removing dead trees, suckers, and shrubs from the Bell Garden and Labyrinth area; pulling up wild mustard adjacent to the upper parking lot; moving a 120-pound boulder from the Rock Room to the garden adjacent to the entrance from the lower parking lot; power washing the fountain and top of the columbarium; filling and turning on the fountain.



Volunteer crew members were: John Barr, Vern Dengler, Sue Farran, Dale Kraus, Tom Martin, Faryle Nothwehr, Sharon Raffensperger, & Ruth Westfall. Evan Barr hauled debris to the landfill on May 3rd.

Calling All Knitters and Crocheters!



Shelter House, a facility housing and supporting the homeless, many of whom suffer from mental illness, is in need of new blankets (no used, please).

Saint Andrew's Mental Health Initiatives [MHI] ministry is collecting these items. They may be donated at any time. Here is a simple and comforting type of homemade blanket—see the video here: <https://www.wikihow.com/Knit-a-Patchwork-Blanket>

Suggested size: to *generously* cover a single-size bed, so fairly large.

Please take to Saint Andrew Presbyterian Church and have label on blanket(s): For Marcia Murphy, MHI Shelter Blanket Project.

Thanks! Happy knitting! And crocheting!



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

Bob and Millie Youngquist, Coordinators

Since January of this year our columns have been working to answer the following questions:

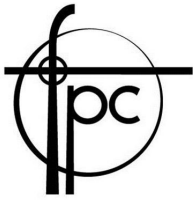
1. Do I Need a Will?
2. What Is Planned Giving?
3. How Can Life Insurance Be Used to Make Charitable Gifts?
4. Is it Possible to Give Something to Charity and Still Receive an Income for Life?
5. Can I Leave My Home to Charity and Continue to Live in it During My Lifetime?
6. What Are the Advantages to Making a Charitable Gift During My Lifetime?
7. Can I Receive a Charitable Income Tax Deduction for Making a Gift of Securities?
8. Can I Leave a Significant Gift to Charity While Not Depleting My Children's Inheritance?
9. How Can I Ensure That My Assets Go to My Heirs Rather Than to the IRS?
10. What Are the Benefits to Leaving My Qualified Retirement Plan Assets to Charity?
11. What Are the Benefits of Making a Charitable Gift Through My Will?

We have asked these questions especially in regard to getting everyone to think about how they might support our church's mission by giving to the FPC Endowment Fund. If you have missed any of these columns or want to check back for answers to these questions, please know that our church website has them all organized for you. Just look through the 2021 newsletters which may be found here: <https://firstpreswacity.org/newsletters/>

We also want to call your attention to the excellent information to be found on our church's endowment page: <https://firstpreswacity.org/what-is-an-endowment/>. In addition to general information to be found there, **this page also contains a short PowerPoint presentation that gives an overview of our church's endowment.** We first presented this PowerPoint during a joint meeting of our session and deacons in March. These groups have both asked that we share it with everyone in this recorded fashion. You will not need any special applications to view it. Just click and enjoy!

This month, do take some time to explore our excellent website and take some time to view our PowerPoint. We hope it will make our endowment structure quite simple for everyone to understand.

"Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you." Luke 6:38



First Presbyterian Church
2701 Rochester Ave., Iowa City, Iowa 52245 www.firstpresidiowacity.org

get connected

First things first ... You need to sign into **My First Pres**; it is a portal on the website that lets you update your contact info, add a family photo, see your financial gifts, set up online giving, print directories, and view the church calendar. Instruction to sign in, below in green box.

Sign in to My First Pres

1. Go to FPC website, <https://firstpresidiowacity.org/>, scroll down to the **My First Pres box**
2. Click on "Need a Login? Click Here"
3. You will be asked to enter your first name, last name and email. Enter this info and click "Find Me"
4. You should see a note congratulating you on setting up your account.
5. Once you see that note, check your email for your username and temporary password
6. You will be able to change password once you login
7. You should open up to the HOME screen; look at MY COMPLETE PROFILE for your personal information, PLEASE make sure your address and phone numbers are correct, feel free to make any changes needed. Note: changes are verified and may take 24 hours to show up. You can also sign up for online giving, pledging and see your yearly giving.

This is where it gets handy ... Now that you have **My First Pres** set up, you have the option to download the **Church Life** app to your phone or tablet! **Church Life** keeps you organized by allowing you to see calendar events, locate your friends' contact info (church directory at your finger tips); text, email and call plus get directions to map visits all on the go. You can keep track of your pledge and gifts to FPC, too.

Instructions below in blue box.



- 1) Download Church Life
iPhone— App Store Android— PlayStore
- 2) Log in
Use the same username and password you use for MyFirstPres.

Should you encounter any issues feel free to email Tammy Schroeder at tammy.schroeder@firstpresidiowacity.org

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