

The Art of Being Kind

~Maeleen Thorius, Congregational
Health Ministry Member

If some of you are wondering what all those people were doing in Coover Lounge after worship on April 16, kneeling on the floor and pounding on mannequins, well, let's just say, you missed out on a stunning example of the art of kindness! We were learning how to use the AEDs (automated external defibrillators) and to begin CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) for a person in our community experiencing a cardiac event. The Iowa City Rotary Club sponsored this event as part of the Kerber Heart Safe Community Campaign. The Rotarians purchase and place AEDs throughout the community and they provide training for lay people with the idea that if someone is trained and alerted when a cardiac event occurs, lives can be saved. Seconds count.

The Congregational Health Ministry continues to explore options for celebrating kindness and learning CPR is a kind thing to do. It sounds a tad bizarre. I mean, aren't Christians always kind? Of course, we are, or should be, but we wanted to continue to emphasize First Presbyterian Church, Iowa City as being "the Kindness Church", continuing what we had started during the Kindness Campaign.

The truth is the campaign was also an act of kindness for us. We were grieving. We had endured the pandemic without a pastor. Some of us had lost loved ones and had been unable to grieve in the faith community. We were zooming online and when we returned to in person worship, some of us felt disconnected. The Kindness Campaign motivated us to become engaged with our fellow human beings again. It reminded us that we all have something to give, some way to serve and there were people less fortunate than we are. It was CPR for the spirit. It is the irony of kindness, that by giving it away, the act benefits the receiver and the giver. If you are feeling down, do something nice for someone else. It is really simple. Commit to one act of kindness to someone, even yourself. Take that bubble bath, listen to your favorite music, and dance around the kitchen and then, let us know how that worked for you! We want to hear your story and any and all suggestions you might have for our Congregational Health Ministry.

Not long ago, my friend, Liz Bolin, sent me a note with a quotation by Ella Wheeler Wilcox:

"So many gods, so many creeds,
so many paths that wind and wind,
while just the art of being kind
Is all this sad world needs."

The art of kindness can be as simple as a smile, an encouraging word, or a phone call. Or it can be spectacular like being an organ donor, giving blood or learning CPR. For all acts of kindness, seconds count.

Let's get connected.

Have you have noticed *My First Pres* isn't working? The reason for that is the FPC has switched to a new Church Management Software (ChMS) call *Realm Connect*. The goal of the *Realm Connect* is to keep you better informed on what is happening and better connected to each other. While it isn't up and running yet, we wanted to give you a heads up that it is coming! Stay tuned for more information on getting connected!

If you are a *My First Pres* and *Church Life* app user and are concerned about what to use in the interim time; contact Tammy Schroeder at tammy.schroeder@firstpreswacivcity.org or by phone at 319-351-2660; she can help you out.

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Happy May, church!

And with mid-May comes a seasonal shift in our church life. One of the things I enjoy most about church is the way that we order our church year; in the beginning of winter, when the days are short and cold overcomes us, we fill our souls with Advent and Christmas rituals, bringing in more light to stave off the lack of sun. In the waning days of winter, we take on Lenten disciplines to keep us focused not only on getting through these last days before spring, but on the promise that the growing world, like Jesus, has taken only a temporary break from us. At the end of the fifty days of Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit on Pentecost (and the Holy Trinity the week after) before we trade in our liturgical whites and reds for the green that reminds us of the growing fields outside.

At FPC, we recognize that the summer is a time to celebrate creation and to refresh ourselves for the spiritual and intellectual work of the church program year. It's an opportunity for Sunday School teachers and students to get a little more sleep, to think about how they interact with the world outside, and to relax outside of their disciplines. For our musicians, it's a time to experiment with solo and small ensemble performances. For our deacons, it's a period to work without extra evening meetings. And for our program leaders, it's a time to reflect on all we've done in the past year as we think about what FPC needs to live into our mission in the coming year.

When we conclude our program year in the week of May 21-28 (the last day for Christian Ed is the 21st, and the last day for choir is May 28, Pentecost Sunday), we'll also celebrate the end of two longer-running Christian Education classes. On the 21st, we'll commission the pilgrims in Dodekah as they embark on their trip to

Scotland and celebrate the conclusion of our Grow Groups. Just as the coming of winter paves the way for spring's resurrection, the natural conclusion of these two programs opens the way to do something new. In the Christian Education meetings, we've already begun to plan an adult Bible-focused class for Sunday mornings, and would love to hear from you about books, themes, and ideas in the Bible you'd like to explore further. For those of you who are more flexible mid-week than on Sundays, what aspects of your faith would you like to grow in the next year? Anna and I would love to hear from you.

But, before the fall is upon us, we would love to see you at VBX! We'll once again have both adult and youth programming for Twists and Turns, July 30-August 3. Whether you, like Beth and me, like to serve in a fairly literal way by bringing meals, whether you like to help with games or teaching, or whether you'd like to be fed that week, we'd love to see you there (though I confess that Beth, Martha, Teddy and I will be arriving back from a trip to see our families on August 1, so we'll only be there for the last couple of days).

Finally, I've enjoyed the one-on-one conversations that I've had since I started in February, and I would love to have more of them. I want to get to know you all, and appreciate the opportunity to sit down with people and know them better. Please reach out!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Nathan



**FROM OUR
PASTOR**

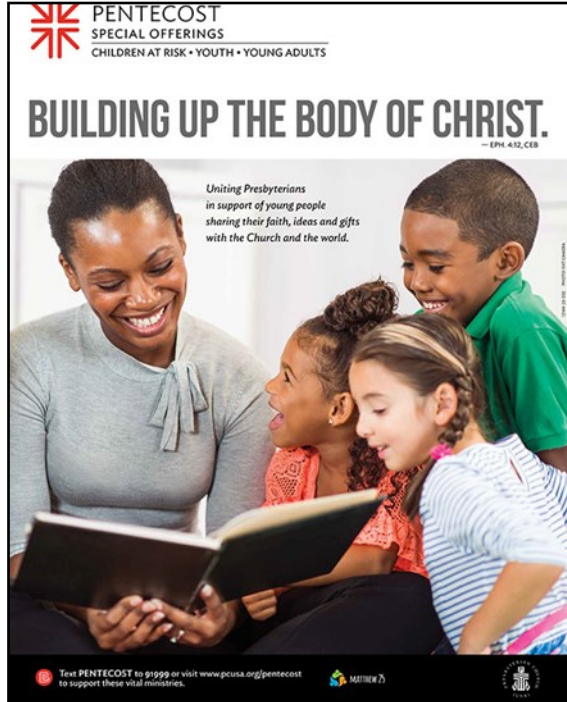
FPC Spring Outdoor Work Event – Saturday, May 20

Join other FPC members and friends on Saturday, May 20, 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon for our annual Spring Outdoor Work event to help clean up our grounds and mulch garden beds. Bring your own rake and garden bed tools, gloves, etc. We will gather at the main entrance to form our work groups. (The rain date is June 3.)



If interested or have questions, please contact Bill Follows at 319-351-1999 or kfollows@gmail.com.

The Pentecost Offering — Setting At-Risk Youth on the Road to Success



The Pentecost Offering is the second of four Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) annual special offerings. At Pentecost, we celebrate that God offers more than we can plan. Our gifts to the Pentecost Offering connect with God's hope and future, supporting ministries with children, youth and young adults by building a life of faith.

Helping youth achieve their God-given potential is what the Pentecost Offering is all about. Not only do gifts to the Pentecost Offering benefit at-risk children and youth through the "Educate a Child, Transform the World" national initiative, but the Offering also encourages, develops and supports the church's young people through the Young Adult Volunteer program and the Presbyterian Youth Triennium.

We retain 40% of funds raised to support programs for young people in our community, such as United Action for Youth and Dream City, and to support our youth attending the Youth Triennium. The remaining 60% is remitted to the Presbyterian Mission Agency, for use with the programs previously mentioned.

Donations accepted though Pentecost Sunday, May 28, can made via our website at <https://firstpreswacivcity.org/>

[donate-online/](#) or by check payable to First Presbyterian Church, with Pentecost Offering in the memo line. Donation envelopes will also be available in the pew racks beginning on May 7. Please give generously in supporting our young people at the local, national and international levels.



Can You Pass This Quiz?

~Nancy Gardner, Moderator, Stewardship Committee

Have you noticed the FPC mission statement showing up in various correspondence from the church? From our quarterly giving statements to emails from the Tammys, committee reports, and the Session agenda, the mission statement is clearly visible.

Or, maybe you remember Pastor Nathan's Spring series of sermons that highlighted the three specific methods mentioned in our mission statement we can use to show God's love. Yes, your Stewardship Committee is doing its best to make our mission statement mean something to each and every one of us.

So here is the quiz: Can you, without looking at the front page of this newsletter, recite our church's mission statement? In other words, who are we, and how do we show God's love in the world?

Okay, check your answer. How did you do? Did you nail it, or is there room for improvement...and why is it

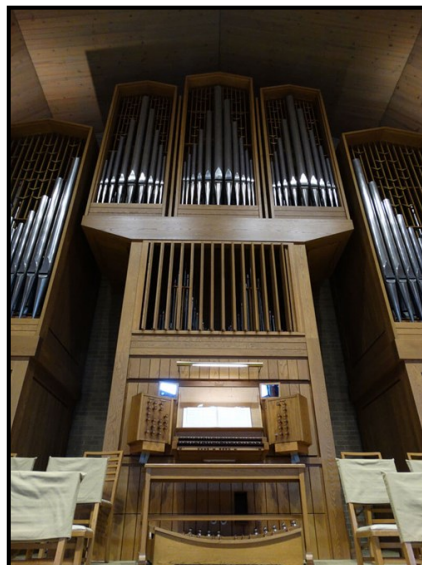
important to know the mission statement anyway? Well, by definition, a mission statement is a formal summary of the aims and values of an organization that unites members around a common purpose. So, it only makes sense that we have to know the mission statement before we know why we're doing the work of the church that we do. Or to say it in another way, we should be connecting with our mission statement in every action we undertake at FPC. Teaching Sunday School, you're growing faith. Serving at Free Lunch, that's mercy. Sharing with others the knowledge you learn in a Jeremiah Justice book group, that's a form of justice. There are plenty of ways to make this connection happen.

So, let's be that church. Let's be that church that "walks the walk", that church that is mindful about its mission statement. It's the greatest way to impact the faith of others and yourself, to show mercy, and to do justice in the realm of God.

Update on the Organ Project

Parts to build new electrical controls for our Phelps pipe organ are beginning to arrive in Iowa City. These shipments of power supplies, customized computer equipment, and mechanisms to relay on/off signals will replace the existing parts inside the organ case. Our organ “plays” when an organist uses the keyboards and these electrical controls to activate a series of motors and levers regulating air flowing through the pipes. We expect on-site work to begin mid-May, and to use the organ in worship again sometime this fall.

As on-site work happens over the next few months, you likely won’t see many visible changes when gazing up towards the balcony. Rest assured that much will be happening inside the organ case, with the existing electrical equipment and wiring being removed and replaced.



Greetings FPC Family!

The Easter season is still going strong, and we continue to celebrate the risen Christ and the new life of light and love we find in Him. Coming soon, the birthday of The Church and coming of The Holy Spirit will be celebrated on Pentecost Sunday. Jesus foretold, a number of times, the coming of the Spirit, but quite vividly in the account of John 14:15-31, beginning, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth ...” (NRSV). Our choir will sing the King James Version of this text in a motet by Thomas Tallis—an English composer of the Tudor period—written for use on Pentecost (or “Whitsun,” in the Anglican world). I hope this simple meditative setting of the Scriptures helps usher you into the next season of church life, and encourages you to seek time with the Spirit of truth.

The weeks and months following will consist of an alternative music schedule and programming. Choir will not meet on Wednesday evenings during this

time, nor on every Sunday morning. The JuBELLation handbell ensemble will take its summer recess, as well. I want to take the opportunity of these summer months to seek

out congregants to provide special music in whatever way they are willing and able. This invitation is open to any and all who wish to participate. I have posted sign-up sheets on the music room door—having to add a second, because the first sheet was overflowing with interested volunteers! I personally feel very blessed to get to work in music ministry at a church like FPC that is enthusiastic about worshiping God through myriad forms of music. Do please sign up, or help me in encouraging others to do so; there are many weeks in the summer to fill.

God bless you all as we continue to seek the Spirit of truth in Church life and life in the world.



Join the FPC Book Club

We will be gathering on **May 30** for a discussion of The War Librarian by Addison Armstrong.

This group meets In person in Coover Lounge or via Zoom. For more information contact Mary Linn at jmLnn@aol.com.

Note: The group will NOT be meeting in June or July, so stay tuned for information on the August read.



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@firstpreswacivcity.org. Thank you!

May 15-31

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

June 1-15

6/1	Matilda Grado	6/13	Randy Howe
6/3	Amy Fletcher	6/15	Emmanuel
6/3	Karen Hurt		Kunangika
6/4	Alice Martin	6/15	Molly Molsberry
6/6	Rebecca Bigaba		
6/8	Jennifer Adams		
6/11	LeeAnn Koch		
6/12	Paul Maxwell		

We extend our deepest sympathy:

To the family and friends of **Mailou Gay**, who died April 27, 2023. Funeral service will be held at a later date.

Gary Nagle, Jeanie's husband and Travis's stepfather died on May 11. Funeral service will be held at FPC on May 15 at 10 a.m. Please keep the family in your prayers.



*Known
to have been
Hospitalized:*

**Joe Graves and
Al Wicks**



Things are changing...

Starting in June, the daily *FPC News and Events* emails will no longer be daily. We are switching up the format and the frequency. Stay tuned!

Join the Eat Out Group May 18, at 6 p.m.

840 W Penn St., N. Liberty
In the Private Dining Room

Your Hosts:
John & Linda Clark
479-899-8591



Needles, Hooks and Yarn

It's time to start stitching!
This diverse group can get
you started knitting and
crocheting.

No experience needed.

**May 20, 9-11 a.m., in
Ryerson Hall .**

For more info call
319-351-2660.



YOU ARE INVITED! Yeah, you! Everyone!

Join us on Sunday, May 21 to celebrate the end of the Christian Education Year!

From 9:45–10:30 a.m., we'll have a bigger breakfast together and celebrate the past year.

Then at 3 p.m., 4th–12th graders get ready. The Biggest Game Yet is here. Wear your running shoes and prepare. Let's see what fun we have. Our last Sunday Night Potluck for everyone is May 21 at 6 p.m.



Anna invites High School graduates and College Students to Press Coffee on Summer Sundays at 8 a.m. for Games and Bible.

Coffee is on me! Let's play some of our favorite games, drink coffee, and we'll discuss how the Bible has traditionally been used to hurt our LGBTQIA+ siblings.

We will meet June 11–August 6.
(No meeting on July 16.)

If interested, please connect with Anna.



Here's the thing, we know you're going to miss your FPC Family over the summer. So the Christian Education team is offering the opportunity to get together for a no agenda, potluck, hang out time for all ages throughout the summer. How this will work:

1. We need a place and a time.
2. We need a main dish, casserole, crockpot, vat of deliciousness.

So... we need SOMEONE to sign up for a place and a dish. This can be the same SOMEONE or a different SOMEBODY. We just need both boxes to be checked. Everyone else attending should bring appropriate potluck contributions.

THE DATES:

June 10
June 24

July 15
July 29

August 12
August 26

Please email Anna.Sheetz@firstpreswiowacity.org if you are interested in hosting. This event is for ALL AGES.

The End of Youth Ministry?

Why Parents Don't Really Care about Youth Groups and What Youth Workers Should Do about It

ANDREW ROOT

FPC's Christian Education Ministry Team will be reading this book together over the summer. Andrew Root, a practical theologian who has been studying youth ministry, lays out how cultures (both secular and religious), youth and parenting have changed since the first youth groups appeared in the 1970s.

We invite parents, Elders, Deacons, ANYONE to join us as we study how best we can serve the youth and parents, and truly the whole Church, as we dive into the most up-to-date research.

If interested, please connect with Anna, Lara Marsh (marshlara5@gmail.com) , or Jen Adams (jenbadams08@gmail.com) .



Have you heard? We're going to the **BEST WEEK EVER** this Summer!

This summer, upcoming 6th–8th graders are invited to go to Camp Stronghold with us for the BEST WEEK EVER.

A Castle, a Waterpark, AND Anna as your speaker?
COME ON! Awesome :)

The dates are Sunday, June 11–Friday, and June 16.

With the hard work from the December fundraiser and the generosity of FPC, students can go for the price of \$150. Scholarships ARE available.

Please talk to Anna if your student wants to attend or if you are a male person who thinks the Best Week Ever is spending it with 20 middle schoolers, fun, and games – this is YOUR chance! **RSVP by May 21.**

Twists & Turns

Vacation Bible eXperience @ FPC
Sunday, July 30- Thursday, August 3
5– 8 p.m.
Dinner provided

Sign Up Today! We are looking for:

- Adults to lead classes, crafts, games, and mission
- Helpers to prepare and serve dinner
- Kids to join us for all the most fun ever
- Youth to come and show us their smooth moves

Sign up in Ryerson Hall or through First Presbyterian's Facebook Event registration.



Congregational
Health
Ministry Team

Congregational Health Ministry Event

June 27, 2023: 8 a.m.–5 p.m., Mental Health First Aid Training, with certificate and CEU's; limited to 30 people. Sponsored by Compeer of Johnson County. Includes lunch, no fee.

For more information, watch the daily emails and church bulletins.

“I Couldn’t Do This Without FPC”: An Update on Rachael Scott

~ by Nancy Gardner

You may remember Rachael Scott from FPC’s Shark Tank with a Twist event held online in Spring of 2021. Previous to Shark Tank, the Realm Committee had sponsored Rachael at the University of Iowa’s Venture School where Rachael learned the ins and outs of beginning her own business. During Shark Tank, Rachael posed her business “pitch” to our congregation and we came through with additional funds to support Rachael’s dream of operating Cafe on the Go, her own mobile coffee truck. Her success with her coffee business has now led her to pursue opening the Early Bird Cafe at the South District Market.

Rachael held a “soft opening” of the Early Bird Cafe on Saturday, April 29 and is planning her official grand opening soon. You can find the Southside Market off of Hwy 6 and Keokuk Street. Rachael continues to express her thanks for the support FPC has provided throughout her entrepreneurial journey. Stop by, grab some coffee, and tell Rachael hello!



Nancy Gardner (L) and Jeanie Wade-Nagle (far right) stop in to congratulate Rachael Scott (second from right) and her friend during the soft opening of the Early Bird Cafe.

To EVERYONE who donated
April Showers bring Baby Showers
campaign for CommUnity.

FPC donated over 40 pounds
of baby items and food.
In May we will be gathering
Laundry Supplies.

The CommUnity staff is always
grateful for our donations.
Keep up the good work FPC!



Pentecost offering

May 28 is the birthday of the church! Every year, Christians around the globe celebrate the day the Holy Spirit rushed through Jerusalem and touched the disciples gathered there with the ability to understand the people all around them. In the Presbyterian Church (USA), we celebrate that fire with our Pentecost Offering. The annual Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children throughout the church and here in Iowa City. The national offerings of the church give us the opportunity to change lives across the countries with resources we could not gather on our own, so please give generously!

The Nominating Committee Begins Meeting in May

As we begin considering possible Elders, Deacons, and members of the Nominating and Endowment Committees for 2024, we welcome suggestions from the congregation for all these positions. Please consider a self-nomination as well! Contact one of the committee members with your potential candidates. The 2023 Nominating Committee: Rhonda Barr, Anita Burnett, Perry Ross, Mary Ellen Stamp, and Leann Graves (moderator).



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

Bob and Millie Youngquist, Coordinators

Making a Gift of a Lifetime — a Bequest to FPC

Would it surprise you that many members of our congregation, those whose lives centered around the First Presbyterian Church, active in Sunday school, mission work, worship and yearly stewardship campaigns, died without taking advantage of the opportunity to make a bequest to FPC in their will?

Each year FPC members are asked for a pledge to the church in writing and it is those pledges that keep the church's vision and mission thriving. We infrequently mention legacy giving — naming the church in your will or trust. However isn't it just as vital to pledge to the church at your death, to see your dreams for the church and future generations realized? Your passion, your pledge, a lasting gift to this church.

Death is the time when most people have the largest capacity to give. Actually, FPC hasn't received that many estate bequests over the years and our alma maters seem to have a higher priority at death than our beloved church. The emphasis might reflect marketing since universities aren't shy about repeatedly asking to be named in your will. Another reason is that approximately 50% of the people who die in the U.S. each year do so without a valid will. Procrastination results in some people dying "intestate" (without a will). Some are also fearful that they don't know how much wealth they will need during their lifetime, so they don't know how much they can leave to their church. Since your willed pledge (bequest) doesn't go into effect until you die, the opportunity always exists to update or revoke your church gift. Rest easy, you aren't parting with your assets today, so let go of worry about running out of assets. You are in charge of balancing your generosity to the church with concerns about living expenses and loved ones.

Setting up your bequest to the church is easy. It's just naming the church for a gift in your will. You might consider a certain percentage of your estate or a named item: a certain amount of cash, securities or property. You might prefer the greater or lesser of an amount of cash or property and a fixed percentage of your estate. You have flexibility in designing your bequest.

Here are just a couple of examples: Naming a bequest for the lesser of \$25,000 or 10% of your estate. If your estate exceeded \$250,000, the gift is limited to \$25,000. If the value of your estate at death is \$100,000, the gift to the church is limited to \$10,000 (10%). For another example, if there is a minimum amount you know you want the church to receive, but you would like to increase it if your estate goes up in value, make a bequest for the greater of that minimum

amount or a percentage of your total estate. In a bequest for the greater of \$10,000 or 10% of your estate: if your assets grow to \$1 million at death, the gift would increase to \$100,000.

You ask why is your bequest important to FPC? Your gift has the potential for a big impact on the future ministry. Bequests become endowments for the church — invested funds that are managed by the FPC Endowment Committee, composed of elected church members. And remember, if you wish, the use of your endowment may be restricted based on your written desires as donor.

Maybe you or someone you know has benefitted from the bequests the church has received over the years. The Joan Summerwill Handbell Ministry Fund was established in 2012 by longtime FPC member, Joey Summerwill, to provide financial support to nurture, build, and sustain disciples of Jesus Christ at First Presbyterian Church of Iowa City through the ministry of handbell music. In 1923 Charles Hall Ryerson willed his estate to First Presbyterian Church to be held in trust for use as a new building fund. He died nine years later. Although the initial bequest was modest by today's standards, judicious investments over a period of four decades enabled the Ryerson Trust to make a substantial contribution to the construction of our present facility. A trust was established in 2005 from the estate of Lucille Burianek with distributions "to support the religious and charitable activities of the First Presbyterian Church." The fund was held in trusteeship until 2020, whereupon the assets were transferred to FPC under the control of the FPC Memorial and Endowment Committee. This fund has supported many needs in our church.

Yes, members like you make the difference in what you give today and in what you give via will or trust. Please take action now to ensure your lasting legacy to FPC. If you don't have a will, make one. Otherwise, the state of Iowa will decide who gets your assets, and that omits our church and other ministries. If your will currently excludes your FPC bequest, please update it to include your desires to financially remember FPC. Your will relates to all material things God has entrusted you with. It's a powerful expression of your Christian faith. Whether it's bigger or more modest, your church bequest comes together with others to further the mission of FPC for generations to come.

If you would like more information about making a bequest to FPC, please contact First Presbyterian Church's Endowment Coordinators Bob and Millie Youngquist at 319-653-4673, or Pastor Nathan Willard at 319-351-2660.

Earth Day 2023

This year, First Presbyterian Church celebrated Earth Day with a service that featured a Climate Ribbon Tree. The Climate Ribbon Tree has been adopted as a symbol of the climate movement and has been used in different ways at conferences and events regarding the environment. The custom of tying ribbons to a tree, in order to ask for wishes, hopes, and healing, has resonance in cultures around the world. Members of FPC were asked to make a wish or say a prayer for our planet and tie a ribbon to our own climate ribbon tree. It is a tangible symbol of peoples' hopes and fears for the Earth in the time of impending global climate disaster.

On April 23, the entire church service, planned by the Reconciliation Ministry, had an Earth Day theme. Becca Morgan sang and played the guitar (which is always a special treat for the congregation) and all of the children received flowering plants to take home.



Isabella (above) and Natalie (right) make their wish for the Earth as they tie a ribbon on the tree.



Becca's music always sets the perfect atmosphere for worship.



FPC's Reconciliation Ministry Committee: standing with Becca Morgan are Becky Ross, Perry Ross, John Barr, Jane Cranston, Ed Cranston and Sue Van Duyn.



The girls at the Pasrur Boardinghouse celebrate Palm Sunday.

News from The Pasrur Christian Girls School

There have been several changes for our Friends of Pasrur organization that we wish to make our generous donors aware of. Beginning the school year 2023–2024, the cost of a full scholarship for a Christian girl to attend the boarding school at Pasrur has been raised. The new cost will be \$550 for girls kindergarten through 10th grade, and \$800 for girls in 11th and 12th grade.

The tuition increase has been caused by the rising costs for PEB (Pakistan Education Board) across all areas. If you cannot afford this increase, we hope you will continue to donate whatever you can. All donations are gratefully appreciated! We consider anyone who contributes, a member of the Pasrur family.

Each year you have provided scholarships for our Pasrur boardinghouse girls to go on to 11th and 12th grade at the Pasrur school. In Pakistan, 11th and 12th grade have

a somewhat specialized curriculum, as they are planning for the girls to go into different fields of study or careers. Because of this, some of the girls from our school attend other schools for 11th and 12th grade.

This year, we were able to cover the cost of all the academic tuition for girls who will be attending other specialized schools for 11th and 12th grades. We are very proud to be able to help all of our girls to complete 11th and 12th grade in whatever field they are going into.

We have a new executive Director of Friends of the PEB (Presbyterian Education Board). Cheryl Burke has lived in Pakistan for 16 years and has been a teacher in Pakistan and chair of the board of PEB. She's a wonderful asset for the Friends of PEB and we are happy to welcome her to the organization.

Session Meeting Highlights

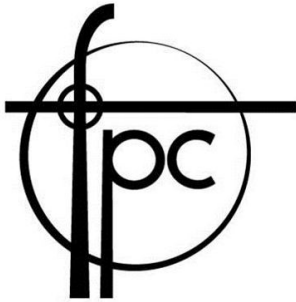
Clerk of Session, Jim Claypool

At our April meeting, your Session continued its work of thinking through how best to live into our mission to, empowered by the Holy Spirit, share the Word of God through Jesus Christ and live lives of Justice, Mercy, and Faith. We did that by sharing ways each member of session would like the church or community to be different a year from now than it is today.

Members shared ideas that ranged from breaking down silos in church communications to increasing the number of members engaged in mercy and justice work in our communities, to growing our faith in the grace of God by having spiritual retreats, and more.



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