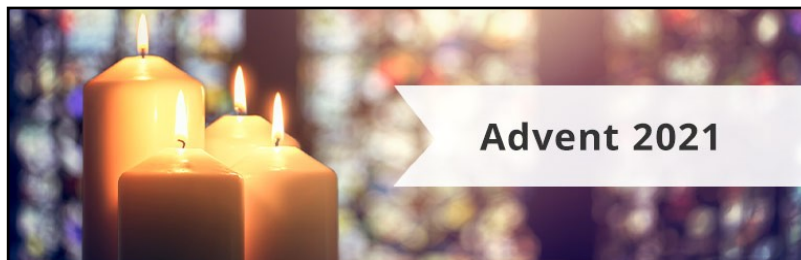


## The Advent Season begins November 28

“Advent” means “coming” or “arrival.” During the season of Advent, we celebrate Christ’s coming into the world and watch with expectant hope for his coming again. In its historical origins, the season of Advent was patterned after the season of Lent, a six-week period of penitence and preparation for Easter. Similarly, the four weeks of Advent present an opportunity for communal discernment and personal examination, as the church prepares to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord and looks with hope for Christ’s return.



### Between memory and hope

*An excerpt from the Companion to the Book of Common Worship (Geneva Press, 2003, 96)*

In Advent we expectantly wait for the One who has already come. We anticipate the promised justice of God’s new world, yet we praise God who raised the “righteous branch” to rule with justice and righteousness. We hope for the restoration of the afflicted, the tormented, and the grieving, yet we delight that healing has come in Christ. We long for the beating of swords into plowshares, yet we rejoice that the Prince of Peace has appeared. We yearn for the barren deserts of our inner cities to flourish, yet we laud the desert Rose that has bloomed. We dream of the land where lions and lambs live in harmony, yet we acclaim the child born to lead us into the promised land.

Christ has come! Christ is risen! Christ will come again! In Advent, we are living between the first and the second coming of the Lord. The dialectical tension of maranatha [alternately translated “Come, our Lord!” or “Our Lord has come”] — placing us between memory and hope, past and future — may strengthen our Advent liturgies. Perhaps we need to cling to the ancient cry of maranatha! and its paradoxical meanings so we may freely embrace “the new thing” prophesied by Isaiah (Isaiah 43:19) that God is doing among us right now. The tension and paradox we find in Advent shapes our celebrations during the season.

*from [presbyterianmission.org](http://presbyterianmission.org)*

### Join Equipping Ministry for Advent!

**Sunday, November 28, 9-10:15 a.m.**



We’ll have Advent Activities for all ages! Join us as we create wreaths, ornaments, and more in Ryerson Hall.

**Sunday, Dec. 19, 9-10:15 a.m.**

Youth Group Christmas Play! Come enjoy the hard work the Youth Groups have put into this year’s Christmas Play! We’ll see you in Ryerson Hall!

### Inside this issue:

Letter from Pastor	2
Advent Evening Zoom Worship	
Worshipping on YouTube	3
Christmas Joy Offering	4
First’s Family	5
Equipping Ministry	6-7
Pasur Update	8
Income & Expense Update	9
Your Newly Elected Deacons, Elders and Nominating Committee	11-12

## ***Dear Members and Friends,***

When I interviewed with the interim pastor search committee, I told them I had a love/hate relationship with being an interim pastor. The love part of interim ministry is meeting you, being challenged by you, learning from you, being forgiven by you for my mistakes, working with you, cherishing special moments with you, and all of this in the unique circumstances of wearing masks, maintaining social distance, and most of the time remaining safely inside our residences.

The hate part of the work of interim ministry is leaving, saying good-bye, feeling grief at the end of our time together, losing out on the privilege of seeing you in person without masks, not doing some of the things together that I thought we would be doing.

But there's a more painful part. It's the part that comes from professional ethics, particularly the ethics that apply at the end of a pastoral relationship. A pastor is obligated to say good-bye.

A pastoral good-bye means we won't be in contact with each other, and the relationships will live in our memories. That means I cannot stay in touch – call, text, email, snail mail, follow you on social media, or send balloons into the sky over Iowa City to say hello. The professional obligation is to clear the emotional field for the new pastor.

It feels awful writing this. People might conclude that our relationship didn't matter to me. That's not true in any way. Leaving a congregation – leaving FPC – does matter to me. It hurts in a powerful way. I'm already beginning to miss you. I'll think about you on the third

Tuesday of the month (Session meetings), when I do not turn on YouTube to watch worship, when I imagine more and more people coming to worship, when I anticipate that the long-awaited-for day of singing and hearing the choir sing may have arrived. As an interim, I have never had the joy of watching children grow up in church or seeing love blossom and people marry, of grieving with you when someone that we have known together for a long time dies.

You could ask this question: if this is so painful, why do you do it? I do it because I've been called to serve this way. I do it because the joy of being with you far outweighs the pain of saying good-bye. I do it because I am convinced a transitional process is beneficial to most congregations.

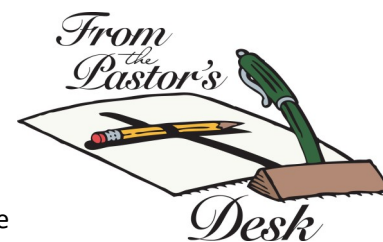
It is difficult saying good-bye since we are not yet having significant gatherings in the building. I will continue to be available by phone and in the office until November 21. If the ethics of pastoral departure are not clear, I will be accessible to talk about them, too.

I will continue praying for FPC, for your ministry, and for the advent of a new pastor.

May God bless and keep you, be gracious and kind to you, and may God's face be upon you and grant you peace.

With gratitude,

Terry  
he/him/his



## ***Advent Evening Zoom Worship***

***Wednesdays in  
December, 7:00pm***

**Join Leah Bergman for a series of meditative worship services on Wednesday evenings during Advent.**

These will be brief (20-30 min.) services offered through Zoom on December 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd at 7:00 p.m. The services will consist of scripture, prayer, simple a capella singing, silence, and listening.

Watch your FPC Daily emails and Facebook for the Zoom link, or contact Leah for it to be sent to you each week.

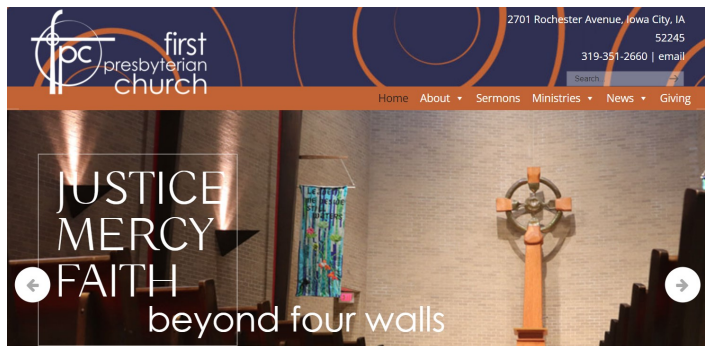
For more information, contact Leah at [leah.bergman@firstpresbiowacity.org](mailto:leah.bergman@firstpresbiowacity.org)

# Worshipping on YouTube

Though we are returning to in-person worship at FPC, we will still be livestreaming worship on YouTube for those who worship at home.

Need help finding the service easily on YouTube? Here's the easiest way:

1. Go to the church webpage: [firstpresidiowacity.org](http://firstpresidiowacity.org)



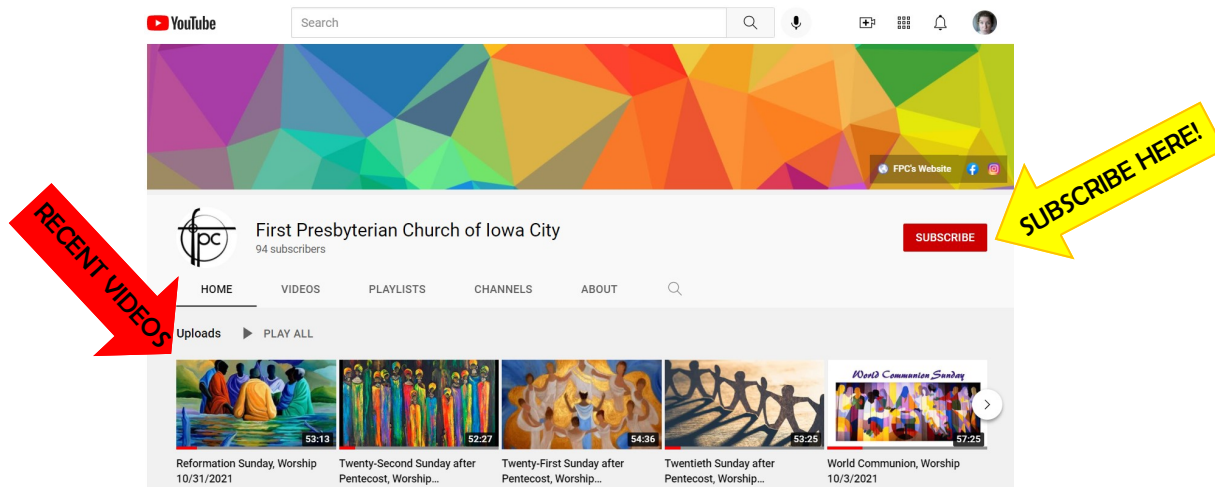
2. Scroll down just under the main banner until you see the heading “We are an Online Community of Faith”
3. Click on the yellow “YouTube channel” box

## We are an Online Community of Faith

YouTube Channel

Facebook Page

4. This will take you to the First Presbyterian Church YouTube channel. There you will see the most recent worship services. On Sunday morning, the livestream will appear here.



5. Take it one step further! If you click on the red “subscribe” button, then when you use the YouTube website, you will get the latest FPC videos. You will even get reminders when FPC is live!
6. Have more questions? Never hesitate to contact the church office for help finding us online! We want to help you worship with us!

## Our Christmas Joy Offering

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. God has blessed the church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their faith communities as well. This offering addresses the support needed by some of our leaders, including leadership development for communities of color, and providing for Presbyterian church workers in their times of need.



The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.

### Supporting leadership development

#### **\$1.1 million in gifts from 2017**

are being used to provide critical financial support and grants for current and retired Presbyterian church workers in their times of need

#### **26 countries**

have been represented in the last 25 years at Presbyterian Pan American School

#### **98% of graduates**

from Menaul School go on to college

#### **84% of faculty**

at Stillman College hold terminal degrees

We will be receiving the Christmas Joy Offering through Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at <https://firstpreswacivcity.org/donate-online/> or via mail to the FPC office.

**The Session extends a huge thank you** to everyone who has submitted a pledge for 2022! We appreciate your continued support. As of November 12, members and friends have turned in 50 pledges totaling \$212,910. This is approximately half of the amount pledged in 2021. If you have not already pledged, please prayerfully consider how you can support our church. Every pledge is essential. 2022 should be an exciting year with the pandemic winding down, the church open, and a new pastor arriving! Please help us be ready for a great year in the life of our congregation! To make your pledge, simply complete and return a pledge card or pledge through My First Pres by signing in and opening the Giving Tab.





# First's Family

If you have a news item for the First's Family News, please submit it for publication by January 3 to [tammy.foster@firstpresbiowacity.org](mailto:tammy.foster@firstpresbiowacity.org). Thank you!

## November 15-30

11/17 Joel Kasiriba  
11/18 Carol Tippe  
11/19 Tom Martin  
11/19 Craig Gustaveson  
11/19 Rose Youngquist  
11/21 Norvall Clemons  
11/21 Ed Cranston  
11/22 MaryJo Keith  
11/22 Rhys Paulsen  
11/23 Richard Van Rheeden  
11/23 Jim Heims  
11/23 Sarah Bigaba  
11/24 Leann Graves  
11/24 Heather Fay  
11/25 Jeff Foster  
11/26 George Rickey

11/26 Grace Kirschling  
11/26 Palmer Scott  
11/29 Kathy Smith  
11/29 Stephanie Brentner  
11/29 Lily Chong



## December 1-15

12/1 Sharon Oglesby  
12/4 Carter Hand  
12/5 Ella Everhart  
12/7 Sue Farran  
12/7 Cathe Franz  
12/10 Doris Preucil  
12/11 Liz Degner  
12/12 Rick Boland  
12/13 Mary Kay Thompson  
12/14 Linda Clark  
12/14 Amy Hackman  
12/14 Stephanie Paulsen  
12/14 Kenneth Noble  
12/14 Elyon Kunangika  
12/15 Greg Smith  
12/15 Jeri Smith



**Known  
to have been  
Hospitalized:  
Jim Claypool**

***Congratulations to***  
**Alyssa & Josh Amelon** on the birth of their second child, **Wayne Bradley Amelon**, born on October 21. The happy grandparents are **Tammy & Jeff Foster**.



## Would you like to be a Deacon?

Are you looking for a way to get to know more members of our congregation and show you care about them? Then a one-year term as a Deacon would be a perfect fit for you! The one-year term (as opposed to a full three-year term) gives a seasoned past Deacon the chance to seamlessly step in for a year or a newbie the chance to try out being a Deacon before possibly accepting a longer term. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Leann Graves (moderator of the Nominating Committee) at [lgraves@mchsi.com](mailto:lgraves@mchsi.com) or (319) 621-7020. Thank you!

## FPC Book Club

Join us via Zoom at 11:30 a.m.

Nov. 30 Transcendent Kingdom  
by Yaa Gyasi

No December gathering

**Contact Mary Linn** at [JmLnn@aol.com](mailto:JmLnn@aol.com) for more info



## As FPC returns to meeting in person, we are so excited and we just can't hide it!

With the reopening of worship and the lower level, the Equipping Ministry is working to provide a safe environment for all to return to their beloved programs. There are a lot of happenings going on so please, be sure to pay extra special attention as things start to heat up!



### CHECK THIS OUT!

Each Sunday, find this sign on tables in Ryerson Hall for weekly *Table Topics*! This will allow us to break the ice after 18 months apart. We'll have questions such as:

1. What grade of school are you in and what's your favorite topic?
2. What was a memorable experience during COVID?
3. What food are you most looking forward to at Thanksgiving this year?

**Feel free to sit down, grab a question and get to know each other again!**



**We are returning to the 'normal' time for Sunday School! From 9:15-10:15 a.m. each Sunday, our classes will once again meet:**

**Wired Word:** This class will meet in a hybrid format in Coover Lounge. For youth and adults, each week this group meets to digest news, process faith, and explore the daily happenings.

**Parent's Class:** This group will meet in the Youth Room. Join Judy Whitford and parents of the church as they discuss how to support and love their families best.



The following classes will be using the Follow Me curriculum from the PC(USA)! This cycle's theme is *Welcome All!*

**Children's Class for all ages!** Students of all ages are invited to meet together and learn how to Welcome All. We'll meet in the Art Room!

**Intergenerational Class:** This class will meet in Ryerson Hall to figure out how to Welcome All as a church of different ages.

For the most up-to-date topics and activities, check out: <https://firstpresbiowacity.org/ministries/christian-education/sundays/>

For more information, please connect with Anna Sheetz, Judy Whitford, or Layne Sheetz.



### "Blessed Are You!" An Advent Devotional

An Advent Devotional will be available Sunday, November 28! This devotional will be a reflection on motherhood, found in four Biblical women. We'll examine Shelomith (Leviticus 24), Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11-12, 1 Kings 1), Gomer (Hosea 1-3), and Mary (Luke 1-2, Matthew 2).

For more information, email Anna at [Anna.Sheetz@firstpresbiowacity.org](mailto:Anna.Sheetz@firstpresbiowacity.org).



The Youth Groups are settling into a new routine, now that the Lower Level is open and Sunday School is meeting in the mornings again! Catch these programs each Sunday night:

The 4th-6th Grade Youth Group will meet from 4:30-5:30 p.m.

There will be a GAME GROUP for ALL ages from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

The 7th-12th Youth Group will meet from 6:30-8 p.m.

### 4th-6th Grades Youth Group:

#### Sunday, November 21

We'll talk about "Who's Invited to Dinner?" We'll pretend to be visitors to our church and see how we can Welcome All, especially as Advent is upon us!

#### Sunday, November 28

We'll work on Advent Crafts and discuss the liturgical season of Advent.

#### Sunday, December 5

What does *hospitality* mean? How does God teach us how to listen, serve, and thank all?

#### Sunday, December 12

How might confession go with caring? How does "othering" go with feeling all the feels? Join us and find out!

### 7th-12th Grades Youth Group:

#### Sunday, November 21

We'll set up the Christmas Tree in Ryerson Hall and continue our series into James.

#### Sunday, November 28

We'll read and see what James 2 tells us about our lives. What is more important? Belief or action?

#### Sunday, December 5

Diving into James further. We'll discuss James 3. James tells us to "Tame the Tongue." How might that relate to social media usage today?

#### Sunday, December 12

We'll complete James! Betrayal, suffering, and boasting? Sounds messy!



### On Sunday, December 19, each Youth Group will have their Christmas Party!

Each student is asked to bring a wrapped gift for a White Elephant gift exchange. We ask that gifts are gifted from items around your house or no more than \$10 spent. There will be extra gifts so no student will be left out from participating.



Youth in 7th grade or who have not yet been confirmed are invited to join this year, in person! Confirmation is where students learn about God, ministry in the PC(USA) and step into membership at the First Presbyterian Church. Connect with Anna today to get more information!

January 23–  
April 10



PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNium 2022

July 24-27 • Indianapolis, IN

Students completing 9-12th Grade in Summer 2022 are invited to this year's Presbyterian Youth Triennium!

Students interested must RSVP to Anna Sheetz by Wednesday, December 1. Forms will be available on the bulletin board in Ryerson Hall or at Youth Group each week. The cost for this experience will be \$255 per person.

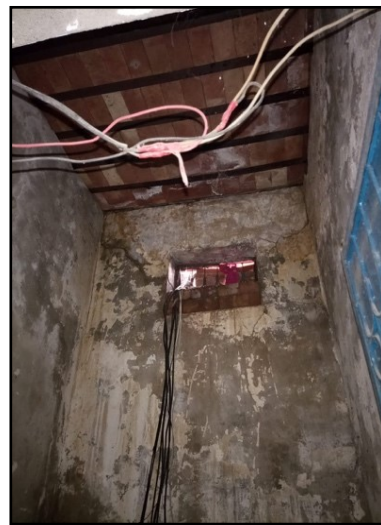


## Updates from Pasrur



**On Sunday October 17<sup>th</sup>, Veda Gill (Executive Director of the Presbyterian Education Board in Pakistan) gave a presentation via Zoom to our church.** She shared a video of the girls at the Pasrur Christian boarding house, gave us an update on the school, and talked about some of their concerns. The presentation was live via Zoom and included time for questions and discussion.

Veda told us that their major concern is the primary block of classrooms. The block of classrooms was constructed in 1906 and has outlived its lifespan. The mortar used was mud which cannot reliably be repaired. There are serious concerns about the safety in the classrooms. They hope for a new building that would include 4 classrooms, a wide veranda, and a bathroom at a total cost of \$200,000.



Veda shared some of the photos of the primary block.

It was wonderful to see Veda and to get so many of our supporters together, if only on our computer screens. If you missed the presentation and would like to see it, we have recorded it and would be happy to share it. Just send an email to [jane-cranston@uiowa.edu](mailto:jane-cranston@uiowa.edu).

Jane Cranston  
Friends of Pasrur



## *As we gather, are you protected?*

The medical community is predicting a heavier flu season, compounded by ongoing CoVID outbreaks. The Congregational Health Ministry Team is advising and encouraging everyone who is able to get vaccinated with:

- An Influenza vaccination as soon as possible (6 months and older).
- A CoVID-19 vaccination (5 years and older), as well as a booster, if you are eligible.



We have some tips on how to prevent the spread of all respiratory viruses while worshipping at FPC:

1. **Stay home if you are ill.** You can worship with us from home on YouTube; the link is on the FPC home page (FirstPreslowaCity.org). Stay home until you are cleared by your primary care provider (CoVID) or fever and symptom free for at least 24 hours (Influenza).
2. **Wear Your Mask, and physically distance yourself at least 6 feet from others who are not in your household.** There is plenty of room to spread out seating in the sanctuary.
3. **During worship:** it is advisable not to touch your eyes, nose or mouth where the virus can enter your body readily. If you need to cough or sneeze, keep your mask on, and cover with your elbow. If you need to use a tissue, do so as quickly as you can. Throw the tissue away immediately into a trash can, or put away in a pocket. After you use a tissue, wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with warm water and soap (sing Jesus Loves Me) or use a hand sanitizer. Keep a small bottle with you at all times!
4. **Passing the Peace:** avoid shaking hands. Alternatives to handshakes: bow, smile, wave, or the "peace" sign.
5. **Fellowship:** There will be no formal fellowship hour. It is advised to leave the sanctuary immediately after worship and avoid crowding. If you want to visit with others, plan to do so outside the church.
6. **Influenza or CoVID?** There are many similarities in how they spread and symptoms. If you are sick, you should see your doctor to get tested. The CDC has information about the differences between these two viruses at: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/symptoms/flu-vs-covid19.htm>

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## **Income / Expense Update — October 2021**

*Co-Moderators of Finance, Leann Graves and Nancy Gardner*

	<b>Current Month</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>Prior Year to Date</b>
<b>Income</b>	\$ 40,521.19	\$473,346.70	\$588,578.76
<b>Expense</b>	\$ 53,905.86	\$475,191.07	\$789,762.32
<b>Total +/-</b>	(\$ 13,384.47)	(\$ 1,844.37	(\$201,183.56)*

\*The difference in the prior year to last year's Income and Expense is due to the Capital Campaign Project of the elevator.



*Plant a Seed - Create a Legacy*  
The FPC Endowment and Memorials Committee  
Bob and Millie Youngquist, Coordinators

## The 1840 Legacy Society

Ever since its founding in 1840, the mission of First Presbyterian Church of Iowa City in the service of Jesus Christ has been sustained by the commitment and vision of generous donors. With the establishment of an operating endowment, many have chosen to permanently strengthen the church with gifts to the endowment, both unrestricted and restricted.

First Presbyterian Church is grateful to the individuals whose thoughtful planning has helped ensure a vibrant future for the church. The church honors donors who have made endowment gifts of current or future support through membership in **The 1840 Legacy Society**, named to recognize the founding of FPC in 1840.

The Session established the Society in 2011 with 13 Charter Members. Since that time, 10 additional names have been added. These names are listed in the 1840 Legacy Brochure which is available in the narthex. Members are recognized in the church's annual report and are invited to special events and programs. Membership may be anonymous.

You are invited to join **The 1840 Legacy Society** by supporting FPC in one or more of the following ways:

- Establishing a will or trust provision with the church as a beneficiary
- Making a \$5,000 or more outright gift of cash or its equivalent to the FPC Endowment

- Making a minimum \$5,000 gift to the *First Presbyterian Church of Iowa City Agency Fund* at the Community Foundation of Johnson County
- Designating the church as the owner and/or beneficiary of all or a portion of a life insurance policy
- Naming the church as a beneficiary of all or a portion of a retirement plan
- Establishing a charitable gift annuity with the church as beneficiary
- Establishing a charitable trust with the church as a beneficiary
- Making a gift to the church of real property and retaining a life estate

Current members of the 1840 Legacy Society are listed in a framed certificate which hangs in our church narthex. We thank all of them for their supportive gifts to our church.

If you have made plans to include our church in your estate plans, please let us know so we can thank you with membership in **The 1840 Legacy Society**. To make a confidential inquiry about **The 1840 Legacy Society**, please contact:

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

## On Sunday, October 31, 2021 the Congregational Meeting convened via Zoom to elect Ruling Elders and Deacons as well at the Nominating Committee for 2022

### Elder Nominees, Class of 2024

**Bill Follows** grew up in New York City and as a child was invited to join an Episcopal boys' choir. Thereafter, he always joined the church choir every place he lived. He retired from his thirty-year orthopedic practice in Spencer and began going to Tucson in the winter. There, he serves meals at the church's weekly dinner for the homeless and tutors children at the school which is sponsored by the church. He is also active with the Tucson Wildlife Center. In 2016, he moved to Iowa City and joined FPC. He lives in an Oaknoll house with his wife, Kathy, and sheepdog, Lucy. They have three grown children and six grandchildren. Since he likes to bike, he gives rides to other Oaknoll residents on the "trykbike" (a three-wheel, two-person contraption). He also enjoys gardening, wood-working, and jewelry-making. And yes, he is again in the choir.

**Leann Graves** grew up in the Presbyterian Church of Blue Grass, Iowa. She and her husband, Joe, have been members of FPC for over 35 years. They have three grown children who all valued their experiences in FPC's youth programs. In addition to co-chairing Friends of Pasur for four years, Leann has served two terms as a Deacon and will begin her second term as an Elder. She has also taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School and is grateful for the opportunity to learn through the Jeremiah Justice Initiative the past two years. Leann retired in 2016 from a 40-year career as an elementary teacher and currently supervises Reading Practicum students at the University of Iowa. Her pastimes include traveling, photography, reading, and baking.

**Lara Marsh** joined FPC in 2004 and is married with two daughters aged 19 and 17. Lara owns a small web design, maintenance, and hosting business serving roughly 50 clients, mostly in Iowa. Several of her website clients are non-profits for whom she periodically does pro bono work, including the Iowa City Free Medical and Dental Clinic, Shelter House, the Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking, Summer of the Arts, the Iowa City Community School District Foundation, Run for the Schools, Birdies for the Birdhouse, the Presbytery of East Iowa, and our very own First Presbyterian Church. She is currently the Board Chair of the Johnson County Historical Society and is a member of the REALM Committee. In the past at FPC, Lara worked on anti-human trafficking activities and legislation, responsible gun

ownership and efforts against gun violence, the FPC logo design, advocacy for same-gender marriage, and the Operation Backpack program. Lara enjoys running, bicycling, knitting, and reading.



**William Oglesby** grew up in Middletown, Ohio and has been active leader in the Presbyterian Church starting as a youth and has continued throughout his life. In 1995 Bill retired from the University of Iowa Audiovisual Center where he was the Director. In all of the locations in which Bill has lived, he has attended and/or he has been an active member of the local Presbyterian Church—Middletown, Oxford, and Kent in OH; San Diego, CA; Bloomington, IN; and Iowa City, IA. He has served these congregations as a Sunday School teacher, a Deacon, a Ruling Elder, a Session member, and as a member of Pastor Nominating Committees. Bill and his wife, Sharon, are the parents of seven children, fourteen grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Their interests include: church, family, Rotary, The Great Courses® dvd's, Senior College classes, genealogy, films, computers, gardening, and Big Ten sports.

### Deacon Nominees, Class of 2024

**Mick Hammer** was born and raised on a farm in Johnson County, Iowa. She had 5 brothers and 3 sisters to share the duties of farm life. For that she was very fortunate. She is now widowed after 64 1/2 years of marriage and has three children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. She loves being with family as often as she can. She is a retired banker, loved to travel, did boating and skydiving, and loves to play cards. She has been a member of First Presbyterian Church since 2013.

**Mary Helen Kennerly** is a lifelong Presbyterian and a preacher's daughter. Her father, Reverend Lee P. Kennerly, served Willington Presbyterian Church (PC-USA) in McCormick County, South Carolina, for over 40 years and boldly brought a good Presbyterian social justice message to his red-state congregation. Mary Helen was baptized at Willington in November 1983 and remained on its membership roll until November 2012, when she joined FPC. Mary Helen came to Iowa to attend the Nonfiction Writing Program, which she completed in 2012. After struggling with the isolation of the writing life, she realized her passion for working with people

*(Continued on page 12)*



(Continued from page 11)

during a 7-year tenure serving disabled adults at Systems Unlimited. Mary Helen's surprise baby, Aurora, arrived in 2017, cutting short her first stint as a Deacon at FPC. Between 2019 and 2021, she completed coursework and clinical requirements for licensure as a marriage and family therapist, and she started work at the Counseling Center of Iowa City as an LMFT-t in September. Mary Helen lives in the Goosetown neighborhood with Aurora, now 4, and is getting back into the swing of single-momming again now that her own mother has returned to South Carolina after blessing her with an invaluable and enriching 13-month stay.

**Pam Kautz** has been an FPC member since February 2018, and a Deacon since 2019. Her FPC involvement has also included Time with Children, Book Club, Bible Study, and Care Buddies. A long-time Iowa City resident, her daughter and son were born and raised here. She feels very lucky to still have her family nearby. Before retirement, Pam taught elementary school for years. She looks forward to continuing with another term as a Deacon.

**Becca Morgan** is a graduate of the UI with a degree in journalism. After she and her husband, Brent, finished their degrees, they lived in San Francisco for eight years before moving back to Iowa City in 2011 to raise their family of three boys: Thomas (age 12), John (age 9), and Matthew (age 6). Becca has just started working again for the first time in years as an administrative assistant at a psychologists' office and finds it good to be out of the house. Since the age of 12, Becca has been a singer/songwriter and has played the guitar. She released an official album locally in 2002 called *One Bedroom Apartment* which was under her maiden name, Becca Sutlive. Amazon Alexa will play tracks from it if you give that name! She still plays shows occasionally and would like to record again. Becca began her first term as a Deacon in 2019.

**Dan Thedens** has been a member of FPC since the early 2000s and has participated in a wide range of capacities over the years. He has served previous terms as a Deacon and an Elder and is a member of the Personnel Committee. He has also been active in music ministries, such as choir and handbells, and taught Junior High Sunday School. He teaches and does MRI research at UIowa and lives in Iowa City with wife, Laurie, two senior children Mia (Luther College) and Nick (City High) who are all also active musicians, and numerous dogs and cats of all ages.

## Nominating Committee

**Rhonda Barr** has been a member at FPC for over 36 years. She is married to John and has three grown sons: Greg, Tom, and Evan. She worked at UIHC as a physical therapist for 41 years, now retired for the past four years. Rhonda has served FPC in various capacities: Elder, Deacon, Sunday School teacher, and Congregational Health Ministries, for which she is currently the Chair. She is also a facilitator for the Honoring Your Wishes program at FPC. Rhonda is a long-time member of the JuBELLation choir and frequently assists worship as a Lay Liturgist. She served on the Nominating Committee in 2020 and now looks forward to serving in this capacity again in 2022.



## Church Leadership

**Anita Burnett** retired from a career as a church educator that took her to six congregations in four states. Spouse, Gary, and Anita have two children; one died in 1986 and the other lives in Columbia, SC. They have one grandson, a young adult who recently relocated from Iowa to Columbia, SC. Anita has been ordained both Deacon and Ruling Elder, positions that brought service in three

congregations. She loves the connectional nature of the PC(USA) and cherishes opportunities to serve the larger church, as well as locally.

**David Carlson** grew up in northwest Iowa and received his degrees from the University of Iowa. He has worked as a hospital pharmacist for 48 years at UIHC, University Hospital-Tucson, and Mercy-Iowa City. David joined FPC in the late 70s. He has served as a Deacon, sang in the choir, and is a member of the Health Ministry Team.

**Nancy Gardner** has been a member of FPC since 1984. Over the years she has held a variety of positions, including moderating the Personnel and Finance Committees, serving as an Elder and Deacon, directing Sunday School and VBS, and co-leading the women's retreats. She is also involved in the work of Friends of Pasrur and REALM. On some Sundays, you can catch her ringing the C and D bells in JuBELLation! Nancy retired several years ago as the elementary school principal in West Liberty. She now has a sweet gig teaching undergrad students and supervising student teachers at St. Ambrose University. Nancy and her husband, Scott, live on a farm northeast of Iowa City and have two daughters and three grandchildren. Nancy hopes her experiences with the numerous church groups will allow her to be a contributing member to the FPC Nominating Committee.

## Successful Warm Winter Wear Distribution

In its second year of a “pandemic format,” the Consultation of Religious Communities, of which First Presbyterian Church is a founding member, conducted another successful Warm Winter Wear Distribution. Over the three-and-a-half day distribution, 276 households received 1,309 coats and other warm winter wear such as hats, gloves / mittens, scarves, snow pants, sweaters and boots. An additional 104 coats were distributed to the Catholic Worker House, Shelter House, and Path of Hope.



The event was held at a new site this year, the beautiful winter low-threshold shelter portion of Johnson County's GuildLink Center at 340 Southgate Avenue, Iowa City. Donation drop-off, set-up and sorting were done on October 17-19, with distribution of clothing on October 20-23. Clothing donations & volunteers came from a wide range of faith communities (e.g., Christian, Muslim, and Buddhist) and organizations. Five representatives from families selected clothing at half-hour intervals, and five volunteers were scheduled in two-hour blocks, all using SignUpGenius. Participants and volunteers wore masks, used hand sanitizer and attempted to maintain distance, facilitated by the use of grocery shopping carts donate for use by Hy-Vee. Leadership team members for the event were Carolyn Otis, John Barr, Paula Forrest and Jim & Connie Olson. Sincere thanks to members and friends of First Presbyterian Church for your many donations of warm winter wear.



**Thank you to everyone** who donated their time and money! Team FPC raised over \$1,000 with 17 donors!

### *Walkers:*

John Barr  
Cullen Schroeder  
Sharon Raffensperger  
Tammy Schroeder  
Jocelyn Thur

Lydia Fraham

Not pictured:

Pastor Terry & Ginny Purvis-Smith

David Scott & family



Dear Members and Friends,

The Open Information process is now in operation through the FPC website. Session adopted its Open Information Policy in July to communicate to the membership about its work and the work of its committee. What follows are instructions for accessing information.

Instructions on viewing Open Access to Information documents on FPC Website

- ♦ Call **Tammy Schroeder 319-351-2660** for the password
- ♦ Go to FPC website [firstpreswacivity.org](http://firstpreswacivity.org)
- ♦ Scroll down Homepage to *Open Access to Information*
- ♦ Review list of Recently Updated documents
- ♦ Click View Repository
- ♦ Enter Password and click enter button
- ♦ Click on Click Here button
- ♦ Page opens to Committee Folder listings
- ♦ Click on desired folder to open and views documents

**Example:**

Click on **Session Folder** — It will open with 2 sub folders

**Minutes** (contains Minutes from Clerk)

**Monthly Packet** (contains documents for preparation of said month's meeting)

Click on document you wish to see.



The days are shorter, the nights are longer, the temps are colder and the holidays are around the corner. Do you wish you could jot down what's on your mind or heavy on your heart without having to explain it to anyone?

**You can!** Stop by the Community Prayer Post ... you can jot down your thoughts and be completely anonymous or ask to be contacted for confidential personal prayer.

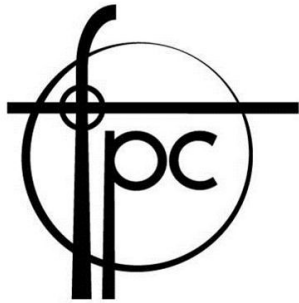
The Prayer Post is located along the sidewalk on Rochester Ave. next to FPC. This Post offers you a place to lay those concerns aside, pick up an inspirational reminder or grab a Bible for yourself or one to share.

**Pray More ... Worry Less**



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**Public Office Hours:**  
9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Monday—Friday  
*except holidays or when announced*  
Ph 319-351-2660  
[www.firstpresbiowacity.org](http://www.firstpresbiowacity.org)

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