

While the worship and service of God are vital components of the Christian life, on any particular day your

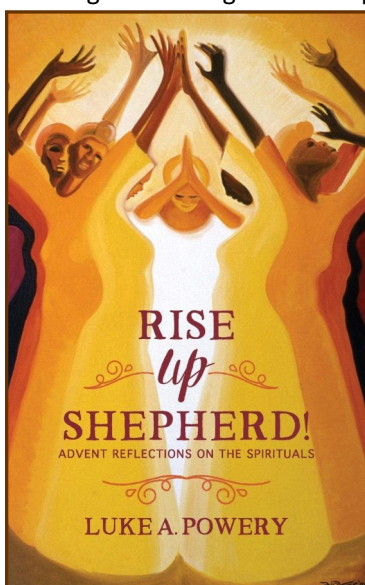


safety needs should be your priority, as well as ours. **The following guidelines presume that you will make the best decision for the care of you and your family.** Please do not come to church if there is risk of harm due to weather. God and we will still love you!

1. **On Sunday mornings, the church will normally not close for inclement weather.** Whoever from the staff is available to come and lead at least a brief prayer service at 10:30 a.m. will do so. As for events after worship on Sundays, when adverse weather is experienced, please contact the event leader to see if the event is still scheduled. If weather grows extreme, check KCRG or call the church to hear if any message has been left giving scheduling information.
2. **On days when the Iowa City Public School System is in session,** the cancellations or postponements announced by the school system by KCRG or other means apply also to the church.
3. **If inclement weather arrives following the close of school on a weekday,** please contact the event leader to see if the event is still scheduled. Check also KCRG and call the church to hear if any message has been left giving information.

## The Advent Season: Spirituals and Hope

We will move through the season of Advent this year using Spirituals as our guide. During our worship, we will sing these songs and reflect



on how they speak to our lives today and our need for hope—specifically the hope of the coming of Jesus Christ.

“These songs, these musical lifelines, reveal the possibility of hope in hellish circumstances, light in the midst of darkness, love in the face of hate.... Bringing the Spirituals and advent together is a way to pray for a double blessing of hope.”

The Advent devotional book, “Rise Up Shepherd!” will be available to supplement our worship on Sunday morning.

This Advent season come, sing, pray, hope.

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## ***Dear sisters and brothers of and First Presbyterian Church,***

The peace of the Lord be with you!

On Reformation Sunday I found myself in the midst of paradox.

On the one hand, the president announced publicly that Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi had been killed. I found the announcement chilling, in the same way as when his predecessor announced the killing of Osama bin Laden. It was made to sound like such a finale, when it is anything but. While politicians and the news make it sound as if we managed to drop a bomb on Hitler or Himmler, the structure of terrorist organizations does not invite the same level of certitude. Notions like defeat and surrender, which we equate with organized armies, do not apply easily. New leaders rise to the surface and the killing of jihadists invites new recruits to take up arms. It is likely that something akin to terrorism has lingered at the edges of human history as long as there have been empires, droughts, famines and forced human migration. While the term itself only came into use during the French Revolution, the Romans experienced it at the hands of Jews and other minorities. Considering the long history of terrorism and its diverse practitioners, it is unfortunate that we Americans so easily conflate terrorism with Muslims.

This brings me to the other hand. That very Sunday afternoon, under blue skies, a host of people gathered to celebrate the completion of a Habitat duplex that is now housing two Muslim families. The Muslim community came out for the event, as did members of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, the synagogue, the Disciples of Christ congregation, and the Unitarian Universalist Society—and perhaps others faith communities too. Our own congregation was well represented, with Faryle Nothwehr presenting one family their home keys while John Barr offered concluding remarks. I was proud of them and a friend of mine, the president of the local mosque, who spoke movingly of the witness provided by persons of varied faiths working together for the common good. I thought of Jesus' teaching heard so often at funerals, found in John 14:1-6: "In God's house, there are many homes." In a few weeks we will also be celebrating a family moving into the fruit of the Women's Habitat Build, the Doris Preucil House. God will bless us with another house, for another family, finally coming home.

I hope it is not wildly optimistic on my part to hope that our congregation and others might continue to show the world how to follow in the way, cling fast to truth and embrace the life taught by Jesus. Perhaps, by doing so, we can witness against the pervasive global practice of living and dying by the sword and corrupting the earth in the process. As for me and my house, our hope is built on nothing less. How about you and yours?

Love and blessings, your pastor,

Sam

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The Deacons invite you to make a memorial donation in remembrance or in honor of the ones you love this Christmas. Your gift of \$15 will help cover the cost of the Christmas flowers purchased by the Deacons to be placed in the sanctuary to give glory to God! While at the same time any monetary gifts that exceed the cost of the flowers will be deposited in the Deacon Emergency Relief Fund, where your memorial funds are used to help others during times of hardship as God calls us all to do. Please note that the Deacons no longer deliver plants to members' homes after the holidays due to feedback that the plants are not as fresh after several days inside the building.

### **Deacon's Bench**



In order to honor your gift as tax deductible, members who make memorial gifts cannot take plants home.

The names of those you wish to remember or honor will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. To make your gift simply fill out the form at the end of this newsletter or at the table set with forms in the narthex and return to the church office with your donation by December 15.

## Gifts for Parents, 9 a.m.–2 p.m. on December 7

St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 2675 E. Washington Street, Iowa City

An opportunity for kids, ages 4–14, to experience the joy of giving. Kids pick up to 3 free gifts to give to important adults in their lives.

### Donations and Volunteers Needed

**Donations:** (Your Faith Community coordinator should deliver donated items to St. Mark's, Rockwood Hall on Thursday, December 5, 12:30–6 p.m.)

Items should be new, or gently used and clean. **NO** sized clothing; hats, gloves and scarves are welcome. Gifts for men are especially helpful. *For items requiring batteries, please supply batteries.* Suggested donations:

- |                                 |   |                               |
|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| -caps, scarves, gloves          | -flashlights (include batteries)  | -jewelry, costume jewelry     |
| -hand tool sets                 | -unique coffee mugs / cups  | -craft items                  |
| -knick-knacks                   | -decorative key chain   | -gas prepaid cards            |
| -wall art, shelf art, table art | -decorative soaps or bubble bath  | -wallets & purses             |
| -Amaryllis bulb                 | -tree ornaments   | -car emergency kit            |
| -scented lotion or after shave  | -gift cards to local businesses   | -scented / decorative candles |
| -tire pressure gauge            | -kitchen gadgets: aprons, potholders, cutting boards, dish towels, etc. |                               |

Also needed are large shopping bags, boxes (small to medium), bows, tape, and adhesive tags.

**Volunteers are needed for specific shifts within the broad time frames noted below.** Use SignUp Genius to volunteer for a job and timeslot <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B49A9AE2FA20-gifts>

- Set up/sorting on Thursday, December 5, 12–6:30 p.m.
- Set up/sorting on Friday, December 6, 8 a.m.–3 p.m.
- Greeters, escorts, wrappers, cleanup, etc., Saturday, December 7, 8:30 a.m.–3 p.m.

Questions can be directed to John Barr at BarrJohnO@sau.edu or 319-541-3213.



## Parents' Night Out is Fun for Everyone



Painting pumpkins



A masterpiece!



Everyone loves Play-Doh!

**Friday, November 15** will be our next Parents' Night Out. Parents with children ages 0–10 are welcome to drop off their kids from 5–7:30 p.m. at the church. While parents are away, adult volunteers will supervise the children and provide a light supper. Everyone wins! Parents enjoy some time away, and the kids and adults get to play! Interested? Both parents and volunteers can email Nancy Gardner at [nancy.hayes.gardner@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.hayes.gardner@gmail.com) to sign up!

A shout out to October's PNO volunteers: Debbie Beermann, Leann Graves, Mary and Jim Linn, Mary Ellen Stamp, and Nancy Gardner. December's PNO will be on Friday, December 20!



## FPC Book Club

Nov. 20

*Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover

We gather together at **FPC on the lower level in the Youth Room**; on the last Wednesday of the month from Noon to 1pm. **New members WELCOME!** Bring your lunch and join in the conversation. For more info, contact Jan Walker at 358-6737



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

Join Pastor Sam from 9:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m. to study the Book of Isaiah.

Then again from 6–7 p.m. as the Book of Mark is discussed.

Both studies meet in Coover Lounge.

Everyone is welcome. Invite your friends and join us for a relaxed conversation about the Bible.

For more info, contact Pastor Sam at 319-351-2660 or [sam.massey@firstpresbiowacity.org](mailto:sam.massey@firstpresbiowacity.org)



### Needles, Hooks and Yarn

Mark your calendar to join us at FPC 9-11 a.m. on Saturdays. For more info, contact Tammy Schroeder, 351-2660.

We will NOT meet on Nov. 30—Happy Thanksgiving  
Dec 14—Enjoy the Cookie Walk



### The days are shorter, the nights are longer, the temps are colder and the holidays are around the corner.



It's enough to make anyone feel overwhelmed! 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 and jot away . . . you can be completely anonymous or ask to be contacted for confidential personal prayer.

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**



# First's Family

If you have a news item for the First's Family News, please submit it for publication by December 1 to [tammy.foster@firstpreswacivcity.org](mailto:tammy.foster@firstpreswacivcity.org). Thank you!

## November 15-30

11/16 David Stochl  
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 Sarah Bigaba  
11/24 Leann Graves  
11/24 Heather Fay  
11/25 Jeff Foster



11/26 George Rickey  
11/26 Grace Kirschling  
11/29 Kathy Smith  
11/29 Stephanie Brentner  
11/29 Lily Chong

## December 1-15

12/01 Sharon Oglesby  
12/5 Ella Everhartt  
12/07 Sue Farran  
12/07 Cathe Franz  
12/10 Doris Preucil  
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  
12/15 Greg Smith  
12/15 Jeri Smith  
12/15 Arya Bingham



*Please keep this family in prayer:*

The family of Grace Young, who died October 25. Her service was held on October 29 at FPC.



*Known to have been Hospitalized:*

Duane McNeal

## Congratulations to Will Massey and Yana Lentz for two reasons!

First, they were wed this past Memorial Day weekend.

Second, Will has accepted a youth ministry position at Highland Presbyterian Church of Lancaster, PA. Will is currently enrolled at United Theological Seminary in the Twin Cities and will complete his work online. Yana promotes women ownership of businesses while in training as a legal assistant.

We celebrate with these two people all that God is doing between and with them! Thanks be to God!



## To the First Presbyterian Church of Iowa City,

Thank you for renewing your Organizational Affiliate Membership with the Center for Worker Justice of Eastern Iowa (CWJ) through your generous donation of \$2,000. Our work would not be possible without the support of our growing network of Organizational Affiliates.

Thank you again for your unconditional support. Our Organizational Affiliates are essential to the realization of our mission. Together we will work towards a more just Iowa in 2020 and beyond.

Rafel Morataya  
Executive Director  
Center of Worker Justice.



## COOKIE WALK & BAZAAR

The 33rd Annual Cookie Walk and Bazaar will be Saturday, December 7 from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in Ryerson Fellowship Hall in the upper level of First Presbyterian Church located at 2701 Rochester Avenue in Iowa City.

### **HERE IS HOW IT WORKS:**

**Cookie Walk:** Each household of FPC is asked to donate 6 dozen of their favorite Christmas or other cookies. The cookies are displayed on tables, and shoppers can choose what cookies they want to purchase. Shoppers are encouraged to bring their own containers in which to put their selection. Plastic gloves are provided, and if shoppers do not bring their own container, one will be provided. Cookies are sold for \$6 per dozen. We also feature a gourmet cookie table for extra fancy decorated cookies that sell for 6 for \$12.

**Bazaar:** Church members are asked to contribute homemade or handmade crafts, decorations, jams or jellies, breads, candies, etc.

**Re-Gifting Holiday Items:** Everyone is asked to bring new or gently used items for “re-gifting,” such as Christmas decorations, crafts, novelties, games and puzzles.

### **Please consider helping out with this crucial fundraising event by:**

1. Baking 6 dozen Christmas or other cookies
2. Signing up to help set up for the event on Friday (sign-up sheets in Ryerson Fellowship Hall)
3. Volunteering to help on Saturday during and/or after the event
4. Donating your homemade or handmade items
5. Donating new or gently used items for “re-gifting,” such as Christmas decorations, crafts, novelties, games or puzzles.
6. Supporting the event by shopping at the Cookie Walk/Bazaar
7. Telling your friends about the Bazaar—handing out “Save the Date” Cookie Walk/Bazaar Cards, hanging up posters at work and local stores

Questions? Contact Sally Rickey (337-9044) or at [sarah0654@mchsi.com](mailto:sarah0654@mchsi.com). Funds raised through this event will go to church missions locally and globally. In the past a large portion of the money earned has gone to purchase supplies to make a meal for the Take Away Hunger project.



*Beloved friends,*

*By the time you read this newsletter, our congregation will have celebrated Pledge Sunday and we shall know soon if God has turned our faith into generous support of our missions and ministries. I ask you to pray without pause that all of our members will respond with the Lord's own generosity because the power of the Holy Spirit has moved powerfully among our members. Please! We have a wonderful staff, emergent ministries that promise to have impact, life-transforming missions, and a vibrant worship life that joyfully hugs and kisses God. In uncertain times that remind us of our complete dependence on God providing for us, our prayers and pledges state unequivocally what we believe and in whom we trust.*

*Love,  
Pastor Sam*



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



Youth Choir is open to 4th–6th graders interested in singing and leading worship through music. We work throughout the year to sing, play, and read the Word of God so that the youth can lead worship several times throughout the year. Rehearsals are every Sunday from 5–6 p.m. Contact Leah Bergman at [leah.bergman@firstpreswacity.org](mailto:leah.bergman@firstpreswacity.org) or call the church for more information.

#### Important Dates:

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17:** Sing in worship

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8:** Sing in worship

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15:** Sing at Oaknoll Retirement Center (see below for details)

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24:** Sing at the 4:30 Christmas Eve worship service.



On Sunday, December 15, our Youth Choir and alumni of the choir will lead worship at **Oaknoll Retirement Center**. The service, which consists of readings, anthems and carols, is an annual event and one that both the youth and Oaknoll residents look forward to each year. This will mark the **20th year** that our Youth have led this service. In fact, it's such a well-loved tradition that in recent years our choir alumni have often come back to join the choir.

The choir will meet at the church at 5:00 p.m. for rehearsal before car-pooling to Oaknoll, arriving in time for the 6:30 p.m. service with a 30-minute bell choir prelude provided by members of JuBELLation. Afterwards, we'll go to Pizza Ranch for dinner and plan to arrive back at the church by 9 p.m., where parents can pick up members of the choir. Members of the congregation are always welcome to come and worship at the Oaknoll Youth-led service.



### JUNIOR CHOIR

Pre-K–4th Grade  
Sunday Mornings

Junior Choir is made up of all children grades Pre-K–4th. This group will sing and play together on Sunday mornings at the beginning of the [SPACE] break-out times. If your child is interested in singing, come on Sunday mornings before church for education time and music! This group will sing occasionally in worship during the year. Contact Leah Bergman for more information!



Junior Choir will sing  
during worship on  
**Sunday, December 8!**

Come on Sunday  
mornings to learn the  
songs and have fun!





### It's Basketball Season and we've got a question for you!

Are you going to Carver-Hawkeye arena to cheer on the Hawkeyes?

If so, visit the Dodekah Ministry at the ice cream stand near section A. At all men's home basketball games! We hope to see you there!



**THANK YOU** to all who helped deliver and sell pumpkins.

**THANK YOU** to all who bought pumpkins, gourds, and candles!

**THANK YOU** to you who told your friends, neighbors, and strangers!

#### FPC's 2nd Annual Pumpkin Patch

was a hit! We had over 4,000 pumpkins and gourds on FPC's front lawn for the month of October. This year we added local soy Candle Barn's Candles from a



college student in Marion, Iowa! We had over 30 volunteers, aged 3-80 years old on Saturday, October 5 to help with delivery. Over 20 volunteers helped 'pumpkin' sit and sell the pumpkins. Through wind and cold, brave volunteers sold a total of \$9,334.69 in fall goodies. We heard a lot of great support from our community. There was an Iowa professor who dropped by, simply to donate, and told a volunteer he loved seeing a church so active in the community. There was a Regina Mom with 5 kiddos, astounded at what a great idea this was. There were many neighborhood dogs who loved the addition of our teal, dog-treat filled pumpkin.

The profit of \$2,257.85 will go to support the Dodekah Intergenerational Ministry. For 6 months, 8 FPC members have been meeting for Bible study, meals, and research. These fundraisers (Pumpkin Patch and the Men's Basketball Ice Cream) will go to support a 14-day trip to Israel in June 2020.



### You're Invited!

In the Winter, FPC takes a trip to Camp Wyoming for a weekend getaway. This is a relaxed, easy peasy trip where everyone can recover from the holidays. This trip is highly encouraged for families, but it is a hit for all ages! Our trip this year is [Friday, February 7– Sunday, February 9](#). The Owl's Nest (where we're staying) can accommodate 30 people, so LET'S FILL THOSE BEDS!

The cost of the trip is \$30 per person per night (children under the age of 5 are free). Scholarships ARE available; cost should not deter you or your family from this awesome opportunity. Contact Anna for more information.



Several of FPC's High School Youth are performing, lighting, or setting up "A Christmas Carol, the Musical" at City High School this December. Mark your calendars for Friday, December 6–Sunday, December 8 with a performance at 7:30 p.m. each of the 3 nights. Tickets can be purchased in the main office during business hours, 30 minutes prior to each show, or at [seatyourselves.biz/iowacityhs](http://seatyourselves.biz/iowacityhs)



## Breaking Free

### Breaking Out

### Breaking Away

A Retreat for youth on Authentic Faith

January 10-12, 2020

Camp Wyoming

Wyoming, Iowa

\$75 per person

Includes meals from Friday night dinner– Sunday lunch  
Please RSVP to Anna or Layne Today!



# RHINO

*rebuilding hope in New Orleans since Katrina*



Students completing 9th–12th grades are invited to a Summer Mission Trip to RHINO; Rebuilding Hope in New Orleans from [Sunday, July 5–Monday, July 13](#).

Check out [RhinoNOLA.org](http://RhinoNOLA.org) for more information.

**Total trip cost per student is \$200.**

This includes a visit to the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, TN.

There are scholarships available—no student should be hindered from this life-changing experience by funds.

## Each Youth Group will have a Christmas Party!



Each event will be a potluck dinner/snack and each student is invited to bring a wrapped White Elephant gift (\$5 maximum OR something from

home). The 4th-6th Grade Youth Group's party will be Sunday, December 22 from 6-7:30 p.m. and the Jr & High School Youth Group's will be Wednesday, December 18 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.



- J&HYG, **Wednesday, November 20, 6:30-8:30 p.m. – POTLUCK DINNER NIGHT!** Our FIRST Worship night of the year. Bring your instruments and prepare to worship God together.
- 46YG, **Sunday, November 24, 6-7:30 p.m. – Action night!** Let's work together and enact what it looks like to love God with all of our hearts. We'll do a small mission project.
- J&HYG, **Wednesday, November 27, 6:30-8:30 p.m. – A super low maintenance, no plan, hang out and movie night before the holiday!**
- J&HYG, **Wednesday, December 4, 6:30-8:30 p.m. – We'll spend the night working on the Christmas Play!**
- 46YG, **Sunday, December 8, 6-7:30 p.m. – We'll discuss the meaning of Christmas, Advent, and the joyful holiday that is to come!**
- J&HYG, **Wednesday, December 11, 6:30-8:30 p.m. – We'll perfect our Christmas Play that will be performed on Sunday, December 15!**
- J&HYG, **Wednesday, December 18, 6:30-8:30 p.m. – POTLUCK DINNER and Christmas Party!** Bring a dish to share and a \$5 White Elephant Gift (or something wrapped from home)!
- 46YG, **Sunday, December 22, 6-7:30 p.m. – POTLUCK SNACK and Christmas Party!** Bring your favorite snack and a \$5 White Elephant Gift (or something wrapped from home)!

## Tips on preventing influenza

Flu season is here! Be forewarned! We have some tips on how to prevent the spread of this dangerous virus while worshipping at FPC:

1. **Get vaccinated—the sooner the better!** There are many places and ways to get the flu vaccination (VNA clinics, Hy-Vee or other pharmacies, at your doctor's office). Insurance covers this, usually without co-pay.
2. **Stay home if you are ill.** You can worship from home on Facebook where we live stream the service each Sunday. Stay home until you are symptom free for at least 24 hours.
3. **Passing the Peace:** it is best to avoid shaking hands, as this is the most frequent way the virus is transmitted from person to person. Alternatives to handshakes: bow, smile, wave, elbow bumps, a hand on the shoulder. If you do shake hands (as many of us continue to do), use hand sanitizer immediately afterwards. Carry a small bottle in your purse or pocket, always! If you do not have one, make a trip out to the Narthex, where a large bottle is placed for your use.
4. **During Worship:** Remember that every surface you touch (pew, attendance pad, chair arms) can harbor the flu virus for up to 8 hours after an ill person has touched it. Once you touch ANY surface, it is advisable not to touch your eyes, nose or mouth where the virus can enter your body readily. Cough or sneeze into a tissue, and throw away immediately into a trash can. If you do not have or cannot reach a tissue in time, catch the sneeze/cough into your sleeve at the elbow. Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with warm water and soap (sing Jesus Loves Me) or use a hand sanitizer immediately after using the tissue
5. **During Communion:** Those preparing the communion bread and juice wash their hands first. Those serving communion use the hand sanitizer before coming forward. They should be cautioned not to touch anything else before serving. The



## Wellness Tips

person serving bread tears off a piece and drops it onto your (clean, you used sanitizer too, right?) upturned hands. This way no one touches hands and the bread should remain untainted. Hold the bread from a corner of it, and dip into the chalice without dipping your fingers into the juice. Eat bread/juice holding this over your other hand, or the server's napkin, to catch any drips. DO NOT eat the bread holding over the chalice, as contaminated juice or bread will drop back into the cup. If you are concerned about the intinction procedures, use the individually cut pieces of bread and the communion cups at the center station.

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

*Your Congregational Health Ministry Health Team*



## Visit the Prayer Center this Advent Season

Located on the lower level at the end of the hallway to the right, the prayer center is open to all. It is available any time the church is open for anyone who needs a few moments of quiet, guided prayer and meditation, or ideas to take home to pray. During Advent, the prayer center will have stations reflecting the season as well as the Spirituals—the theme of the season. You will find plenty of things to take home with you, and ideas to fill your Advent season with peace and prayer in the midst of busy lives.

## Successful Winter Clothing Distribution Conducted at Central Site

The Consultation of Religious Communities (CRC), of which FPC is a founding member, conducted a very successful Winter Clothing Distribution at one central site this year, St. Andrew Presbyterian Church (140 Gathering Place Ln, off Camp Cardinal Blvd.), after being held for a number of years at sites in both Iowa City and Coralville. Over the period of October 24-26, 199 volunteers from 16 faith communities sorted and displayed winter clothing items, and escorted families as each member selected a winter coat, hat, scarf and gloves / mittens, and up to five additional clothing items. Fourteen FPC members volunteered at the event this year.

An amazing 1,400 patrons were served at the distribution from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the 26.



Order, after two days of setup & sorting.



Escorts assist patrons in making selections.

Because the distribution site is not easily accessible by public transportation, the CRC contracted with Iowa Central School Bus to run a shuttle from the Kingdom Center in Iowa City and the Coralville Recreation Center. Serving only 47 patrons, the shuttle was not well utilized.

The CRC gratefully thanks the many donors of winter clothing items and the large number of volunteers who contributed to the success of this important community event.

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**Sewing for A Cause** continues to meet on Thursday mornings in the Beach Room in the lower level of the church. Our next project will be Fidget books/quilts/aprons—given to Alzheimer and dementia patients to give their hands something to do. They are meant to sit on the patients lap where they will find snaps, buttons, zippers, Velcro, ribbons, and beads on the quilt or in the fabric book and it gives their hands something to work on. We will also use different fabrics of varying textures. These quilts will be donated to Iowa City Hospice. The benefits of sensory stimulation for someone living with Alzheimer's disease cannot be underestimated. Studies have shown that keeping someone with dementia active and engaged promotes a sense of self-worth and can keep that person independent longer and off of anti-psychotic drugs for a longer period of time.

**The Book and Bake Sale will be returning Friday and Saturday, April 17 and 18, right after Easter.**

Please save your books for this sale—we depend on our church members to donate their used books and to shop and restock your own bookcases at home. Half of the proceeds will go to Four Oaks, a non-profit child welfare, juvenile justice, and behavioral health agency founded in 1973, whose mission is to “assure children become successful adults” by providing holistic prevention, intervention, and treatment.





## October 2019 Session Highlights

*Clerk of Session, Ann Grosscup*

Elders gathered at 7 p.m., Tuesday, October 15, 2019. Pastor Sam Massey lit the Christ candle while declaring a time of worship. Dale Kraus shared a personal road trip experience which resulted in re-connecting with an Amish friend who lives a simple, yet fulfilled, life. He then led session in prayer.

Elders were informed that a special session meeting may be called to approve an elevator contract as it was not ready by the time of the October session meeting.

Pastor Appreciation Month was recognized by sharing thank yous with Pastor Sam.

Dale Kraus shared year-to-date financials plus the monthly report for September 2019. Income is at 71.1% with expenses at 77.0% which results in a shortfall of \$36,419. The Endowment transfer of funds of \$20,000 needs to be received. Building and Grounds maintenance has \$10,000 in Building and Grounds Reserve Account, which can be transferred since this is the area which has unexpectedly taxed the FPC budget. The congregation members' 2019 pledges total \$479,100; the actual amount received-to-date is \$331,013. Pledged giving is not received at the same pace as in the past.

Per September session request, Treasurer Larry Bruner reported that 24 are behind in fulfilling pledges and 16 have contributed zero to date in 2019. Larry and Pastor Sam will consult on the pledge status.

### **MOTION APPROVED:**

1. Refer the 2020 proposed FPC budget to the Stewardship Committee as the foundation for the upcoming pledge campaign.
2. September 2019 financials were received.
3. Minutes of stated session meeting September 17, 2019.
4. Treasurer Position Task Force, comprised of Finance members Ken Miller, Larry Bruner and Tony Warren, representation from A&P, Nancy Gardner and Steve Smith, and REALM Planning, Jeremy Fletcher, headed by Tony Warren, to investigate options and bring a recommendation to session.

### **Other business**

The FPC Treasurer replacement process to date was reviewed, in particular the developed job description by synthesizing requested responses.

A prioritized needs list will be compiled from Lil Creation Academy day care staff input and these will be the items the Lil Creations Academy Advisory Committee will address.

Session was informed that JJ DeRyke's water collection tank offer has been withdrawn as we were not prepared to implement the tank into a comprehensive water collection plan; the dollars were re-allocated to another FPC project. Green Team has set aside \$350 for a water collection tank. A local urban conservationist, at no fee, is being asked to help FPC develop a rain water utilization plan in the spring 2020.

The Volunteer Task Force has a plan for signing up the congregation for My First Pres, a data base of gifts, talents and interests. Additional aspects will be examining the life of ministry programs and improving communication.

The growing Parents Night Out next event will be Friday, October 25, 2019.

The FPC's Core Team of the Johnson County Interfaith Coalition (JCIC) will debrief Sunday, October 27, 2019. FPC's Core Team met with Kingdom Center Core Team members in September.

The Annual Staff Retreat will be Saturday, October 26, 2019.

Building and Grounds concerns being addressed are the following: dehumidifier settings due to higher energy bills, the status of five building air conditioners, plus alternate energy sources.

Nancy Gardner closed session meeting with prayer.

Session's next meeting: November 19, 2019, 7 p.m. in Coover Lounge

Tony Warren, Opening Devotions; Michelle Bessman, Closing Prayer

### **Join Us at Just Lunch! (No pressure...really!)**

Our next Just Lunch! will be on Thursday, November 21 at noon. What is it, you ask? Well, to put it simply, just bring your lunch and sit and eat with friends. That's it!

We meet in Coover Lounge . . . no meeting, no agenda, no pressure! Just a time to relax and enjoy some lunch with friends! C'mon and join us!





## Habitat Interfaith Homes Dedicated on Sunday, October 27th

Under a beautiful blue sky, diverse faith community members participated in the joint dedication of two zero lot-line Habitat for Humanity Interfaith Homes at 2764 /2774 Blazing Star Dr. St. Andrew Presbyterian Church was the primary sponsor for the home at 2764. First Presbyterian Church was the primary sponsor of the home at 2774 for parents Hatim and Sayeda, and their five children [two boys, Mohamed (14) and Nadir (11), and three girls, Elaf (7), Elan (4), and Eileen who was born in January 2019]. Our funding was provided largely through the Mission Tithe of our Capital Campaign.



Participants gather for the dedication ceremony



FPC's Faryle Nothwehr hugs Sayeda after presenting the key to their new home

The family is thrilled to be moving from their small three-bedroom apartment with one bathroom into this Habitat home, and looks forward to having quiet spaces where they can study, work and play. The couple is very familiar with the Habitat program, having volunteered to help build other homes. "When I got the letter saying our family was accepted, it changed my life," Hatim says. "It is a big, big opportunity for our kids to have a good foundation for their future."

Since March, 19 FPC members have volunteered to work a total of 37 four-hour shifts on these two Interfaith Build homes and the Doris Preucil Woman Build home at 2629 Blazing Star Dr.

## MONEY MATTERS

*Larry Bruner, Treasurer*

	Contributions	Misc. Income <small>Building Use, Walker Trust, Bank interest, etc.</small>	Total Income	Total Expenses	Over/Short
Jan-June	\$271,636.17	\$68,184.06	\$339,820.23	\$327,048.66	\$12,771.57
3rd Quarter	\$101,887.36	\$670.59	\$102,557.95	\$151,749.27	-\$49,191.32
October	\$32,047.25	\$376.01	\$32,423.26	\$43,638.75	-\$11,215.49
<b>2019 Totals</b>	<b>\$405,570.78</b>	<b>\$69,230.66</b>	<b>\$474,801.44</b>	<b>\$522,436.68</b>	<b>\$47,635.24</b>

## Why We Support the Pasrur Christian Girls School in Pakistan

Here are quotes from people in our church and community about why they support the scholarship program for the boarding house girls at the Christian Girls School in Pasrur, Pakistan:

"As a retired teacher and mother of girls, I have a 'built-in' interest in the education of girls. After hearing about the Pasrur school and its desperate needs, I was called to act. Over the years I have seen remarkable changes. I know that I am making a difference for our Pasrur students, for Pakistan, and for the world."  
Mary Linn

"It is such a pleasure to support the scholarship program for the boarding house girls at the Pasrur Christian Girls School. Rarely does one have the opportunity to make such a dramatic, direct difference for young, impoverished, Christian girls in a difficult part of the world."  
Ed Cranston

"Educating young Christian girls in Pakistan is a way I can make a positive impact on the world. These girls will be the strong, educated women of the future who will work for peace and contribute to the well-being of their families, communities, and country."  
Nancy Gardner

"Education at the Pasrur Christian Girls School is working—it is breaking the cycle of illiteracy! Girls appreciate school, go home over breaks to teach their families, pay for siblings to attend school, continue school after graduation, and can make informed decisions as adults. Everyone we know here in the United States has the opportunity for a good education. These girls and young women deserve the same opportunity. To us, each scholarship is a small cost for such enormous benefits."  
Nancy and John-Mark Stensvaag

"I love having the opportunity to help Christian

girls in Pakistan receive an education that can change the course of their lives and provide them with hope for a bright future. As a former teacher, it gives me great joy to know I can continue to have an impact in education by supporting these girls."  
Leann Graves

If you would also like to change the life of an impoverished Christian girl in Pasrur, you are invited to fill out a form on the mission table in Fellowship Hall or you can write "Pasrur Scholarships" in the memo line of your check and drop it in the collection plate.

Call Jane Cranston at 319-621-3625 or email [jane-cranston@uiowa.edu](mailto:jane-cranston@uiowa.edu) if you have questions.

Leann Graves, Friends of Pasrur



You can support FPC's work in Pakistan by Christmas shopping! Simply go to [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) and type in "Friends of PEB" where you would find a donor to give to. Amazon will donate .5% to schools in Pakistan for every purchase!



## 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>.)*

Some people have a favorite person and/or story from the Bible—other than the ultimate leading character! Perhaps it is Ruth from the Old Testament and her faithful connection to her mother-in-law, Naomi. Her loyal support may be a source of inspiration. Maybe it was one of the Old Testament prophets who stayed on message despite the loneliness that such a stance generated. Some identify with the passion of the psalmists, whether expressing their enthusiasm or anguish.

Henri Nouwen wrote that the key story in the New Testament was the prodigal son, which has multiple participants with

very differing agendas. Perhaps you resonate with the younger son's profound conversion as he became—in Nouwen's words—"aware of his unawareness." Maybe it's the father who captures your interest with the deep-seated joy he experienced as the relationship with his son is restored. The older son also has his followers since he felt fairness had been forgotten.

Perhaps the skepticism of Thomas or the young man who says to Jesus, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief" catches your attention. Then there's both the fear and perseverance of Peter. Of course, the intellectual capability of the one who

wrote over half of the New Testament comes through with the Apostle Paul's theologizing. Although he has no name in scripture, mention the Good Samaritan and people know immediately the reference to selfless care.

With whom do you most relate in scripture? How come? Has it always been that person/story or has it changed over time? Just as we go through developmental changes, so can our faith. Like scripture, our own journeys offer the opportunity to encounter a variety of personalities.

Bruce

## *What you leave behind . . .*



*is woven into the lives of others.*

—Pericles

*"Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

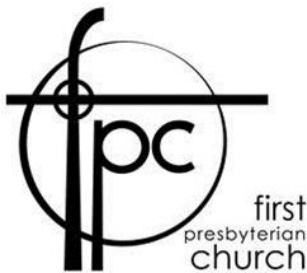
—Matthew 6:20–21



Contribute to the endowment at FPC and ensure permanent financial support for the ministries you care about now and forever.

*For more information, contact Bob and Millie Youngquist at [endowment@firstpresioiwacitcity.org](mailto:endowment@firstpresioiwacitcity.org)*

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**Give Glory to God, recognize a loved one, and beautify our sanctuary this Christmas!**

The Deacons invite you to make a memorial donation in remembrance or in honor of the ones you love this Christmas. Your gift of \$15 will help cover the cost of the poinsettias purchased by the Deacons to be placed in the sanctuary to give glory to God! While at the same time any monetary gifts that exceed the cost of the flowers will be deposited in the Deacons Emergency Relief Fund, where your memorial funds are used to help others during times of hardship as God call us all to do. **Please note** that the Deacons no longer deliver plants to member's homes after the holidays due to feedback that the plant are not as fresh after several days inside the building. In order to honor your gifts as tax deductible, members who make memorial gifts can not take plants home.

The names of those you wish to remember and/or honor will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

**To make your gift, simply complete this form and return to the church office with your donation by December 15.**

Please place \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettia plant(s) (\$15 each poinsettia plant) in our church sanctuary.

This gift is made to the Glory of God!

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

OR

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: **First Presbyterian Church**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ or Email \_\_\_\_\_

Questions: contact Bonnie Bender, [BonnieBender13@gmail.com](mailto:BonnieBender13@gmail.com). Thank you!



**Make Your  
Honorary/Memorial  
Gift Today!**

