

## Interim Pastor Terry Purvis-Smith Arrives at First Presbyterian Church

It is with great pleasure that the Interim Pastor Search Committee announces that Reverend Dr. Terry Purvis-Smith will serve as our interim pastor with an official start date of November 8. As interim, Pastor Terry will assist us in this time of self-reflection, helping us to see where we are as a congregation, where we want to go, and how we might begin the journey.

Pastor Terry comes with a wealth of experience as an interim pastor as FPC will be his fifteenth appointment to such a position. In addition, Terry has many years as head pastor and experience as a diplomat in the Foreign Service, where he served in Dakar, Senegal, Nassau, The Bahamas, and Washington, DC. Before that, Terry was a pediatric hospital chaplain, which included appointments as the department head in two major hospitals.

Although Pastor Terry and his wife, Ginny, officially call Colorado home, they love to spend time visiting their grown children: son, Steve, and his family in the Washington, DC area, and daughter, Julie, and her family in Colorado. With

four grandchildren, ages 15-18, there is much to keep track of. Ginny, who also holds the title of Reverend Doctor, is a noted author with her second publication to be released soon.

We welcome this amazing couple into our hearts and look forward to getting to know them as we enter into this new era at FPC.



Special thanks to the following people who served on the Interim Pastor Search Committee: Sharon Raffensperger, Cathe Franze, Richard Van Rheeden, Steve Smith, Nancy Gardner (moderator), Dr. Rebecca Blair (ex officio), Pastor Jennifer Jennings (ex officio)

## FPC Remains in Phase One of Re-Entry

The FPC COVID Response Team continues to monitor the pandemic in Johnson County in order to determine the right time to begin the phased resumption of in-person activities. The safety of our congregation and staff continues to be our top priority in making this decision. The team had hoped we could begin activities with small groups of ten or less earlier this fall. Unfortunately, the number of COVID cases has continued to increase. Once we see a consistent, sustained decrease in cases in Johnson County, the COVID Response Team will be able to recommend to Session that we begin the process of resuming in-person activities. We will communicate through the FPC Daily when Session decides to resume in-person activities. At that time we will also provide more detail about what activities will be allowed and what safety precautions will be required.

If you have questions, please contact Rhonda Barr at [JOBTENNIS@mchsi.com](mailto:JOBTENNIS@mchsi.com) or Jeremy Fletcher at [fletchej22@gmail.com](mailto:fletchej22@gmail.com).

Please stay safe and healthy.

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**FPC Reconciliation Ministry encourages you to consider  
the following options for your Holiday Giving**

**The FPC Christmas Joy Offering will be  
on Sunday, December 13**

By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This offering addresses the support needed by some of our leaders, including supporting leadership development for communities of color, and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need. **Please return the envelope enclosed with your Newsletter or give electronically at <https://firstpreswacivacy.org/donate-online/>**



**CommUnity:**

This is the local Johnson County Food Bank and Resource Center:  
<https://builtbycommunity.org/give/>

Money can be donated to the local community by donating one time or monthly to help people in Johnson County with food, utilities, and housing.


**PCUSA Gift Giving Guide:** <https://presbyteriangifts.pcusa.org/>

Traditionally this book has been available on the table outside of the sanctuary. There are a wide range of gifts that can be given while also helping the Global Community. These range from first aid kits to seeds to cows to clean water.



HACAP is an organization that provides resources to the homeless and the hungry. HACAP helps veterans, senior citizens, children and everyone in between! Due to COVID-19, we will be offering a new set-up for Adopt a Family this year in order to best serve our families and donors while keeping everyone safe. This year donors will have the opportunity to donate gifts cards online to a family in need that will go toward food, clothing, and basic necessity items. Donors will also have the option to choose their preferred family size online as well. All donations are tax deductible.

<https://www.hacap.org/adoptafamily>



## 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 2nd, 9th, and 16th 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@firstpreswiowacity.org](mailto:leah.bergman@firstpreswiowacity.org)



## Let Your Faith Sound Forth!

1 Thessalonians 1:8

### *Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,*

Celebration Sunday for our "Let Your Faith Sound Forth" Stewardship Campaign has now come and gone. To date we have received \$311,103. in pledges toward our 2021 Budget Goal of \$597,512. While our estimates of giving do not comprise the totality of support for the budget, they are by far the largest component. If you have yet to submit your pledge to the church, please do so immediately, either by mailing it to the church office or by pledging online via MyFirstPres. Your doing so will be most appreciated.

This has been and continues to be a hard year, unlike any other that many of us have experienced in our lifetimes. In the face of it my mind goes back to those ancient Thessalonians to whom the Apostle Paul wrote in approximately 50 CE. That was a hard year for them as well. Persecutions, social pressures, and ostracism were facts of life for them. And yet, as Paul notes, they held firm and allowed their faith "to sound forth," becoming an example to others as they lived out their calling to be the Church, God's people, in their day and time (1 Thessalonians 1:6-8). Their witness to their faith in God despite the troubles and challenges marking their lives was truly transformational.

In like manner, in the face of the challenges and troubles that face us, we, too, are called as the people of God known as First Presbyterian Church to continue to "let our faith sound forth" through our witness and presence in our community, state and world. Led by a gifted staff, we offer vibrant worship, impactful and life-changing ministries, and a caring, accepting, inclusive fellowship to all persons regardless of their race, sexuality or gender. There has never been a more important time than now for us to be what by the grace of God we are, the Body of Christ at work in the world.

And that is why I am asking you to do all that you can to support the life and ministries of our faith community. No doubt it will involve making critical choices and sacrifices. The Thessalonians knew that and rose to the challenge. They let their faith sound forth. And now it is our turn to do the same by investing our time, talents, gifts and abilities in support of what God is doing in the world through our church.

Thank you for your faith and your faithfulness,  
Paul Akin



## Successful Winter Clothing Distribution

The Consultation of Religious Communities (CRC) annual Winter Clothing Distribution, conducted under the challenging conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic, was an amazing success event this year. Rather than the traditional one-day, six-hour format attracting upwards of 1,000 patrons at sites in Coralville and Iowa City, this year's distribution was conducted from October 12-19 at one central location, the old CarQuest building at S. Capital and Benton Streets in Iowa City.

A representative from each of three participating families registered via SignUpGenius for one half-hour time slot on a specific day, selecting winter clothing items for family members without their children present. Each patron was assisted by a distanced volunteer escort who guided a shopping cart through the displays of clothing. Both patrons and volunteers had their forehead temperatures checked prior to admission to the facility, wore multi-level masks, and used approved hand sanitizer.



Thanks to the generous donations of winter clothing by area faith communities and volunteer organizations, 821 winter coats and related warm outerwear (e.g., snow pants, sweaters, insulated vests, hats, scarves, mittens / gloves and boots) were distributed to 240 families during the event. This year's distribution was coordinated by the leadership team of Carolyn Otis, John Barr, Barb Lange and Paula Forest; supported by Jenni Bounds, administrator of the SignUPGenius for both patrons and volunteers; staffed by volunteers who filled 94 critical two-hour time slots. Donations of clothing and time by FPC members were greatly appreciated in helping to ensure the success of this year's distribution.



### FPC Book Club

Join us as we gather on the **LAST TUESDAY** of the month at 11:30 a.m. on Zoom. For more info contact Mary Linn at [JmLnn@aol.com](mailto:JmLnn@aol.com)

November 17 *Autobiography of a Face* by Lucy Grealy

### Needles, Hooks and Yarn

reminds everyone to be safe. If you need supplies; contact Tammy Schroeder.



# 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@firstpresbiowacity.org](mailto:tammy.foster@firstpresbiowacity.org). Thank you!

## November 15-30

11/16 David Stochl  
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

12/1 Sharon Oglesby  
12/5 Ella Everhartt  
12/7 Sue Farran  
12/7 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



*During This  
Time of Loss*

*Please keep this family in prayer:*

We extend our sympathy to Barb Dallis, their children and grandchildren on the death of **Dallis Meier**, on October 24. His graveside service was held on October 27 and led by Pastor Paul Akin.



*Known to have been  
Hospitalized:*

Al Wicks

## Growing through gratitude



Thankfulness, studies show, has multiple physical, mental and emotional benefits. Psychologist Robert Emmons calls gratitude "fertilizer for the mind" because of its powerful effects.

He admits gratitude isn't always easy — especially when life throws us curveballs — but says it can be most helpful during and after difficulties. Emmons suggests reframing challenges using thankfulness-based language. As, for example: Though I wasn't grateful for the experience at the time, how can I be now? What lessons did I learn, and how did I grow as a person?

Throughout his letters, the apostle Paul reframes his extensive sufferings and urges us to do the same. "Give thanks in all circumstances," he writes, "for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

# Christmas Play 2020

*A Christmas like you've never seen before*

Save the date for a virtual Christmas Play — Sunday, December 20 at 9:30 a.m.  
There will be a link provided via Facebook event, FPC Daily, and Instagram beginning December 1.



Both the 4th–6th Grade and the 7th–12th Grade Youth Groups meet weekly on Zoom. Please see weekly emails for link.

- Wednesday, November 18:  
To ensure that all students are involved in the Christmas play, we are changing the time to record the Christmas play.  
4th–6th Graders, TIME CHANGE.  
We will meet from 4–5 p.m.  
7th–12th Grades, will meet from 4:30–6 p.m.
- **NO YOUTH GROUPS on Wed., 25  
HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**
- Wednesday, December 2  
We will start a series entitled The Reason for the Christmas Season!  
4th–6th Graders, will meet from 3:30–4:30 p.m.  
7th–12th Grades, will meet from 4:30–6 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 9,  
Week 2 of The Reason for the Christmas Season!  
4th–6th Graders, will meet from 3:30–4:30 p.m.  
7th–12th Grades, will meet from 4:30–6 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 16  
Week 3 and final week of the Reason for the Christmas Season.  
4th–6th Graders, we will meet from 3:30–4:30 p.m.  
7th–12th Grades. we will meet from 4:30–6 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 23  
**No Youth Groups**  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

*Youth Groups will resume on  
Wednesday, January 6, 2021.*



## small group MINISTRY

Feeling disconnected? *Feeling lonely?* We totally understand the feeling.

**Join a Small Group Ministry!**

These small groups of 4-5 adults meet weekly on Zoom to discuss life, faith, the church service and much, much more.

The winter Small Groups begin the week of January 24–March 28.

Please email Anna at [Anna.Sheetz@firstpresbiowacity.org](mailto:Anna.Sheetz@firstpresbiowacity.org) to sign up today!



### Save the Dates!

The winter Jeremiah Justice Initiative will meet on Sundays evenings from 6–7:30 p.m. from Sunday, January 24–Sunday, March 28. If you are interested, please email Layne Sheetz at [Layne.Sheetz@firstpresbiowacity.org](mailto:Layne.Sheetz@firstpresbiowacity.org).

## CAROLS FOR ADVENT

*The Advent Season begins Sunday, November 29*

Planning for and celebrating Advent this year is a difficult task both in our homes and in the church. Advent and Christmas are a time when we long to gather together, sit around a fire, eat food together, and sing carols. This year is no doubt going to look and feel very different for us all, and yet the hope of the coming of the Christ child is still with us and will be celebrated.

Generally the Advent season in the church is a time of waiting. We live in the darkness, lighting one candle at a time, and wait in expectation for the birth of our Savior, who brings joy and peace to a longing world. It feels a little bit like this whole year has been one long Advent. Waiting. Watching. Longing for joy. Hoping for peace.

This year, we will bring just a little bit of Christmas into our Advent worship. We will find comfort through singing familiar carols. We will use those carols to explore what it means to have the Christ child already in our midst even as we wait in joyful expectation for the celebration of his birth. We will find joy in worshipping online—distant, but together. We will find hope through worshipping in our homes and staying warm and safe. We will find peace through prayer and listening to the word of God.



### Help us celebrate Advent and Christmas through sharing your gifts and talents!

We are looking to include as many people as possible in our Advent and Christmas worship services. You can help by:

- ◆ Playing or singing a favorite carol or Christmas song
- ◆ Reading a favorite Christmas children's book or story
- ◆ Lighting a candle in your Advent Wreath
- ◆ Taking pictures of your decorations and celebrations

Record or take a picture and send it to Leah Bergman at [leah.bergman@firstpreswac.org](mailto:leah.bergman@firstpreswac.org)

Want to contribute but not sure where to start? That's ok! Just contact Leah and she'll help figure out how to use your gifts in worship.







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

Bob and Millie Youngquist, Coordinators

### **Giving to the Endowment Fund**

#### **Endowment Funds Grow More Quickly With Additional Gifts Than by Investment Return**

In other words, it's not enough to just wait for our endowment to grow as the years go by. It's important to be giving to its base so that a consistently larger fund is working to support us in future years.

#### **Types of Charitable Gifts**

There are many different ways for a donor to contribute to our church endowment fund. Each type of charitable gift is unique in what it does, the tax advantages it offers, and the most appropriate time to use it.

The following lists the most popular ways to contribute to our endowment fund and some of the advantages of each. For more detailed information on these giving options, talk to your financial representative, accountant, tax specialist or attorney. This column is only to whet your appetite for such thinking and should not be construed as presenting professional legal advice of any kind. Generically speaking, here are some thoughts for you:

##### **Direct gift**

A direct gift is when a donor gives an asset, such as cash, stock or real estate, directly to the endowment fund. All potential donors can use this method, regardless of age, the size of the estate, or the amount of the gift. A donor who makes a cash contribution is eligible for an income tax deduction, while a donor who makes a gift of an appreciated long-term capital asset, such as stock, is eligible for an income tax deduction and can avoid paying capital gains taxes on the asset's appreciation. A donor must itemize his or her deductions to receive a charitable income tax deduction.

##### **Bequest**

A bequest is when someone gives assets, such as stocks, bonds and personal property, through his or her will. Any potential donor who has a will or living trust, regardless of age, the size of their estate, or the amount of their gift, can make a charitable bequest. The value of the gift is removed from a person's estate, which reduces the amount owed in estate taxes.

##### **Qualified asset beneficiary designation**

When potential donors name another person as the beneficiary of a qualified retirement investment (401(k), TSA, IRA, etc.), the asset will be exposed to income taxes

and, depending upon their net worth, estate taxes. These taxes can greatly reduce the amount the beneficiaries actually receive. Instead of naming another person as the individual beneficiary, a donor can name the endowment fund of the church, which is not required to pay taxes. This giving option is most appropriate for donors age 40 and older.

##### **Charitable life insurance**

Donors can use life insurance to make a donation in a number of ways. They can:

- Transfer ownership of a life insurance contract they already have to the endowment fund;
- Cash out a current policy and give the proceeds to the church;
- Purchase a new life insurance contract and name the endowment fund as the owner and beneficiary; or
- Designate the church as the beneficiary of a life insurance contract they continue to own.

Charitable life insurance is an appropriate giving vehicle for most donors. If the ownership is transferred to the church and the church is the beneficiary, the premium payments may be tax-deductible. All potential donors can use this method, regardless of age or the size of their estate.

##### **Charitable life estates**

In this arrangement, donors deed their primary residence, vacation home or farm to the endowment. This arrangement allows them to maintain ownership of the property and continue living there for the rest of their lives. After the donors die, the property belongs to the endowment without the need for a probate proceeding. Tax benefits may include income tax deductions, gift tax deductions, and estate tax deductions.

These are just a few popular ideas which can be pursued more fully on your part. Do see a professional financial

*(Continued on page 9)*



*Fairi*

## Make Your Mark on the Future

My Husband and I sponsor a little girl named Fairi at the Pasrur Christian Girls School in Pakistan. She is in first grade. When girls this young are admitted, it's usually with an older cousin or sister so they stay together in the dormitory. There are six girls and three bunk beds in each small room. The older child is responsible for looking after the younger family member. Fairi loves dogs and the color red. She is small for her age, has big brown eyes and a shy smile.

At the school, Fairi gets three nutritious meals a day, a school uniform, books, and tuition for school. She stays in the boarding house and walks down the hill to the school every weekday. She is safe and well cared for. Through her scholarship, Fairi and her family have been given hope for the future. She'll probably educate other family members and be able to get a job to support her family.

Without this education, the likely options for her are not good. Pakistan and Afghanistan are considered by UNESCO to be the worst in their treatment of women. For an impoverished girl from an oppressed religious group, the possibilities are dark indeed.\*

We are living through challenging times. This year as never before, we have become keenly aware of the urgency of the world's problems. The pandemic, climate change, overpopulation, hatred and violence have never seemed more dire. By contributing to the

education of the girls at the Pasrur Christian Girls School in Pakistan, you affect the future. Long after you are gone, the ripples of what you have done will be felt by the world. **Your act of kindness, generosity, and vision will make a mark on the future.**

We hope you will consider making a contribution to the PASRUR scholarship fund. The cost is \$500 for a full scholarship, but any contribution is helpful.

**You can donate online at:** [Donate Online / First Presbyterian Church](#) under "Select a fund". Scroll down to "Pasrur Scholarship Fund".

**You can also pay by check.** Make checks out to *Iowa City First Presbyterian Church* **with Pasrur Scholarships in the memo line.** Mail to our church: 2701 Rochester Ave., Iowa City, IA 52245.

\*There is a good animated **short on Netflix called Sitara** on the subject of child brides. I recommend it.

Jane Cranston  
**Friends of Pasrur**



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*(Continued from page 8)*

advisor for more specific details. We thank you in advance for any consideration you can give to supporting our church endowment. The endowment will help to support our church for years to come.

Remember this: *Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap*

*generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:6-8*

*"I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that, I still possess." Corrie ten Boom*

## Inquirer Update: Chitoka Webb

*Submitted by Rhonda Barr, Chitoka's Liaison to FPC*

Did you know that two of the three Inquirers in the Presbytery of East Iowa (PEIA) are right here at FPC? Anna Sheetz and Chitoka Webb are currently Under Care at the Inquirer status. What does that mean? The initial steps towards ordination include, first, to be an active member of a congregation for at least six months. The next step is coming Under Care of the Presbytery by providing a testimony, demonstrating a sense of inward calling, and explaining the reasons for choosing Presbyterian Church, USA. Completing a Master of Divinity degree at a Presbyterian seminary and an internship is required before becoming a candidate for ordination. Our two Inquirers are Under Care of the PEIA, but they are also under our care as their church family.

Chitoka first came to Iowa City (by way of Nashville, TN) and joined FPC in 2013. Over the next six years, she was an active member of our congregation: leading worship, serving at Free Lunch, teaching at VBS, hosting fellowship hour, and being a Deacon for two terms. While a Deacon, she made hospital visits, provided transportation and coordinated the Support Team on Sundays. During this time, Chitoka also completed her BA at the University of Iowa, and worked multiple places, including the Iowa City Public Library and Shelter House. Her sense of God's call to serve led her to the path towards ordination. In November, 2018, the PEIA accepted her as an Inquirer, and the San Francisco Theological Seminary accepted her for study towards her Master of Divinity degree. Chitoka, with her two "boys" Clifton and Cramer (12-year old Cocker Spaniels), moved to California in January 2020. She is currently completing her first year of study and is scheduled to complete her degree in December 2022.

Chitoka's first year away from her home church has been full of challenges. Soon after starting her study, she developed an illness that required a nine-day hospitalization and lengthy recovery process. Her hospitalization just happened to coincide with the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. While in the hospital, nearly all patients in her hospital unit were evacuated except her and several prisoners. During this past summer, the California wildfires began ... and are still burning. Chitoka had to evacuate her home three times and has suffered poor air quality and heavy dosing of ashes for months. The pandemic has added a very new dimension to living, working and studying on campus. All classes are online, and meetings and worship are by ZOOM.

While challenging, Chitoka has also been able to follow her passion for serving. As a librarian on the Seminary campus, she works alone sorting books, filling requests and delivering books to drop boxes or mail rooms on campus. She is the manager of Holy Grounds, a food pantry and

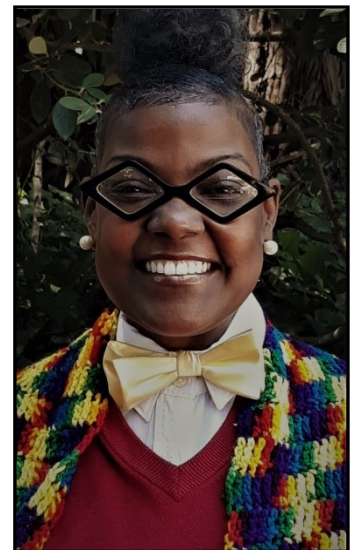
store on campus, serving families in need. Chitoka also works as one of two assistants to the Chaplain at the Seminary. She helps plan and lead two services each week: an outdoor on campus service on Tuesdays; and one on Friday afternoons by ZOOM. In addition to these employment opportunities, Chitoka volunteers for the San Quentin Death Row Ministry. This involves holding vigils to inform the public of concerns at the prison and corresponding with death row inmates to give them a way to share their concerns, thoughts, and struggles in a caring and non-judgmental way; to honor their humanity and not their crimes. Her fellow students elected Chitoka to represent them to the board of directors of the Seminary, and she was also chosen to serve on the search committee for the school's Chaplain.

During our telephone interview, I asked Chitoka how we, as her home church family, can support her? She asks that we pray for God's continuing care over her spiritual journey, and for spiritual endurance and the gift of humility. She would also ask that we share any book titles that would offer insights into the meaning of scripture, as one of her special interests is the exegesis of the Bible. Where will she serve in the future? Only God knows, as she follows the path God has laid out for her. At this time, she feels her path leads to becoming an Interim Pastor and a last rites chaplain.

If you are interested in sending Chitoka a card of encouragement, her address is:

Chitoka Webb  
33 Richmond Rd. #307  
San Anselmo, CA 94960  
Email: [cwebb440@gmail.com](mailto:cwebb440@gmail.com)

If you would like to worship with Chitoka and her colleagues from around the country, follow this link each Friday at 2:00 PM CST:  
<https://vanderbilt.zoom.us/j/7105838240#success>



## Parents Engage in STEM Night at Little Creations Academy

*Submitted by Nancy Gardner*

Friday evening, October 23rd saw the children at Little Creations Academy talking with their parents about STEM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Math) activities they had participated in during the last few weeks. Academy teachers also met with parents to discuss how they can support these activities in the home. Every family enjoyed a delicious chili dinner and each child received a bag of STEM activities and related books. This was the second in a series of four parent engagement events sponsored by the Iowa City Social Justice Grant. The grant is awarded to local organizations that promote social justice in the Iowa City area.

As partners with Little Creations, members of FPC usually provide volunteer support at these functions, but due to the pandemic, and with the event held inside the building, this occasion was conducted entirely by the Little Creations staff. Members of FPC can look forward to the next parent engagement program, which will be held this spring.



This father and son enjoyed themselves at STEM Night.



Supplies and books going home with each child

## Capital Campaign Status Report

We are pleased to announce that all final payments related to elevator construction at FPC were completed after Session approved the Finance Committee's payment of \$13,000 from a \$20,000 Endowment & Memorials Committee allocation. The Capital Campaign fund balance as of September 30 was a positive \$1,191.92. Importantly, we have a Mission Tithe commitment of \$10,000 to be paid to Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity in the next two months. The remaining \$7,000 from Endowment & Memorials will be requested at the November Session meeting to help cover this commitment.

Our Technology Subcommittee has been meeting to complete the final project of the campaign: upgrading the sanctuary sound system, adding visual displays, and perfecting an audiovisual system for both live streaming and delayed broadcasts. A previous contractor, Conference Technologies, Inc. (CTI), who installed the projector and screen in Ryerson Fellowship Hall, was selected on July 21 to develop a

proposal to meet these needs. On October 14, subcommittee members John Barr, Leah Bergman, Layne Sheets & Richard Van Rheeden met with CTI representatives for a demonstration of key components for a new sanctuary sound system. A formal proposal, totaling over \$200,000 was received from CTI on October 30.

Even if remaining pledges are fulfilled, the Capital Campaign will certainly not have enough money to fund this final project unless additional donors and other FPC funding sources are identified during these very challenging times. At its meeting in December, Session will need to determine if our Capital Campaign, formally launched on August 28, 2016, can proceed or will conclude at the end of 2020.

Submitted by John Barr

Chairperson, Capital Campaign Implementation Taskforce

## October 2019 Session Highlights

*Submitted by Ann Grosscup, Clerk of Session*

Attendees gathered via ZOOM with a declared quorum shortly after, Tuesday, October 20, 2020, by guest moderator Pastor Jennifer Jennings. The Christ candle was lit by Leah Bergman prior to Tony Warren leading opening prayer seeking God's guidance.

### MOTIONS APPROVED:

- ✧ Clerk of Session's report for October 2020.
- ✧ September 2020 financials were received.
- ✧ July 2020 financials were received.
- ✧ Approve minutes of stated session meeting September 15, 2020.
- ✧ Approve minutes of Special (Called) session meeting October 1, 2020.
- ✧ Approved by email consensus October 7: To express the congregation of First Presbyterian Church, Iowa City's gratitude to Pastor Sam and bid a fond farewell to Sam and Susan, the church will:
  - Donate \$500 to the Johnson County Interfaith Coalition (JCIC) in Pastor Sam's name as he was a founding member of this social justice organization.
  - Gift an Amana clock (around \$400).
  - Purchase celebration decorations for A&P's planned Drive-By Goodbye to Sam and Susan on Sunday, October 11, 2020, afternoon for a total of \$1,100.
- ✧ Approve minutes of Special (Called) Congregational Meeting, October 11, 2020.
- ✧ Approve Semi-Congregational Meeting for electing officers be held Sunday, November 15, 2020, 12:15 p.m., following online worship via ZOOM.
- ✧ Transfer church membership for Bonnie Bender to United Presbyterian Church, Washington, IA due to her move.
- ✧ Approve Finance Cluster's recommendation that the funds to cover Pastor Sam's going away gift and related costs of the "drive-by" farewell, approximately \$1,100, be temporarily taken from the Cumulative Reserve Account until such a time that a request can be made and hopefully

approved the by Endowment Committee to reimburse the Cumulative Reserve Account.

- ✧ If the way be clear, that the Session contract with the Reverend Dr. Terry Purvis-Smith in service as Intentional Interim Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Iowa City, IA, pending approval by the Ministers and Congregations Commission of the Presbytery of East Iowa, with the terms of contract: Contract effective from 8 November 2020 through 7 November 2021 for 100% (full-time.)
- ✧ No communion in November 2020.
- ✧ Standing session agenda item, Racial Reconciliation, will be added to encourage all ministries verbally share activities they are actively engaged with to further racial reconciliation, as well as facilitate ministry and community collaboration.
- ✧ The ENDOWED FUND AGREEMENT By and Between First Presbyterian Church of Iowa City and William and Sharon Oglesby, to establish the **WILLIAM AND SHARON OGLESBY BUILDING FUND**, with acceptance by Jeri Smith, First Presbyterian Church, Iowa City, Corporation President.
- ✧ Refer Judy Terry's exception request during FPC's Re-Entry Policy Phase 1 to REALM Planning's COVID Response Team for report back to Session at the stated meeting November 17, 2020.
- ✧ Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws Task Force comprised of Richard Van Rheeden, Cathe Franz and Jeremy Fletcher will review and make recommended edits to Session at the stated meeting November 17, 2020, for filing an amendment with the State of Iowa.

Status reports were given for the Task Forces, Little Creations Academy Advisory and Treasurer Position, plus Nominating Committee.

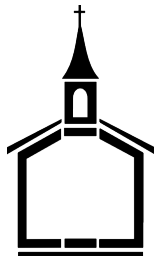
Richard Van Rheeden led the closing prayer.

**Next Scheduled Stated meeting:** November 17, 2020, 7 p.m. via ZOOM.

Dale Kraus, Opening Devotions; Nancy Gardner, Closing Prayer



# MONEY



# MATTERS

*Dale Kraus, Interim Treasurer*

	Contributions	Misc. Income <small>Building Use, Walker Trust, Bank interest, etc.</small>	Total Income	Total Expenses	Over/Short
1st Quarter	\$153,565.33	\$758.93	\$154,324.26	\$146,202.53	\$8,121.73
2nd Quarter	\$99,725.72	\$90,912.61	\$190,638.33	\$135,409.80	\$55,228.53
3rd Quarter	\$87,891.48	\$66,384.39	\$154,275.87	\$145,607.16	\$8,668.71
October	\$49,474.16	-\$137.21	\$49,336.95	\$41,099.33	\$8,237.62
<b>2020 Totals</b>	<b>\$390,656.69</b>	<b>\$157,918.72</b>	<b>\$548,575.41</b>	<b>\$468,318.82</b>	<b>\$80,256.59</b>

**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.

**You can now PLEDGE through My First Pres,** sign in, open the Giving Tab and choose My Giving History. When that opens up you'll see a tab "My Pledge History." See the picture below. There is a tab to "add pledge" at the bottom.

Other pledge options:

- Mail USPS
- E-mail Saira  
saira.steen@firstpreswacivcity.org
- Drop off at church

## Not using My First Pres?



### HOW TO Sign in to My First Pres

- 1 Go to FPC website, <https://firstpreswacivcity.org/>, scroll down and click on **My First Pres square**
- 2 Click on "Need a Login? Click Here"
- 3 You will be asked to enter your first name, last name and email. Enter this info and click "Find Me"
- 4 You should see a note congratulating you on setting up your account.
- 5 Once you see that note, check your email for your username and temporary password
- 6 You will be able to change the password once you login
- 7 You should open up to the HOME screen; look at MY COMPLETE PROFILE for your personal information, make sure your address and phone numbers are correct. You can even sign up for online giving, pledging & see your giving year to date.

If the system can't find you, you may not have an email in the system- call the office to let Tammy Schroeder know, she can fix things right up.

[www.firstpreswacivcity.org](https://www.firstpreswacivcity.org)

## **FPC Public Declaration of Human Rights Support for Pro-Immigrant Policies**

First Presbyterian Church, Iowa City (FPC), Session, affirms the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) policy:

- Live out the Gospel call to love our neighbor and welcome the stranger;
- Reunite parents and children who have been separated as soon as possible;
- Advocate ending family detention;
- Offer visitation programs and ensure attorneys for detained immigrants;
- Advocate to stop the criminalization of immigrants.

FPC supports restoring the U.S. Government's humanitarian commitment to refugee resettlement.

*Approved by Session 11/19/19*

***FPC chooses Welcome!***

## First Presbyterian Church

2701 Rochester Ave.  
Iowa City, Iowa 52245



### *How is the Church Staff serving the needs of the congregation and community?*

- The Church Staff is accessible and working remotely from home.
- USPS mail, email and voice mail are being checked.
- The Staff can be emailed directly from Church Life or contacted by phone. Telephone numbers are available in the MyFirstPres and the Church Life app.
- The Staff is doing their best to offer ministry using the technology we have available.

Ph. 319-351-2660

[www.firstpresidiowacity.org](http://www.firstpresidiowacity.org)

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### First Presbyterian Church Staff

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