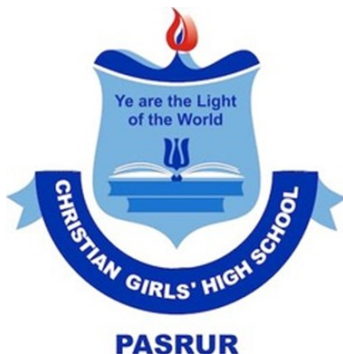


Mark Your Calendars for October 17

Please join us on **Sunday, October 17th at 12:30 p.m.** for a virtual event with **Veda Gill**, Executive Director of the Presbyterian Education Board schools in Pakistan. Veda will share a video of the girls at the Pasrur Christian boarding house as well as give us an update on events at the schools. This will be **live and include Q&A**. We hope **you will be able to tune in to our special Zoom event: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84737333266>**.



Meeting ID: 847 3733 3266

One tap mobile: +19294362866, 84737333266#

The Friends of Pasrur

Inside this issue:

Women of Our Church	3
Endowment	4
First's Family	5
Equipping Ministry	6-7
History of Pasrur	8-10
Advent Evening Zoom Income & Expense Report	11
Open Information	12

ALL SAINTS' DAY— SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Saints' days began as a way to mark the anniversaries of the deaths of martyrs—their birthdays as saints through the completion of their baptism. By the middle of the church's first millennium, there were so many martyrs that it was hard to give them all their due. All Saints' Day was established as an opportunity to honor all the saints, remembered and forgotten, known and unknown. It has been celebrated on or around November 1 since the ninth century.



In the Reformed tradition, the emphasis of this festival is on the ongoing sanctification of the whole people of God. While we may give thanks for the lives of particular luminaries of ages past, we also give glory to God for the ordinary, holy lives of believers in this and every age. This is an appropriate time to give thanks for members of the community of faith who have died in the past year, and to pray that we may be counted among the company of the faithful in God's eternal realm.

—From *The Book of Common Worship*, p. 383

CELEBRATE THE SAINTS IN WORSHIP ONLINE AND AT HOME

With worship looking a little different this year, you are invited to celebrate the saints in your life by having a candle or candles ready to light at home. There will be a time during the online worship service where the names of those in our congregation who have died this year will be read and candles lit, then you will be encouraged to light a candle at home and pray over those saints who have watched over your life. You are invited to submit the names of anyone in your life who you would like to be remembered to be read aloud in worship—all submitted names will be read.

If you have a loved one whose name you would like read aloud in the worship service, please contact the church office or Leah Bergman at leah.bergman@firstpreswac.org.

Dear Members and Friends,

First Presbyterian Church is the fifteenth congregation I've served. Although I'm serving during a pandemic, I see a commonality in most of these congregations. They find it difficult to find people who will accept a call to leadership.

Nominating committees often present incomplete nomination slates to their congregations for Ruling Elders and Deacons. I can understand some reasons for this: A three-year term is a long commitment; once in office the responsibilities grow like unwanted weeds; service leads to too many committee meetings; relationships at home become strained; and the elder or deacon may feel so exhausted that the end of their term feels like liberation.

My question is this: How, as pastor, can I support you so that you can accept God's call to serve? Would more training for the office be helpful? Does the way we organize and conduct meetings need attention? Are we not making clear the rewards of serving?

The rewards of office, I say. Elders and Deacons are the leaders who provide the structure for faith, hope, love, forgiveness, reconciliation, and inspiration. Your call to ministry cannot be assessed, for the most part, in results that can be measured. The rewards are often intangible – a person whose life seems like it is falling apart or a person who's mentally or physically suffering and feels nearly overwhelmed is comforted and reassured by the presence of others in worship; a child who grows into adulthood with a sense of God's presence in their life; a

person who only gets hugs in church; someone who finds meaning being a part of the church leadership; a confidential conversation about

doubt, unemployment, marital discord, troubles at work; experiencing great joy or gratitude and having a place to celebrate with people who share faith and are long-term friends.

I want to be clear about leadership expectations. Leaders pray, read the Bible, are willing to ask if we're fulfilling our mission, respect other leaders, fulfill commitments to attend meetings, help everyone make decisions we can afford in terms of people to implement them, accept they are spiritual leaders of the congregation, are clear about how much they can do and speak up when they cannot do more, support decisions by participating in worship and events sponsored by the church.

It is an honor to serve. Be still and know that God is God. Be still, listen and reconsider if God is calling you to serve. God doesn't call people to be a name on a roster, but to serve. Will you serve?

With gratitude,

Terry

he/him/his



Four Opportunities to See Each Other

"After the Sermon Conversation" at 11:30 each Sunday morning (except this Sunday when Terry will be away). See friends and meet new friends in this conversation. It is built around your thoughts, opinions, and questions with the sermon as the starting point. (Zoom)

Tuesdays offer three opportunities to see and meet others. (Zoom)

- 1) **Storytime** begins the day at 9 a.m. We are reading Lisa Donovan's memoir *Our Lady of Perpetual Hunger*. The author is a bakery chef who grew up loving both of her parents and her older brother!
- 2) **Justice** is the focus of the 10 a.m. conversation. We talk about justice and advocate for justice. But what is justice? What do we do when one path toward justice conflicts with another path toward justice? What do we learn from the Bible about justice?
- 3) **Family** is the third Tuesday opportunity at 4 p.m. to break from the routine to connect and have conversation. Families come in many sizes with a variety of definitions of who belongs to the family. Think about this. A person living solo in a residence is still part of a family!

Find Zoom links for these gatherings in the FPC Daily emails.

Martha Circle Meeting In-Person!

Are robo calls on your last nerve? Have you watched too many movies some well-meaning friend suggested and halfway through turned it off and gone to bed? Are the four walls closing in? **WE** have a solution. **Martha Circle** will meet on **Wednesday, October 27 at 10 a.m.** (Note: this is the **4th Wednesday** because Maeleen has an appointment with her husband on the 3rd Wednesday this month.) Please remember to wear a mask and bring your own drinks. Food is not allowed, but Laughter, Fellowship and Sharing God's work will be abundant.

ALL women of First Presbyterian Church are invited to Ryerson Hall. Bring a friend!

We will also be meeting on the **3rd Wednesday of November**, November 17, at 10:00 a.m. in Ryerson Hall. (The next newsletter will be too late.)

Hope to see you October 27th, Maeleen and Sharon

Women of Our Church

Submitted by Sharon Raffensperger

This spring Pastor Terry mentioned in a sermon that we did not have any pictures of women and how they can be active in the church. The Worship and Arts Ministry decided that they would take on this project. After much research, emails, and phone calls we compiled a list of 8 women to display in the hallway outside of the office area.

Joan Botts, a member, was ordained in our church in 1960. She was one of the first 12 women to be ordained in the Presbyterian Church.

Rosella Duerksen, who taught at the University of Iowa and started the Chamber Singers of Iowa City, was our Director of Music from 1964–1980.

Anita Burnett, a present member of our church, was the Director of Christian Education from 1984–1992.

Darlene Bergman, also a present member, was Director of Music & Liturgical Arts from 1992–2016.

Beth Gier was Director of Education & Youth from 2000–2014. She and her husband now live in Michigan.

Rev. Beverly Hovenkamp was a Temporary Supply Pastor from February 2003–June 2003. She is now a pastor of a small church in California.

Lucille Burianek was a member of First Presbyterian Church, and when she died in 2005 she left her life savings to our church. Her money has paid for educational studies for staff, musical resources at the church and was a big help in getting our elevator installed in the church. **Sadie May**, until recently, was the executor of this account.

Rev. Deb Lind-Schmitz was an Interim Pastor from June 17, 2007–June 29, 2008. She just recently retired. An interesting side note: When I talked to her and explained our project she laughed and told me why. When she retired, her church hired a male pastor. When she was telling a group about the new pastor that was coming, one of the little girls said "Oh, can men be Pastors too?"

When you come to the church please take time to stroll down the hallway and look at the pictures of **Women of Our Church**.



*Our endowment is here to advance the presence
and mission of the church in the lives
of people locally, nationally and globally.*



Distributions from the FPC Endowment are made for special projects and ministries within our local church and congregation, our local and regional community, and within the global community.

Proverbs 11:25 "A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."



*Supporting our endowment fund is one of the best ways
you can ensure that our church's mission and vision
will thrive for years to come.*

*For more information, contact Bob and Millie Youngquist at
endowment@firstpreswacivcity.org or 319-653-4673.*

First's Family

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

October 15-31

10/15 Marv Bergman
10/15 Steve Hurt
10/15 Taylor Dengler
10/15 Anja Seidel
10/16 Dwight Younkin
10/17 Dorothy Hoak
10/18 Darlene Bergman
10/22 Bonnie Neubauer
10/22 Jeff Franz
10/23 Audrey Van Roekel
10/23 Faryle Nothwehr
10/23 Dan Thedens
10/23 Gabe Nicholson
10/24 Sally Staley
10/24 Andrew Franz
10/28 Bob Mikelson

10/28 Jerry Thorius
10/28 Janet Walker
10/28 Celia Ruyle
10/30 Jane Skinner
10/30 Greg Muilenburg



November 1-16

11/3 Jeanette Winegarden
11/3 Del Disselhorst
11/3 Louise Gisolfi
11/3 Carol Spangler
11/3 Sara Schwartz
11/3 Alice Degner
11/4 John Staley
11/4 Nancy Weber
11/4 Heather Youngquist
11/5 Dorothy Seebohm
11/6 Dan Katalinich
11/7 Andreas Soemadi
11/8 Duane Thompson
11/8 MaryAnn Spilger
11/9 Riley Smith
11/11 MaryEllen Stamp
11/16 David Stochl

FPC Book Club

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

Oct. 26 Sing, Unburied, Sing
by Jesmyn Ward

Nov. 30 Transcendent Kingdom
by Yaa Gyasi

Contact Mary Linn at JmLnn@aol.com for more info



Prayers for **Helen Sheets** on the death of her husband, **Dale Sheets**, on September 21. The September 27 funeral service was at FPC and led by Pastor Terry.

Our sympathy to **Darlene Bergman** and to her family on the death of her mother, **Evelyn Caryer**, at the age of 98 on October 3 in Sherwood, Ohio.



Congratulations to Trevor Smith & WeiJing Wu on the birth of, Sage Marie Eowyn. Grandparents are Greg and Jeri Smith.

FPC's FALL BALL

Sunday, October 24, 3–4 p.m.

All are invited to an outdoor, masked, COVID safe event!

Join us for an event for all ages!

The main event will take place from 3–4 p.m. outside in the parking lot! There will be crafts, games, activities, Trunk-or-Treating, story time, and more! We invite all children (and adults) to wear their costumes!

From 4–6 p.m., there will be a Halloween movie in Ryerson Hall. There will also be a time for the FPC Community to meet with Equipping Ministry and share what they would like to see at FPC.



Equipping Ministry is all ears!

From 4–5:30 p.m., Equipping Ministry staff and members will be available to hear how we can best serve our church and congregation.

Looking for Trunk-or-Treat vehicles for FPC's FALL BALL!

Our goal is to have 10–15 decorated trunks throughout the FPC parking lot to give our children something to 'trick-or-treat' safely to!

What is Trunk-or-Treat?

"During trunk-or-treat events, adults decorate the back of their cars for Halloween, load up on candy, and come sit in a parking lot for kids to 'trick or treat' from car-to-car. It's more fun than it sounds, trust me!"

Please consider decorating your trunk with your family, your ministry, your roommates, and more.



See all the details, find instructions about hosting a Trunk-or-treat or sign up for Trunk-or-Treat at: <https://firstpresbiowacity.org/ministries/christian-education/seasonal-events/>

Questions? Contact Anna at Anna.Sheetz@firstpresbiowacity.org today.



The 7th–12th Grade Youth Group will meet **Sunday nights** from 5–6 p.m. in Ryerson Hall. All must wear masks.

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Sunday, October 17 | Our first night of Small Groups. |
| Sunday, October 24 | FALL BALL! Come watch a movie in Ryerson from 4–6 p.m. |
| Sunday, October 31 | No Youth Group; Happy Halloween :) |
| Sunday, November 7 | We'll start at the Beginning; Genesis |
| Sunday, November 14 | Onto the next! Exodus! |

Youth are invited to a dedicated devotion time throughout the week. Twice weekly, we'll meet on ZOOM for 15 minutes to devote ourselves to God's word and prayer. The times are:
Tuesdays from 7–7:15 p.m. Thursdays from 7:45–8 a.m.

***Youth must have parent consent to participate.**

Sunday Christian Education continues on Sunday afternoons!

Thank you to all the adults who served and made this first cycle of the PC (USA)'s Follow Me curriculum a success! Together, we learned to Follow Jesus for four weeks as we learned how Jesus called disciples, how we are a part of the body of Christ, how to love like Jesus, and how to invite others to join us. Looking forward, we will learn how we can Welcome All!



October 17—We will have a Wrap-Up intergenerational event for our “Follow Jesus” cycle. Join us in Ryerson Hall, masked, and ready to wrap up all that we’ve learned together.

October 24—FPC’s Fall Ball, Trunk-or-Treat; Halloween Movie, Equipping Ministry Listening Time

October 31—All Afternoon Programs Canceled—Happy Halloween!

November 7—A Kick-off for our next cycle, Welcome All!

November 14—Welcome All, Week 1! Back to break-out classes! See our options here:

Children’s Class

The Children’s Class is for children up to 3rd grade! This class follows the “Follow Me” lessons.

4th-6th Grade

Youth Group
All 4th-6th graders are invited to meet in Coover! We use the “Follow Me” lessons.

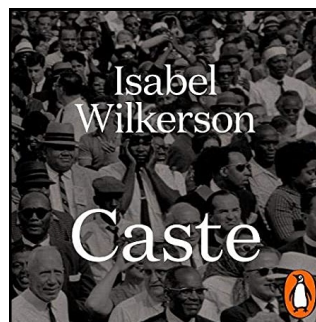
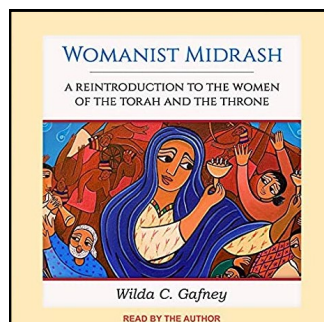
Intergenerational Group

This group is for ages 7th grade to adult. This class follows the “Follow Me” lessons.

Parent’s Class

A Time for Parents! No set curriculum—just made for parents and what they need now!

Join an Adult Christian Education Group now!



Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Join a Bible Study! Anna Sheetz and Pastor Terry will be leading a Bible study about Biblical women. We are curious to see how much opinions will change about these ancient women through prayer, conversation, and ponderings. We’ll be meeting in person, in Ryerson Hall; masks must be worn. Check out what’s happening this week here: <https://firstpresbiowacity.org/ministries/biblestudy/>

FPC Faith @ Home

Because of the continued COVID pandemic, we know that some are more comfortable staying at home. We are pleased to say that we have two challenging groups that meet each Sunday on ZOOM! The Wired Word will get you into the news, into your Bible, and into rousing conversations from 9:30–10:30 a.m. Jeremiah Justice Initiative, hosted from 6–7:30 p.m., will invite you to imagine justice and the world differently in this life-changing group. Learn more about both programs here: <https://firstpresbiowacity.org/ministries/christian-education/fpcfaith/>

History of Pasrur ... continued

The “History of Pasrur” was divided into three separate parts. Here is the final installment:

2017

Funds are provided by Amy and Dave Nicholson, through the Wilson Family Trust, to First Presbyterian Church of Iowa City, for the purpose of building a boys school at the Pasrur Christian School. The schools will be in memory of Tonya Nicholson and in honor of Veda Gill. It will be called the Gill-Nicholson Boys High School.

Jane Cranston goes to the Presbytery of East Iowa (PEI) with a proposal that they create a commission to raise the remaining \$100,000 needed for the Gill-Nicholson Boys High School. The commission appoints Jane as chairperson. Lay people, elders and pastors from a variety of churches join the commission. Within a year, all funds for the Boys school are raised.

The PEI Commission:

Jane Cranston (Moderator), First Presbyterian, Iowa City
Rev. Sarah Hegar (*ex officio*), First Presbyterian, Mt. Pleasant
Rev. Trey Hegar, First Presbyterian, Mt. Pleasant
Paul Heidger, St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Iowa City
Amy Nicholson, St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Iowa City
Rev. Lisa Ross-Thedens, First Presbyterian Church, Rowley
Rev. Kitch Shatzer, Chaplain, United Presbyterian Home, Washington
Ellen Fisher, First Presbyterian Church, Cedar Rapids



The dream of a Gill-Nicholson Boys High School in Pasrur is realized.



Another view of the Gill-Nicholson passed Pasrur Boys School.

(Continued on page 9)



Emily and Amy Nicholson in front of the memorial prayer room for Tonya Nicholson

2018 Pakistan Mission Trip V

Many members from the PEI along with others attend the dedication of the Gill-Nicholson Boys High School. It was also the 20th anniversary of denationalization as well as the dedication of the Martinpur Boys School. It was a week of wonderful celebrations.



Paul Heidger, Amy Nicholson, Anna Sheetz, Kitch Shatzer, Margy Trimble, Pat Schnack, Lisa Ross-Thedens, Jane and Ed Cranston



Veda Javaid Gill and Jane Cranston stand outside the new PEB administration building.

2020

Schools close due to the pandemic. FPC equips them with needed personal protection equipment and tarps so that the schools can reopen. The school passes all government inspections.

As of this writing, the Friends of Pasrur (FOP) has been able to fund all 100 scholarships for girls in grades nursery to 10th grade every year. Current cost is \$500 per scholarship K-10 grades. All post-secondary scholarships that were requested have been fulfilled. In addition, we have been able to fund many building projects at the school. Scholarships are primarily funded through personal donations from people in the congregation and others. Buildings have been funded primarily through personal donations and church endowments. The FPC Reconciliation Ministry has funded other projects, including curricula, school furniture, and equipment.



Janice Wilson, Sharon Oglesby, Mary Linn, Nancy Gardner, Veda Javaid Gill at one of our FOP potlucks.

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

Our method of fundraising has been person-to-person. We have annual potlucks, church luncheons with presentations, coffees, and visits by Veda each year. We write our own thank-you notes. Each year the sponsored girls send a photo, a hand-drawn picture and a hand-written thank-you note to their sponsors. Veda also visits FOP meetings via Zoom. In addition, we send a monthly email newsletter and maintain a Facebook page and webpage.

Friends of Pasrur are hard-working and dedicated. One member describes us as a sisterhood. Our method of fund raising is low-key. We only endeavor to tell the story of the Pasrur school.



Nancy Stensvaag has been our treasurer and spreadsheet magician since we started. Her help is invaluable to our mission.

Each year we get together to sort, fold, and send our information about scholarships for the upcoming year, which includes communications from the girls.

Special thanks to

Our ministers who have supported us and made our work possible:
Rev. Tom Finley Brown, Rev. Ed Morgan, Rev. Sam Massey, Rev. Terry Purvis-Smith

Friends of Pasrur

Many church members have been a part of our Friends of Pasrur group. We have taken turns being chair, secretary, writing letters, preparing food, hosting dinners, speaking in church, and creating presentations. We welcome new members and have a number of members from outside of our church.

Current Members

Katie Lind, Liz Bolin, Anita Burnett, Ed and Jane Cranston, Nancy Gardner, Leann Graves, Mary Linn, Bill and Sharon Oglesby, Nancy Ross, Pat Schnack, Nancy Stensvaag, Nancy Weber, and Faryle Nothwehr

Leadership of Friends of Pasrur

Jane Cranston, Katie Lind, Sue Dallam, Nancy Stensvaag, Nancy Weber, Mary Linn, Leann Graves, and Nancy Gardner. Current chairs: Jane Cranston and Katie Lind

Donors and Friends

We are sincerely grateful to all of the wonderful, generous donors who truly are angels on earth.

For more information about Friends of Pasrur, go to our FPC church website under Missions or the Friends of Pasrur Facebook page.



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

These will be 20-30 minute services offered via 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@firstpresiwacity.org

Income/Expense Update — September 2021

Co-Moderators of Finance, Leann Graves and Nancy Gardner

	Current Month	Year to Date	Prior Year to Date
Income	\$ 30,450.50	\$432,792.60	\$539,679.91
Expense	\$ 37,538.31	\$421,285.21	\$748,622.99
Total +/-	(\$ 7,087.81)	+ \$ 11,507.39	(\$208,943.08)*

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

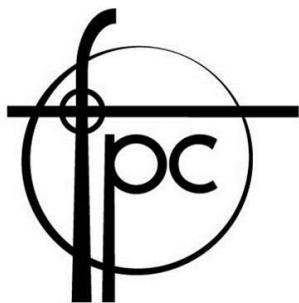


**Need
a
Notary?**

Notary Services are available in the church office. Contact Tammy Schroeder to schedule an appointment at 319-351-2660 or tammy.schroeder@firstpresiwacity.org

First Presbyterian Church

2701 Rochester Ave.
Iowa City, Iowa 52245



Public Office Hours:

9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Monday–Friday
except holidays or when announced

Ph 319-351-2660

www.firstpresioiowacity.org

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 firstpresioiowacity.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.

Open
Information

First Presbyterian Church Staff

MINISTER OF WORSHIP AND ARTS

Leah Bergman
leah.bergman@firstpresioiowacity.org

ORGANIST

Melissa Moll
melissa.moll@firstpresioiowacity.org

MINISTER OF PROGRAMMING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Tammy Schroeder
tammy.schroeder@firstpresioiowacity.org

INTERIM PASTOR
Terry Purvis-Smith
Terrypls1@me.com

MINISTER OF EQUIPPING PROGRAMS

Anna Sheetz
anna.sheetz@firstpresioiowacity.org

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF EQUIPPING PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

Judy Whitford
judy.whitford@firstpresioiowacity.org

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF EQUIPPING PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH, YOUNG ADULT, AND HOSPITALITY

Layne Sheetz
layne.sheetz@firstpresioiowacity.org

MANAGER OF FINANCE & PURCHASING

Krista Livingston
finance@firstpresioiowacity.org

MINISTER OF STEWARDSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

Tammy Foster
tammy.foster@firstpresioiowacity.org

SEXTON

Gerald Hill
gerald.hill@firstpresioiowacity.org