



September 15–October 15 2022

Volume 66 Issue 9

"Three things are important in human life. The first is to be kind. The second is to be kind and the third is to be kind. "

Henry James to his nephew, Billie.

The Kindness Campaign kicked off September 1, 2022! You will have received your calendar of intentional acts of kindness, and we hope that helps you get in the spirit. If you do not have one of the calendars and would like one, please let us know! Or visit our website at firstpresiowacity.org.

The campaign would not be a success without our wonderful volunteers. They are baking cookies and bars, making deliveries of those goodies to fire stations and police stations in Iowa City and Coralville, volunteering hours to Houses into Homes and cooking and serving a meal for 50 at the Catholic Worker House. The youth and some adult volunteers will be doing fall cleanup at the Bird House. Volunteers will have an outreach table at the Farmer's Market every Saturday. Martha's Circle will be filling goodie bags for at-home members, and the Deacons will be delivering them!

Community members are also donating gift cards to randomly give out to unsuspecting folks in Iowa City. They include The Bluebird Café, Short's Bar and Grill and Big Grove. We are hoping for more! Bob Goodfellow donated our Sharing Kindness Posters. Steve Schomberg helped write and edit our proclamation and Lara Marsh gave her time and talents to design our logos and banners. Vacation Bible School participants made our Kindness Sunflowers for the sanctuary. Liz Bolin created our Kindness Calendar. Tammy Schroeder and Sue Van Duyn organized and ordered the T-shirts. Tammy Foster worked diligently to keep the communication of activities open by reminding folks of newsletter deadlines!

The Congregational Health Ministry members are Rhonda Barr, chair, Sue Olson, Sue VanDuyn, Liz Bolin, Pam Kautz (Deacon liaison) and Maeleen Thorius.

Sally Ricky and Sherry Lohman also helped with organizing!

Many of you have approached us and said how you wish you could do something for us but are unable to do so due to physical limitations. You can help us! Pray for all of our volunteers and all of the people we meet. Pray the Holy Spirit will work through us to touch people with kindness.



#spreadkindness

Sunday, September 25, after worship, will be a free community Homecoming and Kindness Celebration Dinner, generously funded by Glen and Audrey Van Roekel! What an opportunity to invite your neighbor to church! Or, if you haven't been coming to worship, please make this a time to come back and renew your life in the community of faith! Look for more details in the daily devotional and at our website: firstpresiowacity.org. If you have questions, call Rhonda Barr, 319-936-5998, or Maeleen Thorius, 319-541-3161.





"Bridge" Interim Pastor's Ponderings

Rev. Forrest "Frosty" Krummel

I've only been with you for a very short time. As a matter of fact I wrote this the morning of Day Four! BUT, in my brief time with you I have been very impressed by the warm welcome I have received, and, more importantly, by your dedication to being the Body of Christ in the Iowa City community and globally. KUDOS.

In the coming weeks I look forward to meeting you, but I must warn you, I am terrible with names. I have always been terrible with names, even in childhood. I blame this in part on the fact that my maternal aunts were named Iola, Maeola, and Viola. Throw in a Violet and I was constantly confused by my mother referring to "Aunt I," "Aunt Mae," "Aunt Vi," and another "Aunt I close with these words from the old hymn: Vi"! What's a little kid to do?!

On a more serious note, my exposure to FPC goes back to the days of Pastor Zerwas. He was a seminary classmate of my home pastor in Peoria. My wife, Sue, and I were part of a pastor lectionary study group hosted by David Fillpot. David preached my installation service at First Presbyterian Church in Williamsburg. Until his death, we enjoyed an occasional lunch together in either Black Mountain or Asheville, North Carolina.

I believe that as you prepare to write a new chapter in your life together as FPC that your best years are yet



to come. We live in a new era—a Covid era—and we will never be able to go back to the "fleshpots" of Egypt ... to a time before. Like the Early Church in the coming years we will learn to lean more heavily upon the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the Providential care of God.

O God, our help in ages past Our hope for years to come Our shelter from the stormy blast And our eternal home Under the shadow of thy throne Thy saints have dwelt secure Sufficient is thy arm alone And our defense is sure

We don't want you to miss a thing ...



Please take a moment to review your information on My First Pres.

Has you phone number changed? Email? Have you moved? Is your birthday listed? Do you have a family photo to add?

See page 11 of this month's newsletter for step-by-step directions on how to log on to My First Pres.

Need help? Forgot your password? Contact Tammy Schroeder at tammy.schroeder@firstpresiowacity.org or by calling the church office at 319-351-2660.

Warm Winter Wear Distribution 2022 - Donations & Volunteer Information

In August, the Consultation of Religious Communities confirmed hosting its annual Warm Winter Wear Distribution (WWWD) on October 16–22. This event will be held in the new winter shelter at the far east end of the Guide Link Center, 340 Southgate Ave., Iowa City.

Please begin collecting clean items and keep them at home. From October 2–16, there will be marked collection boxes in Ryerson Hall for your donations. Our highest priority is: winter coats and jackets of all sizes, and other outerwear (snow pants, hats, gloves/mittens, winter scarves, warm socks and winter boots). We will also gladly accept sweaters, sweatshirts and sweatpants.





Like last year, we will be requiring both volunteers and shoppers to sign up via Sign-up Genius. Only seven family representatives will be permitted to shop during each half-hour, assisted by a volunteer. More information will be shared by the end of September. Please save the week of October 16–22, for volunteer opportunities as follows:

October 16 – set up and begin receiving donations (Sunday, noon–4 p.m.)

October 17 & 18 – continue to receive donations, sort items and set up (Monday and Tuesday, 9 a.m.–6 p.m.)

October 19–21 – distribution of clothing (Wednesday–Friday: 9 a.m.– 6:p.m.).

October 22 – distribution of clothing (Saturday, 9 a.m.–noon); Clean-up, noon to 4 p.m.

For further questions, contact John Barr at BarrJohnO@sau.edu



After considerable reflection and prayer, Leah Bergman has decided to step down from her position as Director of Liturgy, Music, and Arts and has turned in a letter of resignation to the Personnel Committee. She cherishes her time at FPC dearly and has loved serving this church. She realized that family is a priority right now and spending as much time as possible with her baby daughter is her new calling.

Per the Personnel Policy she has given one month notice, with her last day being September 23. The Personnel Committee is seeking applications to fill this position and welcomes your prayers.

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family and Friends,

Six years ago when I returned to FPC to begin my ministry I used a passage from Isaiah as my guide and inspiration. Isaiah 43:19 says, "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" That year, 2016, was a time of transition and change for the church staff retiring, new staff coming in, changes to programming, strategic planning, and the kick-off of the capital campaign. There was a lot to be celebrated, a lot to be mourned, and a need for flexibility and open mindedness.

Does that sound familiar? Once again this church finds itself at an exciting new transitional moment—coming out of almost two full years of worshipping online only, searching for a new pastor, starting new programming, and discerning what the mission of this church is.

I had not intended to add my resignation to this time of transition, but in the final weeks of my maternity leave I once again heard God's call. This time, God was calling me to a different vocation: motherhood. God is doing a new thing in my life and her name is Matilda. I had no idea how profoundly my priorities would shift until she was born, but it is so clear to me that being her Mom full-time is what I need to be doing right now. Gunnar and I are looking forward to having more quality time together and to being able to sit in church and worship as a family. This is not

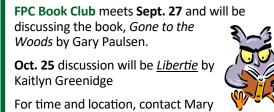


goodbye as I hope to continue my long relationship with this church while allowing the space for a new person to transition into this position.

God is always creating and re-creating. New pastors, new babies, new vocations, new callings. My prayer for this church as I begin a new season in my life is that it can embrace a spirit of re-creation. Who is God calling us to be? Where is God calling us to serve? What is God calling us to create?

Thank you for allowing me to serve in ministry at First Presbyterian Church. It has been an honor and a blessing. In peace and love,

Leah Bergman



Mark your calendar and start reading.

Linn at JmLnn@aol.com.



Darin and Tammy Schroeder are pleased to announce the marriage of their son, Cullen to Lydia Frahm, in a small private wedding on September 9.

First's Family

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

September 15-30

Sep	terriber 1) = 30		October	1~17	
9/18	Amanda Molsberry	Haysish Birth	hday to	10/08	Sage Smith
9/18	Katherine Smith	o popping or	0	10/09	Megan Dehner
9/19	Carol Ulch	10/01	Al Wicks	10/10	Sherry Lohman
9/19	Anita Burnett	10/01	Jerry Stamp	10/10	Rachael Nicholson
9/19	Steve Smith	10/03	Tyson Neubauer	10/10	Brent Foster
9/20	Amy Johnston	10/04	Joan Maxwell	10/11	Norma Carlson
9/22	Kathryn Sidwell	10/04	Aurelien Jr. Kunangika	10/12	Ken Miller
9/23	Mick Hammer	10/05	Edmond Bigaba		Karen Nicklaus
9/24	Caroline Ruyle		Lucus Edwards		Emily Feagins
9/25	Steve Spangler	10/06	Chad Greimann	10/15	Marvin Bergman
9/26	Eric Forsythe	10/07	Judy Whitford	10/15	Steve Hurt
9/26	Peter Dunbar	10/08	Bill Rubright		Taylor Dengler
9/27	Joyce Stochl	10/08	Temple Hiatt	10/15	Anja Miller
	-	10/08	Anna Sheetz		



We extend our deepest sympathy:

To the family and fiends of **Ann Finley**, who died on July 20. Her funeral service was held on July 23 at Gay and Ciha Funeral Services with Gary Burnett officiating.

To the friends and family of **Del Disselhorst**, who died on September 1. The memorial service for Del will be on September 24 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church and led by Pastor Roger Dykstra.

My Goodness, Time Passes Quickly!

Nancy Gardner, Former Interim Administrator

So, this is it, my final entry in the newsletter after serving as the Interim Administrator for the past ten months. Ten months?! Yep, but it went by so quickly! Every Sunday, people would ask me how things were going, and I'd continually respond with, "I love my job!" And, it was true, I did love my job ... the challenges and the rewards.

I loved my job when our worship service included prayers to God who loves us regardless of our pronouns ... and we were bombarded with anonymous emails telling us we had no Christian love in our hearts. I loved my job even when we all came down with Covid and had to work from home for a couple of weeks. And, I loved my job when unexpected things occurred, and no matter the time of day, you know that you're the one that should take care of it.

But, I truly loved my job when our staff meetings began with weekly check-ins, and we laughed, or cried, and supported each other through whatever life was throwing our way. And, I loved being a part of the day-to -day operations of the church. But, I especially loved the

way I could use my position to support all that was happening at FPC. I am so proud of everyone in the church; we rose to the task and stayed strong. And, now Frosty is here to help us continue this great work.

I never in my wildest dreams thought that I would be on staff at FPC, but there I was. I want to thank the staff for all their assistance as I grew into this position. And, I want to thank all of you for giving me such a rewarding experience that I will never forget. So, what's next, you ask? Well, for the time being, I'll give you a hint:



But, stay tuned to see what the future brings!

New Sunday Format for Christian Education Programs!

 9–10 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages K and Under 1st–5th Grades 6th–8th Grades

6th–8th Grades High School Wired Word ReAffirmation



- 10–10:20 a.m., Breakfast in Ryerson Hall
- 10:30 a.m., Worship

- 4:30–5:30 p.m.
 5th–8th Grade Youth Group Grow Group, Old Testament PM
- 5:30–6:30 p.m. Dinner for All Ages
- 6:30–8 p.m. Jeremiah Justice Initiative
- 6:45–7:30 p.m. Confirmation



Confirmation For 7th Graders!

It's not too late to join us each **Sunday**, from 6:45–7:30p.m.; we'll begin a new Confirmation Journey! I can't wait to see where God will take us! Email Anna today to sign up!



Getting to Know You at Mercer Park (We'll meet there)

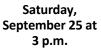
Each 3rd Sunday of

the month for

4th-7th Graders!

September 18

Games/Ice Breakers/Snacks (What can you tell us about your church/why you belong?)





For Kindness Month, we'll have a mission night at the Bird House, Iowa City. We will meet there! Wear clothes you can get dirty; bring shovels if you have them. Everyone is welcome!

5th-8th Grade Youth Group Schedule:

Sunday, September 18, 3-5 p.m.

We'll meet at Mercer Park to meet with the Congregational UCC Youth to play, meet and greet, and SNACKS! Afterwards, we'll come back to FPC and have a **POTLUCK DINNER** for everyone (5:30–7:30 p.m.)

Sunday, September 25, 3–5 p.m.

We'll meet at the Bird House. The whole family is invited! See the notes above!

Sunday, October 2, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Spooky Stories! We'll discuss Sin—what is it?

Sunday, October 9, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Spooky Stories; We'll discuss Sin–What does it do?

Sunday, October 16, 3–5 p.m.

BIG EVENT and POTLUCK

Apple Crisp Dessert for Catholic Worker House:

Prepare apple crisp together at FPC and deliver. We'll tour the Catholic Worker House and then have

POTLUCK MEAL at church!



High School Youth Group will meet Wednesdays from 7–8:30 p.m. beginning **Wednesday**, **September 14**. We'll meet, make dinner and figure out what we want youth group to be this year.





Tween/Mother Retreat October 14-15, 2022

This is a BRAND NEW endeavor, especially created for Tween Girls (ages 9–13) and their Moms! We will spend an overnight at Camp Wyoming and have an interactive experience. **The best part?** Anna's Mom will be there. So you're a tween Mom and you want to hear about the absolute terrible tween that I (Anna) was; you'll have the support of my Mom, who is still mostly sane after my horrible tween years.

The cost for a Mother/Daughter duo will be \$125 for the overnight.

Please RSVP to Anna Sheetz by September 25.

- *Participants do not have to be FPC members, so friends and peers are invited!
- *Tween Boys and Dads, save the date—you're having a getaway trip March 24-25, 2023.



FPC invites all women to join us Saturday, November 5 from 9–4 p.m. Save the date and check the next newsletter for details!





The Jeremiah Justice Initiative has chosen <u>Grace</u> <u>Can Lead Us Home: A Christian Call to End</u> <u>Homelessness</u> by Kevin Nye.

"On any given night, more than half a million Americans and Canadians find themselves sleeping on the streets, in shelters, cars, and other places not meant for human habitation. Yet as this crisis continues to grow, it remains one of the least talked about—especially in churches. Even where compassion and empathy exist, the complexities around homelessness can make us feel stuck, overwhelmed, or numb to the existence of unhoused people in our cities and neighborhoods."

If you are interested in such a topic, email Layne at Layne.Sheetz@firstpresiowacity.org

A NEW TIME FOR JJI

Hybrid, Sundays from 6:30–8 p.m.
This Session begins Sunday, September 18!



FPC is hosting a Halloween Party for ALL AGES!

October 30, 4:30–7 p.m. Ryerson Hall Costumes encouraged! Come for dinner, fun, and games!

Update from your FPC Free Lunch Team

A faithful group of about ten FPC family and friends has continued to serve a meal on the third Thursday of each month at the lowa City Free Lunch Program on Gilbert Ct. When the pandemic started, the program's dining room was closed and all meals were served in takeout containers to folks who either walked or drove up to the kitchen. A few months ago the dining room reopened, giving guests the option of either taking a meal out with them or sitting at a table in the dining room. So far about half the meals are served in the dining room. Volunteers continue to serve from behind a plastic barrier for their safety.

FPC can be very proud of the meals that we're offering. In July it was smoked BBQ chicken sandwiches, roasted potatoes, stirfried vegetables, a fresh fruit salad and raisin pound cake. In August we served our traditional August meal — BLT sandwiches, corn on the cob, stir-fried vegetables, fresh fruit and cookies. Both months we handed out 163 meals — that's a lot of bacon and chicken.

If you would like to be a part of this meaningful and fun community service project, please consider joining our team. No kitchen experience needed. We generally meet around 9:30



or 10:00 and finish up shortly after 1:00. Volunteers are welcome to participate for the entire time or just part of the time. Contact Carol Kirsch for more information (carolkirsch52@gmail.com or (319-325-2559).





Session Meeting Highlights of August 2022

Submitted by Interim Clerk, Nancy Weber

The session met August 16, 2022 on Zoom. Acting administrator Nancy Gardner called the meeting to order and declared a quorum. Elder Doris Preucil offered devotions and prayer. Pastor Kyle Otterbein joined the meeting at 7:25 p.m. and served as moderator for the remainder of the meeting.

The Administration Committee offered a motion stating that, in accordance with First Presbyterian Church's desire to be environmentally conscious, non-disposable plates, glasses, cups silverware will be used during fellowship time beginning no later than the first Sunday in October, 2022. **The motion was approved**.

Endowment committee offered a motion to disburse \$67,011.80 from the First Presbyterian Church, Iowa City, Endowment Funds at Hills Bank and Trust instead of \$25,750.00 approved by Session July 18, 2022 and to disburse \$21,602.76 from First Presbyterian Church, Iowa City Endowment funds at US Bank. Session approved the motion.

Acting administrator Nancy Gardner reported that VBX Nancy Gardner had been a great success. reported that

Pastor Nominating Committee member Jim Claypool gave an update on the progress in the search for a new pastor. Two candidates were in the interviewing process. Elder Jeremy Fletcher gave Session an update concerning the interim pastor. The Terms of Call have

been drafted and Pastor Kyle Otterbein helped with details of the contract for the interim pastor. Potential start date for Rev. Forrest (Frosty) Krummel, the interim pastor, is September 4, 2022.

Personnel Committee moderator Jeremy Fletcher summarized the changes made in the revised Personnel Committee's staffing recommendations. Session members discussed the changes. A motion to accept the staffing recommendation was tabled until the interim pastor is on site. Acting administrator Nancy Gardner will continue to serve through the transition to interim pastor Frosty Krummel.

On behalf of the Reconciliation Ministry, Elder Jane Cranston reported that the Friends of Pasrur had a successful meeting August 16, 2022 and completed mailing letters to donors to the Pasrur school in Pakistan.

Acting administrator Nancy Gardner reported that home communion was again taking place.



Elder Lara Marsh closed the meeting with prayer.

Do you remember the story of the destitute old lady who dropped her last coin in the offering plate? Or the young man who had kept all of the Ten Commandments and asked Jesus what else to do? Jesus told him that to be perfect he must sell all his possessions and give the money to the poor. The man elected to stop short of perfect and left.

It probably isn't practical to give all you have to the poor; then you would become one of the poor. But the request to tithe, i.e. donate 10% of your income, is reasonable for many. Or, alternatively, picking the largest percentage you can to donate is desirable. There is more to being a good Christian than giving money, but it shows where your heart is, and it's a good start.

Bill Follows, Moderator of the Stewardship Committee





What is Mine and What is Yours?

"Riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might; and it is in your hand to make great and to give strength to all. And now, our God, we give thanks to you and praise your glorious name." 1 Chronicles 29:12-13

A lesson that God teaches us throughout our lifetime is that everything we have is God's, to whom we should always give honor and glory and praise. While many of us believe in this truth, learning this lesson can be challenging. We can too easily be like a child who wants to keep their quarter to use at the gumball machine instead of giving it in the offering plate. We feel that if we give what we have to God, there won't be enough left for us.

In First Chronicles, David shares that God tests our hearts and is pleased with integrity. When we can give back to God what has so graciously been given to us, we are honoring God not only with our finances but with our lives.

As you begin thinking about ways to give to the First Presbyterian Church, we encourage you to give to the church Endowment Fund. Your gift will have a lasting impact that will further Christ's kingdom in many ways. Not only will you be giving a gift that lasts but you will be giving praise and honor to God for all that God has given you.

Contact Bob and Millie Youngquist (319-653-4673) endowment@firstpresiowacity.org of FPC's Endowment and Memorials Committee to discuss how you can be a supporter of the church long into the future.

"I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver." Maya Angelou



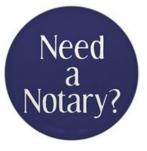
aka Prayer Post

Community Prayer Box

Here is how it works — Open the mailbox and write your prayers on the paper provided, then place prayers in the secure slot and release your concerns.

Think of this as a mailbox to God!

Pray More - Worry Less



FPC offers Notary services.

To schedule an appointment, contact Tammy Schroeder at 319-351-2660 or tammy.schroeder@firstpresiowacity.org



First things first ... You need to sign into My First Pres; it is a portal on the website that lets you update your contact info, add a family photo, see your financial gifts, set up online giving, print directories, and view the church calendar. Instruction to sign in, below in green box.

Sign in to My First Pres

- 1. Go to FPC website, https://firstpresiowacity.org/, scroll down to the My First Pres box
- 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 password once you login
- 7. You should open up to the HOME screen; look at MY COMPLETE PROFILE for your personal information, PLEASE make sure your address and phone numbers are correct, feel free to make any changes needed. Note: changes are verified and may take 24 hours to show up. You can also sign up for online giving, pledging and see your yearly giving.

This is where it gets handy ... Now that you have My First Pres set up, you have the option to download the Church Life app to your phone or tablet! Church Life keeps you organized by allowing you to see calendar events, locate your friends' contact info (church directory at your finger tips); text, email and call plus get directions to map visits all on the go. You can keep track of your pledge and gifts to FPC, too.

Instructions below in blue box.



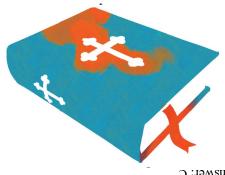
- Download Church Life iPhone-App Store Android-PlayStore
- Log in Use the same username and password you use for MyFirstPres.

For technical support, contact Tammy Schroeder at tammy.schroeder@firstpresiowacity.org



A few Bible books have only one chapter. Which of the following s not among them?

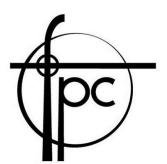
- A. Obadiah
- B. Philemon
- C. 1 John
- D. 2 John
- E. 3 John
- F. Jude



Answer: C

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

pen

Ph 319-351-2660 www.firstpresiowacity.org

Dear Members and Friends,

The Open Information process can be accessed through the FPC website. Session adopted the process 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 firstpresiowacity.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.

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