

2023 Warm Winter Wear Distribution – Donation & Volunteer Information

The annual Warm Winter Wear Distribution (WWD) events, sponsored by the Consultation of Religious Communities, will be held Sunday, October 8 through Saturday, October 14, at 340 Southgate Ave, Iowa City (Far east end of building).



DONATIONS:

We are in need of new or clean/gently used items that will benefit our neighbors who need warm winter clothing. Donations of the following items are requested in infant, child, and adult sizes: Coats, snow pants, hats, gloves and mittens, scarves, boots, shoes, warm socks, sweatpants, vests, sweatshirts, jeans, and sweaters. Boxes of “leaf and yard”-sized plastic bags are also needed.

Collection boxes will be available for your donations on September 24 through October 8 in Ryerson Hall.

VOLUNTEERS:

Volunteers will help with set-up, sorting / stocking of clothing, and serve as guides for shoppers. Because COVID-19 is once again on the rise, the format for 2023 will be very similar to the protocol that was used last year. Masks are recommended, but not required, for both volunteers and the designated family shopper. Following health guidelines, we plan to keep the number of people in the space distanced and safe. Volunteers should park at curbside along Southgate Ave, and arrive in the building 15 minutes prior to their shift. Students in grades 9–12 are welcome to volunteer. Students in 7th or 8th grade will require onsite parental supervision to volunteer.

Volunteers are needed over three days of sorting and organizing:

- ◆ 10 volunteers needed for three hours on Sunday, October 8 (1–4 p.m.)
- ◆ 7 volunteers needed per three hour shift on Monday, October 9 and Tuesday, October 10 (9 a.m.–noon; noon - 3 p.m.; 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.)

Shopping begins Wednesday, October 11 and ends on Saturday, October 14.

- ◆ 7 volunteers are needed for all shifts on Wednesday through Friday. (9 a.m. - noon; noon - 3 p.m.; 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.)
- ◆ 7 volunteers are needed Saturday (9 a.m.–noon)

Take down and clean-up on Saturday (noon–3 p.m.), will need 7 volunteers.

You are invited to sign up for multiple shifts during the WWWD. The SignUp Genius link is:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B49A9AE2FA20-warm4>

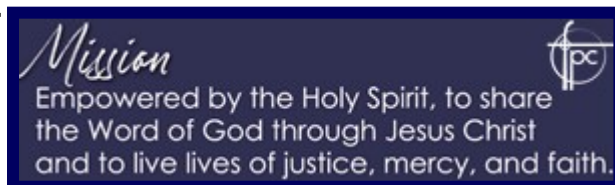
Questions? Contact John Barr at barrjohnno.@sau.edu

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH U.S.A.
2701 Rochester Ave. • Iowa City • Iowa •
319-351-2660 • www.firstpresioiawacity.org



Dear Church,

It was great to walk through the halls and see all of our youth and adult Sunday School participants gathering to grow in faith! And while I missed the beginning of our Sunday night youth programming due to a late-running Sunday afternoon pastoral nap, I got there just in time to see a lot of excited people finishing cupcakes, playing a game, and diligently vacuuming. The fall is an exciting time, but also one that sometimes gives me pause—seeing all the people in study and in worship after summer travels also lets me see all the nametags for people unable to come to church regularly. With a few exceptions, I've not yet been here long enough to feel those absences the way others do, but every time I look through an old directory or bulletin, I run across another name of a person I remember in the fullness of life. It is part of the natural cycle of the year that the full flower of spring and summer leads to the shortening days and dropping leaves of the fall.

For me, the greatest joy of church is in being able to celebrate the lives we lead through all their phases; it is often easiest to think about the growth of someone's life in their youngest years—we're going to have a baptism sometime in the next several weeks, and we had a new attendee during the children's sermon who I am more used to seeing held than I am to her walking. Likewise, as I hear the answers that Soren and Molly give as they help out their younger companions, I see them growing into the adults they will become. But unlike in our schools or youth-dedicated organizations, the church has the privilege of carrying on the journey after people have grown into adulthood. On September 3, I got to celebrate the wedding of Greg and Gisele Barr, and on September 10, I got to see Ann and Richard, and Sarah Burton glowing with the birth of a new grandchild/niece. During the Jeremiah Justice Initiative meeting on Sunday night, we heard reflections of retired teachers struggling with the different fears and anxieties that come to schoolchildren now than in days past. The gift of church is to bring us into the presence of people at every stage of their lives, and to invite us into



Pastor's Letter

relationship with them alongside the sheltering embrace of God. Each person here has a story to share, has experiences that might enrich our lives, and has the will and capacity to continue growing in love of God and neighbor.

And so that gift asks something from us in return. It asks us to remember. To wonder. To notice the people who are absent and reach out. Sometimes that's just a phone call, sometimes that's a visit to a person with limited mobility or impaired hearing. Sometimes it's a note like Rick Boland sends out every quarter. And sometimes it's bringing the sacramental presence of home communion. It's so easy to lose track of someone after they are no longer able to easily make it to church, but from its earliest days, the church has been a community of people who remember, who reach out, who mark not only the passing of time, but also the changes that happen within ourselves thanks to our encounters with others. This fall, look around, see the person who is not present, who you miss, and reach out in the ways that you can. For some of you, it might be calling the spouse or child of a friend long gone and saying, "I was thinking of her today." For others, it might be heading over to Oaknoll or Lantern Park. And for one or two of you, it might just be walking down the street and knocking on the door. As the days grow shorter, let the warmth of Christ reach out into cold places.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Nathan

Join the FPC Book Club

September 26, Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus.

Hybrid option available—meet in person in Coover Lounge or via Zoom.

For more information, contact Mary Linn jmLnn@aol.com



Elders Answer the Question of Why They Give to FPC

Submitted by Nancy Gardner, Stewardship Committee Moderator

I've written quite a bit over the last several months about determining your "Why" for pledging to FPC. In the beginning, I covered the importance of knowing the church's mission statement. That part about "living lives of justice, mercy, and faith" along with being "empowered by the Holy Spirit" and "sharing the word of God" can make for some pretty deep thinking.

Along with knowing the mission statement and what we at FPC are all about, I provided a framework called the 5 Whys for you to discover the true reason you give to the church. Essentially, you start with a general statement about why you give and answer the statement with, Why is this important to me? You conduct this response and question of Why? for a total of five times. Once that fifth Why? is answered, the real reason you give becomes apparent. What people usually discover is an event or response that really connected them to the church. If you haven't tried the 5 Whys, give it a go; you may be surprised where this takes you.

Session members will be sharing their Whys with you in this and upcoming newsletters. This month, we're hearing from Elders Leann Graves and David Van Dusseldorp.

I support FPC because I value the opportunity to worship and grow in my faith with my church family. I love that we support each other and care for others in our local and world communities as well. When my husband had a long recovery from surgery this year, I was overwhelmed by all the prayers and concern shown to us. I will always treasure the connections I have made at FPC.

Leann Graves

Why do I give? One word. Gratitude.

While First Church has been my church home for sixty years, the support we felt while raising our daughters is the big part of all I appreciate about the care we've received over those years.

For Kate and Sarah it was baptism, nursery care, church school, vacation Bible school, choir, Synod School, youth group, mission trips and PC(USA) Triennium. First Church people and programs were there for our girls. They were nurtured during their years here. Our congregation can be proud of the commitment it made when they were baptized.

We support our church financially to assure that commitment to nurture is continued because First Church helped us raise our daughters.

David Van Dusseldorp

Join TeamFPC to Walk to End Alzheimer's on Saturday, September 23.



Look for the **sign-up table in Ryerson Hall**. You will be able to sign up to walk and make donations to **help us reach our team goal of \$1,500**. All money raised will go to the Alzheimer's Association for research and to enhance care and support for all affected by this disease.

Use this link to donate directly <http://act.alz.org/goto/TeamFPC> or the QR Code below

Facts About Alzheimer's:

- It is the 6th leading cause of death in the U.S. and the only cause of death in the top 10 that cannot be prevented.
- 1 in 3 seniors die with Alzheimer's/dementia.
- More than 6 million people in the U.S. are living with the disease.
- Someone develops Alzheimer's/dementia every 66 seconds and 2/3 of them are women.



For more info, contact Tammy Schroeder at 351-2660, tammy.schroeder@firstpreswiowacity.org

Give to the Peace & Global Witness Offering through October 1

In too many places around the world, peace is merely a hope. Conflicts between nations, peoples, and ideas put peace at risk everywhere. During the Season of Peace, we recognize that too many people live in situations that are both unsettled and unjust.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) actively engages in peacemaking and reconciliation in more than 50 countries. Through its partner churches and organizations, our reach is extended to 100 countries. Your gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering works to address these deep-seated problems by supporting efforts to



inspire, equip, and connect Presbyterians engaging in ministries of reconciliation and peace around the world. Through missions, work projects, and education, we witness to the peace of Christ for our sisters and brothers as they face some of the greatest challenges of our time.

A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this Offering to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace. Mid councils retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness.

To share your offering by World Communion Sunday on October 1, go to:

<https://firstpresbiowacity.org/donate-online/> and click on Peace & Global Witness, send a check payable to First Presbyterian Church, with Peace Offering in the memo line OR scan this QR code and select Peace & Global Witness.



Dehners Find Adventure in Mexico

Ryan and Megan Dehner, along with their children Madeline and Reid, will be spending this school year in Mérida, Mexico. Ryan, a recent recipient of the Fulbright-García Robles Teaching English as a Foreign Language Award, will be working with the faculty and students at the Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán. Megan, starting her first year of a Ph.D. program, will be able to take her courses online. And, Madeline and Reid will enjoy a year of study at a bilingual school. As Megan said, "It will surely be an adventure!"

To keep up with the Dehners, go to Megan's blog at <https://megdehner.wixsite.com/delosdehners>.



Ryan, Madeline, Meg and Reid set off for Mexico.

First's Family

Do you have a news item for the First's Family? Send Tammy Foster an email by October 1 to tammy.foster@firstpreswacivcity.org. Thank you!



September 15-30

9/15 Steve Semler
9/18 Kathy Smith
9/18 Amanda Molsberry
9/19 Carol Ulch
9/19 Steve Smith
9/19 Anita Burnett
9/20 Amy Johnston
9/20 Nathan Willard
9/22 Kathryn Sidwell

9/23 Mick Hammer
9/25 Steve Spangler
9/26 Peter Dunbar
9/26 Eric Forsythe
9/27 Joyce Stochl

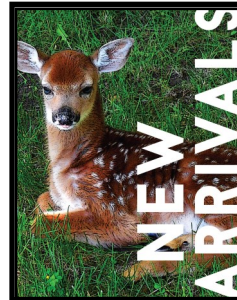
10/1 Jerry Stamp
10/1 Al Wicks
10/3 Tyson Neubauer
10/4 Don Bolin
10/4 Aurelien Kunangika
10/4 Joan Maxwell
10/5 Edmond Bigaba
10/5 Lucus Edwards
10/6 Chad Greimann
10/7 Judy Whitford
10/8 Temple Hiatt

October 1-15

10/8 Bill Rubright
10/8 Anna Sheetz
10/8 Sage Smith
10/9 Megan Dehner
10/10 Rachael Nicholson
10/11 Norma Carlson
10/12 Ken Miller
10/14 Emily Feagins
10/14 Karen Nicklaus
10/15 Marvin Bergman
10/15 Steve Hurt
10/15 Anja Miller



*Known
to have been
Hospitalized: Amanda Molsberry*



Maren Virginia Mondul was born on August 30, to Corey and Jane Mondul in Baltimore, MD. The happy grandparents are **Richard and Ann Burton**. And **Aunt Sara** is very excited to share her middle name with her new niece.

Women's Retreat October 28

What do you do when life gives you lemons? You come to the annual Fall Women's Retreat, of course! Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 28 where our theme of "When Life Gives You Lemons" will turn into a meaningful time of worship, discussion, socializing, games, and a whole lot of laughter. No matter how you identify, all are welcome to attend! The registration fee of \$10 will include both breakfast and lunch as well as activity materials. Look for the registration table in Ryerson Hall, or talk with Judy Whitford or Nancy Gardner for questions.





What Ages Belong to Each Group?

The 3Gs; 5th–12th Graders Gather, Grow, and Games

The 3Ts; 7th–12th Graders Thinking Thoughts Theologically

We'll ask questions and (maybe) find the answers!

Sunday, September 17

4–4:45 p.m. The 3Gs, Gather, Grow, and Games; “Let’s Get Together, Yeah Yeah Yeah”
 4:45–5:45 p.m. Youth Choir Kickoff!
 6–6:45 p.m. Dinner Together
 6:45–7:30 p.m. The 3Ts, Thinking Thoughts Theologically; Collecting Questions

Sunday, September 24

4–4:45 p.m. The 3Gs, Gather, Grow, and Games; “Creation; Now and Before”
 4:45–5:45 p.m. Youth Choir
 6–6:45 p.m. Dinner Together
 6:45–7:30 p.m. The 3Ts, Thinking Thoughts Theologically; Question #1 – Is There an Answer?

Sunday, October 1

4–4:45 p.m. The 3Gs; Gather, Grow, and Games; “School Days, Happy Days?”
 4:45–5:45 p.m. Game Time
 6–6:45 p.m. Dinner Together
 6:45–7:30 p.m. The 3Ts, Thinking Thoughts Theologically; Question #1, Answers? Continued

October 8 – Sunday PM Activities Canceled; Anna on vacation

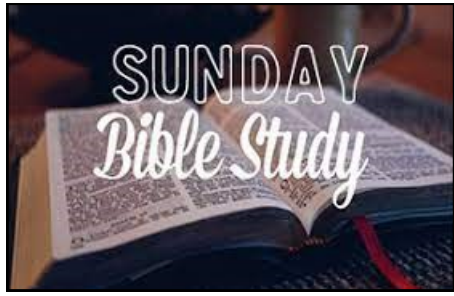
October 15 – Sunday PM Activities Canceled; Happy Fall Break!

See you on Sunday, October 22 at 4 p.m., for our BIG EVENT with UCC Bike Night at Terry Trueblood, 4 p.m., weather permitting with a potluck dinner at 6 p.m.



A Big Thank You!

What a turnout we saw on Sept. 17 to complete the process of preparing to accept larger monetary gifts to the church. Thank you to all who participated in the small group discussions and the selection process to determine the top desires of the congregation. Next month’s newsletter will share the ideas and our next steps.



Sunday Bible Study *What's that about?*

The Sunday Bible Study (SBS) is up and rolling!
Join us each Sunday from 9:30–10:15 a.m. in COOVER LOUNGE!

Here's how it will work:

Each month, there will be a TOPIC we study through the breadth of the Bible.

The 4th Week of Topic, we will have a Q+A class where no question is off limits- although, the answer may be "I'm not sure, what do you think?"

This is Anna's Favorite part: *For students from 7th–12th grade, they can come and learn with their parents. For adults who have been there and done it all, this is a different way to study and see the hyperlinks. .*

Sunday Bible Study Topic for September: What is the Bible?

September 17, Who wrote the Old Testament?

September 24, What about the New Testament?

For more information, please contact Anna at
Anna.Sheetz@firstpreswacity.org

OCTOBER CHOOSE YOUR TOPIC OPTIONS

Voting, September 17

- **Genesis through 4 themes:** Spirit, Trees, Exile, & Blessing
- **Creation;** Babies, Wisdom, Chaos, & Beginning
- **The Bad Words of the Bible;** Pesha, Avon, & Khata



The Christian Education Ministry is hosting the
3rd Annual Pumpkin Party on

Sunday, October 29 from 4–6:30 p.m. for ALL AGES!

We are looking for adults to host various rooms and activities throughout the church.

Hello, First Family!

This is an exciting time to be a part of our music ministry here at FPC!

Youth Choir has begun, as of Sunday, September 17, and is welcome to any and all youth. This is a very low-pressure environment; the point is to build community by praising Jesus through making music together. Personally, I am very excited to see what comes of this group of kiddos. We are just beginning and I am already proud of them! While I am not one to boss around, I *will* say you ought to be proud of them too, for simply being present as they are.



JuBELLation has resumed weekly rehearsals (Sundays, 8:00–9:00 .am.), with as many ringers as before summer break, and with many kind souls on our substitute rotation. Please, if you are interested (even a little) in trying handbells, reach out to me, or Rhonda Barr, or any of our regular ringers with any questions. True, 8:00 a.m. is an early start, but I will admit it is a rather enriching activity with which to start my Sundays. Surely, I am not the only one who thinks so!

Our **Sanctuary Choir** is rehearsing weekly, again, on Wednesday evenings, 7:00–8:00 p.m. I strongly encourage anyone with even the slightest taste for singing to join us! One of my favorite things about choir (or indeed, any ensemble) is the delicate balance of responsibility: everyone's voice matters and everyone has a role, yes, but you are also only one of a handful of folks singing your part at a given time, so you can learn your part as a group and rely on each other throughout that process. If Wednesday nights do not work for you, please join us in our Sunday morning rehearsals, 9:45–10:15, in the sanctuary balcony loft.

Lastly, I am thrilled to announce a special music event that will take place at FPC:

a **Christmas Music Exchange with FPC Marion**. This will be the Sunday morning (10:30 a.m.) service on **Sunday, December 3, in our sanctuary**. The choir and music director of FPC Marion will combine with our choir(s) and JuBELLation, in tandem with quartets of professional vocal artists and a full orchestra, to provide a remarkable worship service to begin the brief, yet essential, season of Advent. There will be a number of congregational hymns as well, so all present will have the opportunity to lift their voices with the large musical forces we are blessed with.

Thank you, always, for the opportunity to worship with you all.

J. Kyle Coleman

From the City of Iowa City



Stage 2 of Rochester Avenue Reconstruction Project nearly complete; Stage 3 to begin soon

Until Stage 2 is complete, an increase in construction traffic in and around the project site should be expected, traffic delays are possible, and the current detour using First Avenue, Court Street, and Seventh Avenue will remain in place.

Upon completion of Stage 2, Stage 3 will begin. **Stage 3 includes Rochester Avenue from Rita Lyn Court up to, but NOT including the First Avenue intersection.** The intersection will remain open during Stage 3. **Stage 3 is tentatively scheduled to be completed by mid-November, at which time all of Rochester Avenue will reopen for the winter months.** Work on Stage 4: the Rochester Avenue / First Avenue intersection is scheduled to begin in Spring 2024.



What Does the Lord Require?

The FPC Endowment and Memorials Committee
Bob and Millie Youngquist, Coordinators

Scriptures tell us to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God (Micah 6:8). Every day disciples are praying to discern God's will for their lives. What does the Lord require of us?

One idea to consider is to create a legacy with your family finances that will continue ministry beyond your lifetime. You can establish a permanent fund during your lifetime and create signed documents that provide for additions at the time of death.

What ministries do you love? You decide what ministries will receive an annual distribution from your permanent fund each year for all perpetuity.

Once you have considered the ministries that you would like to benefit with a legacy gift, consult your professional advisors and our endowment coordinators, Bob and Millie Youngquist, for ideas on how choosing certain assets (especially tax-burdened assets like an IRA or a 401(k)) can increase the overall value of your estate. Changes to your plan can often

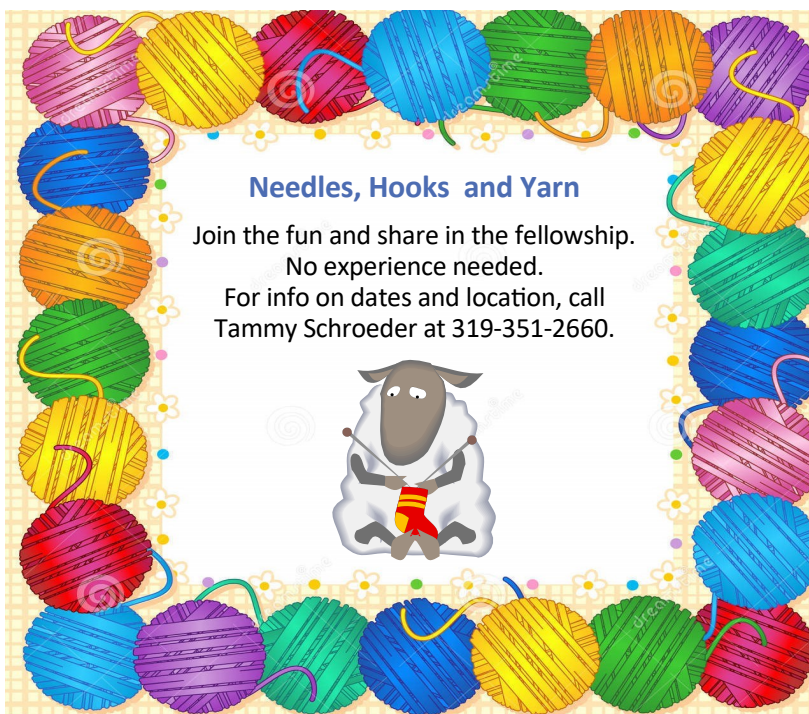
be accomplished with simple beneficiary designation form changes, without the expense of revising the will or trust documents already in place.

Permanent funds, such as those held in trust by the FPC Endowment and Memorials Committee, support the ministries of the donor's choosing. We hope you would consider a legacy gift that would support FPC in your plans.

To learn more about permanent funds through the church endowment, call Bob and Millie Youngquist 319-653-4673, or Pastor Nathan Willard 319-351-2660.

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."

Malachi 3:10



September's Eat Out Group

Dine at

TAVERN BLUE

805 2nd St. in Coralville on
September 28 at 6:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited to join! To RSVP,
please sign up on the sheet in the Nar-
thex or call the office
(319-)351-2660.

Your Hosts: Andreas & Val Soemadi

THE Cookie Walk



IS BACK!!

December 9 from 9 a.m. – Noon

Deb Boland is coordinating the Cookie Walk this year, and she is looking for volunteers to help her. The planning will start this month, so if you would like help plan the event, offer support, or sign up to bake cookies, contact Deb at Deb.Boland@gmail.com.

There will be No Bazaar items.



***Do you have questions?
Do you wonder what Realm is all about?***

- Questions about the Realm email you received?
- What is Realm and why should I use it?
- Want to use the new mobile app, but aren't sure how?

Tammy Schroeder is happy to assist you. Find her on Sunday mornings or by calling (319) 351-2660, or stopping by the church office.



FPC is now offering Notary services.
Contact Tammy Schroeder to schedule an appointment at 319-351-2660 or tammy.schroeder@firstpresbiowacity.org

Bible Quiz

According to the New Testament, John the Baptist introduced two of his followers to Jesus. The men were brothers named Andrew and Simon.

Almost immediately, Jesus accepted the two men as friends and followers. He gave one of them a new name. Jesus said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas," (which is translated _____).

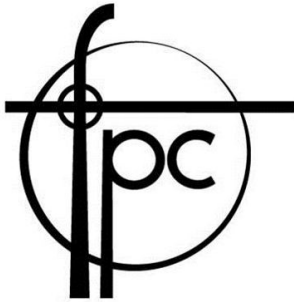
Choose the correct name from the list below.

- A. Nicodemus
- B. Matthew
- C. Philip
- D. Peter



Answer: D (See John 1:42.)

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