

January 2020



# 1st Pres

## NEWS AND VIEWS

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.*

*Acts 2:42*

While you might argue that some of the activities of the church today mirror those of the early church and others are quite disparate from those small, sometimes furtive gatherings of newly minted Christians trying to figure out what this resurrection means, there can be no denying that relational community is at the heart of what the church is called to embody. Of course, the minute that is said, one has to acknowledge that there are many ways of forming community and that recently there have been seismic shifts in the ways in which we connect with each other as new technologies both make it easier and harder to know and be known.

This is a somewhat long introduction to and rationale for a shift that we will be making at First Presbyterian in January 2020. During that month we will be moving from one database system at the church to a new one named Realm. There are a variety of technical reasons for the shift, but the most important one is that we believe it will allow for and empower people to make connections and build community across our church family. Realm will serve as a centralized point of connection and information for members. From your computer or phone, you'll be able to email another member, look at information for a group, sign up to help at an event, check the church calendar, and much more.

The month of January is when we will be switching into the Realm system, and there are a couple of dates and opportunities you should be aware of:

**January 2** - You'll receive an email from the church. This email is meant to confirm that we have the correct/best email information for you. If you receive the email, a "got it" reply lets us know. If you do not receive an email, that means the office either has no email for you or an incorrect email. **If this happens, please send Stormy ([stormy@fpccr.org](mailto:stormy@fpccr.org)) an email from your most active account so that can be added to your information.**

**January 15** - You'll receive an email to the address confirmed above inviting you to setup and login to your Realm account. In that email there will be step-by-step instructions, as well as links to a video walk-through and more.

**January 19th & 26th** - Stormy will be at a Realm "help desk" in the Fellowship Hall before and after worship to assist anyone who would like help with the setup or has any questions.

Several things to note:

**Security:** One of the main questions people have asked is about the security or accessibility of their information. One of the reasons we chose the Realm system is that accessibility is completely customizable to your preference. Want everyone in the church to see your email but only staff to have your phone number? You can set that up. And only those people who have been granted a church login as a member/affiliate have the ability to access information at all.

**I Don't Do Computers:** Yes, we recognize we have a broad spectrum congregation that includes both digital natives and those who avoid computers at all cost. Our old ways of connecting people and signups will not be disappearing, there just will be some new ways added for our more tech-savvy members. The best thing you could do is to stop by the "help desk" and chat with Stormy so she can make sure everything is updated how you would like it - and then you won't have to think of it again.

Of course, all these bells and whistles mean nothing if we don't keep their fundamental purpose in mind - the development of and support of community and relationships in the church. As we head into the new year, let's all make a resolution that 2020 be year where we know each other as we have been known, that we love each other as we have been loved, and that we bless each other as we have been blessed.

Grace & peace,

*Pastor Heather*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Hanging of the Greens

Thank you so much to everyone who helped with Hanging of the Greens this year. A special thanks to Marty who led the efforts of the Minis-trees theme! The trees are a beautiful sight! Merry Christmas!



## Top 10 Ways to be a Welcoming Church

**1. Wear your name tags.** We have new name tags and a new system (see article elsewhere in the newsletter) that is going to make it easy to identify yourself. How does this help us be welcoming? If members are wearing name tags, then we know those who are most likely visitors and we can reach out to them. It takes away the potential awkwardness of greeting a "visitor" who is actually a member you haven't met...and helps you meet and greet a fellow member.

**2. Sign your name & address or email in the Fellowship Pad.** One of the hardest parts of following up with the many visitors to our church is our lack of contact information. Studies show that if members write names and contact information, visitors are much more likely to do so also.

**3. Intentionally greet those in your pew, before and behind.** During Passing of the Peace make note of new faces and intentionally welcome them.

**4. Practice the two minute rule at fellowship.** On a related note, when you enter Fellowship Hall after worship use the first two minutes to introduce yourself to an unfamiliar face. It may be a newer member, it may be a visitor, but either way you've helped to break up post-worship cliques.

## New Name Tags for a New Year

They are here!! The new magnetic badge holders and red lanyards have arrived and will be ready for use January 5, 2020. You will be able to pick them up in the narthex. The ushers will be checking that you are wearing your name badge. It is hoped that everyone will wear their name badge throughout Sunday morning, including Fellowship Hour. There will be baskets to leave your badges on your way out at the parking lot entrance. We do not have extra magnets for the back of your badge so be sure to stick it securely to the back of your badge when you remove it.

Children may have a lanyard with their name. Parents should submit a request with their child's name to Stormy in the front office.

Please plan to leave your badge or lanyard at the Church for safe keeping.

*The Fellowship Committee*

**5. If you see something, say something.** Be aware of those around you. If you see someone holding a coat - show them where to hang it. Family with kids looking a little lost - tell them we have nursery care upstairs but that their children are welcome in our worship. Someone struggling with mobility - we have wheelchairs for use.

**6. Look people in the eye and smile.** Sometimes all it takes is eye contact and a smile to make someone feel welcome.

**7. Leave the aisle seat open.** Yes, you have your favorite pew, but leaving the aisle seat open for a visitor to duck into is more welcoming than expecting them to ask you to move aside so they can crawl past you to an open seat.

**8. Would you like to join me at fellowship?** Remember that person you greeted during Passing of the Peace? At the close of worship, invite them to join you at Fellowship Time. It takes a lot for a visitor to walk into post-worship fellowship alone. Don't make them have to do that.

**9. Sign your name & contact info!** Did I mention that already?

**10. Pass on any info about contact you've made** to Pastor Heather so she, the staff, and the Membership Committee can follow up.

## Safety at First Presbyterian

Over the fall, the FPC Session has been exploring ways to pursue love, safety, peace, and security for all who come within the reach of our ministries and for all who enter our building. As part of that discussion, a task force has been created to establish safety policies and procedures to help educate and guide the actions of staff and volunteers. It is hoped that in addition to creating a safe environment for our congregation, such plans would provide direction in a time of need and help to provide a structured response during an emergency. In the month of January, the Session will be hosting an open forum to share the outlines of a safety policy and plan and receive input from the congregation on your concerns and your suggestions. Watch the bulletin and e-news for more information about time and date.

## Star Tree

In Luke, Jesus teaches us to give to those less fortunate than we are. We find similar edicts throughout the Hebrew Bible and New Testament, from Proverbs, Leviticus, and Deuteronomy to the Gospels, Timothy, and Corinthians. We are called to be the hands and feet of our Lord. Thank you for all you do in this congregation to fulfill this calling. The Star Tree is one way that we come together as God's hands and feet in Christian community at First Presbyterian. The Youth Group had a great time purchasing gifts for the Star Tree. These acts stir our hearts in gratefulness to God as well as provide us purpose. We hope that you and your families experienced God's love and goodness while shopping for the people listed on your stars. Thank you for being a part of the First Pres community!



## INTERSECTIONS

a civility project of Interfaith Alliance of Iowa

### Beyond the Binary: Gender Expansive Iowans and the Policies that Impact Them

January 3, 2019 11:45 AM-1:00 PM

Featuring **Keenan Crow, Director of Policy & Advocacy, One Iowa** RSVP required by **December 31 (515.279.8715)**. \$10 per person (payable at the door)- includes lunch.

Political attacks on the transgender and gender non-conforming community are on the rise, both in Iowa and nationally. These attacks are fueled by ignorance and misunderstanding of who these people are. Join Keenan Crow, One Iowa Director of Policy and Advocacy, to learn more about transgender and gender non-conforming Iowans and what you can do to help ensure their health and safety in the Hawkeye state.

### Summer Youth Trips

Just a quick reminder that all youth who are planning to participate in any of our summer trips need to get their trip deposits in before January 15th. If you are in Senior High (entering 9th – graduating 12th grades) and are interested in Montreat or are in Middle School (entering 6th grade – graduated 8th graders) and would like to participate in. Please pay the \$125.00 by January 15th. If you have any questions about these trips, please email Andrea Rice at [andrea@fpccr.org](mailto:andrea@fpccr.org).

### Stewardship Campaign for 2020

The stewardship campaign for 2020 is moving forward. To date, the amount received stands at \$429,055 with 131 member families responding. If you have any questions about pledging, please do not hesitate to contact me at the church. All pledges are needed! And I would just like to say Thank You to everyone for all you do for First Presbyterian Church. Without you it would just be a building.

Joan Riley

## Women's Bible Study

Join us as we explore the lives of women in the Bible, both those who are named and well known and those who are only briefly mentioned. In January that will include Tamar, daughter of King David, and the Wise Woman of Abel Beth Maacah. Meetings happen on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month from 10:00-11:30. If you are interested in joining us in the new year, contact Pastor Heather and she'll get you connected with the materials.

### HELP Portrait Thanks You!

Thank you to all who volunteered with and provided food for the HELP-Portrait event in December. Over 250 families had their portraits taken at one of the photo stations set up in our church. Over 100 people volunteered with photography, photo editing, hospitality, food, hair/makeup, printing and file management. A special thank you to Susan Baker for coordinating all the FPC Volunteers, to Mike Miller for being the FPC liaison the entire day, and to Eric Stark for all the assistance in coordinating the set up of studios. It was a great day!

### Methwick Bible Study

You are welcome to join us on Wednesday, January 8th at 1:00pm in the Governor's Room in Deer Ridge. We'll be gathering together for fellowship and to study the Parable of the Sower. We look at both traditional interpretations and consider new ways to look at familiar texts. You are welcome to join us - even if you aren't a resident at Methwick!

### Annual Meeting of the Congregation

The Session of FPC has set the annual meeting of the congregation to follow worship on Sunday, January 26th. This is an opportunity to gather together, reflect on the year just completed, receive reports from all our committees, and pray for God's guidance and blessing in the year to come. Annual report booklets will be available to the congregation on January 19th for review before the meeting.

## New Member Class

Interested in learning more about First Presbyterian Church? Pastor Heather will be arranging the next inquiry class in January. If you are interested in attending, please contact her and she'll make sure you receive all details.



New member:  
Lisa Alexander



New member:  
Karen Humbert

## From the Treasurer

### 2019 Contributions

There is still an opportunity if you would like to make a year-end gift to the church. I will hold the books for 2019 open until January 10<sup>th</sup>. You can reach me at the church on Monday, Wednesday or Friday. The church's phone number is 364-6148 and my email address is [joan@fpccr.org](mailto:joan@fpccr.org).



Photos by  
Susan  
Gehring



### Cookie Bake Update and Thank you

Our youth would like to thank everyone who helped with or ordered cookies from our December "Cookie Bake" fundraiser. We couldn't have successfully baked around 90 dozen cookies, and raised over \$700, without your help! A special thank you to the Gehring family, Alisa Shields, the Younger Family, the Kiser family, Mary Ellen Horak, Karen Carver, and the Hayes family for the use of some of their homes and their efforts in helping lead the cookie bake! Thank you all for the many ways you support our youth here at First Pres!

### Sunday School Resumes January 5th at 9 am!

On January 5th, our Sunday School classes will resume with our next workshop rotation theme: The Lord's Prayer! Just a reminder all ages start in the chapel at 9AM Sunday morning. See you on January 5th for a new exciting year of Sunday School.

### Thank You Sunday School Teachers

To you wonderful 2019 Fall/Winter Sunday School Teachers: Marty Brown, Cindy Monroe, Sarah Hale Keusmen, Kristopher Keusmen, Heidi Kiser, Mary, Joe, and Ellen Houtz, Elizabeth Prowell Mitchell, Sylvia Popelka, Priscilla Polehna, the Buresh family, Darby Anderson, DeEtta Anderson, Jojo Hayes, Gwen Chofong, Adrina Cook, Allie Hayes, and Barb Kean. Thank you for your time and love. When you teach or shepherd Sunday School, you are showing the children the love of Christ, forming their views of the church, God, and the world, and revealing how our Lord works through us. Your example demonstrates how to be the hands and feet of God! You are an invaluable and vital component of this congregation and we appreciate the effort you put forth as Christian mentors to the youth!

### Souper Bowl of Caring!

The "Souper Bowl of Caring" came into being in 1990. Since then, young people have been leading the charge and inspiring others to collect both monetary donations and food on the day of the Big Game. Our youth group is teaming up with local partners, and will have a Souper Bowl donation station set up in Fellowship Hall on February 2nd. 100% of donations go to local charities in our community. Be a part of the change: make the nation's largest weekend of football into the largest weekend of caring!

For more information ask Andrea or a member of the youth group. Thank you for helping us emanate the light of Christ from this church and out into our community, solidifying First Pres as a beacon of hope "Downtown for Good"!

### Youth Group News

We're back at it on Wednesday Nights-and more!

#### January 8th

Middle School @6 • Dinner @7 • Senior High @7 Kickin' off the New Year!

Discussion: Table Fellowship & Purity

#### January 22rd

Middle School @6 • Dinner @7 • Senior High @7 Discussion and Game Night: Thy Kingdom Come

#### January 29th

Middle School @6 • Dinner @7 • Senior High @7 Discussion and Game Night: Thy Kingdom Come

Other Important Upcoming Dates:

#### January 19th

2PM-6PM Provide Dinner to Families @ Ronald McDonald, take Tie Blankets.

#### January 31st

Sr. High Lock In!

#### February 2nd

Presentation to the congregation about summer mission trips.



Your church library offers many books that will help you navigate many social issues through a Biblical lens.

*The Time Is Now: A Call to Uncommon Courage*

In her latest work, Sister Joan Chittister, a rabble rousing force of nature for social justice and fervent proponent of personal faith and spiritual fulfillment- draws on the wisdom of prophets, both ancient and modern, to help us confront the societal forces that oppress and silence the sacred voices among us.

*Grace Will Lead Us Home: the Charleston Church Massacre and the Hard, Inspiring Journey to Forgiveness*

Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, Jennifer Berry Hawes provides a definitive account of the aftermath of the killing of twelve members of the Charleston Emanuel AME Church. This is a story of how, beyond the headlines, a community begins to heal. An unforgettable and deeply human portrait of grief, faith and forgiveness.

*Peaceful Neighborhood: Discovering the Countercultural of Mister Rogers*

This book invites you into Mister Rogers' Neighborhood to experience Fred's fervent belief in a God who accepts us as we are and who desires a world marked by peace and wholeness.

*Generous Justice: How God's Grace Makes Us Just*

It is commonly thought in secular society that the Bible is one of the greatest hindrances in doing justice. Timothy Keller challenges this preconceived belief and presents the Bible and God's grace as a fundamental source for promoting justice and compassion for those in need.

**In Case of Inclement Weather**

As we get further into the winter months, we'd like to remind you of the church policy concerning closing in case of inclement weather. Our general rule is that the church building will be closed any time the Cedar Rapids Community School District cancels or delays classes.

Since conditions can change quickly, you should be in touch with your committee chair, music director or group leader regarding evening activity cancellations.

We do our best to always have worship services on Sunday, despite the weather. If weather closing is necessary on a Sunday morning, we will announce closures via email, Facebook and through KCRG. As always, we hope that your first consideration is one of personal safety and that you will use your best judgement regarding driving in inclement weather.

**The Food Group** Will meet at **Bistro 3 Nineteen** (796 11th St Marion) on **January 23 at 6:00 PM**. Reserve your spot by contacting Carolyn or David Horton at **horton6902@msn.com or 319-396-5369** no later than Monday January 20.

**The Evening Book Group** will meet on Monday, **January 20, 6:30 p.m.**, in the home of Leslie Kesser, 1650 Koehler Dr NW, Unit 256, **363-7539**. The book for discussion is *Spying on the South* by Tony Horwitz. In the 1850s, Fredrick Olmstead traveled through the South as an undercover correspondent for the New York Times. His dispatches about the lives and beliefs of southerners have endured as classic texts for the study of America on the brink of breakup. In this book, Horwitz tells about following Olmstead's tracks to discover what has changed and what is much the same about life in the American South at present.

All First Pres women and men are invited to join in the discussion.

**Session Notes**

November 19, 2019

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- Security: Kris Keuseman, Heather Hayes and other members of the security task force, staff and church members attended a presentation on the matter of protections for houses of worship. Kris and others visited with the speaker, Chris Judge of Homeland Security, and will arrange with CRPD, CRFD and the FBI to conduct a walk-through of our facilities with personnel trained to assess security systems, exposures and risks. Scope of work, congregational input and education will be defined, including a weapons-on-church- property policy, in early 2020.

- *Realm*® Run-Through: Pastor Heather introduced *Realm*® Online Church Software and led the Session in installing their own phone app for church-wide, web-based communication and information-sharing. Congregation information and participation will begin in January 2020.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Worship & Music** (Heather Hayes): Beginning with the Hanging of the Greens on Sunday, Nov. 24, worship for Advent will celebrate the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the hymn *Joy to the World*, with theme and decorations including lights, chrismons ("Christ monograms"), the Heavens and stars. The cantata and children's pageant will be combined on December 15.

**Christian Education** (Janice McNally): Christmas pageant rehearsals have begun. The Child Protection Policy is being prepared for Session approval. Intergenerational involvement with the *Not Without Me* movement, partnering with Bethel AME, to close up the education gap between economic strata in CR – could involve homework help with 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue churches.

**Stewardship** (Lynda Barrow): Have received 102 pledges as of 11/19/19. Short of the budget goal, but optimistic that a significant number of members who had pledged last year but not yet for 2020 will soon respond. Committee and volunteers will follow up with emails/phone calls.

**Finance\*** (Terry Trimpe): Discussed moving committee and Session schedules in 2020 to facilitate monthly financial report. Presented the

October 2019 Revenues and Expenses Summary. Presented the preliminary 2020 budget, to be finalized before the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 26. Will be preparing an article for the December newsletter to discuss how we will manage the work of First Pres within our budget expectations.

**Fellowship** (Sue Goettel): Planning dinner following Hanging of the Greens, November 24.

**Media** (Mike Miller, Rod Caszatt): Rod and Heather are preparing display ad for the Gazette Christmas supplement. Will be cutting back on newspaper presence due to increasing costs.

**Membership** (Kris Keuseman): Discussed targeted direct mail to new housing areas in our downtown neighborhood. This could direct info to prospects more efficiently than newspaper. Discussed a mentorship program with Deacons, connecting new members with established members, programs and activities.

**Mission** (Martha Wilding): Discussed jointly applying for a SEMP funding grant with First Lutheran. Dispersed \$1,000 to bus ticket program to last into 2020, \$2,000 to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, \$2,000 for mission worker Josh and undesignated Presbyterian World Mission. CROP Walk raised \$2200 from First Pres. Will conduct training for SEMP greeters, guides and hosts. Heather and Gary Connors-Boe attended a workshop on how to talk about climate change, education, what we can do and leadership from our congregation. Coordinating lunches, snacks and volunteers for Help Portrait Event, December 7

**Property/Building Task Force** (Tom Lackner): Estimate for work on Fellowship Hall still current. Will decide if it's feasible as information on targeted donations is received.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 with thanksgiving for God's presence with us, ways this congregation can grow and reach out, and all that brings us together as a community of faith.

Respectfully submitted,  
Betsy Caszatt  
Clerk of Session

Rev. Heather Hayes  
Moderator

**Wednesday January 1**

Office Closed

**Thursday January 2**

1:00 pm Serendipity Book Club

**Friday January 3**

9:00 KIVA

11:45 Intersections

**Sunday January 5****Fill the Cart for Food Bank**

9:00 Insight Adult Education

10:15 Worship

2:30 SEMP Prep

4:00 SEMP Servers

4:30 SEMP

**Tuesday January 7**

6:00 Mission Committee

7:00 Christian Education

**Wednesday January 8**

12:00 pm Iowans for Gun Safety

1:00 pm Methwick Bible Study

6:00 pm Junior High Group

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

7:00 pm Confirmation

7:30 pm High School Group

**Friday January 10**

9:00 KIVA

**Sunday January 12**

9:00 Insight Adult Education

10:15 Worship

2:30 SEMP Prep

4:00 SEMP Servers & Greeters

4:30 SEMP

**Tuesday January 14**

10:00 Women's Bible Study

5:30 Deacon Meeting

6:30 Finance Committee

**Wednesday January 15**

12:00 pm PEO Chapter LU

6:00 pm Bell Choir

6:00 pm Junior High Group

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

7:00 pm Confirmation

7:30 pm High School Group

**Thursday January 16**

7:00 pm Adult Ed Committee

**Friday January 17**

9:00 KIVA

**Sunday January 19**

9:00 Insight Adult Education

10:15 Worship

11:15 Fellowship

2:30 SEMP Prep

3:30 SEMP Servers & Greeters

4:30 SEMP

**Monday January 20**

6:30 pm Evening Book Group

**Tuesday January 21**

12:00 pm PEO Meeting

6:00 Fellowship Committee

7:00 Session

**Wednesday January 22**

6:00 pm Bell Choir

6:00 pm Junior High Group

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

7:00 pm Confirmation

7:30 pm High School Group

**Thursday January 23**

6:00 pm Food Group @ Bistro 3

Nineteen

**Friday January 24**

9:00 KIVA

**Sunday January 26**

9:00 Insight Adult Education

10:15 Worship

11:15 Fellowship

2:30 SEMP Prep

4:00 SEMP Servers & Greeters

4:30 SEMP

**Tuesday January 28**

10:00 Women's Bible Study

6:30 Worship & Music

7:00 Membership

**Wednesday January 29**

6:00 pm Bell Choir

6:00 pm Junior High Group

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

7:00 pm Confirmation

7:30 pm High School Group

**Friday January 31**

9:00 KIVA

**Birthdays**

**1/13** Jason Evans

**1/13** Ellen Fisher

**1/13** Lisa Morris

**1/14** Adraniece Herron

**1/15** Michelle Ayewu

**1/16** Caroline Gehring

**1/17** Sam Tyler

**1/17** Abigail Wilcox

**1/18** Joanne Johnson

**1/18** Ethel Knutson

**1/18** Pauline Weber

**1/19** Timothy Courtright

**1/19** Kristopher Keuseman

**1/21** Suzanne Barnes

**1/21** David Hayes

**1/21** Ruth Ann Herbert

**1/22** John Baseler

**1/22** Dee Davis

**1/22** Charlotte Pence

**1/23** Catherine Basile

**1/23** Mary Hay

**1/24** Joan Force

**1/25** Steve Goettel

**1/26** Mary Ellen Horak

**1/27** Anne Horton

**1/27** Darrel Wrider

**1/29** Susannah McInally

**1/29** Pat Reed

**1/30** Robert Courtright

**1/31** Micah Jauhiainen

**1/31** Aidan Wilcox

**Anniversaries**

**01/03/1944** Robert & Shirley Fisher

**01/31/2015** Terry Trimpe & Nancy Cobb

**Fellowship Hosts****Jan 5**

Paula Meyer

Heidi & Fred Kiser

**Jan 12**

Todd & Alisa Shields

Peter & Joan Riley

**Jan 19**

Ami & Chad Proctor

Cheryl Stramel

**Jan 26**

Nancy Cobb & Terry Trimpe

Phil & DeEtta Andersen

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

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## First Presbyterian Church

310 Fifth Street

Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401

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Cedar Rapids, Iowa  
Permit No. 124

*Return Service Requested*

## *News and Views*

Published Monthly

**Issue 1**

*January 2020*

## *First Presbyterian Church Staff*

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Director of Youth & Family Ministries

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