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First Press

First Presbyterian Church

April 2021

110TH ANNUAL GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE **AN ECUMENICAL & COMMUNITY EVENT**

FRIDAY, APRIL 2ND, 2021 | 12 - 3 PM | ONLINE & IN-PERSON
ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1199 MAIN ST. DUBUQUE

SERVICE IN 20-MINUTE SEGMENTS
MASKS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIRED
LIVESTREAMED ONLINE AT STLUKESDBQ.ORG
LED BY VARIOUS LOCAL RELIGIOUS LEADERS



He Has Risen!

Join us virtually as we
celebrate the risen Christ
on Sunday, April 4 at 10:15am.

[Click here!](#)

You will also find an at-home Easter Sunrise
liturgy to follow in your inbox.

*Easter Sunday is also
the last day OGHs offerings will be received.*

*Starting **April 11** we are excited to welcome you back to in-person worship. See page 3.*

Mission/Stewardship

Giving Locally, Making a Difference Internationally—OGHS



Our church has participated in one of the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s special offerings, One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), using the well-loved "fish bank." These banks were traditionally given to children in Sunday School at the beginning of Lent and collected on Palm Sunday at the beginning of Holy Week. OGHS giving envelopes were also placed in pews. Since neither the banks or the envelopes are available this year because of Covid, the Mission and Stewardship Committee is dedicating this newsletter's "Community Corner" to OGHS to remind us that this offering connects us locally to the

larger church around the world. If Covid has taught us anything, it is the fact that we live in a world-wide community where we interact locally.

Our church has traditionally understood this relationship between the local and world community because of the many students who have participated in our worshipping community over the years and who have gone on to serve the church around the world. One of those students was Maggie Lewis, a former Supervised Practice of Ministry student at FPC. She is now installed as the pastor of two churches in Glacier Presbytery, Chinook and Havre. As a UDS graduate and Presbyterian worshipping at FPC, she is not alone in Glacier Presbytery – both Andy Smothers (in Conrad, MT) and Beth McCaw (the Presbytery's Minister to Ministers) also serve the larger church in Glacier Presbytery. As they carry the Gospel to western Montana churches from Dubuque, they carry on a tradition that began in the basement of our church by Peter Flury: students who are nurtured in Dubuque are sent to serve the larger church around the world.

By participating in the OGHS offering, we continue that tradition today. You can give by sending your monetary offerings to the church office ATTN: Bob Monthey with "OGHS" in the memo line. Pictured right is Maggie Lewis and her Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) site coordinator, the Rev. Jack Mattingly, in 2013 at Glacier Camp. Mattingly supervised Maggie as a YAV before she came to Dubuque, and served as her predecessor as the interim pastor of Chinook Presbyterian Church during its 22-month search for a pastor.



CAFÉ MINISTRY UPDATE!

It's a five-Thursdays month! That means we contribute food for Café Ministry hosted at 1st Congregational Church on April 29th.

They are not taking volunteers due to Covid but are in need of 100 hot dogs, 100 hot dog buns, and individually-wrapped desserts.

Donations can be picked up by the deacons or dropped at the church. See article to the right. →

Thank you!

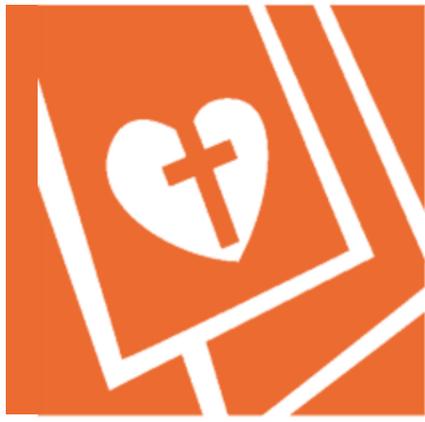


April Deacon Pick Up



The deacons will be picking up donations for Food for the 1st, Supplies for the 2nd, and Café Ministry on April 21st from 9:00-11:00am. Place items on your porch in a bag marked with the place they are to go. You can also drop off donations at church no later than April 25th. See the boxes on the back page and to the left for items needed this month.

Mark and Deb Stant will be doing the pick up this month. Contact them no later than 7:00pm on April 20th: Mark Stant, 580-8851 or Deb Stant, 580-8994 or email madestt@aol.com.



FROM THE PASTOR

With the sun beginning to shine more often, buds popping out on trees, and the grass turning green; spring is in the air. Spring is a time when hope refreshes along with nature, as we experience new life all around us.

This year, we feel hope on a level we have not felt in some time, as many receive their COVID-19 vaccines and as a church, we have a fuller range of options to consider for gathering together.

The Session has been careful to make the most faithful choices for our congregation within the bounds of public health guidance. I am so proud of how they have attended to the questions of spiritual, mental, physical, and emotional health of our congregation in concert with considerations of viral transmission in the community.

The Session has determined it is time to move into Stage 3 of our COVID-19 Response Plan, which includes the resumption of in-person worship using a sign-up system beginning on April 11, 2021. It is a joy to think about being together for in-person worship again! Yet, we must continue to proceed with care and caution, so our time together will look and feel different from the last time we gathered in the sanctuary.

Full details of what to expect and how to prepare are included in the COVID-19 Response Plan on our church website at www.firstpresdbq.org. Updates have been made to Stage 3, so please review this part of the plan carefully, which includes instructions regarding how to sign-up for a space to attend worship. By using a sign-up system, we are able to keep the Sanctuary at a limited capacity which facilitates the recommended 6 ft physical distance. Mask-wearing will be required as we continue to place a high priority on caring for one another's health and safety.

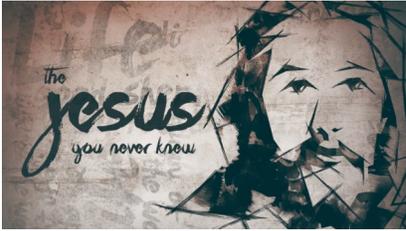
Of course, we will continue to have worship online, so whether you come to the sanctuary for worship or worship from your own home (or backyard, or car, etc.), worship will happen!

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we navigate these uncharted waters together, and we are confident that in due time, we will all be praying and singing, socializing at Coffee Hour, and celebrating by breaking the bread at the Lord's Table, in physical community with regularity.



Christian Education

Join in the Sermon Series Discussion



Pastor Stephanie's sermon series based on *The Jesus I Never Knew* by Philip Yancey continues through April.

You are cordially invited to join an Adult Sermon Series discussion group on Sundays at 4:00pm (*note: we will not meet Easter Sunday*). Using scripture, a chapter of the book, and the sermon preached that day, participants will reflect on who is Jesus. Pastor Stephanie and others will lead the discussion.

Watch for the email with the Zoom information to join this discussion group. Each week stands alone so you can join whenever you are available.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We sincerely hope that we can enjoy VBS this year, so please mark your calendars!



GOD CALLS YOU BY NAME

June 14-18, 2021
9:00 - 11:30am

For children ages 4 through
those entering 6th grade.



Confirmation continues for three FPC youth. Please keep them, their mentors, and their teachers in your prayers:



Thomas Blair & mentor Deb Stant



Ella Gunn & mentor Beth Foxen



Ryan McClain & mentor Steve Foxen

Teachers:

Pastor Stephanie & Linda Longfield



Calling All Graduates!

Please contact the church office with information about those you know who are graduating from high school, college, or graduate school. We wish to celebrate their accomplishments!

Class of
2021

April 2021 Deacons of the Month: Mark & Deb Stant

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 Palm Sunday 9:00am Sunday School - PreK-12th grade -Online lessons 10:15am Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching via live stream -Pre-recorded Palm processional 4:00pm JINK Study via Zoom	29	30	31	1 APRIL Maundy-Thursdays 7:00pm Maundy Thursday worship via live stream	2 Good Friday 12:00-3:00pm Good Friday Ecumenical service @ St. Luke's UMC via live stream	3
4 Easter Sunday 9:00am Sunday School - PreK-12th grade -Online lessons 10:15am Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching via live stream NO JINK Study	5	6 3:45pm Mission Mtg.	7 10:00am Church Chat via Zoom 6:30pm Confirmation	8	9	10
11 9:00am Sunday School - PreK-12th grade -Online lessons 10:15am Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching via live stream 4:00pm JINK Study via Zoom	12	13 7:15pm Worship	14 6:30pm Confirmation	15	16	17 9:30am Session
18 9:00am Sunday School - PreK-12th grade -Online lessons 10:15am Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching via live stream 4:00pm JINK Study via Zoom	19	20 7:00pm Buildings/Grounds	21 9:00-11:00am Deacon pickup 6:30pm Confirmation	22	23	24
25 9:00am Sunday School - PreK-12th grade -Online lessons 10:15am Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching via live stream 11:45am Deacons 4:00pm Last JINK Study via Zoom	26	27	28 6:30pm Confirmation	29 5:00-7:00pm Café Ministry @ 1st Congl. UCC	30	1 MAY

April Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 4 Tony Herbst
- 6 Sharon Hallstoos
Tim & Annette Boelk
- 7 Audrey Holdener
- 10 Tammy Wehrspann
- 14 Stephenie Morales
- 16 Chris & Michelle Daniels
- 19 Jack Dillman
- 20 Elise Hallstoos
- 24 Emily Herbst
- 26 Elaina Biechler
- 29 Deb Herbst

**Your
Church
Family
Needs
You!**



All areas of ministry at FPC could use your help. Please volunteer for one of the following committees by contacting one of the Session members below:

- Buildings & Grounds* – Tom Boelk & John Dillman
- Christian Education* – Linda Longfield
- Congregational Life* – TBD
- Finance & Personnel* – John Dillman
- Memorial* – Sandy Spencer & Linda Longfield
- Mission & Stewardship* – Sandy Spencer
- Worship* – Bryan Blair & Kristen Eby

OFFICE HOURS

Due to the current COVID pandemic, **Pastor Stephanie's office hours at the church will be Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00am-1:00pm.** Pastor Stephanie requests you set up an appointment time if you would like to see her, even during office hours. Masks will be required to protect one another's health and well-being.

Pastor Stephanie can be reached at (cell) 507-227-8537 or fpcdbq.pastor@gmail.com. In case of emergency, please call her cell number. If she does not answer, leave a voice message, and she will get back to you as soon as possible.

Administrative Assistant, Ginger Vander Broek, works from home. Her hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:30-1:30pm. She can be reached through the church email: firstpresdbq@gmail.com



PREACHING SCHEDULE



APRIL

- | | |
|----------|---------------------|
| April 1 | Maundy Thursday |
| April 4 | Rev. Stephanie Ells |
| April 11 | Rev. Stephanie Ells |
| April 18 | Rev. Stephanie Ells |
| April 25 | Rev. Stephanie Ells |

Join Us for the Weekly Church Chat!

During the pandemic, at 10am every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, Pastor Stephanie will host an online church chat to help us stay connected. Everyone is welcome to join for much needed fellowship. Be looking for the email with the Zoom information for each chat.



Electronic giving is available at FPC. For more information and/or to set up an account, please contact church treasurer Bob Monthey at fpcdbq.treasurer@gmail.com

Mission News



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Dubuque CROP WALK for Hunger will be held, Saturday, May 22 in the morning.

Watch for more details in the May newsletter.

From the Mission Mailbag!

From the Dubuque Food Pantry:

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

Thanks for your donation of 62lbs. of groceries. We so appreciate your commitment and support. In the name of the Food Pantry staff and its Board of Directors, we express our deep gratitude to the many individuals, churches, organizations and businesses that make it possible to provide food for our community. It is a great testimony to the concern and compassion that runs deep in our community.

*Sincerely,
Theresa Caldwell, manager*



From Presbyterian Mission:

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

As you engage with Presbyterian Mission, you participate in bringing this message of Jesus alive to empower God's people not only to feed their bodies, but also to their souls. On behalf of Presbyterian Mission, please allow me to express our appreciation to you, your pastor, session, and congregation for your gracious and faithful support. In February, we received \$1845 for your missionary friends in Thailand.

Thank you again for your support, dedication, and partnership in furthering Christ's mission around the world.

Yours in Christ,
Bill McConnell, Mission Engagement Advisor

In the Life of the Church

Children of Abraham



CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM meets again on Thursday, April 8 at 7:00pm discussing: **Sharing Healing and Joy in our Traditions.**

Join the conversation using either Zoom or Facebook. To connect with Zoom, email John (john.eby@loras.edu) or Alan (agarfield@dbq.edu) to get the link. You can also view by visiting the Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/cofabraham>.

Summer Camp Registration OPEN for Camp Wyoming

After cancellation of 2020 programs, Camp Wyoming is excited to host campers again this summer! Go to campwyoming.net to check out the camps being offered.

If you are interested in attending, the Mission Committee has partial scholarships available for you. Check with a member of the Mission Committee if you have any questions.



Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

Since we will not be gathering for face-to-face worship in April like pre-Covid days and therefore some may not want to bring donations to the church, the deacons will plan to collect items from your porch for the Dubuque Food Pantry (Food for the First), the Victim Services Shelter (Supplies for the Second), and Café Ministry. **There will be a deacon pick up on April 21st.** See your email for details.

You may also choose to give monetary gifts by sending a check to FPC marked for the Dubuque Food Pantry or Victim Services Shelter.

Items particularly needed include:

DBQ Food Pantry:

Soups, canned vegetables, canned pastas, paper towels, and toilet paper.



Victim Services Shelter:

Disinfecting wipes, shampoo/conditioner, and paper products.



Thank you for supporting these ministries.

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