

FIRST PRESS – NOVEMBER 2022

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First Presbyterian Church

"We love because God first loved us."

✠ 1 John 4:19

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING—REPORT

Following worship on Oct. 30, 2022, the congregation held its annual meeting to elect elders, deacons, and at-large members to the 2023 Nominating Committee. Elected as Deacon, Tom Jack (Class of 2023); two 3-year terms for deacon are vacant. Elected as Elders were Terri Gronau (2025), Lindsey Ward (2025), Scott McCaw (2023). Elected as at-large members to the 2023 Nominating Committee were: Annette Boelk, Dedee Cosgrove, John Eby, and Annalee Ward. The Session will appoint two representatives and the Deacons will appoint one representative to serve on the Nominating Committee with these at-large members. Appreciation was given to those who were rotating off the boards and to those who served on the 2022 Nominating Committee.

The congregation discussed and approved changes to the Terms of Call for Pastor Stephanie Ells.

Mark your calendar for the next annual meeting required by the Bylaws of FPC that will be held the 4th Sunday of January, January 22, 2023, to review and receive the 2022 Annual Report.



CALLING ALL CHRISTMAS ELVES!

'TIS (almost) THE SEASON! Decorating the church for the Advent season will take place following worship on Sunday, November 20th. Many hands make light work as we prepare to worship the Christ child.



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Usually during Advent we give to the Joy Offering. This year we are giving as part of our Advent Giving Tree program. More info to come.

Presbyterian churches give to the Joy Offering to provide help to current and retired church workers in need and to develop future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. *Look for more info to come!*



MISSION

Dear Pastor Stephanie and the beloved Dubuque Family,

What a joy to be reunited again! It felt like a dream being with you all. Thank you for your warm welcome, hospitality and the opportunity to update you about how God is working among our M neighbors in Southern Thailand. We are so thankful that you've been praying for supporting and connecting with us since our first visit. So even though it's been 7 years? since our last visit, we do hope our next one will be sooner.

Thank you Wards for graciously hosting us, for the Dubuque T shirts and Interlinear Bible, Tom, for planning and coordinating Hannah and for Pastor Stephanie being there for us and shepherding the flock so well.

I think that you all needed a good nap on Sunday

afternoon. Thanks for welcoming and hosting us. We are touched by God's love through you. Thanks for sending us out and being with us in heart and spirit.

May God give you grace and empower you as you reach out serve and proclaim Jesus through your lives in Dubuque and beyond.

*Love,
Your Friends from Thailand*



FPC CHURCH FAMILY ORIGIN

First Presbyterian Church is and always has been a family church. Of those gathered by Peter and Sophia Flury, in what is now Dubuque's Washington Park, to sign the document creating this church, only nine did not carry a last name of at least one other of the 35 gathered there on Christmas Day, 1847. Not only was a church created, but more importantly a "church family" was born.

Over time, memories can fade and disappear: Facebook may be a good tool to "jog memories" when long separated loved ones yearn for reunion; but the most effective tool is the "gathering of family on special occasions." Something magical happens on these occasions: a mysterious "spark" triggers memories, existing below but near to the surface of consciousness, that come blazing into full view.

The recent death of long-time church member Billy Stant was the occasion for one of those triggering sparks – since "in-place sheltering" had all but ended, his family's invitation for the church to gather at his funeral was a reminder of the importance of family gatherings to reunite loved ones. At the funeral meal, we looked at family pictures – so many of them were taken in the life of the church. In this picture, the family had gathered to help recognize Barb Stant's dedicated church service. While four of the Stants pictured in this late 1990's photo (Billy, his mother Barb, his sister Viola and brother-in-law Kenny) have since died, memories of them in our midst came flooding back to us around the table. As we continued to eat, sharing stories from Billy's 75 years, it was evident Billy's life had been defined in the church over the span of 15 different pastors.

Family memories may be good tools for reuniting loved ones, but shared with others in the life of our church, these combined memories define the "First Presbyterian Church family."



The Mission Committee is offering reflections about the relationship between FPC and our Dubuque community in this space as we celebrate our 175th year of ministry. A special thanks to Tom Jack who has been writing these reflections.

MISSION



STEWARDSHIP RECAP

On Sunday, October 23rd, we celebrated Stewardship Sunday by dedicating our time, talent, and treasure to God in worship. Folks were also able to contribute an extra financial gift in honor of our 175th Anniversary. As part of this anniversary, celebrating 175 years of ministry in Dubuque, we welcomed back to the pulpit, the Rev. Dr. Kat Achtemeier, honorably retired from FPC in 2018, after 16 years as pastor. Pastor Kat reminded us of the privilege it is to decorate our

lives with symbols and actions reflective of the kingdom of God.

If you missed the chance to do this on the 23rd, there's still time! We encourage you to mail in your 2023 Pledge Card and/or your 175th Anniversary gift to the church office in care of our treasurer, Stephenie Morales. We are experiencing a financial shortfall so your contributions are especially appreciated at this time.



BE PRAYING!



Nathan Longfield, son of Bradley and Linda, was recently ordained in the Reformed Church in America. He is starting a new church in Holland, MI. You can read more about this church plant and its mission at the website emmausreformedchurch.org.

Nathan, having grown up at FPC, thanks his church family for taking their baptismal vows seriously and helping him to grow up knowing and loving God. He appreciates your prayers for this new ministry.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



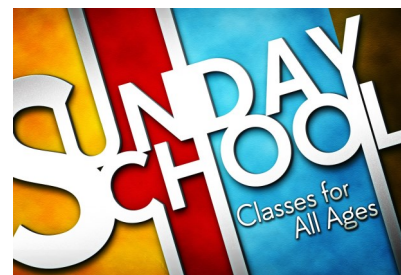
YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

The joint Youth Group with Westminster is in full swing with youth in grades 6-12 gathering every other week. At the end of October we had a "Pizza, PJ, and PG" movie party to focus on building Christian community. It is such a joy to see these young people building friendships and growing in God. We will meet Nov. 13 @ FPC, Dec. 4 @ WPC, and Dec. 18 for our Christmas party.

CE NEWS

Stay tuned and watch the bulletin for information about the 2023 Christmas Program during worship on December 18.

Our next CE meeting is November 7 at 4:15pm via zoom. Let pastor Stephanie know if you would like the link. We welcome new members!



PLEASE
NOTE...

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON DECEMBER 25TH.

Please enjoy the time with your family.
We will resume Sunday School on January 1st at 9:00am.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Don't forget to set
your clocks back
one hour
Saturday night,
Nov. 5,
before
you go to bed.



Fall Back

CELEBRATE COMMUNION THIS SUNDAY

FPC will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper this Sunday, November 6th.

If you are worshipping with us online, we encourage you to prepare your elements ahead of the worship service.



PASTOR WILL BE OUT OF THE OFFICE

Pastor Stephanie will be out of the office November 21st—30th. We are happy to welcome Morgan Frazer to preach from our pulpit. Rev. Stephanie Schlimm from St. Luke's UMC will supply pastoral emergency coverage for the duration. You can contact her by cell (563) 581-5512.



WEATHER BAD? IS CHURCH CANCELED? SEE BELOW HOW TO FIND OUT...

- ♦ Call the church office (582-4494) after 7:30AM on Sunday mornings.
- ♦ Watch your email for an all-church announcement.
- ♦ Check this FPC link: firstpcdbq.webs.com
- ♦ *(This link is also available on the church website <http://www.firstpresdbq.org>)*
- ♦ Notice hopefully provided on KCRG, KWWL, KDTH (and others)

NOVEMBER 2022

Deacons of the Month: Jamie Dillman & Judy Sheridan

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship: live stream Rev. Stephanie Ells preaching 11:15am Congregational Mtg. 5:00pm Youth Group @ WPC	31 9:00am Newsletter deadline	1 NOVEMBER 4:30pm Worship (Zoom)	2 11:00am Young at Heart @ Village Inn	3	4	5 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Papa Ozz
6 <i>Food for the 1st</i> DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship: live stream Rev. Stephanie Ells preaching Communion served 11:30am Deacons	7 4:00pm CE (Zoom) 5:00pm Girl Scouts	8 Election Day	9	10	11	12
13 <i>Supplies for the 2nd</i> 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship: live stream Rev. Jeff Japinga preaching 5:00pm Youth Group @ WPC	14	15 9:30am John Knox Presbytery @ Winona, MN	16	17	18	19
20 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship: live stream Rev. Stephanie Ells preaching	21 Pastor on vacation	22 5:00pm Girl Scouts	23 7:00pm DACU Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship @ Church of the Resurrection	24 Thanksgiving	25	26
27 <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i> 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship: live stream Morgan Frazer preaching	28 9:00am Newsletter deadline	29	30	1 DECEMBER	2	3 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Papa Ozz

Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

Birthdays & Anniversaries November

- 4 Lynn Sutter
- 7 Carlie Boelk
- 12 Tim Sheridan
- 13 Tim Boelk
- 17 Harold & Cherie Daniels
- 21 Stu Bear
- 28 Judy Sheridan
Jean Holdener



YOUR CHURCH FAMILY NEEDS YOU!

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

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>Buildings & Grounds</i> | – Tom Boelk & John Dillman |
| <i>Christian Education</i> | – Sara Blair |
| <i>Congregational Life</i> | – TBD |
| <i>Finance & Personnel</i> | – John Dillman |
| <i>Memorial</i> | – Sandy Spencer |
| <i>Mission & Stewardship</i> | – Hannah Eby |
| <i>Worship</i> | – Bryan Blair & Kristen Eby |



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

OFFICE HOURS



Pastor Stephanie can be reached at (cell) 507-227-8537 or fpcdbq.pastor@gmail.com. In case of emergency, call her cell. If she does not answer, leave a voice message and she'll return the call. Office hours are Monday & Wednesday from 9:00am—1:00pm.

Administrative Assistant, Ginger Vander Broek, works from home Monday & Wednesday from 10:30-2:30pm and at FPC Thursday from 10:30-12:00pm.* You can contact her at firstpresdbq@gmail.com.

*Office hours may change slightly week to week.

PREACHING SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER

- | | |
|-------------|---------------------|
| November 6 | Rev. Stephanie Ells |
| November 13 | Rev. Jeff Japinga |
| November 20 | Rev. Stephanie Ells |
| November 27 | Morgan Frazer |



FPC BUDGET UPDATE

October thru 10/31
Monthly offering: \$12,329
Budgeted need: \$13,600

Year-to-Date for 2022

Income thru 10/31: \$104,854
Expenses thru 10/31: \$123,290



IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

In celebration of our 175th anniversary, we will feature updates from our former SPMs. It's amazing how God has used FPC to equip the church and her leaders all around the country and the world.

HELLO! From DAVE THOMPSON—SPM 1995-1996

I had the privilege of serving the church as a Student Pastor during my senior year at UDTs in 1995. I worked under the Rev. Molly Dykstra and was involved in all facets of ministry. Vicki and I still hold on to special memories almost 30 years later.

Upon graduation from UDTs in 1996 we moved to Jamestown, North Dakota, where I served as pastor of the Presbyterian church until 2010. We then moved to Billings, Montana, where I serve as pastor of First Presbyterian. Vicki and I just celebrated our 30th anniversary in June. We have lots of fond memories from our time in Dubuque and at the church.

Vicki and I are grateful to have called FPC Dubuque home from 1993-1996. We wish all of you the best as you celebrate your 175th anniversary!

Love,
Dave & Vicki Thompson
Billings, Montana



Sara is 26, John 23, and Erin is 17

Dubuque Area Congregations United

DACU

40th Annual
Interfaith
Thanksgiving
Service (masks encouraged)

Church of the Resurrection 4300 Asbury Road

"Sustaining Creation For All"

Offering: Supports PIN (People In Need emergency assistance)
Non-perishable foods and paper goods
accepted for the Dubuque Food Pantry

Wednesday November 23, 2022 7PM
Guest speaker: **Rev. MargaretAnne Overstreet**
Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Dubuque

Organist: Dr. Charles Barland
Special Music: Dubuque Chorale
Children's Choir
Director: Karmella Sellers

Recorded service to be posted later: www.dacuonline.org

This is PIN's main fundraiser.
Please be generous.

Questions?
fordm.pastor@gmail.com

JULIEN CHAMBER CHOIR FALL CONCERT

Julien Chamber Choir, under the direction of Kristen Eby and accompanied by Jill Klinebriel, presents their fall concert "Vices and Virtues" on Sunday, November 13 at 4 PM at Lord of Life Lutheran Church (2899 Hales Mill Road, Asbury) and on Monday, November 14 at 7:30 PM at Galena Center for the Arts (971 Gear Street). The 20-voice ensemble will perform a variety of styles and genres, including works by Hassler, Chilcott, Lauridsen, and Rutter. Freewill donations accepted.

LOOKING AHEAD TO ADVENT

(MORE DETAILS TO COME)

Nov. 27—1st Sunday of Advent
Dec. 14—Community Blue Christmas
Dec. 18—FPC Christmas Program
Dec. 24—Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols
Dec. 25—Community Christmas @ St. Luke's UMC



Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

We invite you to donate to the Dubuque Food Pantry on the first Sunday of the month and the Domestic Violence Victim Services Shelter on the second Sunday of the month. You can bring items to church on Sunday or drop them off during the pastor's office hours. 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:

Any non-perishable food is in need, but also stuffing mix, canned pumpkin, evaporated milk, ramen noodles, bar soap, dish soap, and facial



Victim Services Shelter:

Along with paper products and cleaning supplies, packs of toothbrushes, pajamas of all sizes, twin and full sheets, and adult slippers.



Thank you for supporting these ministries.