

FIRST PRESS – MAY 2022

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First Presbyterian Church

"We love because God first loved us."

✦ 1 John 4:19

Current Sermon Series:

The Unexpected Acts of God: Over these next weeks we will follow the Revised Common Lectionary passages to explore the surprising acts of God in the book of Acts. The resurrection sets off a host of unexpected events and changes for Jesus' followers, even changes within themselves. If our spiritual lives have come to seem "hum drum" and "everyday", these stories will awaken in us a new desire for God's work in our lives and inspire us to expect the unexpected.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!



High School

Elise Hallstoos

Dubuque Senior High School



College

Kate Meyrick

University of Dubuque Theological Seminary

Technical College

Sam Morales

Basic Training, US National Guard

THANK YOU!

Dear FPC family, THANK YOU for your generous contributions to One Great Hour Of Sharing this Lenten season! Our congregation raised \$875 to support our neighbors around the world, including special humanitarian aid in Ukraine. The Mission Committee will meet the first week of May to add funds and make this a total gift of \$1,000 or more. We are awed and inspired by this church family's generosity!



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

FYI: It is ok to park in the lot by the old funeral home on the corner of 17th & Main Sts.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

HONORING OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Please join in thanking our dedicated teachers who have blessed our church family through their faithful service

CLASS

Nursery
Kids & Youth

Adults

TEACHERS

Lisa Reed, Florence Siefker
Joe Klinebriel, Stephanie Ells,
Michelle Daniels, Thomas Blair,
Jean Holdener, Casey Postma
Sara Blair, Lindsey Ward, Mark Stant



"Teach the way of God in accordance with truth." Luke 20:21

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: CREATOR'S CAMP

FPC has committed to providing volunteers to help at Creator's Camp. Volunteers will not need to prepare anything ahead of time, but simply show up on the Wednesday afternoon of your choosing between June 15-August 10 from 1pm-4pm to share God's love with kids and join them in their activities. Volunteer for one Wednesday or more! Contact Pastor Stephanie ASAP if you are willing to help. Let's show our community we care about kids.



Sign up campers using this link:

<https://forms.gle/rCX5KrcV3VCQtxxz8>

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR FUN!



MAY 15: CHURCH-WIDE BYO PICNIC

Plan to join the Christian Education committee after worship on Sunday, May 15, at Murphy Park for a celebration picnic!

We will honor our teachers and graduates, have some outdoor fun, and fellowship together.

Plan to bring your picnic lunch, tableware, and drinks. The CE committee will provide a dessert treat!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MEETING

The next CE meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 3, at 4:15 p.m. over Zoom.

Contact Chairperson Sara Blair or Pastor Stephanie if you are interested in joining this important committee.



MISSION & IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

COMMUNITY CORNER:

Rev. Adrian Van Vliet

According to the Synod of the West historian Joseph Mihelic, the Dutch Rev. Adrian Van Vliet was the third pastor of what had become the German Evangelical Church of Dubuque in 1854. Like his predecessor Peter Flury and mentor, Van Vliet was originally a missionary commissioned by the American Mission Board – he was soon allowed to join the Presbytery of Cedar Valley. Over the next 50 years, German Presbyterian settlements and their churches grew in the upper Midwest. Van Vliet and his successors met the needs of these settlers with pastoral training in the German Seminary (moved across 17th Street from the Blue Church in 1870), a religious German newsletter (*Der Presbyterianer*) and in 1908 the gathering of three Presbyteries into the Synod of the West.

According to Bonnie Sue Lewis in her doctoral book *Creating Christian Indians, Native Clergy in the Presbyterian Church*, at the same time Presbyterian missionaries Flury and Van Vliet were at work among Germans, Presbyterian missionaries were also training natives to serve churches in a parallel yet non-congruent manner; a gulf grew between native and white Presbyterians which remains to this day. While German was last spoken in 1938 and the Synod of the West eventually was disbanded in 1958, The Presbytery of Dakota continues to govern the needs of native Presbyterian churches which exist alongside white churches in the upper Midwest, each having their separate Presbyteries in this same area.

In the 1980's, the General Assembly committed to supplying new native pastors for their churches by training them at the Dubuque Seminary. There was still hope for the fulfillment of God's original vision to the Flurys, to reach out to the natives. Significantly the training was done at Aquinas Seminary, not in Van Vliet Hall; of equal significance, the body of Sophia Flury, the mother of all white Presbyterians in the upper Midwest, is buried in the native burial ground, now called Jackson Park.



The Mission Committee will be offering reflections about the relationship between FPC and our Dubuque community in this space over the coming months, as we enter into our 175th year of ministry in 2022.

THANK YOU, DANI!

A heartfelt thank you to our Student Pastor, Dani Postma, for her contributions to the life and ministry of our congregation over this Spring semester. We are so thankful for her gracious and insightful presence among us. You'll see the Postma family around as they continue to worship with us; and as Dani joins us for a summer SPM term beginning May 23rd!



SUMMER BOOK CLUB

Join our summer book club! We will be reading *Refugia Faith: Seeking Hidden Shelters, Ordinary Wonders, and the Healing of the Earth* (ISBN: 978-1506473796) by Debra Rienstra, which explores how Christian spirituality and practice must adapt to prepare for life on a climate-altered planet.

Conversations will be held on Tuesday evenings at 7pm, May 31-June 21. Attend in person or on Zoom! Watch for a sign-up sheet or reach out to Dani Postma (SPM) at dpostma@dbq.edu.



CELEBRATING 175 YEARS OF MINISTRY

The Session is coordinating several special events and activities in acknowledgment of our 175th year of sharing Christ in Dubuque. If you are interested in contributing to the celebration in a specific way; please reach out to Pastor Stephanie or a Session member ASAP.

MAY 2022

Deacons of the Month: Jamie Dillman & Judy Sheridan

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:15am Worship: Rev. Timothy Slemmons preaching Via live stream & in-person Sacrament of Holy Communion	2 4:00pm Mission	3 4:15pm CE via Zoom	4 11:00am Young at Heart @ Village Inn	5 <i>National Day of Prayer</i>	6	7 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Papa Ozz
8 <i>Mother's Day</i> 10:15am Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells preaching Via live stream & in-person	9	10	11 5:15pm Choir	12	13	14
15 10:15am Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells preaching Via live stream & in-person Following worship: All-Church Picnic @ Murphy Park	16	17 9:30am John Knox Presbytery @ FPC, Lancaster, WI	18	19	20	21
22 10:15am Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells preaching Via live stream & in-person 11:30am Officer meeting NO Bethany Home worship	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 10:15am Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells preaching Via live stream & in-person	30 9:00am Newsletter Deadline	31	1 JUNE 11:00am Young at Heart @ Village Inn	2	3	4 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Papa Ozz 9:00am-4:00pm Joint Session

Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Michelle Daniels
- 8 Bill & Janet Spoerl
- 11 Joe Klinebriel
Bob & Tracy Wildermuth
- 12 Aspen Herbst
- 13 Dusty Herbst
- 16 John & Jamie Dillman
- 20 Alex Eby
Joe & Jill Klinebriel
Jim & Tarry Prine
- 22 Mike & Cheryl Heer
- 23 Scott & Beth McCaw
Camilla Daniels
- 24 Stephen Longfield
- 29 Anniversary of our Thailand missionaries



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 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 Bob Monthey at fpcdbq.treasurer@gmail.com

OFFICE HOURS

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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 9:30-1:30pm and at FPC Thursdays from 9:30-12:30pm. You can contact her at firstpresdbq@gmail.com.

PREACHING SCHEDULE

MAY

May 1	Rev. Tim Slemmons
May 8	Rev. Stephanie Ells
May 15	Rev. Stephanie Ells
May 22	Rev. Stephanie Ells
May 29	Rev. Stephanie Ells



FPC BUDGET UPDATE

April thru 4/24

Monthly offering: \$9,308

Budgeted need: \$13,600



Year-to-Date for 2022

Income thru March 31: \$34,985

Expenses thru March 31: \$38,209

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 pasta, pasta sauce, canned fruit, tuna, toilet tissue, bar soap, laundry soap, & garden produce.



Victim Services Shelter:

Along with the always needed paper products and cleaning supplies; laundry soap, antibacterial wipes or hand cleanser.



Thank you for supporting these ministries.

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