

FIRST PRESS – MARCH 2023

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First Presbyterian Church

"We love because God first loved us."

✠ 1 John 4:19

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

Join us each Wednesday evening through April 5th from 5:00-7:00pm at Westminster PC(USA) Church for joint Lenten Soup Suppers held in their Fellowship Hall. Lent is a season in which we are invited to reflect on the immensity of God's love made known in Jesus, his victory over evil, as well as, on our calling to be disciples of Jesus. Over a simple meal, we will feast upon the Word of God to us in Scripture and as portrayed in the video series The Chosen, season 1.



LENTEN WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- 3-5-2023 Genesis 12:1-9 "The Mountain Top," Elder Scott McCaw preaching
- 3-12-2023 Exodus 17:1-7 "The Rocky Desert"
- 3-19-2023 Psalm 23 "Green Pastures"
- 3-26-2023 Ezekiel 37:1-14 "The Valley"
- 4-2-2023 Matthew 21:1-11 "City Gateway," Elder Scott McCaw preaching
- 4-6-2023 Maundy Thursday 7:00pm with Bellevue
- 4-7-2023 Good Friday Ecumenical Service 12:00-3:00pm @ St. Luke's UMC
- 4-9-2023 Resurrection Sunrise Service 6:00am @ Grand River Center in the Great River Room w/ First Baptist, Westminster, and GracePoint churches
- 4-9-2023 John 20:1-18 "Renewed Kingdom Gateway"

LENTEN SERMON SERIES



we will be focusing on passages of the Christian Scriptures landscape of our faith. We journey through the creation of humankind as God calls his people out of slavery and into a vision of peace and justice that God gives. On Palm Sunday, we will celebrate the beginning of Holy Week and the celebration of resurrection on Good Friday. We will also celebrate the promise of the kingdom come in the world. We will be focused on the Word of God to you this season?

IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH



FPC VISIONING

FPC folks gather the first Sunday of every month to seek out God's path for our future and envision where our ministry might take us.

Our visioning process continues to produce fruitful conversations and direction. We are facing many of the challenges that the Church is facing all around the United States, and yet, we see how the Holy Spirit is at work among us in tangible ways.

In sharing how we have seen God at work recently, here are some of the highlights folks pointed out:

- Folks are coming to Sunday morning worship because they have either heard about or been invited to FPC.
- During worship, God is touching people in meaningful ways through Word, sacrament, music, and liturgy.
- The church officers have made steps to strengthen their personal relationship with God; which is in turn strengthening their spiritual leadership at FPC.
- Folks shared names of people within the congregation that they have had meaningful conversations with that build connections that go beyond the surface.
- A variety of people, including children and teenagers, are sharing their gifts of time and talent in the life of the church.
- We are slowly building relationships with people and organizations in our immediate neighborhood.

On the next page, be encouraged by the many ways God continues to bless and enrich FPC!



IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

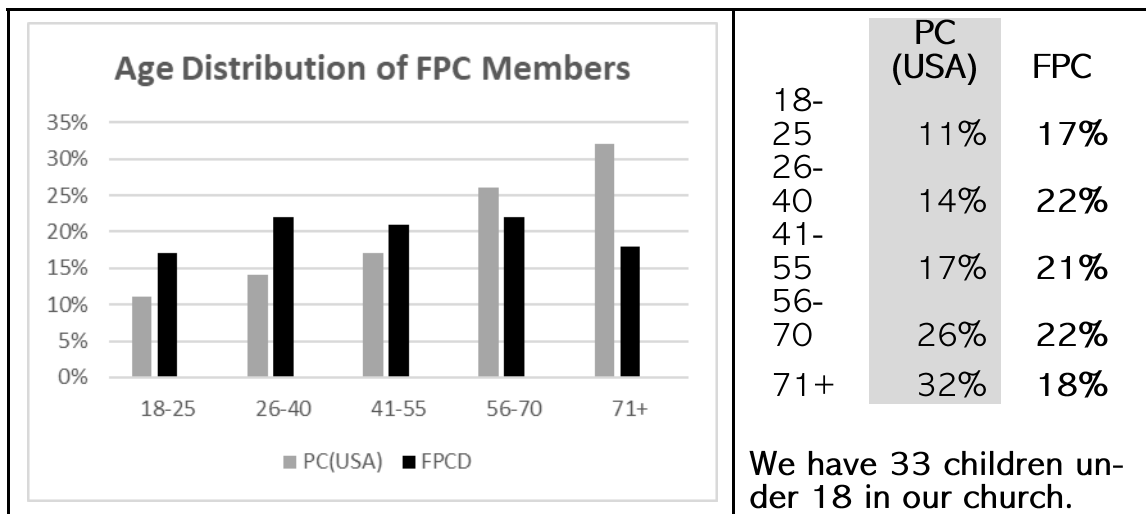
LET'S CELEBRATE GOD'S FAITHFULNESS TO FPC DUBUQUE!

Like other churches, we have challenges . . .

- We are small: 65% of all PC(USA) churches are our size or smaller.
- According to a group that tracks trends in the church, our experience mirrors the top ten current trends in US churches:
 1. Worship attendance will average 80% of pre-COVID numbers.
 2. Neighborhood churches will become a movement.
 3. There will be more community focus than any period in 30 years.
 4. There will be more emphasis on evangelism than any period in 30 years.
 5. More churches will merge or be adopted than any period in 30 years.
 6. Denominational structures will begin to look more like networks.
 7. Departures of pastors will increase by 20%.
 8. Ministry training will begin to evolve into different models.
 9. Church giving will decline 5%.
 10. The micro church could become a movement.

But God is blessing our church in many ways . . .

- ***We are blessed to have members of all ages, with a strong number of children.***
56% of all PC(USA) members are over age 56 --- 40% of FPC Dubuque members are over age 56. If we were to graph the age distribution of actual worshippers, we would skew even younger.



- ***We are blessed to have not yet members and friends of the church join us in worship and fellowship.***



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING UPDATE

Since 1990 this charity has raised over 175 million across the US in its effort to “tackle” hunger. Did you know that each dollar donated generates \$18 for food charities? Please join us in fighting hunger through your donations of cash, dry and canned goods on

Thanks to you, the Dubuque Food Pantry is the big winner with 108 items and \$263 donated!

SAVE THE DATE: CREATORS CAMP

Creators Camp will be back this summer! FPC will again host the VBS-like opportunity for children ages 4-12 to grow in their understanding of, and relationship with, God and one another. This year, it will be held at St. Luke's UMC on Wednesdays 1-4 PM beginning July 5, 2023 through August 9, 2023.



YOUTH GROUP UPDATE



Beginning this Wednesday, March 1, we would encourage your whole family to attend the Lenten Suppers being held at Westminster Presbyterian Church from 5:00-7:00pm. This will TAKE THE PLACE of our Sunday evening meetings until Sunday, April 16th. Over a simple meal, we will feast upon the Word of God to us in Scripture and as portrayed in the video series *The Chosen*, season 1. Your youth can sit with you or with their peers for the meal and watch the video, then we will gather the youth at one table for the discussion and community time. Even if you cannot attend, feel free to drop the teens off and they can hang with Bonnie Sue and Pastor Stephanie. A meal will be held each Wednesday through April 5.

MANY THANKS!

Thank you to all who contributed to our “love-ly” Valentine’s celebration after church on February 12th! What a blessing to share in a meal and life together. A special thanks to Deb Stant, Terri Gronau, and Judy Sheridan for coming up with the idea and executing it with enthusiasm! If you have an idea for congregational fellowship, we encourage you to step forward to organize – simply contact Pastor Stephanie with your plan.



SPRING AHEAD! DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS MARCH 12

MARCH 2023

Deacons of the month:
Judy Sheridan & Deb Stant

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26 1st Sunday of Lent 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship: live stream Rev. Stephanie Ellis preaching 1:30pm Bethany Home worship 5:00pm Youth Group @ WPC	27	28	1 MARCH 11:00am Young at Heart @ Village Inn 5:00pm Lenten Soup Supper @ Westminster & Youth Group	2	3	4 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Papa Ozz
5 2nd Sunday of Lent 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship: live stream Dr. Scott McCaw preaching Sacrament of Holy Communion 11:30am Vision Gathering	6 4:30pm Mission	7	8 5:00pm Lenten Soup Supper @ Westminster & Youth Group	9	10	11
12 3rd Sunday of Lent 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship: live stream Rev. Stephanie Ellis preaching	13	14	15 Choir TBD 5:00pm Lenten Soup Supper @ Westminster & Youth Group	16 7:00pm Children of Abraham @ Islamic Center	17	18
19 4th Sunday of Lent 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship: live stream Rev. Stephanie Ellis preaching 11:30am Session	20	21 4:30pm Worship Via Zoom	22 5:00pm Lenten Soup Supper @ Westminster & Youth Group	23	24	25
26 5th Sunday of Lent 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship: live stream Rev. Stephanie Ellis preaching 1:30pm Bethany Home	27	28	29 5:00pm Lenten Soup Supper @ Westminster & Youth Group	30	31	1 APRIL 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Papa Ozz

Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

Birthdays & Anniversaries March

- 8 Chris Daniels
- 9 Ryan McClain
- 10 Aaron Wildermuth
- 13 Preston Yartey
- 17 Tim & Judy Sheridan
- 18 Mackenzie Daniels
- 23 Ron Herbst
- 25 Janet Spoerl
- 26 Kate Tietjen
Kip Ward
Jocelyn Tietjen
- 30 Thomas Blair



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:

- Buildings & Grounds* – Tom Boelk, chair
John Dillman
- Christian Education* – Sara Blair
- Congregational Life* – Terri Gronau
- Finance & Personnel* – John Dillman, chair
Lindsey Ward
- Memorial* – TBD
- Mission & Stewardship* – Hannah Eby, chair
Scott McCaw
- Worship* – 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

MARCH

- March 5 Dr. Scott McCaw
- March 12 Rev. Stephanie Ells
- March 19 Rev. Stephanie Ells
- March 26 Rev. Stephanie Ells



FPC BUDGET UPDATE

January thru 1/31

Monthly offering: \$6,652

Budgeted need: \$14,563

Year-to-Date for 2023

Income thru 1/31: \$10,509

Expenses thru 1/31: \$18,046



MISSION

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING SPECIAL OFFERING



For decades FPC has joyfully and generously participated the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special offering. It is one of PC(USA)'s four major offerings. OGHS is collected annually during Lent. The PC(USA) uses these offerings to support 3 different programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People.

In checking the Presbyterian website, it was noted that funds are already being collected and distributed to earthquake relief in Turkey through PDA. This is just an example of how the OGHS funds are used in rapid responses by the Presbyterian church where help is needed immediately. Please prayerfully consider donating to this worthwhile cause and remember to pray for those whose lives have been impacted by this disaster. Special envelopes will be in the pews for you to donate to OGHS.



CAMP WYOMING



The Mission Committee is happy to offer scholarships to youth interested in attending summer camp. Last year, FPC provided two scholarships. Talk to Hannah Eby, Judy Sheridan, or Pastor Ells if you are interested in knowing more about the scholarships. To find out more about Camp Wyoming click here: <https://campwyoming.net>

Also, Camp Wyoming has a link to AMAZON Wish List if anyone is interesting in helping them purchase necessary items to have a safe, fun camp experience.

COMMUNITY CORNER: The Church Community Builders

Community is an important value of the FPC congregation. Dick and Delores Muntz were significant contributors to this value, and fostered it with care during the days their family occupied the back pew near the sanctuary entrance. Randy died in 2016, and Dick and Delores are now our “friends at home,” as their health doesn’t allow them to get to church – but we continue to benefit from their legacy.

Dick, one of the oldest members of our church, holds memories in his still-sharp mind: his engaging conversations are the key unlocking them. When the “door of his heart is open”, what is seen is like looking through one of our church windows: anyone listening to him is drawn into a fascinating room of First Presbyterian Church history.

It was Dick who made one of the only church bathrooms featuring a stained-glass window in the late 1990's. It was Dick who (along with Billy Stant) left church after Markco Miller's wedding in the mid-1980's *in their tuxedos* to walk the John Deere picket line. And it is Dick who has been present at practically every monthly Men's Breakfast since it began in the late 1970's, always ready to share these stories – join us at 8 on the first Saturday morning of every month at Papa Oz's (at the corner of JFK and the “artillery”, as Dick likes to call the NW Arterial).



Randy, Delores & Richard Muntz

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.

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 soups, canned vegetables, boxed pastas, paper towels, and toilet paper.



Victim Services Shelter:

Along with the always needed paper products and cleaning supplies; shampoo/conditioner, toothpaste & brushes, and feminine products.



Thank you for supporting these ministries.

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