

# FIRST PRESS – FEBRUARY 2022

1684 Iowa St.  
Dubuque, Iowa 52001  
563.582.4494

firstpresdbq@gmail.com  
firstpresdbq.org



*First Presbyterian Church*

"We love because God first loved us."

✦ 1 John 4:19



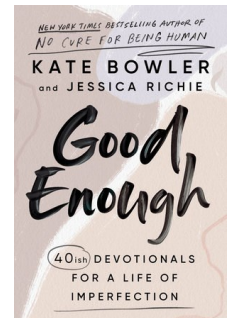
## LENTEN SERMON SERIES:

### Good Enough: Embracing the Imperfections of Life and Faith

We live in a culture that perpetuates the belief we can all "bootstrap" ourselves into a perfect life. We may comb the shelves of the self-help section in search of just the right formula to gain success. Perhaps we even gravitate towards spiritual leaders who promise great rewards if we only do "the right thing," all because a "good: life is defined as continuous upward mobility—climbing ladders of prosperity with increasingly fabulous experiences that we can post to ever-more-likable social media accounts.

This idea is so baked into our consciousness that sometimes we think God requires this perfection of us and we end up falling continually short. So what if we stopped climbing and started fertilizing, watering, and blooming right where we find ourselves? Welcome to a Lent of affirming a faith in which we are blessed, regardless, and where we can lean into embracing our "good enough" lives; as we begin a series "Good Enough: Embracing the Imperfections of Life and Faith" based on the work of Kate Bowler & the RCL Year C.

Want to read along? Anytime after February 15, you can purchase "Good Enough: 40 Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection" by Kate Bowler at River Lights Bookstore (Hardcover: \$19.10). Let them know you are purchasing it as a participant from FPC to receive this discounted price.



### *Good Enough:* Embracing the Imperfections of Life and Faith

### *Joint Ash Wednesday Worship*

*with FPC, WPC and UDTs*

**at First Presbyterian Church**

**March 2, 2022**

**7:00pm**

"Perfectionism is impossible. Transformation isn't."

## ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Join us on March 2 at 7:00pm for the Joint Ash Wednesday Worship held at FPC. Rev. MargaretAnne Overstreet will be preaching and music will be a cooperation by all communities.

The service will kick off our Lenten series (see above).

The service will be in-person and also live-streamed. Just click the graphic to the left to view the service.

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## THE SOUPER BOWL OF CARING IS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13<sup>TH</sup>!

Hunger hurts everyone, but it is especially devastating on children because hunger deprives kids of more than just food. On empty stomachs, kids don't have the energy to focus, engage, learn and grow. Yet, this is the reality for 1 in 6 children in the U.S. who worry about when they'll have their next meal.



In 1990, a youth group in a South Carolina Presbyterian church asked their congregation to donate money and food to help the hungry on Super Bowl Sunday. They thought, "Why not use Super Bowl weekend, a time when people come together for football and fun, to also unify the nation for a higher good: collecting dollars and canned food for the needy?" Then they invited other churches to participate. Since then, an amazing \$170 million has been given for soup kitchens, food pantries and other charities fighting hunger across the country.

Please join us in helping to fight hunger in Dubuque by bringing cash donations and canned goods on Sunday, Feb. 13. You can also mail a check to FPC c/o our treasurer, Bob Monthey. Check the totals below to see how we did the past 12 years. Can we make this year the biggest collection EVER for the SOUPER Bowl of Caring??? All donations benefit the Dubuque Food Pantry.



### FPC'S SOUPER BOWL OF CARING DONATIONS

YEAR	CASH	FOOD ITEMS
2010	\$300	162
2011	\$416	205
2012	\$426	175
2013	\$422	155
2014	\$625	181
2015	\$500	135
2016	\$576	130
2017	\$600	182
2018	\$728	183
2019	\$755	172
2020	\$815	157
2021	\$725	199
2022	??	??

## GET IN THE GAME AND TACKLE HUNGER!



### "THE CHRISTMAS STORY"

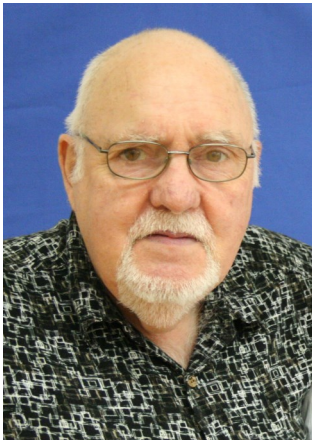
Thank you to all who helped bring the Christmas message to the church family on December 12 through the play, "The Christmas Story", written by S.K. Chatwell (@2009, *Just a Little Christmas*) and adapted by Rev. Ells.

Thanks to Joe Klinebriel, Stephanie Ells, Michele Daniels, Jean Holdener, Lindsey Ward, and Thomas, Sara, and Bryan Blair for their assistance, and to all of the Sunday School children and youth who shared their gifts.





# IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH



## IN GRATITUDE

We give thanks to Harold Daniels for his faithful service as custodian at FPC. He's been here to open and close up, to set up and clean up, to turn on the heat and/or air conditioning, making our buildings ready for us to worship and serve God.

For helping out in so many ways, we give Harold our thanks! May God continue to bless Harold in all things.



## SESSION UPDATE: LOOKING AHEAD

As was shared during our annual meeting on January 23, the year 2022 will be one in which FPC embarks on an intentional process to envision a healthy future of ministry. Transition has been the state of our congregation for more than four years, beginning with the moment Pastor Kat announced her retirement, then a significant vacancy, a worldwide pandemic and shut-down, and the arrival of a new pastor.

It is time to figure out who we are together now. The Session and Deacons will be our guides as we move FPC into her next stage of ministry. We will be coming to you all at different times during the year to listen, receive feedback, and communicate.

While the idea of making shifts can be intimidating and anxiety producing, it is also exciting to think of all the possibilities to embrace what God has prepared in advance for us to do. For 175 years, God has been present with FPC, and we trust in God's continued partnership.

Session has identified three core values of this process: 1) Listening: We will seek to identify what God is already doing so we can join; 2) Patience: Wisdom is found in process; 3) Community: We will move forward together.

The Session and Deacons welcome your input, so feel free to reach out to them at any time.



## CAFÉ MINISTRY

Mark your calendars to help out at Café Ministry on March 31. Details will be coming out soon to let you know what is needed for Café Ministry. If you can find a couple of hours to spend time at 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational Church, we would love to see you there. The time is generally 4:30-6:30. Otherwise, your donation of food is greatly appreciated and needed.



## PER CAPITA

Each year First Presbyterian pays a per capita to John Knox Presbytery to support the work and ministry of the presbytery, synod and General Assembly. We commit to this amount based on the enrollment of 92 members. This year's per capita is \$33.70 per member.

Together, we continue to make many ministries happen. Please send your contribution to the church treasurer or place it in the offering marked "per capita," as we join in impacting our region, our country, and our world!

# MISSION



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



Starting March 6, our mission will be the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Children will be given fish banks in which to collect coins in support of OGHS. There will also be calendars as we've had in the past that will help us think about all of our blessings and give us ideas of what we can put in our fish banks in thanks to God.

In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Please give generously to help lift up others when they are in need.



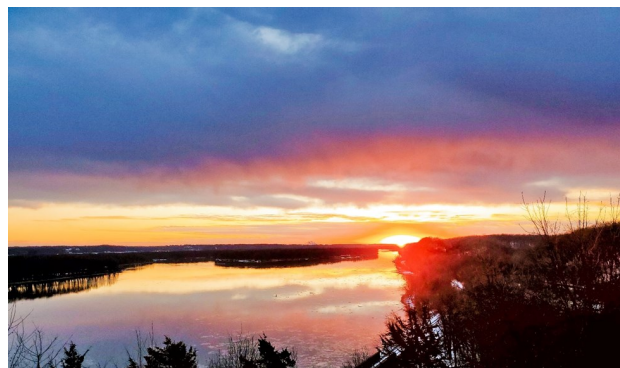
## THANK YOU FPC!

A big "thank you!" to the congregation of First Presbyterian Church for their generosity and kindness in their support of "The Advent Christmas Giving Tree."

In addition to Mission Committee contributions, the treasurer was able to write checks to Almost Home for \$500; Joy Offering for \$1,000; and to our missionary friends in Thailand for \$500.

## COMMUNITY CORNER: A Look at our Native Roots

Loras professor Kevin Koch took this photo from Julien Dubuque's monument in the Mines of Spain on the winter Solstice in 2020 at the moment when the sun rose over the Mississippi; he was standing next to the grave of Dubuque's native wife. In 1931 at the dedication of her grave, thousands of Dubuquers witnessed members of the Mesquakie tribe who came up from Tama, IA, to honor the burial place of their ancestor Potosa. In recent years, members of this tribe have made the same trip to Dubuque to honor their identification with this land: in 1980 for the seminary's Native American Religious Experience Days powwow, in 2014 for the dedication of Jackson Park (formerly a sacred native burial ground), and in 2020 to be involved with the Dubuque's first celebration of Indigenous People's Day. It is no coincidence that the Mesquakie continue to take every opportunity to "visit" Dubuque: the land on which our church sits, the waters that flow under the Mississippi sunrises, and the bones buried in the soil of this city are part of what constitutes their native home. Despite the fact that we might do well to reflect on the fallacy of thinking "they are the visitors in our home", the reality is that "we are the visitors to their ancestral home." What follows is a fitting reminder to us of the Mesquakie roots which run deep in this land, as quoted on p. 22 of the book Mesquakie and Proud of It by John Zielhski:



"In the beginning, now and in the end, it will be the land. It is the origin and the sustenance of the 'People of the Red Earth' (the meaning of the name Mesquakie) and there are few who have accorded it the respect that these Indians, against all manner of opposition, have and will continue to do."

*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.*

# FEBRUARY 2022

## Deacons of the Month: Jamie Dillman & Judy Sheridan

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells preaching Via <a href="#">live stream</a> & in-person	31 9:00am Newsletter Deadline	1 FEBRUARY 4:30pm Worship Com. (Zoom)	2 11:00am Young at Heart @ Village Inn	3	4	5 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Papa Ozz
6 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells preaching Via <a href="#">live stream</a> & in-person Sacrament of Holy Communion 11:15am Deacons	7	8 4:15pm CE (Zoom)	9	10	11	12
13 SOUPER BOWL OF CARING 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells preaching Via <a href="#">live stream</a> & in-person 11:15am SPM Lay Committee	14	15	16	17	18	19 9:30am John Knox Presbytery via Zoom 9:30am Session
20 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells preaching Via <a href="#">live stream</a> & in-person	21	22	23 5:00pm Choir	24	25	26
27 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells preaching Via <a href="#">live stream</a> & in-person 1:30pm Bethany Home worship: Pastor Ells & Leon Thompson	28 9:00am Newsletter Deadline	1 MARCH	2 ASH WEDNESDAY 11:00am Young at Heart @ Village Inn 7:00pm Ash Wednesday worship	3	4	5 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Papa Ozz

Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

## Birthdays & Anniversaries February

- 3 Beth Foxen
- 4 Billy Stant
- 6 Chrissi McClain  
Ethan Blair
- 9 Dane Smith
- 12 Sandy Spencer  
Tatum Hallstoos
- 15 Anne Marx Scheuerell
- 24 Bob Monthey  
Aggie Herbst
- 29 Lesley Sheridan



## 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 & John Dillman
- Christian Education* – TBD
- Congregational Life* – Jamie Dillman
- Finance & Personnel* – John Dillman
- Memorial* – Sandy Spencer
- Mission & Stewardship* – Hannah Eby
- Worship* – 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](mailto:fpcdbq.treasurer@gmail.com)

## OFFICE HOURS



Pastor Stephanie can be reached at (cell) 507-227-8537 or [fpcdbq.pastor@gmail.com](mailto: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 9:00-1:00pm. You can contact her at [firstpresdbq@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresdbq@gmail.com)

## PREACHING SCHEDULE

### FEBRUARY

- February 6 Rev. Stephanie Ells
- February 13 Rev. Stephanie Ells
- February 20 Rev. Stephanie Ells
- February 27 Rev. Stephanie Ells



## FPC BUDGET UPDATE

### January

Monthly offering: \$13,152

Budgeted need: \$13,600

### Year-to-Date for 2022

Income: TBD

Expenses: TBD



Thanks  
for Your  
Support!



# IN THE COMMUNITY



## DUBUQUE RESCUE MISSION UPDATE



The Dubuque Rescue Mission would like to thank all those who were so generous to us during 2021 – What a year! The Dubuque Rescue Mission serves dozens of men every day, giving them a place to stay warm, clean, and fed. We have been housing over 52 men at our 398 Main Street building and St. John's Lutheran Church. Hope House and our four transitional houses host seventeen men who are working full-time and while living there. In 2021, we served 58,744 meals – this includes breakfast, lunch, and supper. We also provided 20,889 bed nights for housing insecure men.

Most recently, we engaged in the immediate shelter, clothing, and feeding of families from the Canfield Building here in town when a fire displaced them in cold weather. It took several days for the Red Cross to arrive and provide services, and thankfully, we could stand in the gap.

We continue to creatively work with the men to re-enter the workforce and engage with stable housing through other programs like the Bicycle Repair Shop, Mission Gardens, and our partnership with the New Hope Catholic Worker farm where meat, eggs, butter, and milk from the farm become part of the Mission Meal Ministry.

The DRM could not do what we do without your support. We do not receive any government funding, and rely completely on congregations and organizations in the community to serve our clients. We are always in need of good, lightly used furniture and household items such as laundry detergent, twin bed sheets, bath towels, and washcloths.

Your prayers and volunteer support are essential as well. Peace, Rick Mihm, Director

## CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM

CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM will meet again on Thursday, Feb. 17 at St. Luke's Methodist Church. They will discuss marriage. You can join in either in-person or via Facebook. Join us to keep interfaith dialogues active.

If you would like to be on our very infrequent mailing list, email either [John](#) or [Alan](#) or visit our Facebook page.

To be part of the discussion, visit our Facebook page on the proper Thursday with the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/cofabraham>



## DUBUQUE FOOD PANTRY

Greetings!

We just finished up our Christmas Basket give away for 2021. There were 373 families, with 784 total people served. We are always blessed to see so many people happy to receive help at this time.

We have wonderful news of late. We closed on our new property on December 30 of 2021. This new location at 1310 White St., the former Brannon Monument building, has double the square footage of our present building. The board and staff had been looking for ways to increase space, whether it be we add on to our present building or relocate. We are thrilled to have the opportunity to serve our community in a better way. It will take several months to get the building ready to house the Dubuque Food Pantry, the target date is April.

Have a very wonderful start to your New Year!  
~ Theresa M. Caldwell, Manager

# Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

Now that we are having church in person, 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 peanut butter & jelly, canned meats, ramen noodles, shampoo, laundry soap, & hot chocolate mix.



## 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.

First Presbyterian Church  
1684 Iowa St.  
Dubuque, IA 52001