

# FIRST PRESS – MARCH 2022

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*First Presbyterian Church*

"We love because God first loved us."

✦ 1 John 4:19



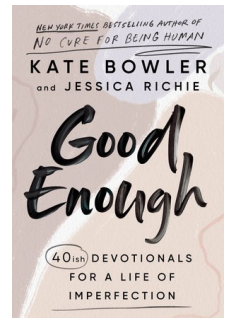
## LENTEN SERMON SERIES:

### 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.



## SPECIAL SERVICES IN APRIL

- April 14, 7:00pm—Maundy Thursday at FPC (nursery available)
- April 15, 12:00-3:00pm—Good Friday Ecumenical service at St. Luke's UMC
- April 17, 6:00am—Easter Sunrise Service at the Grand River Center (River Room) with First Baptist, GracePoint, and others!

## PASTOR WILL BE OUT OF THE OFFICE

Pastor Stephanie will be out of the office March 10-16. 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.



**SPRING AHEAD! DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS MARCH 12**

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

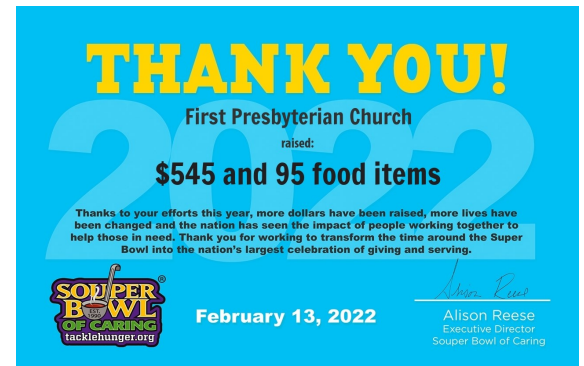
## SOUPER BOWL OF CARING 2022

Thank you for your generous gifts to the Souper Bowl of Caring offering! Together we raised \$545 and 95 food items for the Dubuque Food Pantry to help tackle hunger in our city.

Special thanks to this year's youth Souper Bowl team: Thomas Blair, Sam Klinebriel, Jackson and Adrian Ells, and Casey and Reid Postma as well as Souper Mom, Sara Blair. The team presented creative announcements and Minutes for Mission, as well as, collected and counted the cash and food donations.

Nationwide, in 2022, the Souper Bowl of Caring program has so far raised over \$2.4 million dollars in food and cash donations for local food pantries. May God continue to encourage us to give to others with generosity and love.

The Dubuque Food Pantry was the grand winner of the Souper Bowl of Caring! Thanks be to God!



### 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	\$545	95

## Sunday School

Beginning Sunday, March 6, 2022, the both youth and adult Sunday School classes will focus on the scripture used in morning worship as found in the Revised Common Lectionary Year C. The theme will be "Good Enough."

The last day for Sunday School this spring is April 24, 2022 with an all-church picnic following worship on Sunday, May 15, 2002. Sunday School will resume in September 2022.





# MISSION



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



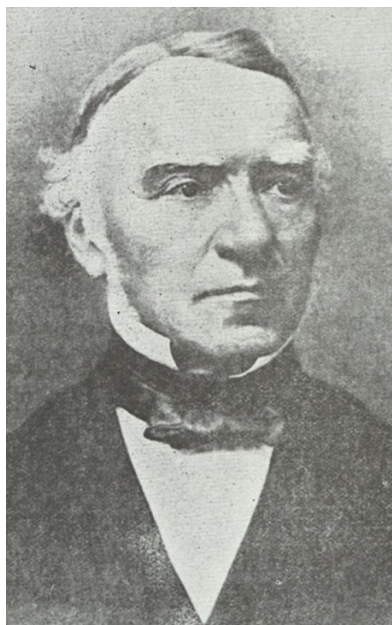
Each year during Lent, our congregation participates in the global community and joins other Presbyterians by giving to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. OGHS provides a range of support to people around the world through initial disaster response and ongoing community development. This year, our goal is to give \$1,000! Help us reach this goal by giving in the pew envelopes or adding your extra change to kids' fish banks (see below). Palm Sunday will be the final collection day.



Be sure to pick up your One Great Hour of Sharing fish bank and calendar. During Lent, use the calendar to give you helpful information on how to fill the bank. On Palm Sunday, plan to return your filled banks as a gift to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. Together we can help support, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People.

## CAFÉ MINISTRY

Cafe Ministry is coming up on Thursday, March 31! We are excited to partner with our friends at 1st Congregational UCC in this important ministry and are looking forward to the opportunity to serve together. We need to have 6 volunteers who can arrive by 4:45pm. We have also been asked to provide desserts to serve 75. Desserts can be brought to 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational UCC on Wednesday, March 30th between 9:30am to 2pm, Thursday, March 31 between 9am-12pm or dropped off at FPC by noon March 31. A sign-up sheet will be available in the back of church. Please contact SPM Dani Postma at [dpostma@dbq.edu](mailto:dpostma@dbq.edu) or 712-441-0309 with any questions.



## COMMUNITY CORNER: REV. PETER AND SOPHIA FLURY

The Flurys length of stay in Dubuque was short – they arrived here in 1846 (Iowa's statehood year) as missionaries, reached out to the community from their home for the education of children and adults, and organized a church on Christmas day in 1847 on what is now 7th St. between Locust and Bluff with 35 members. A year later, a small building housed the church at what is now 9th and Iowa. However, the Flurys became ill the next year in 1848: Sophia died and was buried in the native burial ground, which is now Jackson Park. In 1849, Peter returned to Schiers, Switzerland, his homeland, brokenhearted. He went on to remarry, have children, pastor the church in his hometown and establish a hospital which exists to this day.

While the Flurys stay here was short, their vision reached far beyond the wilderness along the shores of the Mississippi. As a young man, Peter was not the powerful man of God we know today when he started his ministry (he was reluctant to be a preacher); it was Sophia who provided the great influence in changing his life. Their passion for coming to America was to carry the Gospel to Native Americans in this new country. However, as the city of Dubuque was charted in 1837 (the year the Flurys were married in Switzerland) with the signing of the treaty ending the Black Hawk War, the native population was "resettled": a great white westward movement followed on their heels. Even though the Flurys fully intended to reach out to the Natives, the Board of Foreign Missions commissioned Peter to reach out to the German population. From its beginning, our church has reached out to those in the neighborhood and the world. As we celebrate 175 years and look to the future, may God continue to guide our ministry and mission.

*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.*

# IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH



## 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.

## ENVISIONING A HEALTHY FUTURE

The Elders and Deacons have been spending time at each meeting engaging in study of the roles of Elders and Deacons as outlined in Scripture, The PCUSA Book of Order, and the FPC Handbook. We have learned that it is God who calls and equips all Christians to serve. That's right! ALL Christians!

While Elders and Deacons have received a specific call to ministry, it does not mean the rest of us get to sit back and watch them go. For example, In a very real way, deacons are the hands and heart of the Church in our ministry of caring; but, deacons are clearly not the only Presbyterians who provide these ministries of compassion and service! So many of you contribute care for one another and for our neighbors. The deacons simply provide an organized way of bringing the love of Jesus Christ to the church and the community.

When asked what their initial reaction to being asked to serve as an elder or deacon was, several people shared they were intimidated by the role, unsure if they were the right person, aware of their weaknesses alongside their strengths, and even surprised to be invited into the role! As we talked more about this, we found great comfort in the reminder that leaders do not have to be perfect; simply faithful, meaning that we grow in our character as we lead. After all, Peter was hailed as one of Jesus' key disciples, capable of great loyalty and courage - yet we know he was also emotionally volcanic and unpredictable! When Moses was called by God to lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt, he responded by asking God, "Who am I?" (Ex. 3:11). Moses' successor, Joshua, also despaired over his ability to lead the people.

In all these cases, God did not give up on them; God promised to be with them and to help them. This same God is with each one of us; whether we are an elder or deacon or not, preparing us for every good work in God's name and for God's glory.

Where might God be calling you to serve at FPC? There are many opportunities right now - we are in need of folks to serve on our Congregational Life Committee, help plan for our 175th Anniversary, teach Sunday School, schedule Communion servers, write cards, manage our Memorial Funds, and more! Consider who God has created you to be and the gifts you have - and check in with Pastor Stephanie. She can help you discern how to use those gifts.



## ANOTHER HEARTFELT THANKS!

Thank you to Harold Daniels for his faithful care of our church facility. Harold has retired from his position as the church custodian. We count ourselves blessed for all his work over the years!

## CAMP WYOMING

Calling all kids looking for summer fun! Grades 1 – 12 have the opportunity to join a Presbyterian summer camp session at nearby Camp Wyoming, with financial assistance from our Mission Committee. See details at [campwyoming.net](http://campwyoming.net). If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Hannah Eby ([hannah.eby@loras.edu](mailto:hannah.eby@loras.edu)).



# MARCH 2022

## Deacons of the Month: Alex Jack & Franklin Yartey

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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
6 <i>1st Sunday of Lent</i> 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 11:30am Deacons BYOLunch	7	8 4:15pm CE (Zoom)	9 5:00pm Choir	10 Pastor out of office	11	12
13 <i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i> DAYLIGHT SAVINGS 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: SPM Dani Postma preaching Via <a href="#">live stream</a> & in-person	14	15	16	17	18	19 9:30-11:30am Session
20 <i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i> 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: SPM Dani Postma preaching Via <a href="#">live stream</a> & in-person	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i> 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 & the Thompsons	28 9:00am Newsletter Deadline	29	30	31	1 APRIL	2

# APRIL 2022

## Deacons of the Month: Alex Jack & Franklin Yartey

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i> 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: Tom Jack & Leon Thompson	28 9:00am Newsletter Deadline	29	30	31	1 APRIL	2 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Papa Ozz 10:00am-4:00pm Officer Retreat @ UDTs Severance Hall
3 <i>5th Sunday of Lent</i> 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 11:30am Deacons	4	5 3:45pm Mission	6 11:00am Young at Heart @ Village Inn	7	8	9
10 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells preaching Via <a href="#">live stream</a> & in-person Dedicate Fish Banks	11	12	13 5:00pm Choir	14 <i>Maundy-Thursday</i> 7:00pm Maundy Thursday worship	15 <i>Good Friday</i> 12:00-3:00pm Good Friday worship @ St. Luke's UMC	16
17 <i>Easter Sunday</i> 6:00am Easter Sunrise @ Grand River Center 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: SPM Dani Postma preaching Via <a href="#">live stream</a> & in-person	18	19	20	21		23
24 9:00am <b>LAST</b> Sunday School 10:15am Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells preaching Via <a href="#">live stream</a> & in-person 1:30pm Bethany Home: Pastor & the Thompsons	25 9:00am Newsletter Deadline  Pastor out of office	26	27	28	29	30



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 & 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



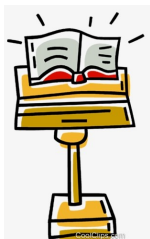
Pastor Stephanie can be reached at (cell) 507-227-8537 or [fpcdbq.pastor@gmail.com](mailto:fpcdbq.pastor@gmail.com). In case of emergency, call her cell. If she does not answer, leave a voice message and she'll return the call. Office hours are Monday & Wednesday from 9:00am—1:00pm.

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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



### MARCH

- March 6 Rev. Stephanie Ells
- March 13 SPM Dani Postma
- March 20 SPM Dani Postma
- March 27 SPM Dani Postma

## FPC BUDGET UPDATE

February

Monthly offering: \$10,034

Budgeted need: \$13,600



Year-to-Date for 2022

Income thru January 31: \$13,152

Expenses thru January 31: TBD

# 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 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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