

FIRST PRESS – NOVEMBER 2021

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

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING—REPORT

Following worship on Oct. 31, 2021, the congregation held its annual meeting to elect elders, deacons, and at-large members to the 2022 Nominating Committee. Elected as Deacons were Judy Sheridan (Class of 2023) and Deb Stant & Alex Jack (Class of 2024). Elected as Elders were Betty Thompson (Class of 2022) and Tom Boelk & Kristen Eby (Class of 2024). Elected as At-large members to the 2022 Nominating Committee were Chris & Michelle Daniels, Tom Jack, and Jill Klinebriel. 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 2021 Nominating Committee. Special recognition was given to Linda Longfield, who retired as Clerk of Session.

The congregation discussed and approved changes to the Terms of Call for Pastor Stephanie Ells. In addition, the congregation also ratified the minutes from the four congregational meetings that were held online. This requirement was set in place by the congregation at the first of these online meetings on May 3, 2020.

Mark your calendar for the next annual meeting required by the Bylaws of FPC that will be held the 4th Sunday of January, January 23, 2022, to review and receive the 2021 Annual Report.



CALLING ALL CHRISTMAS ELVES!

The Advent Season will soon be upon us. Traditionally, the church is decorated before the first Sunday of Advent which this year falls on November 28th. So, following worship on Nov. 21st we invite you to deck the halls of FPC with holiday cheer. Many hands make light work!



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 (see Mission page).

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. *Offering will be collected Dec. 5.*



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Don't forget to set
your clocks back
one hour
Saturday night,
Nov. 6,
before you go to bed.



Fall Back



YOU'RE INVITED!

FPC is going bowling and we'd love for you to join us!

When: Sunday, Nov. 14 from 2:00-4:00pm

Where: Fischer Lanes, 880 Locust St.

Your shoe rental and first game is on us! Additional games are \$2.75/adult and \$2.50 per kid.

CELEBRATE COMMUNION THIS SUNDAY

FPC will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper this Sunday, November 7th. Covid precautions will be in place and all elements are gluten-free.

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 23rd—December 6. We are happy to welcome back the Rev. Jim Gunn (11/28) and Dr. Mark Ward (12/6) 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.



IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

CELEBRATION OF LIFE—VENITA FAWCETT

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord, we entrusted VeNita Fawcett to his heavenly care on September 11.

It was VeNita's wish that her memorial service be held at FPC when all her loved ones could gather together in remembrance. The date and time chosen by those closest to her is 11:00am on Saturday, December 11th, 2021. A luncheon will follow at the University of Dubuque hosted by Rev. Dr. Jeffrey & Dana Bullock. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be given to First Presbyterian Church of Dubuque.



We continue to miss VeNita and Henry. They enriched so many of our lives, and it is with joy we celebrate their time with us, commit them to the keeping of our faithful Lord and Savior, and lay them down to rest together in Seattle—a place dear to them both.

BLUE CHRISTMAS: A SERVICE OF WHOLENESS AND HEALING

Earlier this fall, Pastor Stephanie Schlimm and I were spending the day in a room at St. Luke's United Methodist Church discussing our respective preaching plans for the year. She and I meet on a regular basis to share resources, discuss ideas, and encourage one another as pastors. As we talked, our conversation became laced with the experiences of pain, grief, frustration, adjustment, and fear many in our community had been dealing with over the past 18 months - and we wondered together how we might more faithfully create sacred space for people living through dark times.

One of the leadings of the Holy Spirit was to provide a worship service specifically focused on wholeness and healing within the community, traditionally known as a "Blue Christmas" service. On Wednesday, December 15th, at 6:30pm we will hold this service at St. Luke's as a joint effort between many of our local congregations. Pastor Stephanie and I reached out, and many churches were immediately enthusiastic about such an opportunity.

Why Blue? Well, blue as in "the blues." As in "I am feeling blue." Why at Christmas? Isn't Christmas supposed to be a cheery time?

Not everyone is up and cheery for the Christmas holidays. Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other disease that puts a question mark over the future, and a number of other human situations make parties and joviality painful for many people in our community.

Advent is a season where our tough times are met with consolation. With the advent of Jesus' birth, the suffering people who looked for the long-awaited Messiah were presented with the fulfillment of God's promise to give them hope and a future.

Our God says, "Comfort, comfort my people," and so this is what a Blue Christmas Service is meant for. It will be a reflective opportunity, guiding us each to accept where we really are, while providing reassurance, comfort, and holding out the fact that God is with us always and therefore we can have hope.

You are all welcome to come to the service: to receive the comfort of God's assurance in the darkness for yourself, to sit in solidarity with others who are seeking hope, or simply out of curiosity.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT FPC

Sunday School at FPC is healthy and strong. The adults meet in the Coffee Hour room and the kids/youth meet downstairs. Both classes discuss the passage on which the sermon during worship will be based. The kids/youth meet together for part of the class and split up to discuss the sermon story in a more age-focused lesson.

Thanks to all of our teachers! We especially thank Lindsey Ward, Sara Blair, and Mark Stant for taking turns in leading the adult class, and to Joe Klinebriel and Stephanie Ells for teaching the kids/youth. A special thanks to Lisa Reed for teaching the nursery-aged kids. If you are willing to use your gifts and sub as a teacher for either of these classes, please let Rev. Ells, Linda Longfield, or Sara Blair know.



MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

ROLLING OUT THE WELCOME MATS

The Memorial Committee recently purchased new mats for the inside and outside of the doors to the Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, and front and back of the manse.

Especially beautiful is the new Narthex carpet, welcoming worshipers to the sanctuary. This mat was given in memory of VeNita and Henry Fawcett. for 25 years (1993-2018), Henry and VeNita took it upon themselves to greet both familiar and new faces to worship every Sunday morning at FPC.



NOVEMBER 2021

Deacon of the Month: Hannah Eby

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 Stewardship Sunday 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells preaching Via live stream & in-person Pledge cards received Annual Congregational Meeting	1 NOVEMBER 9:00am Newsletter Deadline	2	3 6:30pm Choir	4	5	6 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Papa Ozz
7 <i>Daylight Savings Time Ends</i> 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Communion Rev. Stephanie Ells preaching Via live stream & in-person 11:30am Deacons mtg.	8	9	10	11	12 5:00-8:00pm Girl Scouts	13 9:30am Session
14 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells preaching Via live stream & in-person 11:30am Mission Com. 2:00pm Bowling @ Fischer Lanes	15	16 9:00am John Knox Presbytery (Zoom) 4:15pm CE (Zoom)	17	18	19	20
21 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells preaching Via live stream & in-person 11:30am Decorate for Advent	22	23 Pastor out of the office	24 7:00pm DACU Interfaith Thanksgiving Service @ Resurrection Catholic Church	25 <i>Thanksgiving Day</i>	26	27
28 <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i> 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. Jim Gunn preaching Via live stream & in-person 1:30pm Bethany Home: Tom Jack & Leon Thompson	29 9:00am Newsletter Deadline	30	1 DECEMBER	2	3	4 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Papa Ozz

Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

Birthdays & Anniversaries November

- 4 *Lynn Sutter*
Bill & Karen Stant
- 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 committees by contacting one of the Session members below:

- Buildings & Grounds* – Tom Boelk & John Dillman
- Christian Education* – Linda Longfield
- Congregational Life* – Jamie Dillman
- Finance & Personnel* – John Dillman
- Memorial* – Sandy Spencer & Linda Longfield
- Mission & Stewardship* – Sandy Spencer
- 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

OFFICE HOURS



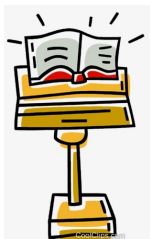
Pastor Stephanie can be reached at (cell) 507-227-8537 or fpcdbq.pastor@gmail.com. In case of emergency, call her cell. If she does not answer, leave a voice message and she'll return the call. Office hours are Monday & Wednesday from 9:00am—1:00pm.

Administrative Assistant, Ginger Vander Broek, works from home

Monday & Wednesday from 9:00-1:00pm and at FPC Thursdays from 9:00-1:00pm. You can contact her at firstpresdbq@gmail.com

PREACHING SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER



- | | |
|-------------|---------------------|
| November 7 | Rev. Stephanie Ells |
| November 14 | Rev. Stephanie Ells |
| November 21 | Rev. Stephanie Ells |
| November 28 | Rev. Jim Gunn |

FPC Budget Update

October

Monthly offering: \$11,118

Budgeted need: \$13,300

Year-to-Date

Income: \$103,355

Expenses: \$110,060



Thanks
for Your
Support!

MISSION

ADVENT GIVING TREE 2021

This year, our congregation has the opportunity to support three organizations doing God's work (1) through international mission, (2) through the Presbyterian denomination, and (3) in our local community. We will gather our offerings in church and online on the following dates:

Nov. 28 for our Thailand mission partners
Dec. 5 for the Christmas Joy Offering
Dec. 12 for the Dubuque Rescue Mission

More information to come. You may contact Hannah Eby (563-580-3512) or anyone on the Mission Committee with questions.



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. A special thanks to Tom Jack, for getting us rolling, with the following article about the life of a fellow local PC(USA) congregation who faithfully served her community for over 175 years.

Celebration of Ministry for the Andrew Presbyterian Church

On Sunday, October 24, at 3:00pm the final worship service was held at the Presbyterian Church in Andrew, Iowa, a nearby congregation of the John Knox Presbytery. Inside the sanctuary, the bulletin board news clipping dates indicated very little church activity had occurred over the last nine years.

The rain and cold did not stop over 50 from gathering: a mixture of people there for the first time and others who could trace their ancestry back to the church's first gathering 176 years ago in 1845; along with members of the JKP Administrative Commission. The Andrew Church hosted several historical events in her 176 years, including a send off for Ansel Briggs in 1846 to be the state's first governor and the incorporation of the city of Andrew in 1863.

Many of those gathered in Andrew last Sunday for the church's final service kept their private memories mostly to themselves: the memories of happy and sad occasions of baptisms, weddings and funerals, re-enacted privately behind the quiet façades of their faces. Communion was shared and the group lingered into the afternoon over pie and coffee; sharing joyful memories of children now grown into young adulthood, Christmas dramas, and community VBS. I myself reminisced over eight years of sermons, pastoral notes, community ecumenical plans and church business papers retrieved for me from my time as the pastor of the Andrew Church.

The Andrew Presbyterian Church had a significant amount of money remaining, and plans are underway to continue the legacy of the congregation's commitment to their local community through the creation of a Jackson County Endowment which will serve the missions close to the heart of the Andrew Church for years to come.

Days after the service happened – the son of one of Andrew's long-time church-going residents died. I helped to bury his mother as one of my last pastoral acts. And so, this reflection ends with the memory of the name not only of the proud and faithful Andrew Presbyterian Church, but also with the memory of one of her humble sons, Scott Hammerand.



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 stuffing mix, canned pumpkin, evaporated milk, ramen noodles, bar soap, dish soap, and facial tissues.



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.

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