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First Press

First Presbyterian Church

November 2020



Stewardship

a way of life

Thanks-Giving

Even in the times of a pandemic, First Presbyterian Church is richly blessed by faithful preaching, deep prayer, and joyful music in worship every Sunday. Sunday School is led by faithful and dedicated teachers. We pray daily for each other and the world. We share the love of God through compassionate and generous mission. We join in lively virtual

fellowship and we are maintaining a functional and beautiful sanctuary and manse to further our ministry and mission.

All of this is supported by the generous stewardship of the gifts God has given us. Pledge cards were received during worship on October 25. If you have not yet submitted your pledge card, please prayerfully consider how God is calling you to support the work of this, your church, as we seek together to witness to God's love in Jesus Christ. Then, you may return your pledge card in one of three ways to the church office: (1) emailing fpcdbq.treasurer@gmail.com, (2) dropping it off in the church mailbox, or (3) mailing it to the church, in care of our treasurer, Bob Monthey. Together we can follow Jesus lovingly, hopefully, and joyfully in 2021.

Each person should do as he has decided in his heart—not reluctantly or out of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver. – 2 Corinthians 9:7



Inquiring FPC minds
are asking:
**Will there be a
Christmas play at FPC
this year?**

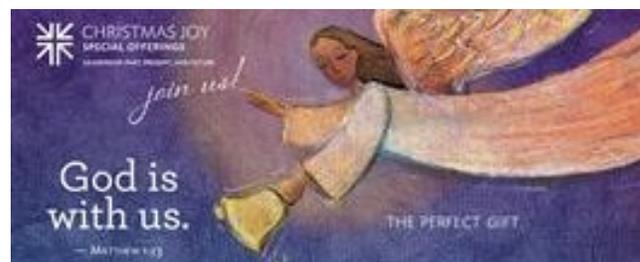
The Christian Education committee would really like to be able to have a Christmas play this December and is working on adapting a play that can be performed safely during a pandemic. If you are interested in participating in the annual Christmas play, please contact Linda.



Christmas Joy Offering

Advent is close—November 29!

During Advent we give to the Joy Offering. What is the Joy Offering you ask? Presbyterian churches give to the Joy Offering to provide assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and to develop our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. You'll hear more in December.



Mission/Stewardship



Café Ministry was Thursday, Oct. 29

Café Ministry continues to serve hungry and needy people in Dubuque. On October 29, FPC helped to host the meal distributed from First Congregational Church by providing hot dogs and buns. Thanks to all who contributed food and/or money and especially to the deacons who picked up contributions. If you'd like to volunteer to help prepare a meal, they are always looking for people. Volunteers are needed between 3:30-5:00pm, 4:00-5:30pm, and 4:30-6:00pm. Follow this link to sign up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0B4AAAA72BA1F85-cafe>

Our Thailand Friends

Please continue to pray for healing, for safety, and for open doors as they continue to share their lives and reason for hope with their neighbors.



Dear Friends,

Thank you for your gift in support of Presbyterian mission. When you make a financial gift to the needs of our most vulnerable siblings, you do not just address immediate crises, you create lasting change.

Your gifts make it possible to alleviate hunger, provide access to clean water, to recover from earthquakes and hurricanes —and much more.

Thank you for your generous support and prayers.

Sincerely,

*Rev. Rosemary Mitchell, Senior Director
Presbyterian Mission*



Community Corner

This new section is meant to provide information on happenings in the community. You may find something of interest or an opportunity to serve. While the Mission Committee is not sponsoring these events, we recognize them as potential ways to build a bridge to our neighbors. Tom Jack has graciously agreed to collect and share this information with us.

A Mesquakie natives' powwow took place in Washington Park on Saturday, October 17, as part of the celebration of Indigenous People's Day. Indigenous People's Day has been officially proclaimed by the Dubuque City Council to replace Columbus Day.

Why was this event of interest to our church? According to the first paragraph in our church's recorded history, in 1834 Peter Flury came to the "Little Fox Village" newly christened "Dubuque", with the intent to convert the Indians, but when he arrived, he saw "the Germans needed conversion more".

Our church's history has little information on the Sac and Fox tribes who lived on the land we now occupy – their descendants live in the Tama, Iowa, Mesquakie community near Marshalltown, Iowa.

On Indigenous People's Day this year, the Unitarian Church offered a Zoom study of the book *The Indigenous People's History of the United States* – several of us who attended this event found ourselves asking questions like: "Who were these people who welcomed our ancestors onto their land?", "How have we honored their hospitality?", "Do we owe a debt to their Native descendants?" These are questions to consider for all of us, as we learn more about the complicated nature of this area's history.



Dubuquer Jodie Durnin, a member of the Mesquakie tribe, drumming for the dancers in Washington Park.

Christian Education

Sacraments Class

Five pairs of parents and their children in grades 3-5 participated in a three-week encounter with the meaning of baptism and the Lord's Supper over Zoom.

Participants learned an essential part of preparation for sharing in the Lord's Supper is to understand who Jesus is and what he means to them; as well as taking the time to confess our sin to God. It was a meaningful experience for the children and parents to write out their "faith stories" to share with the group. Children shared that Jesus is their friend, Jesus died on the cross for their sins, Jesus will always love them, and Jesus gives us guidelines for living in the Bible. God used this class to bring all who participated closer together and closer to God.



Three youth have begun the journey called Confirmation. Let us keep them, their mentors, and their teachers, in our prayers:

- ✝ Thomas Blair & mentor Deb Stant
- ✝ Ella Gunn & mentor Beth Foxen
- ✝ Ryan McClain & mentor Steve Foxen

Teachers:

Pastor Stephanie & Linda Longfield

The Road Back to You

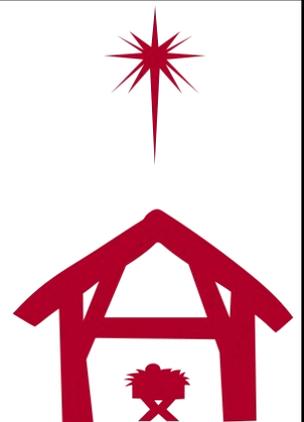
A group of 11 people meets each Tuesday night via Zoom to discuss *The Road Back to You: An Enneagram Journey to Self-Discovery* by Ian Morgan Cron and Suzanne Stabile. Participants are a mix of FPC members and other congregations; led by Pastor Stephanie and Lindsey Ward.



The group is growing in knowing themselves and who God made them to be through honest and introspective discussion.

Leader Needed for Advent Study

FPC would like to provide a 4-week study for adults via Zoom beginning at the end of November and leading up until Christmas. Please let a member of the Christian Education Committee or Pastor Stephanie know if you would be able to lead or co-lead.



In the Life of the Church

FPC Giving Tree

FPC is a generous congregation. The Stewardship and Mission Committee, on behalf of the congregation, contributes around \$7,000 annually to a variety of local service organizations that provide much needed food, shelter, and financial assistance; on top of the nearly \$2,500 you contribute to the Joy Offering in support of PCUSA church leaders past, present, and future.

We would like to give the congregation an opportunity to grow FPC's gift for the holidays, in addition to the Joy Offering, as the needs in our local community are greater than ever. Lines for the food, waiting lists for shelters, and the need for assistance paying basic utility bills are all increasing exponentially. The boxes beneath the Christmas tree bear the names of the organizations in need of additional help. We recognize many of you already give to these organizations on your own, but we thought it would be a neat opportunity to encourage one another at Christmastime to do our giving through the church office.

Make FPC's gift grow by following these easy steps:

1. Choose the "gift box" organization you'd like to assist
2. Make a check out to out to FPC, putting in the line item at the bottom of the check the name of the organization you want to donate to
3. Mail the check to:

First Presbyterian Church
Attn: Bob Monthey
1684 Iowa St.
Dubuque, IA 52001

At the end of December, we will gather the money for each group and distribute it accordingly - reporting back to the congregation the results of our Giving Tree in January!



Tuck-point Project: Part 1

The months-long tuck-pointing project on the back of the church building is now complete. This is only phase one of the whole project. More details will be coming from the Building and Grounds Committee.



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 29th. More details will be sent out after a date is chosen so be on the look out!



November 2020

Deacons of the Month: Steve & Beth Foxen

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Daylight Savings Time ends 9:00am Sunday School - PreK-12th grade -Online lessons 10:15am Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching via live stream	2 4:15pm CE via Zoom	3 7:00pm Adult Faith Formation via Zoom	4 10:00am Church Chat via Zoom 6:30pm Confirmation	5 7:00pm Worship Com. via Zoom	6	7
8 9:00am Sunday School - PreK-12th grade -Online lessons 10:15am Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching via live stream	9	10 7:00pm Adult Faith Formation via Zoom	11 10:00am Church Chat via Zoom 6:30pm Confirmation	12 7:00pm Children of Abraham (online)	13	14 9:30am Session
15 9:00am Sunday School - PreK-12th grade -Online lessons 10:15am Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching via live stream 11:30am-2:00pm Confirmation 11:45am Deacons via Zoom	16	17 7:00pm Buildings/Grounds 7:00pm Adult Faith Formation via Zoom	18 10:00am Church Chat via Zoom 6:30pm Confirmation	19 3:45pm Mission	20	21
22 9:00am Sunday School - PreK-12th grade -Online lessons 10:15am Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching via live stream	23	24 Pastor out of the office	25 7:00pm 38th Annual DACU Thanksgiving VIRTUAL worship	26 Thanksgiving Day	27	28
29 1st Sunday of Advent 9:00am Sunday School - PreK-12th grade -Online lessons 10:15am Worship: Rev. Timothy Slemmons, preaching via live stream	30	1 DECEMBER	2	3	4	5

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 gifts. Please speak to the committee chair listed below to join.

- Buildings & Grounds* – Tom Boelk
- Christian Education* – Linda Longfield
- Congregational Life* – Terri Gronau
- Finance & Personnel* – John Dillman
- Memorial* – Sandy Spencer & Linda Longfield
- Mission & Stewardship* – Annalee Ward & Sandy Spencer
- Worship* – Kristen Eby & Bradley Longfield

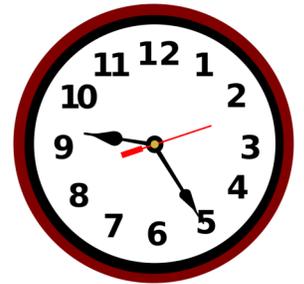


Electronic giving is available at FPC. There's information on how to set up online giving in the Coffee Hour room or you can contact church treasurer, Bob Monthey.

OFFICE HOURS

Due to the current COVID pandemic, **Pastor Stephanie's office hours at the church will be Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00am-1:00pm.** Pastor Stephanie requests you set up an appointment time if you would like to see her, even during office hours. Masks will be required to protect one another's health and well-being.

Pastor Stephanie can be reached at (cell) 507-227-8537 or fpcdbq.pastor@gmail.com. In case of emergency, please call her cell number. If she does not answer, leave a voice message, and she will get back to you as soon as possible.



Administrative Assistant, Ginger Vander Broek, works from home. Her hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:30-1:30pm. She can be reached through the church email: firstpresdbq@gmail.com

PREACHING SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER



- November 1 Rev. Stephanie Ells
- November 8 Rev. Stephanie Ells
- November 15 Rev. Stephanie Ells
- November 22 Rev. Stephanie Ells
- November 29 Rev. Timothy Slemmons

Join Us for the Weekly Church Chat!

During the pandemic, each Wednesday at 10:00am, Pastor Stephanie will host an online church chat to help us stay connected. Everyone is welcome to join the meeting for weekly fellowship. Be looking for the email with the Zoom information for that week.



Around FPC & in the Community

Report of the Congregational Meeting Oct. 25

From the Clerk Linda Longfield

Following worship on Sunday, Oct. 25, members met via Zoom for the annual fall congregational meeting to elect officers and at-large members of the 2021 Nominating Committee and to consider the 2021 Terms of Call for Rev. Stephanie Ells. Thirty-nine members and four Ministers of Word and Sacrament were able to join the meeting which was hosted by Rev. Ells and moderated by Rev. Bradley Longfield.

The moderator reminded members that this meeting was being held through distance technology due to the pandemic and in accordance with changes to the FPC Bylaws approved on May 3, 2020. Any actions taken during this meeting will need to be ratified by the congregation when we are next able to meet in person. Permission was given for voice (not vote) to the ministers who are active in our congregation, but whose membership is with a presbytery.

Elections: Linda Longfield presented the recommendations of the Nominating Committee: Franklin Yartey and Annette Boelk were elected to three-year terms as deacons and Bryan Blair and John Dillman were elected to three-year terms as ruling elders. At-large members to next year's Nominating Committee were Cherie Daniels, Terri Gronau, Alex Jack, and Jill Klinebriel. Two elders and one deacon will also serve on this committee.

Appreciation was given to Elders Annalee Ward and John Dillman and to Deacons Beth Foxen and Steve Foxen for their faithful service as officers and to the 2020 Nominating Committee for their fine work: Elders John Dillman & Linda Longfield (co-chairs), Deacon Beth Foxen, at-large members Terri Gronau, Ethan Blair, Cherie Daniels, and Roger Ebertz, and ex-officio Rev. Ells.

Terms of Call: After the elections, Rev. Ells excused herself from the meeting and Personnel Committee chair, John Dillman, presented the Session recommendation of the 2021 Terms of Call for Rev. Ells. After discussion, the Terms of Call were approved.

Gratitude was given to all those who attended the virtual congregational meeting. It was wonderful to see each other again. The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Rev. Longfield.



Children of Abraham

CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM will meet again on Thursday, November 12 at 7:00pm discussing: **How faith stumbles: When our religious traditions get it wrong.**

Join the conversation using your choice of either Zoom or Facebook. To connect with Zoom, email either John (john.eby@loras.edu) or Alan (agarfield@dbq.edu) to get the link. You can also view by visiting our Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/cofabraham>.

Wondering what to cook for dinner? How about some Chinese food!

The Westminster Presbyterian Church hosts a Mandarin-speaking church. It is the only Mandarin-speaking church in the tri-state area, founded in 2015. Each week, Pastor Wu and his wife, Tina, provide sermon videos, devotional articles, and call ministry members to check in and pray. The ministry has a delicious weekly food fundraiser making traditional Chinese food items! If you would like to receive the email to order food, email Pastor Wu at wumoses@hotmail.com to inquire. Pastor Stephanie can attest to the tastiness of the home-made meals!



38th Annual Dubuque Area Interfaith VIRTUAL Thanksgiving Service

On Wednesday, November 25th at 7:00pm, go to <http://www.dacuonline.org/> to access a pre-recorded service of thanksgiving, reflections, and music from our DACU member congregations - including First Presbyterian!

Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

Since we will not be gathering for face-to-face worship in November, and therefore cannot bring donations to the church, we will plan to collect items from your porch for the Dubuque Food Pantry (Food for the First) and the Victim Services Shelter (Supplies for the Second). Watch your email for details.

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:

Stuffing mixes and canned vegetables for the holidays, but all non-perishables are welcome, as well as, diapers (size 3-5) and baby wipes.



Victim Services Shelter:

Tooth brushes, disinfecting wipes, as well as, pajamas of all sizes, twin and full sheets, adult slippers, and laundry detergent



Thank you for supporting these ministries.

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