

## IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

**CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TODAY** *following worship* to vote on the Nominating Committee's recommendation for Mark Ward to serve as an elder for the remainder of 2021 in order that he can assume the role of Clerk and continue as Clerk into 2022. This fills roles being vacated by Linda Longfield effective October 31, 2021. Thank you to Linda for her dedicated service.

**TODAY IS RALLY DAY!** This morning marked the beginning of Sunday School classes that continue through May. Sunday School will look a little different this fall. Starting at 9:00am, youth age 5 and up will meet in the basement Fellowship Hall and adults will meet in the Coffee Hour Room—ALL discussing the sermon passage. During this time, children under 5 are invited to the nursery. The Christian Education Committee is looking forward to all ages learning about the same Scripture passage that will also be the focus of the worship service!

Please join us at 9:00am as we begin another year learning about the saving love of Jesus Christ.

**RALLY DAY TRADITION:** Today the congregation presents Bibles to third graders Mackenzie Daniels and Michael Holdener. The Bible is the centerpiece of our Sunday School program, and we delight in providing God's Word to the children God has entrusted to our care.

**BYOF (BRING YOUR OWN FOOD) CELEBRATION PICNIC** at Fuhrman Pavilion in Louis Murphy Park **TODAY AT NOON.** Join us to celebrate Pastor Stephanie's installation and our church family. Dessert and beverages will be provided. The pavilion has indoor and outdoor seating, and is close to restrooms and a playground. See you there rain or shine!

**CAFÉ MINISTRY IS SEPTEMBER 30TH.** We are once again called on to supply a variety of food items including hot dogs, milk, chips, and desserts, as well as, volunteers. Many items are still needed. See the sign up sheet in the narthex or [email](#) the church office.

**WELCOME TO OUR NEW NURSERY CAREGIVER, LISA REED.** Lisa, a student at Loras, joins Florence Siefker in providing love and care to God's littlest ones in our congregation. Please welcome Lisa to our church family.

**PASTOR ON VACATION**—Pastor Stephanie will be on vacation from Sept. 22—27. For **pastoral emergencies while the pastor is away**, please contact the Rev. Marsha Wilfong at 563-583-6571.

**PRAYER REQUESTS**—Send joys and concerns to Pastor Stephanie at [fpcdbq.pastor@gmail.com](mailto:fpcdbq.pastor@gmail.com).

**FPC IS OPERATING IN STAGE 4** of our COVID-19 Response plan. This requires **all persons attending worship in person, vaccinated or unvaccinated, to wear masks and maintain appropriate social-distances while in the church.** You can find the COVID-19 Response Plan on our website at <http://www.firstpresdbq.org/>.

## WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Grace and peace to each of you in the name of Jesus Christ. We welcome you to this worship service. If you are a guest, please fill out a visitor's card in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. We would love to greet you by name. We invite you to join us every Sunday morning for Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. during the school year, and worship at 10:15 a.m.

## THE WEEK IN BRIEF (events at FPC unless noted)

<b>Sun., September 19</b> <i>Rally Day</i>	9:00am	Sunday School
	10:15am	Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching Commissioning of Teachers Bible Presentation
	11:15am	Called Congregational Meeting
	12:00pm	BYOF Celebration Picnic @ Murphy Park, Fuhrman Pavilion
<b>September 22-27</b>		Pastor on vacation
<b>Sun., September 26</b>	9:00am	Sunday School
	10:15am	Worship: Rev. Marsha Wilfong, preaching
	1:30pm	Bethany Home worship: Tom Jack & Leon Thompson

## GIVING

To support the mission and ministry of our church, we need \$13,300 per month. Offerings received through September 12th totaled \$4,353.

- Offerings Year to Date (YTD) through August 31 - \$92,664.
- Expenses (YTD) through August 31 - \$95,469

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

**Deacon for the month of September:** Hannah Eby

**Pastor Stephanie's regular office hours** are 9:00am-1:00pm Monday and Wednesday or contact her with any prayer requests or pastoral care needs at 507-227-8537 or [fpcdbq.pastor@gmail.com](mailto:fpcdbq.pastor@gmail.com)

**Admin Office Hours** for Ginger Vander Broek are Monday (home), Wednesday (home) and Thursday (at FPC) from 9:00am-1:00pm

1684 Iowa St., Dubuque, IA 52001  
(563) 582-4494 [firstpresdbq@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresdbq@gmail.com)



[www.firstpresdbq.org](http://www.firstpresdbq.org)

# RALLY DAY

SEPTEMBER 19, 2021—17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE “Take My Life” arr. Bertje

FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION:  
*Speak to us, Lord. Remind us again of your everlasting power. May we know your story and our place within it. May we remember your mighty works and deeds, that we might know that you are the God of all ages. May we claim your promise and share your love. We are listening, Lord; speak to us today.*

CALL TO WORSHIP  
Happy are those who follow the ways of the Lord.  
**God’s ways are just and merciful.**  
Those who follow God’s ways are continually nourished in faith.  
**In all that they do, they prosper.**  
Come, let us open our hearts to God’s compassionate love.  
**Let us celebrate God’s mercy and justice. Amen.**

## OPENING PRAYER

\*SONG OF PRAISE “Speak O Lord” Getty  
Speak, O Lord, as we come to You,  
To receive the food of Your Holy Word.  
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;  
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,  
That the light of Christ might be seen today  
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.  
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us, all Your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience, holy reverence, true humility;  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes in the radiance of Your purity.  
Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see  
Your majestic love and authority.  
Words of pow'r that can never fail,  
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;  
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us,  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time  
That will echo down through eternity.  
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises,  
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.  
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built  
And the earth is filled with Your glory.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION  
God of the first and the last, we confess that rather than be like children, totally dependent on you, we lean on our own understanding. We spend our time considering who is most important and trying to gain importance for ourselves. We want you to know how hard we work. We want to be praised and recognized for our efforts and successes and yet, we want you to pass over our fail-

ures as though they were inconsequential. Forgive us, gracious Lord. Help us to reach out to others, not with thought of importance or gain, but in love and compassion truly caring for each one we meet. May the mind of Christ our Savior dwell in us richly. We pray in his name.

SILENT CONFESSION  
*(Here let each worshiper offer silent, personal prayers of confession.)*

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS  
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven,  
**and freed to try again.**

\*GLORIA PATRI #734

CHORAL ANTHEM “We Sing Glory to God!” Drennan/Williams

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES for Mackenzie Daniels, Michael Holdener

CONGREGATIONAL PROMISE:  
As your church family, we promise to read the Bible with you, and to grow with you in faith and knowledge.

SONG OF RESPONSE Psalm 119:105  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 9:30-37 p. 1569

SERMON “Asking the Questions: What do you mean?”

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE #437 “Jesus Loves Me” (vv. 1,2) Jesus Loves Me

COMMISSIONING OF FAITH FORMATION TEACHERS  
Preschool to 8th grade Sunday School Sara Blair, Thomas Blair, & Joe Klinebriel  
Adult Sunday School Mark Stant, Lindsey Ward

ONE: God calls ordinary people from ordinary places who through God’s grace are enabled to do extraordinary work. God called Abraham and Sarah to pack their belongings and follow God to a new land.

**ALL: So Abraham and Sarah packed up and followed God.**  
God called Mary to bear his Son, and to name the child “Jesus,” because he would save God’s people from their sins.  
**And Mary said to the Lord “Let it be done to me according to Your Word.”**  
God called Peter, James, and John away from their families, their homes, and their work as fishermen.

**And they dropped their nets and followed Jesus.**  
We come together to set apart these teachers for the special work to which Christ himself calls them. People of God, these new workers will need your support. What will you now say to encourage them?  
**We acknowledge the call of Christ in your life, and affirm your gifts for this calling.**

ONE: *(to the teachers)* God has called you to be educators. Being a teacher requires energy, patience, commitment, hard work, and a heart for God’s work and God’s people. Do you sense the call of Christ to this task?

**TEACHERS: I do.**  
Will you strive, in reliance upon Christ, to seek wisdom and to communicate it to your students as God gives you grace?

**TEACHERS: I will.**  
Will you faithfully devote yourself to teaching the truth of the Word of God and showing it to your students by your example?

**TEACHERS: I will.**  
  
ONE: *(to the congregation)* As a community of faith, will you encourage, pray for, support, and honor these teachers, as they seek to lead others to a deepening knowledge of God?

**ALL: We will.**  
  
PRAYER OF BLESSING  
HYMN OF DEDICATION #464 “May the Mind of Christ My Savior” (vv. 1,2) St. Leonards

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER  
*(Back cover of hymnal)*

THE OFFERING  
OFFERTORY “How Can I Keep From Singing” arr. Lowry  
\*DOXOLOGY #34  
\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*SENDING HYMN #719 “Go, My Children, with My Blessing” (vv. 1,3,4) Ar Hyd Y Nos

\*BENEDICTION

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

\*POSTLUDE “Ye Servants of God” arr. Wagner  
*\*Those who are able, please stand.*

*\*\*Join us at Murphy Park after worship for a BYOF Celebration Picnic*

## LEADERS IN WORSHIP:

Preacher: Rev. Stephanie Ells  
Liturgist: Joe Klinebriel  
Music Director & pianist: Kristen Eby  
Special Music Director: Jill Klinebriel  
Special Music: FPC Choir  
Musicians: John Eby & Kristen Eby, Jill Klinebriel

## WELCOMING YOU TO WORSHIP:

Franklin Yartey, greeter  
*For fellowship,*  
*bring a picnic and join us at Murphy Park after worship*  
Lisa Reed & Florence Siefker, nursery attendants