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First Press

First Presbyterian Church

September 2019



Rally Day At FPC!

**Sunday School classes
for all ages resume
@ 9:00am on
September 8th.**

Come join us as we study God's Word.

Schedule:

- 9:00 – Intergenerational Opening exercises
- 9:10 – Sunday School classes for all ages
- 10:15 – Worship—Rev. Marsha Wilfong, preaching
Commissioning of Teachers
- 11:15 – Bodacious Snacks—Everyone is invited!



*"Thy Word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path."
(Ps. 119:105)*

CROPWALK 2019

The annual **Dubuque area CROP Walk** will be held on **Sunday, Oct. 6** starting at 12:30pm from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. The money raised from the walk is used to feed hungry people in Dubuque and around the world. Last year 16 FPC walkers raised over \$1000. ***This year, Jean Holdener is the FPC coordinator. Talk to Jean if you are interested in walking or want to support a walker. Thanks, Jean!***



The FPC choir is back.

We are blessed with tremendous music leadership and need your voice to contribute to joyful worship!

***Please join the choir for our
first rehearsal, this Wednesday,
September 4th at 6:30pm.***

Our choir director, Jill Klinebriel, makes it a fun evening practicing songs to enhance our worship.

If you need a ride, please call the church office 582-4494.

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE TO THE LORD!



Mission

News from the Mission and Stewardship Committee

On August 4 the Rev. Andy Smothers visited our worship service and gave a Minute for Mission. Andy is from Monticello, IA; he attended First Presbyterian while he was a student at UDS. He is now an ordained minister of the Reformed Church in America and serves the English speaking congregation of the National Evangelical Church in the Kingdom of Bahrain, a predominantly Muslim country in the Middle East near Saudi Arabia. Andy said that the government is open to the church's Christian activities in the community, although they are strictly prescribed.

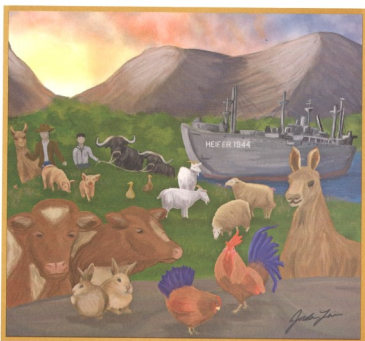
Andy can be contacted at AndyInBahrain@iCloud.com; his blog is andyinbahrain.tumblr.com; and support for Andy can be sent to the denomination's website www.rca.org/give/andrew-smothers-bahrain.



Thailand Missionary Newsletter Update



Our most recent correspondence from our missionaries in Thailand is titled "God is Mobilizing the Church." One missionary writes of a young adult group from the US that arrived about 3 years ago to model, teach, and train disciples. She asked to be a part of this group to learn new ways to spread God's love after struggling with the idea of how to reach more people. The most important question she learned to ask was "how can we apply God's Word in our lives this week?" This class opened doors for our missionary and other young adults. They were able to find courage to spread the Gospel in non-traditional ways. They appreciate our support and prayers as they continue to find new ways to spread the Good News of the Gospel!



HEIFER INTERNATIONAL GRATEFULLY RECOGNIZES
Dubuque First Presbyterian Church

For serving the Lord through faith efforts and exercising your gifts and donations to end hunger and poverty. This congregation has richly blessed families in need with gifts of livestock and agriculturally sound training to help families become self-reliant.

"He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward him for what he has done."
PROVERBS 19:17

Paul M. Farnham
Heifer President & CEO

Presented this
10th day of July, 2019

75 HEIFER
INTERNATIONAL

Café Ministry Update

Our church supplied the meal and workers for August 29 for Café Ministry at the United Church of Christ. This ministry began with 20 guests back in 1994 and now averages 130 meals a week, not counting the to-go meals and the leftovers going to area shelters. On November 17, 2019 they will be celebrating the 25th year of Café Ministry, and they've invited anyone who would like to join them for worship at 9:30am that Sunday morning.



Christian Education & Mission



Adult Sunday School for the Fall

Beginning Sept. 8, the Adult Sunday School will explore the importance of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus by looking at selected portions of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Paul's letters, Hebrews, I Peter, I John, and Revelation. Bradley Longfield will lead the class. You are invited and encouraged to join us as we seek to grow in grace and faith.

LOOKING AHEAD to a FALL BIBLE STUDY: "Prophecies of the Messiah"

Marsha Wilfong will be leading a 6-week Bible study at Bethany Home on Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m., October 16-Nov. 20. We will study six "prophecies of the Messiah" from the *Book of Isaiah*, alongside New Testament passages that quote or echo the Isaiah texts in relation to Jesus. We will explore both the significance of each prophecy in its Old Testament context, and what it reveals about Jesus and his mission. All are welcome!



Giving to mission throughout God's world can bring astounding results. Read this and give thanks for how God is at work in our midst:



From Theresa Caldwell of the Dubuque Food Pantry:

Dear First Pres Church,

Thanks for your donations to stock the shelves at the Dubuque Food Pantry. We appreciate all our partners who help us fulfill this ministry. The need in our area is consistently great and it is such a blessing to have your support.

Blessings to you all!
Theresa Caldwell

From Julie Heiderscheit of Hillcrest Family Services

Dear Friends,

Hillcrest is beyond thankful for your outstanding support of our agency. Especially when someone's life has

been impacted by your generous gift.

We are constantly looking for ways to innovate, improve client results and outcomes, and grow this incredible organization more each day. With that said, you and your generous support helps to make that possible.

Thank you for your support,
Julie Heiderscheit

From Rev. Dr. Laurie Kraus of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance:

Dear Friends,

Please know that your gift from your VBS collection blesses those who walk the hard road toward recovery, letting them know that they are not alone, helping them to find hope in the midst of chaos, and making real the promise of Pentecost—the tangible demonstration of the "mighty acts of God" in healing and restoration...in the language each one needs most to hear.

With gratitude and peace,
Rev. Dr. Laurie A. Kraus
Director, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Children of Abraham

Dubuque's *Children of Abraham* creates an atmosphere of civic life that builds inter-religious solidarity, cooperation, and friendship. *Children of Abraham* conversations are Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:30pm at various locations throughout Dubuque. The first conversation of the fall season is Sept. 19 in the Loras College Ballroom: "Heavenly Minded but Earthly Good." This is our yearly intro to the *Children of Abraham* conversations.

In the Life of FPC

Part-time Temporary Pastor for Administration and Pastoral Care

During this transition time, as the Pastor Nominating Committee continues to diligently seek the pastor God has intended for our congregation, we are faithfully functioning as God's Church. To that end, I have been given the opportunity to serve our congregation in the areas of administration and pastoral care.



If you have a prayer concern or requests for the "prayer chain" group, please let me know by email, phone call, or in person. If you would like me to pray with you or make a pastoral call at your home, at the coffee shop, or at the hospital, please let me know by email or phone call. I will be in the church office Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 9:00 to 12:00 or we can make an appointment if you'd just like to visit with me for another time or place. Please note that I am always available, day or night, at 605-354-3891. I am looking forward to serving you.

Pastor John Armstrong, Armstrongfpcdbq@gmail.com ..or.. john1rev@gmail.com

Transition News

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) continues to prayerfully discern whom God is calling as the next pastor at FPC. Several members have had to step down from the committee. Harold Daniels resigned due to health concerns and Carlie Boelk resigned because she is off to college. The congregation elected Sandy Spencer and Sam Morales to replace these two. The PNC thanks Harold and Carlie for their faithful service and valuable input and welcomes Sandy and Sam to the committee.

In other transition news, Linda Longfield stepped down as church administrator after 15+ months. The Session has hired Rev. John Armstrong to take over many of the administrative duties. Since January, John has served as the part-time pastor for pastoral care. Thanks to Linda and John for their dedication to our church family.



**Don't Forget
Food for the First
on September 1st**

Please place your donations in the basket in the Narthex. Your generous donations assist those in need in our neighborhood by supplying the Dubuque Food Pantry and help to make the lives of the hungry a little brighter. Thank you!



FPC will host its annual church picnic on:

September 15th from noon-3:00pm at Asbury Park.

**Meat, potato salad, chips, and water
will be provided. Please bring a dish to share.**

*Please sign up in the Coffee Hour room so we know
how much food to buy.*

Come and enjoy the food & fellowship!



FPC WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

August	2018	2019
1 st	93	98
2 nd	42	70
3 rd	55	43
4 th	68	56
5 th	n/a	n/a

September 2019

Deacons of the Month: Steve & Beth Foxen

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Food for the 1st 10:15am Worship: Rev. Dan Emmert, preaching Sacrament of Holy Communion 11:30am Deacons	2 Labor Day	3 11:30am Young at Heart @ Village Inn	4 6:30pm Choir	5	6 1:30pm Manor Care: Tom Jack	7 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Sunshine 8:30am Congl. Life
8 Rally Day! Supplies for the 2nd 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. Marsha Wilfong, preaching Teacher Commissioning 11:15am BODACIOUS Coffee Hour	9	10	11	12	13	14 9:30am Session
15 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. Marsha Wilfong, preaching 12:00pm Church Picnic @ Asbury Park	16	17	18 6:30pm Choir	19 7:00pm Children of Abraham @ Loras Ballroom	20	21 9:00am Session minutes reviewed
22 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. Timothy Slemmons, preaching 1:30pm Bethany Home: Tom Jack & Jill Klinebriel	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. Beth McCaw, preaching	30	1 October 11:30am Young at Heart @ Village Inn	2 6:30pm Choir	3	4 1:30pm Manor Care: Tom Jack	5 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Sunshine

Birthdays & Anniversaries: September

- 2 Samson Klinebriel
- 7 Elise Henry
- 8 John Eby
- 9 David & Christine McClain
- 14 Beth McCaw
- 16 Naomi Brehm
- 17 Ariana Herbst
- 19 Alex Jack
- 20 John & Tammy Wehrspann
- 23 Annalee Ward
Richard Biechler
- 24 Dave & Terri Gronau
- 28 Bill Spoerl

To Keep in Your Prayers...

As they continue their studies, or begin college anew, please keep these students in your prayers. Please also remember staff members, teachers, and all of our other students during the new school year.

We ask God to be with them and their families:

Carlie Boelk	<i>Iowa State University</i>
Cooper Boelk	<i>University of Dubuque</i>
Elias Brehm	<i>US Military Academy West Point</i>
Jonah Brehm	<i>Iowa State University</i>
Tatum Hallstoos	<i>Columbia University</i>
Lupe Morales	<i>US National Guard</i>

OFFICE HOURS

Admin Assistant:

Monday, Wednesday, & Thursday:
9:00-1:00pm

Rev. John Armstrong:

(Part-time Temporary Pastor
for administration and pastoral care)

Wednesday & Thursday:
9:00am-12:00pm
or by appointment



Your Church Family Needs You!

All areas of ministry at FPC could use your help.

Please volunteer for
one of the following committees:

<i>Buildings & Grounds</i>	– Tom Boelk & Alex Jack
<i>Christian Education</i>	– Linda Longfield
<i>Congregational Life</i>	– Terri Gronau
<i>Finance & Personnel</i>	– John Dillman
<i>Memorial</i>	– Sandy Spencer & Linda Longfield
<i>Mission & Stewardship</i>	– Annalee Ward & Sandy Spencer
<i>Worship</i>	– Kristen Eby & Bradley Longfield

PREACHING SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER

September 1	Rev. Daniel Emmert
September 8	Rev. Marsha Wilfong
September 15	Rev. Marsha Wilfong
September 22	Rev. Tim Slemmons
September 29	Rev. Beth McCaw



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.

Mission

Mission Trip to Worthington—Carlie's Final Report

The High School mission team of Ethan, Thomas, Bryan, and Sara Blair; Carlie and Annette Boelk; Jonah Brehm, Aidan Lukes, and Sam and Lupe Morales went on a mission trip to Worthington, MN the week of July 7th. Together they joined around 350 other campers to serve God throughout the community by painting houses, building porches and wheelchair ramps, and so much more. Everyone on the trip was split into about 60 different crews to complete their tasks for the week. Many friendships and memories were made while serving God on the trip.

Relentless



Food for the First September



The Dubuque Food Pantry needs your help. All non-perishables are welcome especially macaroni & cheese, tuna and other canned meat, soup, peanut butter & jelly, cereal, rice, pasta, boxed potatoes, #3 baby food, diapers (size 3-5), and baby wipes.

Please place your donations to Food for the First in the basket in the Narthex. Deb and Mark Stant will deliver them. Your generous donations assist those in need in our neighborhood and help to make their lives a little brighter.

Thank You!
Mission Committee

"Supplies for the Second"

While serving at the Domestic Violence Center we learned how we can help by providing supplies that are always needed: toilet paper, paper towels, boxes of tissues, toilet bowl cleaner, cleaning products like Windex, laundry detergent, diapers.

This month's major needs are toilet paper, paper towels, and tissues.



Please bring your "Supplies for the Second" to the church and place them in the basket in the narthex the second Sunday of each month. Terri Gronau delivers them to the collection site.