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First Press

First Presbyterian Church

September 2021



Rally Day at FPC! - September 19

Sunday School will look a little different this Fall! Youth age 5 and up will meet in the basement for Sunday School. Younger age kids are invited to attend the nursery at this time. Adults will meet in the Coffee Hour Room for discussion of the sermon passage. The Christian Education Committee is looking forward to all ages learning about the same Scripture passage that will also be the focus of the wor-

ship service!

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



Growing in the Word

At the start of every Sunday School year, the Christian Education Committee, on behalf of the congregation, presents a Bible to each of our third graders. Reading of the Bible is central to our Sunday School

program. This gift is given in response to our baptismal vow to help God's precious children know about God's love for them through the reading of His Holy Word. We plan to present these Bibles on Sept. 19 during worship as part of Rally Day Sunday. Hope you can be participate.

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



BYOP Celebration

Plans are underway for a Bring-Your-Own-Picnic lunch after church to celebrate Pastor Stephanie's Installation that happened back in January. We will also celebrate the joy of the other milestones we reached over the last 18 months when we could not gather for a party. Stay tuned for more details about the location and start making plans about what you will pack in your picnic!

Christian Education

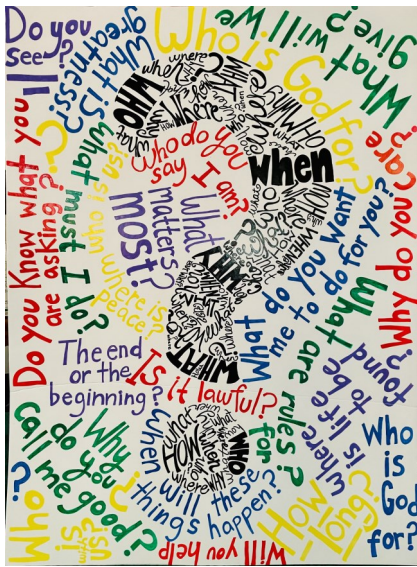
FPC - Nursery News

The FPC nursery will reopen on September 5, 2021 for the worship hour. The toys, furniture, walls, and carpets have been thoroughly cleaned and the nursery care providers are excited to welcome your child/children, ages infant through age 5.

The care providers will wear masks and will work hard to maintain a clean and safe environment for your child to enjoy. See you soon!



Worship



Current Sermon Series! Asking the Questions.

On August 29, we began a new lectionary-based sermon series entitled: **Asking the Questions**. Over the next several months we will be focusing on the Gospel of Mark, which is packed full of the questions people have about the Kingdom of God. We have questions about God too, and it is healthy to ask them! Together we will consider questions like: How are we to be different? How much should we give? What is cleanliness? *and many more!*

Choir Returns!

With the appearance of the Delta variant and the continued "question marks" regarding mask mandates and safety, Pastor Steph and I have decided the safest way to proceed with choir plans for this fall is to have the choir meet for rehearsal and sing once a month. I will ask that we distance safely from each other when singing and please feel free to wear a mask.

Our first date back will be Wednesday, September 15 at 6:30pm for rehearsal to sing in worship on September 19. More dates and times to come!

Thank you so much! I look forward to making music with you again!

Stay safe, Jill



Mission



Central Avenue's Heritage Trail "the way it used to be"

In July the Downtown Neighborhood Association invited those of us who live and worship in the Jackson Park area to give our input in Dubuque's on-going discussion concerning a potential purchase of land along the Heritage Trail at the former Flexsteel Industries site off of Peru Rd. You may ask, "Why would the congregation of FPC be interested in city property so far north of the church?" Good question, and here is an equally good answer.

FPC is located on land originally considered historically significant. It is near the place where the waters flowed off the bluffs along "17th St." made their way to join the Mississippi River. The Dakota people called this place of confluence "bdote" (be-doh-tay). Our modern culture often puts concrete roads and railroad tracks over these natural waterways forcing us to depend on a train or a car for our transport to the waters. We, in the city of Dubuque, are experiencing the modern version of "returning to the way things used to be." Not only is water coming off the bluffs now more accessible to the river, but the city has decided accessibility for humans going to the river is an important priority. Central Avenue is no longer designated "US Highway 52" (a major truck route) and is projected to be a two-way street (implying "biker friendly") by the time of our church's 175th anniversary.

What does this accessibility to the river mean for the church and for the Jackson Park neighborhood? Heritage Trail is a biking/walking trail running on a former railroad bed which connects the cities of Dubuque and Dyersville. It allows those who live in either city to have more accessibility to the wetland and wildlife habitat along the way. The projected changes on Central Ave. mean that we could soon go from Jackson Park in Dubuque to the Field of Dreams in Dyersville and back without depending on an automobile for any part of our journey. Now that is truly "the way it used to be!"



Café Ministry on September 30th

Get involved in Café Ministry with First Congregational Church on Sept. 30th by volunteering or donating items. We are closer to getting back to normal! Be on the lookout for sign ups. We will need: 200 hot dogs, 4 gallons of milk, 8 large bags of chips, 16 dozen cookies or bars, and 5 volunteers available between 4:45pm and 6:00pm. You can sign up at church on Sundays or by emailing the church office at firstpresdbq@gmail.com.

Dubuque Area CROP Hunger Walk

CROP Walk Day was a success! Lovely weather and fellowship. Thank you to all who donated, walked, and volunteered. A special thank you to the Americana Band for setting the musical spirit for the day! The CROP Committee announces that so far over \$10,000 has been collected. FPC collected \$350 in donations and it's still not too late to donate! Just follow the link: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/event/dubuqueia>

Thank you to Tammy Wehrspann who served as FPC coordinator once again!



In the Life of FPC

A Special Thank You to our Dynamic Music Duo

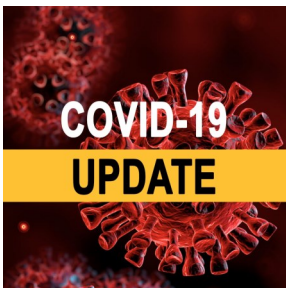


Our church is blessed with incredible musical talent. This note is a special thank you to Kristen Eby and Jill Klinebriel for sharing their phenomenal gifts of music with our church family every week. They have gone above and beyond the call of duty during the pandemic to provide our worship with such beautiful music in praise of God. From selecting music, to inviting special musicians, to singing and playing piano, our amazing duo, have inspired us to worship God in spirit and in truth.

Thank you, Kristen and Jill!

Worship the Lord
with gladness;
come before him
with joyful songs.
Psalms 100:2

A reminder we continue to operate in Sage 4 of our COVID-19 Response plan, which requires **all persons attending worship in person, vaccinated or unvaccinated, to wear masks and maintain appropriate social-distances while in the church.**



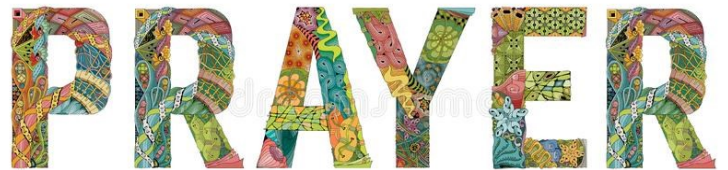
You can find the COVID-19 Response Plan on our website at <http://www.firstpresdbq.org/>.

To Keep in Your Prayers...

As they continue their studies, begin college anew, or venture into the work world, please keep these young adults in your prayers. 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:

Ethan Blair	<i>St. Ambrose College</i>
Carlie Boelk	<i>Iowa State University</i>
Elias Brehm	<i>US Military Academy West Point</i>
Jonah Brehm	<i>Iowa State University</i>
Matt Gunn	<i>Methodist University</i>
Eva McCaw	<i>Calvin College</i>
Lupe Morales	<i>US National Guard</i>
Sam Morales	<i>US National Guard training</i>



Courtney Schnoor would like to thank everyone who reached out with well-wishes and cards that she received for her graduation. Courtney, our former nursery care-giver is now teaching elementary school in Texas.



September 2021

Deacons of the Month:
Annette Boelk & Hannah Eby

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 10:15am Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells preaching Via live stream & in-person	30	31	1 SEPTEMBER	2	3	4 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Papa Ozz 10:00am Session
5 10:15am Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells preaching Via live stream & in-person 11:30am Deacons	6	7 11:30am Young at Heart @ Village Inn	8	9	10 5:00-8:00pm Girl Scouts	11
12 10:15am Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells preaching Via live stream & in-person 11:30am Mission Com.	13	14 4:15pm CE (Zoom)	15 6:30pm Choir	16	17	18
19 Rally Day 10:15am Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells preaching Via live stream & in-person - Teacher commissioning - Bible presentation 11:30am BYOP details soon!	20	21	22	23	24 5:00-8:00pm Girl Scouts	25
26 10:15am Worship: Rev. Marsha Wilfong preaching Via live stream & in-person 1:30pm Bethany Home worship: Tom Jack & Leon Thompson	27	28	29	30 4:45pm-7:00pm Café Ministry @ 1st Congl.	1 OCTOBER	2 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Papa Ozz

Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

Birthdays & Anniversaries: September

- 2 Samson Klinebriel
- 7 Elise Henry
- 8 John Eby
- 9 David & Chrissi 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

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 9:30-1:30pm** and at FPC **Thursdays from 9:00-1:00pm**. You can contact her at firstpresdbq@gmail.com



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:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <i>Buildings & Grounds</i> | – Tom Boelk & John Dillman |
| <i>Christian Education</i> | – Linda Longfield |
| <i>Congregational Life</i> | – Jamie Dillman |
| <i>Finance & Personnel</i> | – John Dillman |
| <i>Memorial</i> | – Sandy Spencer &
Linda Longfield |
| <i>Mission &
Stewardship</i> | – Sandy Spencer |
| <i>Worship</i> | – Bryan Blair & Kristen Eby |

PREACHING SCHEDULE



SEPTEMBER

- | | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| September 5 | Rev. Stephanie Ells |
| September 12 | Rev. Stephanie Ells |
| September 19 | Rev. Stephanie Ells |
| September 26 | Rev. Marsha Wilfong |

FPC Budget Update

July

Monthly offering: \$11,399
Budgeted need: \$13,300

Year-to-Date

Income: \$82,558
Expenses: \$84,956



**Thanks
for Your
Support!**



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

Around the Community

Theme for 2021

Promoting Racial Justice: Dismantling Systemic Racism

The deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and so many others prompted an urgent wake-up call to dignity and equality for all people. The Black Lives Matter movement and systemic racism caused many of us to search for ways to move forward through the discomfort of authentic self-reckoning.



Join us for an evening with this year's keynote speaker Olga Marina Segura, the opinion and culture editor at the National Catholic Reporter and the author of *Birth of a Movement: Black Lives Matter and the Catholic Church*. Her writing has appeared in publications like The Guardian, Revealer, Sojourners, Refinery29, and ZORA Magazine. Her topic: "Faith Communities and Liberation."

Loras College, Alumni Campus Center
Tuesday, September 21, 2021, 7:00 PM - FREE

You're Invited!

Day of Peace Festival

Keynote

September 21

The United Nations International Day of Peace is recognized around the world every September 21st and Dubuque's Day of Peace Festival each year spans the two week period surrounding that date.

Contact Hannah Eby
(hannah.eby@loras.edu)
with questions.

2021-2022 Children of Abraham

Sept. 23: Sukkot at Temple Beth El; Topic: Hope. Build Sukkah 6-6:30; Service 6:30-6:45pm. Conversation 7-8:15pm. Followed by desserts.

Oct. 21: Emmaus Bible College; Topic: Medicine & Healing.

Nov. 18: Loras College; Topic: Interfaith.

Jan. 20: Clarke University; Topic: Family & Kinship.

Feb. 17: St. Luke's Methodist Church; Topic: Marriage.

Mar. 17: Tri-State Islamic Center; Topic: Money & Interest.

April 21: Wartburg Seminary; Topic: Being Human.

It's the 11th year of conversation. Join in person or watch on Facebook.

For more information, visit our website:
www.cofabraham.org.

You can also contact John Eby (john.eby@loras.edu) or Alan Garfield (agarfield@dbq.edu).

Dubuque Rescue Mission Update

We continue to provide a "to-go" meal at our breakfast, lunch and dinner operations. The two Thrift Stores continue to provide free clothing to those in need and other household items to those with low to no incomes. We are always in need of good, lightly used furniture and household items. Please encourage your congregations to shop at either of our Mission Thrift Stores for some wonderful deals. Our garden and green house is in full swing. The produce is being used in our free meal ministry now.

Our new "Kindness Café" food truck is up and running. You can learn more about it on our Facebook page! Once again, we appreciate your prayers, volunteer support and financial support.



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 potatoes any kind, sugar, mac & cheese, tuna, oil, laundry soap, dish soap, and garden produce.



Victim Services Shelter:

Toilet paper, paper towels, tissues, and disinfecting wipes and/or sprays



Thank you for supporting these ministries.