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First Press

First Presbyterian Church

October 2019

Rev. Isaac Mukendi to Visit FPC on World Communion Sunday

The Rev. Isaac Kalonji Mukendi, General Secretary of the Presbyterian Community of Kinshasa (CPK) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, will bring greetings from his church and assist in worship on October 6, World Communion Sunday. He will also be speaking at Westminster Presbyterian Church that evening at a supper at 5:00.

Married and the father of seven children, the Rev. Mukendi is also a high school English teacher. Under Rev. Mukendi's leadership, the church has purchased medical equipment and drugs for health centers supported by CPK, obtained tanks to store water, including one for a women's health center, helped to build schools, planted churches, and built structures as places of worship.

Please join us in worship as we celebrate God's grace in Christ with Christians around the globe.



CROPWALK 2019: Ending Hunger One Step at a Time



The annual **Dubuque area CROP Walk**, sponsored by Dubuque Area Congregations United, will be held on **Sunday, October 6, 2019** gathering at 12:00pm for a free lunch for the walkers, 12:30pm for registration & team photos, and then departing from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church at 1:00pm. The money raised from the walk is used to feed hungry people in Dubuque and around the world. ***Thank you to Jean Holdener for serving as our FPC coordinator this year.*** Last year 15 FPC walkers raised over \$1000! To donate online go to: www.crophungerwalk.org/dubuqueia

Stewardship Sunday

October 27, 2019

God calls us to wise and responsible use of all God has entrusted to us – our time, talents, life, money, health, the earth, and relationships to the Gospel. In the weeks ahead, you will receive a letter asking you to consider how God is calling you to be a faithful Christian steward. In a time of thankfulness, on Sunday, October 27, we will dedicate the gifts of our talents, time, and money as we pledge our continued support of Christ's work at First Presbyterian Church.



Mission/Stewardship

Thailand Missionary Update

Our August newsletter from our Thailand missionaries is joyful. They recount the blessings in their lives as God breaks down barriers that seem beyond comprehension. They have made friends with a significant number of English-speaking young adults who are diversely talented, well-educated, and tech savvy in an area that is underdeveloped and relatively unknown. This group of people has offered great support to our missionaries.



Recently, a small group of people gathered together for a hike through the jungle to beautiful waterfalls. They spent the evening together and in the morning our missionary served an impressive American breakfast to her friends followed by fellowship and worship sharing scripture from the gospel of Mark.

Our missionaries shared the exciting news of their sabbatical coming in 2020. They hope to hear from us soon with a date that we can welcome them for a visit. And most importantly, they appreciate and thank us for our financial and prayerful support!

(Check out their current newsletter posted in the coffee room!)

CAFÉ MINISTRY UPDATE!

Whenever there are 5 Thursdays in a month, volunteers from First Pres help serve a delicious meal at First Congregational Church's Café Ministry. On August 29th, FPC folks served a summer record of 172 people. There were many families in addition to regulars. Nikki (of First Congl.) told us they've been reaching out to do more with, and for, kids. As a



result about 10 unsupervised children have started coming to church. Volunteers are working to teach them etiquette and hygiene in addition to basic skills. First Congregational is extremely grateful for our long partnership with them in serving this meal. **The next Café Ministry is October 31st.** Check out the sign-up in the Coffee Hour room.



Prayer Needed

The Committee asks you to pray about our church's future efforts to be more involved in our neighborhood. We are seeking to be discerning and faithful. We are hoping to hear more from you and your hopes and dreams for our neighborhood. Meanwhile, we're gathering information on what kinds of neighborhood outreach currently exist.

Mandarin Ministry Update

Moses Wu is taking the primary lead on the Mandarin Speaking Ministry housed at Westminster Presbyterian Church while his wife, Tina Lee, returns to Seminary. They continue to meet regularly and host social events to build community and share the gospel.



Christian Education

SUNDAY SCHOOL IS OFF AND RUNNING!

Sunday School resumed on September 8. Following intergenerational Opening Exercises, students headed to class.

Classes

Opening Exercises
Nursery
Preschool— 1st grade
2nd—5th grade
Middle & High School
Adult

Teacher(s)

John Armstrong & Kristen Eby
Courtney Schnoor
Tracy Wildermuth
Sara Blair & Joe Klinebriel
Beth Foxen & Linda Longfield
Bradley Longfield, John Armstrong, &
Timothy Slemmons



In worship, Sunday School teachers were commissioned. Following worship, many enjoyed bodacious snacks provided by the Congregational Life committee. Special thanks to Terri Gronau, Deb Stant, Steve Foxen and Tracy Wildermuth. What a terrific start to an exciting new Sunday School year!

FPC's Sunday School Christmas Play

Rehearsals will begin in November for the annual Christmas play to be presented in worship on December 15. If you are interested in participating, please let Linda Longfield know soon.



Join Us for Adult Sunday School!

The Adult Sunday School invites you to join our vibrant fellowship in October as we explore various biblical accounts of the **crucifixion and resurrection** of Jesus.

In November, we will be considering the central place of **grace and gratitude** in Christian discipleship.

In December, we will reflect on the major **themes of Advent: hope, love, joy, and peace.**

Please join us as we grow in grace.

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 pm, Oct. 16-Nov. 20.

The study will cover 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!

You're Invited!!

The Christian Education committee will meet on Oct. 8th, at 4:15 pm at Beth Foxen's home, 3475 Daniels St.

Please join us as
we prayerfully plan
to help our church
family to ...



In the Life of the Church

From the desk of Rev. John Armstrong, Part-Time Temporary Pastor of Administration & Pastoral Care



As I ponder the functions of pastoral care, I find that they are many and varied. With the help of God's Holy Spirit, I am available to anyone in our congregation who desires confidential assistance. The most obvious desire is for healing or comfort. Sometimes we need a little help to overcome a particular challenge or specific grief we are facing in order to return to a wholeness of life. Other times, we need help to endure challenges of recovery or to face life when recovery seems improbable. There are times when we need help making choices between certain courses of thought or action. Sometimes we might find ourselves needing to restore broken relationships, relationships between ourselves and another, or between ourselves and God. Sometimes help may include counseling from a Christian perspective. If you find yourself in need of, or desiring a little extra help, please let me know, I am always here to help with your needs.

Rev. John Armstrong Armstrongfpcdbq@gmail.com john1rev@gmail.com

Deferred Maintenance Projects Continue



The Session is overseeing various deferred maintenance projects on our sanctuary and manse. As you probably noticed, roofers have recently been at work to finish shingling the steeple. When this is completed, the sanctuary will have been completely reroofed.

You may have also noticed that the windows in the manse are being replaced. Along with this, we are replacing rotting siding on the back porch of the manse and replacing the cellar door to make the building more secure from rodents and the weather. Also, thanks to Steve Foxen and Alex Jack for installing a new hot water heater in the manse.

Other projects under consideration include repainting the inside of the manse and tuck-pointing outside portions of the sanctuary. If you would like to contribute to any of these projects, please speak with Treasurer Bob Monthey.



Hurricane Dorian

The Mission and Stewardship Committee, working on your behalf, has sent the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance group \$1000 to support recovery efforts of Hurricane Dorian in the Bahamas. PDA is working with partners in the Bahamas and other presbyteries in the path of Dorian coordinating an initial grant. They are also in conversations with other disaster organizations to identify the best time and means of travel to the Bahamas to implement a rapid, timely, and effective emergency response.



They have learned that cash donations are the most efficient form of assistance, enabling organizations to spend less time managing goods. It also allows for supplies to be purchased in markets close to the disaster site to help stimulate the local economy by boosting employment and generating needed cash flow.



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER
ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

October 2019

Deacons of the Month: Jamie Dillman & Hannah Eby

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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 6:30pm PNC	2 6:30pm Choir	3	4 1:30pm Manor Care: Tom Jack	5 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Sunshine
6 <i>Food for the 1st</i> 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. Bradley Longfield, preaching World Communion Sunday 11:30am Deacons 12:00pm CROP lunch @ Holy Trinity 12:30pm CROP Walk registration 1:00pm CROP Walk departs from Holy Trinity	7	8 4:15pm CE @ Beth Foxen's	9	10	11	12 8:30am Congl. Life 9:30am Session
13 <i>Supplies for the 2nd</i> 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. John Armstrong, preaching	14	15	16 6:30pm Choir	17 7:00pm Children of Abraham @ Temple Beth El	18	19
20 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. Timothy Slemmons, preaching	21	22	23	24 3:45pm Mission @ Wendt Center, UD	25	26
27 <i>Pledge Sunday</i> 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. Daniel Emmert, preaching 1:30pm Bethany Home: Tom Jack & Jill Klinebriel	28	29	30	31 5:00pm Café Ministry	1 November 1:30pm Manor Care: Tom Jack	2 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Sunshine

Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

Birthdays & Anniversaries: October

- 2 Tarry Prine
- 8 Kristen Eby
- 13 Cherie Daniels
- 14 Hannah Eby
Jill Klinebriel
- 16 Harold Daniels
Mark & Debbie Stant
- 17 Tom & Dedee Cosgrove
- 18 Leith Fujii
- 20 Anthony Alba
Brandon Prine
- 22 Ashley Mort
- 23 Bob Wildermuth
John Dillman
- 24 Caden Sutter
- 26 Lindsey Ward
- 29 Richard Sturman

OFFICE HOURS

**Part-Time Temporary Pastor
for Administration and Pastoral Care:**
Wednesday & Thursday 9:00-12:00pm
or by appointment

Admin. Asst. Hours:
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
9:00-1:00pm

PREACHING SCHEDULE

OCTOBER

- October 6 Rev. Bradley Longfield
- October 13 Rev. John Armstrong
- October 20 Rev. Tim Slemmons
- October 27 Rev. Daniel Emmert

Keeping Our Youth in our Prayers

Please keep our youth in your prayers as they work, study, or serve in the military:

- Carlie Boelk *Iowa State University*
- Cooper Boelk *University of Dubuque*
- Elias Brehm *West Point Military Academy*
- Jonah Brehm *Iowa State University*
- Tatum Hallstoos *Columbia University*
- Lupe Morales *Basic training for Ntl. Guard*
- Sam Morales *Seeking employment*

Your Church Family Needs You!



All areas of ministry at FPC could use your help.

Please volunteer for
one of the following committees:

- Buildings & Grounds* – Tom Boelk & Alex Jack
- 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

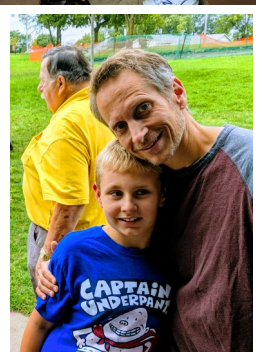


Electronic giving is available at FPC. There's information on how to set up online giving in the Coffee Hour room or you can contact church treasurer, Bob Monthey.

In the Life of the Church

FOOD, FUN & FELLOWSHIP!!!

Thank to the Congregational Life Committee for hosting another wonderful church picnic. About 45 people enjoyed laughter, delicious food, and fellowship. Special thanks to Terri and Dave Gronau, Steve Foxen, and Tracy Wildermuth for their hard work.



The Annual Congregational Meeting
to elect officers and members of the 2020
Nominating Committee will be held on
Oct. 27 immediately following worship.



Children of Abraham

A frank series of conversations on faith from personal perspectives.

Oct. 17 at 7:00pm: You Are What You Eat
Temple Beth El, 475 W Locust.

Topic: The symbolism of food (spiritually and socially).
Sukkot dinner starts at 6pm.

Sukkot commemorates the years that the Jews spent in the desert on their way to the Promised Land, and celebrates the way in which God protected them under difficult desert conditions. Sukkot is also known as the Feast of Tabernacles, or the Feast of Booths.



Food for the First October



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 tooth-brushes, disinfecting wipes & sprays.



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.

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