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First Press

First Presbyterian Church

June/July 2020



Rev. Stephanie Ells Elected as Pastor of FPC

On Sunday, May 31, the congregation unanimously elected Rev. Stephanie Ells as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Dubuque. She will begin her ministry on August 1, 2020.

Pastor Stephanie grew up in Nebraska in the Reformed Church of America and attended Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa, and Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. Ordained by the South Grand Rapids classis of the Reformed Church of America in 2006, she was received as a Presbyterian minister in 2012. She has served churches both large and small, urban and rural. Most recently, Rev. Ells has been working as a bi-lingual Child Forensic Interviewer. She has also been providing pul-

pit supply for churches in the Homestead Presbytery and pastoral care to the members of the church she attends.

Linda Longfield, church administrator, will be scheduling weekly small-group video conference meetings with Pastor Stephanie in June and July so members of the congregation will have the opportunity to get to know her. Please watch for your invitation.

We rejoice in the call of Rev. Ells and give thanks to God for the fruitful work of the Pastor Nominating Committee.

Thank You, PNC!

The congregation of First Presbyterian Church is immensely grateful for the faithful ministry of the Pastor Nominating Committee. This committee was elected by the congregation in August 2018. Since then, the committee spent countless hours reviewing pastor profiles, interviewing candidates, and seeking God's will through prayer and conversation.

Members of the committee included: Mark Ward, Jamie Dillman, Linda Longfield, Scott McCaw, Sam Morales, Lesley Sheridan, Sandy Spencer, Carlie Boelk, and Harold Daniels. We rejoice in the fruit of your labors with the call of Rev. Stephanie Ells and thank God for your generosity and witness.



In the Life of the Church

FPC & COVID-19

Our lives have changed dramatically as we have adopted ways to combat the spread of COVID-19. We are deeply grateful for all those who have provided leadership and service to and with the church in this unsettled time.



In order to maintain the safety of the congregation, the Session has extended online worship until June 28. The Deacons have instituted church chats every Wednesday at 10:00am on Zoom. Deacons and elders are routinely checking on our members. If you or someone you know is in need of assistance in this time, or you have questions about our life together, please contact Linda Longfield, Church Administrator, at fpcdbqlongfield@gmail.com.

Now and always we take comfort in the sure promise that nothing is “able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:39)

Online Worship: Behind the Scenes

We have been richly blessed by online worship and the wonderful worship ministry of Sara and Bryan Blair in the midst of the pandemic. The Blairs were not only instrumental in launching online worship, but work behind the scenes each week to enable us to join in joyful worship that glorifies God. Preparing power points, securing links, performing sound checks, and ensuring technical elegance all contribute to a seamless worship service. Thank you, Bryan and Sara, for your gracious ministry.



Advancing Our Ministry and Mission



Fulfilling our ministry requires a safe, functional, and beautiful sanctuary and manse. In recent months, the Session has overseen numerous deferred maintenance projects as we seek to advance our mission on the corner of 17th and Iowa. The front doors to the sanctuary, originally given to the church by the Sturman family, have been refinished. They are lovely!



Before



After

We will be tuckpointing part of the sanctuary and repairing the manse front porch this summer.

Many thanks to all of those who have made donations to support these essential improvements. If you would like to contribute, please speak with Treasurer Bob Monthey.

Pastors-on-Call in June & July

Clergy affiliated with the congregation will be available for pastoral emergencies during June. The pastors-on-call schedule is:

May 31-June 6 – Timothy Slemmons
June 7-13 – John Armstrong
June 14-20 – Bradley Longfield
June 22-27 – Beth McCaw

Weeks of June 28-July 19—TBD
July 26-August 1—Timothy Slemmons

Please contact Linda Longfield at fpcdbqLongfield@gmail.com if you would like to speak with the pastor-on-call.



In the Life of the Church

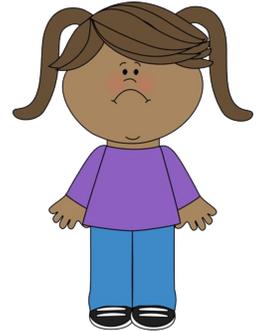


VBS Is Cancelled!

Since the safety and health of our children, volunteers, and families are of utmost importance, we have made the decision to cancel VBS for this summer. This was not an easy decision.

It is disappointing because we know how much you look forward to this special time, but we are confident this is the best decision for all who are part of VBS at FPC.

Next year, we pray that we will be able to welcome you back for another uplifting week of Vacation Bible School!



*"Be strong and courageous,
for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."*

Joshua 1:9

Your Church Family Needs You!



All areas of ministry at FPC could use your gifts. Please speak to the committee chair(s) 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

Congratulations to Our Graduates!

High School

Eva McCaw – Hempstead High School

College

Cooper Boelk – University of Dubuque



Join Us for the Weekly Church Chat!

During the pandemic, each Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., the deacons are hosting an online church chat to help our church family stay connected. Everyone is welcome to join the meeting for weekly fellowship.

Be looking for the email with the Zoom information for that week.



Mission News

CAFÉ MINISTRY - July 30 Is a Fifth Thursday!

That means it is our privilege to help with Café Ministry at First Congregational Church. Because of the pandemic, we will not be serving. However, we can help in two ways:

1. **Food donations** for the 200 sack meals they make up. They need:
 - * granola bars
 - * fruit: apples, bananas, oranges
 - * desserts: cookies/brownies - individually packaged by you or by them
2. **Monetary gift:** You may send a check to FPC marked for Cafe Ministry.

There will be more details about where to take donations closer to the date.

Thank you for supporting this important mission.
The Mission Committee



From the Dubuque Food Pantry:

First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for the food donation (53 lbs) that you so generously donated to the Dubuque Food Pantry. There are members of our community that are being hit hard by this COVID 19 pandemic.

It is through the concern of people like you that the DFP is able to respond to emergency food needs in our community.

God bless your generosity. Keep up the good work!

*Sincerely, Theresa Caldwell, mngr.
Dubuque Food Pantry*

From the YMCA/YWCA Victim Services Shelter :

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you so much for thinking of the women in our shelter. Your generosity keeps the light shining and hope growing.

All will be used for the goodness of all.

Theresa Thilson, Director

VICTIM SERVICES SHELTER TOP 5 NEEDS

- \$25 Grocery Store Gift Cards
- \$25 Gas Gift Cards
- Bedding Sets
(twin/full/queen sheets and comforters)
- Pillows
- Personal Hygiene Products (soap, shampoo, conditioner, brushes/combs for all ethnicities and hair textures)

First Congregational Church:

Dear First Presbyterian members,

On behalf of the Cafe Ministry at First Congregational UCC, I want to thank you for your donation of \$200.

I look forward to seeing your group every 5th Thursday when we can start welcoming our guests into the church's social hall and share a meal together.

Sarah Ortmann
Cafe Committee Chair



June Birthdays and Anniversaries



- 2 Chris & Jean Holdener
Terry & Kate Tietjen
- 3 Bradley Longfield
- 7 Clint Biekert
- 8 Tom Cosgrove
Bob & Tracy Wildermuth
- 14 Derrick & Lindsey Ward
- 17 Harvey Ward
August Ward
- 18 Louise Daniels
- 20 Tim McCaw
- 23 Mark Stant
- 24 Derrick Ward
- 26 Mark & Annalee Ward
- 27 Tom Jack
- 28 Jim Prine
- 30 Donna Meyer

July Birthdays and Anniversaries



- 3 Tony & Emily Herbst
- 4 Jamie Dillman
- 5 Zachary Alba
Jaclyn Biekert
Steve & Beth Foxen
- 6 Bryan & Sara Blair
- 7 Annette Boelk
- 8 Tom & Joanne Jack
- 11 Mark Ward
- 14 Roger Ebertz
Cooper Boelk
- 16 Joanne Jack
- 23 Breck Biechler
- 26 Terry Tietjen
- 29 Hunter Brehm
Karen Stant
- 30 Eva McCaw

OFFICE HOURS

During the pandemic, there will not be regular office hours.

Part-Time Church Administrator Linda Longfield can be reached at fpcdbqlongfield@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant Ginger Vander Broek works from home. Her hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00-1:00pm. She can be reached through the church email firstpresdbq@gmail.com



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.

PREACHING SCHEDULE

June

- June 7 Rev. Marsha Wilfong
- June 14 Rev. John Armstrong
- June 21 Rev. Marsha Wilfong
- June 28 Rev. Bradley Longfield

July

- July 5 Rev. Marsha Wilfong
- July 12 Rev. Dan Emmert
- July 19 Rev. Marsha Wilfong
- July 26 Rev. Timothy Slemmons

Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

Once again, due to the pandemic, the **Deacons will be collecting items** for the Dubuque Food Pantry (Food for the First) and the Domestic Violence Shelter (Supplies for the Second). This will occur on Wednesday, June 17, from 12:00-2:00pm.

If you have items at home you would like to donate, place them on your porch in a closed, plastic bag labeled to which ministry you want them to go by 12:00pm, Wednesday, June 17. We will send out the names and contact information of the deacons who are picking up items.

Items particularly needed include:

DBQ Food Pantry:

Any non-perishable food is need, but the following are always in high demand - peanut butter, canned meat or tuna, canned soup (the meal kind)



Victim Services Shelter:

Laundry soap, facial tissue, antibacterial wipes or hand cleanser, bathroom tissue, or paper towels



Thank you for supporting these ministries.

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