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First Press

First Presbyterian Church

April 2020



The Rev. Stephanie Ells Nominated as Pastor of FPC

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) is excited to nominate the Rev. Stephanie Ells as pastor of First Presbyterian Church. Pastor Stephanie, as she prefers to be known, is a native Midwesterner. She 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. She is fluent in Spanish, and has served Presbyterian churches both large and small, urban and rural. She returned to Lincoln, Nebraska, where she has been working as a bi-lingual Child Forensic Interviewer. She has also been providing pulpit supply for churches in the

Homestead Presbytery and pastoral care to the members of the church she attends.

Over the last six months, Pastor Stephanie has felt God calling her back to the pastorate. The PNC met with her in early March and found her to be very down to earth and genuinely interested in others. Her sermons are easy to follow, focused on the Word of God, with practical application. She comes with high recommendations for her pastoral care.

We look forward to having you meet Pastor Stephanie on Sunday, May 3, 2020, when, Lord willing, Rev. Ells will be preaching at our 10:15 service. Following the service, we will be bringing our recommendation to call Rev. Stephanie Ells to be pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Dubuque.

The Pastor Nominating Committee: Mark Ward and Jamie Dillman, co-chairs, Linda Longfield, Scott McCaw, Sam Morales, Lesley Sheridan, and Sandy Spencer



In the Life of the Church

FPC & COVID-19

Our lives have changed dramatically in recent weeks as we seek 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 response to directives by the Centers for Disease Control, the Iowa Department of Public Health, and Governor Reynolds, the Session directed that we begin worshiping online beginning on March 22. The Deacons have instituted church chats every Wednesday at 10:00am on ZOOM, and the adult Sunday School study of the book of Acts and after-worship "coffee hour" have also moved online. Deacons, elders, and Rev. Armstrong are routinely checking on our members and children's Sunday School is happening at home. If you or someone you know is in need of assistance in this time, or you have questions about our life together, please contact Rev. Armstrong at john1rev@gmail.com or the church office firstpresdbq@gmail.com. The Session is monitoring directives from government authorities and will announce any programmatic changes when they are appropriate.



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)

Furthering our Ministry and Mission

In our efforts to advance our ministry and mission on the corner of 17th and Iowa by improving the function and beauty of our buildings, the Session approved refurbishing the manse bathroom. Many thanks to Steve Foxen and Alex Jack for sharing their time and talent to bring this much-needed project to completion.

In the coming months we will also be refinishing the front doors of the sanctuary and securing some loose ceiling tiles in the sanctuary. If you would like to contribute to any of these projects, please speak with the church treasurer, Bob Monthey.



Calling All Graduates!

Please contact Terri Gronau or the church office with information about those you know who are graduating from high school, college, or graduate school. We wish to celebrate their accomplishments!



Christian Education



Sadly, Sunday School cannot meet face-to-face. Sunday school teachers are staying in touch with their students, praying for them, and providing lessons for home. The adult class is discussing the book of Acts and currently meets via Zoom during the regular Sunday School time. For a weekly study discussion guide and Zoom link, please email Moderatorfpcdbq@gmail.com.

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." II Timothy 3:16-17



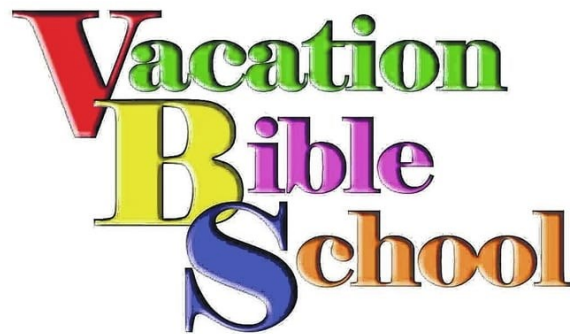
The last day for Sunday School this spring is May 17, 2020. All classes will resume on Rally Day, September 13.

A thank you note from the
University of Dubuque:

First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for your support of the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary with your investment in the Distance Master of Divinity Program. In my travels for UD, I've had the opportunity to meet some of our seminary students that have graduated from the Distance Program. Each of them talks about how this program opened a door for them to pursue their calling. Your scholarship helps others pursue their calling and for that we are very grateful.

Scott Rima



@ FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



**GOD CALLS YOU
BY NAME**

**July 6-10, 2020
9:00 - 11:30am**

For children ages 4 through
those entering 6th grade.

If you'd like to volunteer, please
speak to Linda or email her at
fpcdbqlongfield@gmail.com

Registration forms are available online at

<http://www.firstpresdbq.org/christian-education/vacation-bible-school-vbs/>

Mission News

Neighborhood News

Before the pandemic, a neighborhood clean-up of Jackson Park was on the calendar for the morning of Saturday, April 18. Since we cannot gather for this event, an online virtual walking tour of Jackson Park will be available. Go to www.downtowndubuque.org for more details. On that website you can also take part in a Architecture Scavenger Hunt!



One Great Hour of Sharing



We give glory to God for the generous giving of the congregation to the One Great Hour of Sharing. This supports the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the Self-development of People Program. So far, about \$1,100 has been given for One Great Hour of Sharing. If you have been filling a fish bank, plan to bring it when we can again worship together as a church family. You can send a check made out to the church with OGHS in the memo line in support of this important ministry.

A note from our Thailand Missionaries

Our God Almighty Reigns, and His Ways are higher and so much better than ours!

Thanks so much for your ongoing partnership and love in Christ! We are well and Thailand hasn't reported many cases and deaths from COVID-19, however, we won't be surprised if things surge shortly. This is still the best place for us to Shelter in place, in the Shadow of our Heavenly Father! We are planning to make a brief trip stateside to visit with the children and grandchildren in the autumn.

In the Bond of our Lord Isa al Masih, Thailand Missionaries

Let us keep our missionaries in our prayers for safety and health.



Cafe Ministry April 30



Stay tuned for further instructions. If things continue as they are at the end of April, we'll be asked to drop off certain foods for a small staff to assemble and distribute meals.

From the Dubuque Food Pantry:

*Dear First Presbyterian Church,
Thank you for your contribution to the Dubuque Food Pantry. We are so blessed to have the shelves stocked at this time of year.*

Friends like you are so vital to our mission. We are so

grateful for your giving hearts.

May God bless you abundantly for all you do! You all are a little church with BIG impact.

*Sincerely,
Theresa Caldwell, manager*



April Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 4 Tony Herbst
- 6 Sharon Hallstoos
Tim & Annette Boelk
- 7 Audrey Holdener
- 10 Tammy Wehrspann
- 14 Stephenie Morales
- 16 Chris & Michelle Daniels
- 19 Jack Dillman
- 20 Elise Hallstoos
- 24 Emily Herbst
- 26 Chuck Lee
Elaina Biechler
- 29 Deb Herbst

To Keep in Your Prayers...

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

Carlie Boelk	<i>Iowa State University</i>
Elias Brehm	<i>West Point Military Academy</i>
Jonah Brehm	<i>Iowa State University</i>
Tatum Hallstoos	<i>Columbia University</i>
Lupe Morales	<i>Basic training for Ntl. Guard</i>
Sam Morales	<i>Working</i>

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

OFFICE HOURS

Part-Time Temporary Pastor for Administration and Pastoral Care:

During the pandemic, please contact Rev. John Armstrong at: john1rev@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant Hours from home:

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

PREACHING SCHEDULE

APRIL

April 5	Rev. Beth McCaw
April 12	Rev. Bradley Longfield
April 19	Rev. Marsha Wilfong
April 26	Rev. Timothy Slemmons



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.

Food for the First April



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.

The deacons will be contacting the congregation about picking up donations during the pandemic. In lieu of donations, you may also choose to send checks made out to the church, noting they are either for the Dubuque Food Pantry or the Victim Services Shelter in the memo line. Thanks for supporting these ministries, especially in this time of great need.

Thank You!
Mission Committee

“Supplies for the Second”

While serving at the Victim Services Shelter we learned how we can help by providing supplies that are always needed: **toilet paper, paper towels, tissues, cleaning products, laundry detergent, diapers/wipes, and personal hygiene items.**



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