

# FIRST PRESS – DECEMBER 21/JANUARY 22

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*First Presbyterian Church*

"We love because God first loved us."

✦ 1 John 4:19

## ADVENT GIVING TREE 2021

This year, our congregation has the opportunity to support three organizations doing God's work (1) through international mission, (2) the Presbyterian denomination, and (3) in our Dubuque community. We will gather our offerings using the envelopes in the pews on the following dates:

1. Nov. 28 for missionary support
2. Dec. 5 for the Presbyterian Joy Offering
3. Dec. 12 for Almost Home Men's Shelter

You may also mail in any checks to treasurer Bob Monthey. Feel free to contact anyone on the mission committee (Hannah Eby, Judy Sheridan, Tom Jack, or Sandy Spencer) with questions.



## THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM IS ON!

The CE committee invites you to join us for worship on Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> when the Christmas play will be presented. Sunday School participants will help us prepare our hearts to welcome the Christ child. This year we are presenting:



**The Christmas Story**  
Written by Sharon K. Chatwell  
(2009, *Just a Little Christmas*)

on

**SUNDAY, December 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**10:15 a.m.**

(Adapted by Rev. Stephanie Ells 2021,  
for First Presbyterian Church, Dubuque IA)

## CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP

Celebrate the Birth of Christ with a service of Lessons & Carols at 7:00pm on Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup>. You can also join us virtually. Watch your email for the bulletin and link to the Christmas Eve Service or you can find the link on our website [www.firstpresdbq.org](http://www.firstpresdbq.org)



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## CHRISTMAS PROGRAM REHEARSAL SCHEDULE



Sunday	December 5	9:00—10:00 a.m.
Wednesday	December 8	6:00— 7:00 p.m.
Sunday	December 12	Shared in Worship

## CHRISTMAS PROGRAM COFFEE HOUR

Following the Christmas program, the Congregational Life committee invites you to a special coffee hour time of food and fellowship.



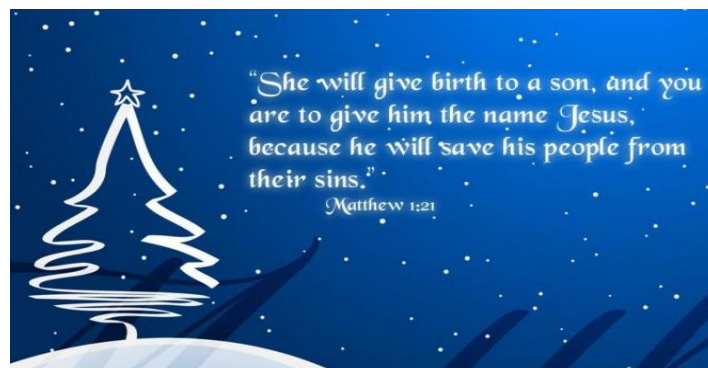
**PLEASE  
NOTE...**

There will **NOT** be Sunday School on  
December 26th.

Please enjoy the time with your family. We will resume  
Sunday School on January 2nd at 9:00 a.m.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

On Feb. 13, FPC will once again team up to tackle hunger through the Souper Bowl of Caring. Since 1990, youth have inspired people to donate more than \$170 million in cash and nonperishable food for local food banks. Last year, FPC raised \$725 and collected 199 food items for the Dubuque Food Pantry. Can we out-score 2021? Let's huddle up and love our neighbors in response to God's amazing grace in Jesus! Please bring your canned goods and financial gifts to FPC on Sunday, Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>.



# WORSHIP

## CELEBRATION OF LIFE—VENITA FAWCETT



It was VeNita's wish that her memorial service be held at FPC when all her loved ones could gather together in remembrance.

The date and time chosen by those closest to her is 11:00am on Saturday, December 11th, 2021. A luncheon will follow at the University of Dubuque hosted by Rev. Dr. Jeffrey & Dana Bullock.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be given to First Presbyterian Church of Dubuque.

## CELEBRATE COMMUNION THIS SUNDAY

FPC will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper this Sunday, December 5th, as well as, January 2nd. Covid precautions will be in place and all elements are gluten-free.

If you are worshipping with us online, we encourage you to prepare your elements ahead of the worship service.



## PASTOR WILL BE OUT OF THE OFFICE

Pastor Stephanie will be out of the office through December 6. Rev. Stephanie Schlimm from St. Luke's UMC will supply pastoral emergency coverage for the duration. You can contact her by cell (563) 581-5512. **Pastor will also be out of the office Dec. 26 - Jan. 1, more details at a later date.**



# New Sermon Series

# Coming Jan. 2, 2022

# CHARACTERS WELCOME



# MISSION

## CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Usually during Advent we give to the Joy Offering. This year we are giving as part of our Advent Giving Tree program (see front page).

Presbyterian churches give to the Joy Offering to provide help to current and retired church workers in need and to develop future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. *Offering will be collected December 5th.*



*The Mission Committee will be offering reflections about the relationship between FPC and our Dubuque community in this space over the coming months, as we enter into our 175th year of ministry in 2022. A special thanks to Tom Jack, for keeping us rolling, with the following article about the life of one very special FPC member who faithfully served his church and community.*

## 2022 – A YEAR TO CELEBRATE FPC’S 175<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

On Christmas Eve in 1847, First Presbyterian Church was “born”, which means that next year, 2022, we will celebrate our 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary. As a church we will not only look back over our history, but also look into our future ministry on the corner of 17<sup>th</sup> and Iowa St.

One person who stands out as having made a profound impact on our recent history is Leroy Vogt. While his memory is captured on a plaque in the narthex, his presence can still be felt in every congregational activity of our church. Leroy seemed to spend most days of his life in the church, truly dedicated to her: oftentimes a visitor to the church would find him playing the piano by himself (no, he and God were keeping each other happy with his music): perhaps if we listen closely, we too will still hear him!

The congregation might consider dedicating this anniversary year in memory of Leroy, who died in May of 2014. Leroy was born in South Dakota on Pearl Harbor Day in 1922, so his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday is three weeks short of our 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Leroy came to the church after serving in the Navy during World War II and his presence in many ways not only parallels the history of our church, but also helped shape the ministry here. For many years he served as our clerk of session and Sunday school superintendent. He was also known as “Mr. Presbyterian” in the larger community: serving at UD as the bookstore manager, being active in the Presbytery, and later working as janitor of Bethany Home (a home donated by a Presbyterian family from our church). Leroy died in his Bethany Home apartment on a Sunday morning. His last Presbyterian presence was to receive Communion with his church family. Those who knew Leroy, miss his presence, but we are comforted knowing his legacy of Christian discipleship lives on. A committee will be formed to plan for our 175<sup>th</sup> celebration, and perhaps this committee will consider looking at our recent history through the eyes of Leroy Vogt.



## CAFÉ MINISTRY DECEMBER 30

December has five Thursdays. That means that it's our turn to help serve a meal to the community at First Congregational Church on Dec. 30th. You are invited to donate hot dogs, milk, chips, and desserts or help volunteer from 4:45-7:00pm. Please sign-up using the sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary or by emailing Ginger at [firstpresdbq@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresdbq@gmail.com).



# IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

## Blue Christmas

A Community Service of Healing and Hope  
*for anyone feeling blue this season*

Wednesday, Dec. 15th

6:30 p.m.

Hosted by St. Luke's UMC  
1199 Main St | Dubuque, IA

*Childcare Provided*

### Participating Clergy From:

First Presbyterian Church | First Congregational Church  
Holy Trinity ELCA | St. John's Episcopal Church  
St. Luke's UMC

## COVID PLAN UPDATE: FPC MOVING TO PHASE 5

At their November meeting, the Session of FPC determined we will move to the final phase (5) of our COVID-19 Response Plan on Sunday, December 12th, 2021.

### What does this mean?

We will return to what is best described as our "pre-COVID-19" style of church function.

With the availability of an effective vaccine for ages 5 and up, we will remove the mask mandate inside the church building. The Session continues to strongly encourage us all to use an abundance of caution in protecting the health and safety of members; including the continued use of masks by the unvaccinated, those who have been traveling, or those whose health or age puts them at higher risk for infection.

If you have been ill or are not feeling well, especially if you have fever, cough, shortness of breath, headache, runny nose or sore throat, please join us for worship virtually.

The full COVID-19 Response Plan is posted on our website <http://www.firstpresdbq.org> and can be accessed by clicking the red box on the left.



## MEET OUR NEW SPM!

The Session is excited to announce we will be hosting an SPM student from the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary (UDTS) beginning in January!

Dani Postma is a third year Master of Divinity student at UDTS. She is a Young Adult Ministry Scholar, an instructor of World View I & II at UD, and currently serves as the moderator of the UDTS Student Council.

Dani and her husband, Mike, moved to Dubuque in 2019 from their family farm in Northwest Iowa. They have four children together. Casey (age 14) and Reid (age 12) attend George Washington Middle School, and Lucy (age 10) and Sloane (age 6) attend Our Lady of Guadalupe Spanish Immersion program.

The Postmas have fallen in love with Dubuque. They especially enjoy the many opportunities for hiking and kayaking.





# IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

## WESTMINSTER HUNGER OUTREACH

Westminster Presbyterian Church is partnering with St. Stephen's Branch of River Bend Foodbank to offer food at no charge on SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2021. They are looking for volunteers to help distribute food at their parking lot drive-through distribution set up at 2155 University Ave. Volunteers should arrive by 8:00am.

If you are food insecure, distribution begins at 9:00am and continues until the food is gone. Please stay in your car. Groceries will be loaded for you. Please contact Tom Stovall at 563-581-7220 or at [tomstov@aol.com](mailto:tomstov@aol.com) with any questions.



Help us UNDECORATE  
after worship on January 2nd.



Annual Reports are  
due to the office at  
9:00am Monday,  
January 3rd.

Thank you!



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

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

### ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: JANUARY 23

Our Annual Congregational meeting will be held on January 23, following worship to receive the reports found in the Annual Report for 2021. Please plan to attend this enlightening meeting.

## FPC BUDGET UPDATE

### November

Monthly offering: \$9,365  
Budgeted need: \$13,300

### Year-to-Date (thru 10/31)

Income: \$114,473  
Expenses: \$122,435  
Shortfall: **-\$7,962**



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](mailto:fpcdbq.treasurer@gmail.com)

# DECEMBER 2021

Deacons of the Month:  
Mark & Deb Stant

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 1st Sunday of Advent 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. Jim Gunn preaching Via <a href="#">live stream</a> & in-person 1:30pm Bethany Home: Tom Jack & Leon Thompson PASTOR OUT OF OFFICE	29 9:00am Newsletter Deadline	30	1 DECEMBER	2	3	4 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Papa Ozz
5 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:00am Sunday School/play practice 10:15am Worship: Dr. Mark Ward preaching Via <a href="#">live stream</a> & in-person Sacrament of Holy Communion	6	7	8 5:00pm Choir 6:00pm Play rehearsal	9	10 5:00pm Girl Scouts	11 11:00am Celebration of life: VeNita Fawcett
12 3rd Sunday of Advent 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Christmas program "The Christmas Story" Via <a href="#">live stream</a> & in-person	13	14	15 6:30pm Blue Christmas @ St. Luke's UMC	16	17	18
19 4th Sunday of Advent 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells preaching Via <a href="#">live stream</a> & in-person	20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve 7:00pm Service of Lessons & Carols	25 Christmas Day
26 NO Sunday School 10:15am Worship: Rev. Timothy Slemmons preaching Via <a href="#">live stream</a> & in-person 1:30pm Bethany Home: Tom Jack & Leon Thompson PASTOR OUT OF OFFICE	27	28	29	30	31	1 JANUARY New Years Day 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Papa Ozz

# JANUARY 2022

## Deacons of the Month: TBD

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 NO Sunday School 10:15am Worship: Rev. Timothy Slemmons preaching Via <a href="#">live stream</a> & in-person 1:30pm Bethany Home: Tom Jack & Leon Thompson PASTOR OUT OF OFFICE	27	28	29	30 5:00pm Café Ministry @ 1st Congl. UCC	31	1 JANUARY New Years Day 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Papa Ozz
2 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells preaching Via <a href="#">live stream</a> & in-person Sacrament of Holy Communion 12:00pm Deacons @ Stephanie Ells'	3 9:00am Annual Reports Due	4	5	6	7	8
9 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells preaching Via <a href="#">live stream</a> & in-person Ordination/Installation of Officers	10	11 4:15pm CE (Zoom)	12	13	14 5:00pm Girl Scouts	15
16 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells preaching Via <a href="#">live stream</a> & in-person	17 Office closed Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.	18	19 5:00pm Choir	20	21	22
23 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells preaching Via <a href="#">live stream</a> & in-person Annual Congregational Meeting 1:30pm Bethany Home worship	24	25	26	27	28 5:00pm Girl Scouts	29 10:00am-12:30pm Morning with St. Julian @ 1st Congl. UCC
30 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells preaching Via <a href="#">live stream</a> & in-person	31 9:00am Newsletter Deadline	1 FEBRUARY	2	3	4	5 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Papa Ozz



Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

## Birthdays & Anniversaries December

- 2 Joplin Hallstoos
- 11 Crystal Yartey
- 16 Tracy Wildermuth
- 17 Tom Boelk  
Dick Muntz
- 18 Terri Gronau
- 23 Linda Longfield
- 24 Victoria Slemmons
- 27 Joyce McClain  
Delores Muntz  
Micah Dillman
- 28 Tim Slemmons
- 29 Joel Samuels
- 31 Sherry Heer

Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

## Birthdays & Anniversaries January

- 4 Dick & Delores Muntz
- 8 Scott McCaw
- 10 Sara Blair
- 11 Franklin Yartey  
Sam Daniels
- 17 Roger & Susan Ebertz
- 18 Debbie Stant  
Bobby McCaw
- 19 John Wehrspann
- 20 Sam Morales  
Lupe Morales  
Brian & Sharon Hallstoos
- 21 Stephanie Ells
- 22 David McClain
- 23 Audrey Okey
- 24 Jonah Brehm  
Elias Brehm

Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

## OFFICE HOURS



Pastor Stephanie can be reached at (cell) 507-227-8537 or [fpcdbq.pastor@gmail.com](mailto: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.

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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](mailto:firstpresdbq@gmail.com). Ginger will be out of the office 12/23—1/2.

## PREACHING SCHEDULE

### DECEMBER

- December 5 Dr. Mark Ward
- December 12 Christmas program
- December 19 Rev. Stephanie Ells
- December 24 Rev. Stephanie Ells
- December 26 Rev. Timothy Slemmons



### JANUARY

- January 2 Rev. Stephanie Ells
- January 9 Rev. Stephanie Ells
- January 16 Rev. Stephanie Ells
- January 23 Rev. Stephanie Ells
- January 30 Rev. Stephanie Ells

# 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 hot chocolate, potatoes, graham crackers, canned fruit, cooking oil, toothpaste, lotion, & toilet tissue.



### Victim Services Shelter:

Along with paper products and cleaning supplies; shampoo/conditioner, toothpaste & brushes, and feminine products.



Thank you for supporting these ministries.

First Presbyterian Church  
1684 Iowa St.  
Dubuque, IA 52001