

# FIRST PRESS – DECEMBER 22/JANUARY 23

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[firstpresdbq.org](http://firstpresdbq.org)



*First Presbyterian Church*

"We love because God first loved us."

✦ 1 John 4:19

## CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP

Celebrate the Birth of Christ with a service of Lessons & Carols at 7:00pm on Saturday, December 24th. 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)



## Community Christmas Worship

All are welcome to worship with us.

Sunday, December 25th | 10 AM

Hosted by St. Luke's UMC

1199 Main St. | Dubuque, IA

Participating Churches:

St. Luke's UMC, First Presbyterian Church,  
First Congregational Church UCC,  
Holy Trinity ELCA, Westminster Presbyterian,  
Immanuel UCC, St. John's Episcopal Church

# IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

## Blue Christmas

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

**Wednesday  
December 14th  
6:30 PM**

Hosted by First Presbyterian Church  
1684 Iowa St | Dubuque, IA

*Childcare Provided*

### Participating Churches:

First Presbyterian Church, St. Luke's UMC,  
First Congregational Church UCC, Immanuel UCC,  
Holy Trinity ELCA, Westminster PC(USA)...**All are welcome**



**Join Us for the Christmas Play:  
"The Little Star of Bethlehem"  
December 18, 2022**



Our Christmas elves decorating the sanctuary for the Advent season. Thank you!



## NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday, November 20th, we welcomed new members Paula McNally and Mike & Danielle Postma.

## ADVENT GIVING

Out of gratitude for our many blessings, our congregation is invited to donate to our neighbors in need in Dubuque and around the world.

See the envelopes in church pews (or mail your check to the church office) to give to either the Dubuque Rescue Mission or the annual Presbyterian Joy Offering. The Rescue Mission serves local homeless populations. The Joy Offering supports current and retired church workers as well as Presbyterian-related schools for communities of color. Thank you for helping us support these good works!





# MISSION

## WELCOME THE REV. NATHAN LONGFIELD



We are excited to welcome Nathan Longfield back to FPC to preach on January 22nd! Nathan is looking forward to returning and preaching in a place that has so shaped and formed him in life and faith. Nathan, ordained in the Reformed Church in America in July, is planting a new church, Emmaus Reformed Church, in Holland, Michigan, and FPC is partnering with him in this process.

Emmaus Reformed Church is a worshipping community centered on relationships, hospitality, living into our baptismal identities, discipleship, and faithfully being together in God's Word. Emmaus is a church community for those who've been pushed outside the church, who do not feel welcome, who've been hurt, or who struggle to find a church family.

On January 22nd, we will collect a special offering in support of Emmaus Reformed Church. If you want to learn more about Emmaus, check out their website - [emmausreformedchurch.org](http://emmausreformedchurch.org) - or talk to Nathan when he's here!

## LEROY VOGT: THE HEART OF THE CHURCH



The history of First Presbyterian Church is completed when Leroy Vogt is found in the very center – he has been the heart of the church.

Leroy came to the church in 1951 at the urging of Rev. Koopman, who called up on him at the University German bookstore (formerly on the corner of McCormick & University Sts.): “you belong down here.” For the next 63 years, the church and Leroy were synonymous – his jobs at the bookstore and later at Bethany Home would not interfere with his involvement in the church. Often during the week, he was found in an empty sanctuary playing the piano: his passion could only be interrupted by an invitation to have coffee with friends. He genuinely loved being with people – his homespun stories and disarming humor were matched only by his commitment to Christ, a constant reminder to all who knew him that Jesus was always nearby. Over the years, Leroy followed the evangelical call, given by Pastor Flury and his wife Sophia at the founding of the church in 1847, to be a mentor for Christ. He served as elder, clerk, Sunday School superintendent, choir member, and otherwise “go-to person” whenever something needed to be done in the church. He exemplified what it means to be a Presbyterian elder.

Leroy was born into and is now buried with his German South Dakota family, the oldest of five children; his birthdate is December 7, 1922. In South Dakota, his dad owned a meat market and his mother taught him the piano; only one brother now survives. On the first Wednesday of December, Leroy would be 100 years old – it is only fitting that our memory of this church's history finds its focus through the eyes of Leroy Vogt.



*The Mission Committee is offering reflections about the relationship between FPC and our Dubuque community in this space as we celebrate our 175th year of ministry. A special thanks to Tom Jack who has been writing these reflections.*



# IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

## NEXT STEPS FOR FPC

Over the past year, the Elders and Deacons have spent significant time discovering and discerning together about what it means to be followers of Jesus in this particular time and place. Together, we studied the Scripture, the early church, the offices of elder and deacon and how they function within a church and in coordination with a pastor, and what it means to be Presbyterian. On that foundation, we asked ourselves what is God already doing around us in this neighborhood and how is God calling us to join in this work? Matching these answers with Core Values, we have considered how we could practically begin to intentionally engage in sharing Jesus during the next phase of FPC's ministry.

***We are ready to hear your voices and input!*** God is doing a new thing among us and it is exciting to think about what might be ahead. We invite all of you to join us for a "bring your own lunch" gathering on **Sunday, January 8th at 11:30am**. We will share a brief overview of what we have learned and ask you to share what the Holy Spirit is revealing to you.

See below the FPC officers at one of their recent visioning meetings.



## FPC BUDGET UPDATE thru 11/28

Annual Reports are  
due to the office at  
9:00am Monday,  
January 2nd.

Thank you!

Monthly offering: \$12,422  
Budgeted need: \$13,600

### Year-to-Date for 2022

Income \$117,276  
Expenses \$139,530



# DECEMBER 2022

## Deacons of the Month: Mark & Deb Stant

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27 1st Sunday of Advent 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship: <a href="#">live stream</a> Morgan Frazer preaching	28 9:00am Newsletter deadline	29	30	1 DECEMBER	2	3 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Papa Ozz
4 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship: <a href="#">live stream</a> Rev. Stephanie Ells preaching Communion 11:30am Deacons 1:00pm Play practice 5:00pm Youth Group @ WPC	5	6 4:15pm CE (Zoom)	7 11:00am Young at Heart @ Village Inn 7:15pm Choir	8	9	10
11 3rd Sunday of Advent 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship: <a href="#">live stream</a> Rev. Stephanie Ells preaching 11:30am Officer training 1:00pm Play practice	12	13	14 6:30pm Community Blue Christmas worship	15	16	17 9:00am Dress rehearsal
18 4th Sunday of Advent 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship: <a href="#">live stream</a> Christmas Program 11:30am Holiday Coffee Hour 5:00pm Youth Group party	19	20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve 7:00 Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols
25 Christmas Day NO Sunday School 10:00am Community Christmas @ St. Luke's (no worship at FPC) 1:30pm Bethany Home worship	26 Pastor out of office	27	28	29	30	31

# JANUARY 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 New Year's Day <i>Food for the 1st</i> 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship: <a href="#">live stream</a> Rev. Stephanie Ells preaching Communion 11:30am Deacons	2	3	4 11:00am Young at Heart @ Village Inn	5	6	7 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Papa Ozz
8 <i>Supplies for the 2nd</i> 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship: <a href="#">live stream</a> Rev. Stephanie Ells preaching 11:30am BYOL Visioning lunch 5:00pm Youth Group	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship: <a href="#">live stream</a> Rev. Stephanie Ells preaching	16 Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. Offices closed	17	18	19 7:00pm Children of Abraham @ Westminster	20	21
22 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship: <a href="#">live stream</a> Rev. Nathan Longfield, guest preacher 11:15am Annual Congregational Mtg. 1:30pm Bethany Home worship 5:00pm Youth Group @ WPC	23	24	25	26	27 Pastor @ JKP Council Mtg.	28 Pastor @ JKP Council Mtg.
29 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship: <a href="#">live stream</a> Rev. Stephanie Ells preaching	30	31	1 FEBRUARY 11:00am Young at Heart @ Village Inn	2	3	4 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 10:30-2:30pm and at FPC Thursdays from 10:30-12:00pm.\*

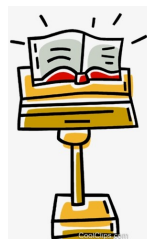
You can contact her at [firstpresdbq@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresdbq@gmail.com). *Ginger will be out of the office 12/23—1/2.*

\*Office hours may change slightly week to week.

## PREACHING SCHEDULE

### DECEMBER

- December 4 Rev. Stephanie Ells
- December 11 Rev. Stephanie Ells
- December 18 Christmas program
- December 24 Service of Lessons & Carols
- December 25 Community Christmas @ St. Luke's



### JANUARY

- January 1 Rev. Stephanie Ells
- January 8 Rev. Stephanie Ells
- January 15 Rev. Stephanie Ells
- January 22 Rev. Nathan Longfield
- January 29 Rev. Stephanie Ells



# IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

## YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

The joint Youth Group with Westminster continues to meet with youth in grades 6-12 on Sundays from 5:00pm-6:30pm.

- December 4 - WPC - Advent and Games
- December 18 - Bowling Party (more details to come)
- Jan 8 - FPC
- Jan 22 - WPC



## Officer Installation/ Ordination

At the congregational meeting in October, the following people were elected by the congregation to serve FPC. They will be ordained and installed on Sunday, January 8th, 2023.

Deacon Class of 2023:  
Tom Jack (one-year term)

Elders:  
Class of 2023:  
Scott McCaw (one-year term)

Class of 2025:  
Terri Gronau  
(three-year term)

Class of 2025:  
Lindsey Ward  
(three-year term)



**tacklehunger.org**

**Bring Food Donations, &  
Join Us February 13, 2023**

## PASTOR WILL BE OUT OF THE OFFICE

Pastor Stephanie will be on vacation 12.26 to 12.29. Rev. Marsha Wilfong will handle pastoral emergencies. She can be reached at (563) 583-6571.



## WEATHER BAD? IS CHURCH CANCELED? SEE BELOW HOW TO FIND OUT...

- ♦ Call the church office (582-4494) after 7:30AM on Sunday mornings.
- ♦ Watch your email for an all-church announcement.
- ♦ Check this FPC link: [firstpcdbq.webs.com](http://firstpcdbq.webs.com)
- ♦ *(This link is also available on the church website <http://www.firstpresdbq.org>)*
- ♦ Notice hopefully provided on KCRG, KWWL, KDTH (and others)



# Christmas Word Search

C O O K I E S T N I C K E N E Z T I L B V G E A  
E P G V E O T E L T S I M G L B X K L I M L G M  
K R K S H O P P I N G Y L L O H S U A L C S R M  
A A S Y G C H R I S T M A S T R E E R I E W S G  
L N N Y T H G U A N Y B O Q E C I N C L F T R I  
F C O E G G N O G T W A C Z A S S I F S K E S N  
W E W C K W N E R O F Y R A O L O A Q K E K N G  
O R M O A K L A N V A Y E S H E T G N N A U Y E  
N C A N K Y P S C Q M O F T O D H E H T D K S R  
S S N O W M S F A D I J F R T Y G G E G A X L B  
N O R T H P O L E A L R U O C E I O D O N N E R  
H O L I D A Y S B N Y G T F H N N O K H Y D I E  
L E N A C Y D N A C S V S W O M Y R Y A N E G A  
L A C R E I N D E E R N G O C I L C I O J C H D  
R I E S T N E S E R P I N N O H O S E A R O H S  
E E P M N O I S A C C O I S L C H L C R U R U Y  
K K Q O R T A M E N T S K P A C I K T E D A M O  
C J I N G L E B E L L S C Y T N F B D H O T B T  
A Z P O H S K R O W V W O T E R L L O S L E U Y  
R N A M W O N S E H T Y T S O R F K L A P C G R  
C P W F I R E W O O D M S S J M I S V D H I D R  
T S T H G I L P K C C D T D R A Z Z I L B L E E  
U P M G N I K C O T S N O I T I D A R T G Y R M  
N A E C A L P E R I F W R A P P I N G P A P E R

HOLY NIGHT  
TRADITION  
STNICK  
WORKSHOP  
DONNER  
HOLIDAYS  
GINGERBREAD  
WRAPPING PAPER  
TOYS  
STOCKING  
MILK

NORTH POLE  
OCCASION  
PARTY  
SKATE  
PRANCER  
DECORATE  
MRS. CLAUS  
SNOW  
NOEL  
PRESENTS  
REINDEER

HUMBUG  
STOCKINGSTUFFER  
BLIZZARD  
SLED  
DANCER  
HOT CHOCOLATE  
MERRY  
SNOWFLAKE  
JINGLE BELLS  
CHRISTMAS TREE  
ELF

SCROOGE  
FIREWOOD  
JACK FROST  
SHOPPING  
DASHER  
HOLLY  
NUTCRACKER  
CHIMNEY  
FAMILY  
CANDYCANE  
SANTA

SNOWFORTS  
FIREPLACE  
ICICLE  
MISTLETOE  
NAUGHTY  
FROSTY THE SNOWMAN  
GREEN  
SNOWMAN  
JOY  
SLEIGH  
RUDOLPH

SNOWBALL  
MEAL  
COAL  
BLITZEN  
NICE  
LIGHTS  
RED  
ORTAMENTS  
EGGNOG  
COOKIES

# Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

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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.