

1684 Iowa Street
Dubuque, IA 52001

(563) 582-4494
firstpresdbq@gmail.com



First Press

First Presbyterian Church

February 2019

The Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday Is FEBRUARY 3rd!

Hunger hurts everyone, but it is especially devastating on children because hunger deprives kids of more than just food. On empty stomachs, kids don't have the energy to focus, engage, learn and grow. Yet, this is the reality for 1 in 6 children in the U.S. who worry about when they'll have their next meal.

Please join us in helping to fight hunger by bringing cash donations and canned goods on Sunday, Feb 3. Let's make this year the biggest collection EVER for the SOUPER Bowl of Caring! All donations benefit the Dubuque Food Pantry.



Session Priorities for 2019

At the Session retreat on Jan 26, Moderator Bradley Longfield led a Bible study of I Peter 5:1-11, highlighting what the passage says to elders and their role in serving the church. Following this discussion, Session set these priorities for the year:

1. Tending all the "flock"
2. "Growing" the congregation
3. Providing meaningful worship
4. Responding to the PNC
5. Maintaining and improving the church buildings
6. Nurturing and educating the church family



The elders and deacons met together and discussed how they can work together on these priorities. Especially during this time without full-time pastoral leadership, the officers are committed to helping the church family avoid complacency and continue our mission and ministry to each other, our neighbors, and to people around the world.

Christian Education

Christmas Letters

A Christmas play by Gail G Martin ©1997

Adapted by Linda Longfield for FPC 2018

On Dec. 16, 2018, the Sunday School classes presented the play, "Christmas Letters" as part of worship. The story involved a High School Sunday School class writing letters to the central characters of the Nativity Story. They then heard a response to their letter while the Nativity story was acted out. It provided an interesting look into the lives of those who witnessed the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Thank you to all who participated.

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Sunday School Teacher: | Linda Longfield |
| Sunday School Students: | Sam & Lupe Morales, Eva McCaw, Ethan Blair, Carlie Boelk |
| Joseph (reader/actor) | Joe Klinebriel / Sam Klinebriel |
| Mary (reader/actor) | Deb Stant / Audrey Holdener |
| Innkeeper (reader/actor) | Bryan Blair / Thomas Blair |
| Shepherds (reader/actor) | Mark Stant / Sam & Chris Daniels, Michael & Jean Holdener |
| Angel (reader/actor) | Victoria Slemmons / Michelle & Mackenzie Daniels, Annette Boelk |

Helpers: Cherie Daniels, Beth Foxen, Sara Blair, Annette Boelk, Terri Gronau



Youth Mission Trip Update: Group Mission Camp – July 2019

The Senior Highs are busy raising money to help defray the cost of their mission trip to Worthington, MN in July. With the help of the Congregational Life Committee, the Senior Highs hosted a wonderful Christmas luncheon following the Sunday School Christmas program on Dec. 16. Thanks to your generosity, they have made an excellent start in their fundraising efforts, collecting \$607. We appreciate these young people's willingness to serve their neighbors in need. Stay tuned for their next fundraiser!

Mission/Stewardship



Christmas Joy Offering Update

Thanks to all who gave to the Joy Offering that benefits Presbyterian racial-ethnic schools and helps provide income supplements for retired ministers facing unexpected medical costs. We raised \$2000!!

From the Mission/Stewardship Mailbag:

Giving to mission throughout God's world can bring astounding results. Read this and give thanks for how God is at work in our midst:

From Abigail Degenhardt of the YWCA:

Dear Friends,

For over 150 years, the Y has proudly serve the tri-states by building healthy spirits, minds, and bodies. Your support of the Dubuque Community Y helps transform lives and our community. Thank you for your investment in the Victim Services Shelter that directly supports victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and sex trafficking.

Thank you again for your generous support.

*Kind regards,
Abigail Degenhardt*



From Kevin Cullum of Camp Wyoming:

First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you very much for making a gift of \$100 to Camp Wyoming. We greatly appreciate your help in making Camp Wyoming a fantastic place for children, youth, and young adults to experience Christian community, outdoor recreation, and spiritual renewal.

*In celebration of your kindness,
Kevin Cullum*

From Theresa Caldwell of the Dubuque Food Pantry:

Dear First Pres Church,

Thanks for your donations to the Dubuque Food Pantry.

In the name of the Food Pantry staff and its Board of Directors, we express our deep gratitude to the many indi-

viduals and churches that make it possible to provide food for our community. The strong support of the many through their contributions of food, money, and time at Christmas and on other occasions is a great testimony to the concern and compassion that runs deep in our community.

*Blessings to you all!
Theresa Caldwell*

From Julie Heiderscheit of Hillcrest Family Services

Dear Friends,

Hillcrest Family Services has benefited from many generous donors, sponsors, volunteers, partners, and advocates throughout history. We are truly blessed to count you among some of the most caring and giving people on this God-given earth.

Hillcrest gives thanks and praise for your gift of \$800. May you and your congregation celebrate many blessings in the New Year.

*Thank you for your support,
Julie Heidershcheit*

From Rev. Dr. Laurie Kraus of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance:

Dear Friends,

Your prayers and gifts enable Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and our partners across the globe to manifest God-with-us, Emmanuel, to those in chaos and despair. Your generous gifts make divine comfort real, helping those afflicted by disaster touch the tangible presence of Love. May peace be with you, in this season of hope and joy, and always.

*With gratitude and peace,
Rev. Dr. Laurie A. Kraus
Director, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance*

In the Life of the Church

Transition News

- ✠ The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) is meeting regularly to read through the Personal Information Forms (PIF) to discern whom God is calling to be our next pastor. Please keep them in your prayers.
- ✠ The Session has hired Rev. John Armstrong to serve as part-time pastor of congregational care. John, a recently retired Presbyterian minister, will be available for pastoral emergencies, visitation, and funerals. John and Jeannie attended FPC while John was in seminary at UDS. They recently returned to Dubuque to be nearer to family and for Jeannie to begin her work at Hills and Dales as Assistant Health Services Director. Welcome back to FPC, John and Jeannie.

TRANSITION
ACTION

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult Sunday School

This month, the adult Sunday school class will be studying the last book of the Old Testament, the book of Malachi. Did you know “Malachi” means “messenger”? Come see what messages this book has for us. Tim Slemmons is teaching this class that meets at 9:00 a.m. in the church basement.



Spreading Christmas Joy

Our Christmas Caroling in December spread a bit of Christmas cheer to VeNita and Henry Fawcett, Audrey Okey, and Bill and Janet Spoerl. A wonderful group of carolers joined together including Steve Foxen, Michael, Audrey, and Jean Holdener, Sam and Lupe Morales, Victoria Slemmons, and Mark and Deb Stant. There was a good time had by all and a warm spirit shared with friends.



CAFÉ MINISTRY THANK YOU

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH CAFÉ MINISTRY on Thursday. Your gifts of food and/or time were greatly appreciated by all who came for dinner at First Congregational Church. Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” (*Matthew 25:40*)

There will be ANOTHER CHANCE TO SERVE WITH CAFÉ MINISTRY on MAY 30th!



February 2019

Deacons of the Month: Mark & Deb Stant

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----|---|---|---|--|---|
| | | | | | 1 1:30pm Manor Care: Tom Jack | 2 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Sunshine |
| 3 SOUPER BOWL OF CARING 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. Bradley Longfield, preaching Sacrament of Holy Communion 11:30am PNC | 4 | 5 11:30am Young at Heart @ Village Inn 4:15pm CE @ Beth Foxen's | 6 2:00pm Luke Study @ Bethany Home 6:30pm Choir | 7 | 8 | 9 3:00-5:00pm 4th Annual Lunar New Year Celebration @ Westminster |
| 10 Supplies for the 2nd 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: preacher, Rev. Timothy Slemmons | 11 | 12 | 13 2:00pm Luke Study @ Bethany Home | 14 | 15 | 16 John Knox Presbytery video conference @ Westminster |
| 17 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. John Armstrong, preaching | 18 | 19 | 20 2:00pm Luke Study @ Bethany Home 6:30pm Choir | 21 7:00pm Children of Abraham @ UD-Hadley Auditorium "The Arts" | 22 | 23 |
| 24 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Elder, Mark Ward, preaching 1:30pm Bethany Home: Tom Jack & Jill Klinebriel | 25 | 26 | 27 2:00pm Luke Study @ Bethany Home | 28 | 1 MARCH 1:30pm Manor Care: Tom Jack | 2 |

Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

Birthdays and Anniversaries February

- 3 Beth Foxen
- 4 Billy Stant
- 6 Chrissi McClain
Ethan Blair
- 9 Dane Smith
- 12 Sandy Spencer
Tatum Hallstoos
- 13 Nik'kivy Fountain
- 15 Jonathan Dillman
Anne Marx Scheuerell
- 23 Lyle Vander Broek
- 24 Bob Monthey
Aggie Herbst
- 29 Lesley Sheridan

To Keep in Your Prayers...

As they continue their studies please keep these students in your prayers. Please also remember staff members, teachers, and all of our other students during the school year.

We ask God to be with them and their families:

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Cooper Boelk | <i>University of Dubuque</i> |
| Naomi Brehm | <i>University of Illinois</i> |
| Micah Dillman | <i>School of the Art Institute of Chicago</i> |
| Tatum Hallstoos | <i>Columbia University</i> |
| Bobby McCaw | <i>Calvin College</i> |
| Tim McCaw | <i>Trinity International University</i> |
| Brandon Prine | <i>Wartburg College</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

Admin Assistant:

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



PREACHING SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY

| | |
|-------------|------------------------|
| February 3 | Rev. Bradley Longfield |
| February 10 | Rev. Timothy Slemmons |
| February 17 | Rev. John Armstrong |
| February 24 | Elder, Mark Ward |



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

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.
(This link is also available on the church website <http://www.firstpresdbq.org>)
- ♦ Notice hopefully provided on KCRG, KWVL, KDTN (and others)

What is Per Capita?



Per capita is “the tie that binds” together the nearly 10,000 congregations, presbyteries, and synods in our denomination. It is the primary funding for the Office of the General Assembly and is how Presbyterians across the nation share the costs of the ongoing and essential work of the Presbyterian Church (USA). The per capita for 2019 is \$32.60 for each of our 100 members. If you would like to help defray the cost to the church, please place your check in the offering plate and write “per capita” in the memo line.

FPC WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

| December | 2018 | January | 2019 |
|-----------------|------|-----------------|------|
| 1 st | 72 | 1 st | 64 |
| 2 nd | 84 | 2 nd | 53 |
| 3 rd | 94 | 3 rd | 43 |
| 4 th | 82 | 4 th | 50 |
| Christmas Eve | 83 | 5 th | n/a |
| 5 th | 67 | | |

FPC Financial Update

December giving totaled \$ 12,198
Yearly giving totaled \$143,634

FYI - Session has approved two major building projects to be completed in the coming months:

- *a new roof for the Sanctuary
- *new windows in the manse



We are invited to:

4th Annual Lunar New Year Celebration

Feb. 9th, 3:00-5:00pm

Westminster PC, 2155 University Ave.

Enjoy a fun celebration!



Come play games and taste delicious food or enter a lantern decorating contest. Bring your own art supplies and \$1 to purchase a lantern. Hosted the Mandarin Ministry. All ages are welcome!



Children of Abraham

A frank series of conversations on faith from personal perspectives. CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM will meet again on Thursday, February 21st at 7:00pm at UD—Hadley Auditorium, Tech Center. The topic of discussion is “The Arts.”

Food for the First February



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 items in the basket in the narthex on the first Sunday of the month. Your generous donations are faithfully delivered to the Dubuque Food Pantry each month by Deb and Mark Stant.

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 needs: disinfecting wipes
and sprays and cleaners.**



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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