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# *First Press*

## *First Presbyterian Church*

# *November 2019*



## Stewardship

*a way of life*

### Thanks-Giving

First Presbyterian Church is richly blessed by faithful preaching, deep prayer, and joyful music in worship every Sunday. Sunday School is led by faithful and dedicated teachers. We pray daily for each other and the world. We share the love of God through compassionate and generous mission. We join in lively fellowship. We teach children of all ages of God's amazing grace at Vacation Bible School and we are maintaining a functional and beautiful sanctuary and manse to further our ministry and mission.

All of this is supported by the generous stewardship of the gifts God has given us. Pledge cards were received during worship on October 27. If you have not yet submitted your pledge card, please prayerfully consider how God is calling you to support the work of this, your church, as we seek together to witness to God's love in Jesus Christ. Then, share that by completing a pledge card found in the back of the sanctuary and place it in the offering plate during worship. Together we can follow Jesus lovingly, hopefully, and joyfully in 2020.

*Each person should do as he has decided in his heart—not reluctantly or out of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver. — 2 Corinthians 9:7*



### FPC's Sunday School Christmas Play

#### *Waiting for the Christmas Guest*

Following worship on November 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m., we will begin practicing our Christmas play to be presented in worship on December 15. Scripts and rehearsal schedules will be distributed.

If you are interested in participating, please let Linda know.



### News from the Pastor Nominating Committee

The PNC committee is working diligently to discern whom God is calling to be our next full-time pastor. We are interviewing candidates via Skype and praying for God's guidance. Please continue to pray for the search committee and congregation during this time of transition.

# Christian Education

## World Communion Sunday at FPC



The Rev. Isaac Mukendi from the Democratic Republic of Congo worshiped with FPC on World Communion Sunday, Oct. 3. He shared greetings from his home church in Kinshasa and joined the Rev. Bradley Longfield in serving communion.



## Adult Sunday School Invites You to Join Us

The Adult Sunday School invites you to join our vibrant fellowship. In November, we are considering the central place of Grace and Gratitude in Christian discipleship and in December we will reflect on the major themes of Advent: Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace. Please join us as we grow in grace.

## Youth Sunday School Update



One focus this fall in Sunday School is service to others. Sara Blair and Joe Klinebri-el's 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade class sent cards to our young adult church family members and baked cookies for Café Ministry. Beth Foxen and Linda Longfield's high school class had fun taking a turn teaching Tracy Wil-dermuth's preK-first grade class.



We will be taking a short Sunday School break.

***There will be NO Sunday School on December 29th.***

See you again on January 5th!

## From the Annual Congregational Meeting on Oct. 27

At the annual meeting of the congregation, FPC members elected deacons, elders, and at-large members to the 2020 Nominating Committee.

Elected were:

Deacons: Steve Foxen – class of 2020  
Jamie Dillman & Mark Stant – class of 2022

Elders: Sandy Spencer & Linda Longfield – class of 2022

At-large members to the 2020 Nominating Committee:

Ethan Blair Cherie Daniels  
Roger Ebertz Terri Gronau

Thanks was given to all the officers who are serving this year and to the 2019 Nominating committee for their work. Special appreciation was given to Elder Alex Jack for his faithful service the past 6 years.



# Around FPC & in the Community



## New Communion Ware

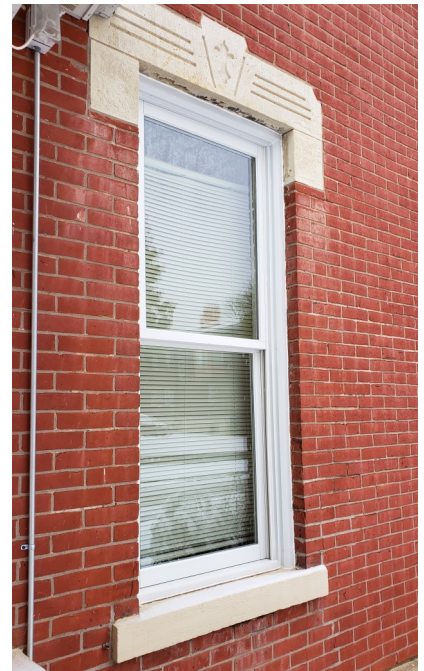
Upon recommendation of the Board of Deacons and the Worship Committee, the Session has authorized the purchase of new communion ware with memorial funds. The new communion trays and bread plates are lighter than the old trays and plates and thus easier for congregants to pass. We deeply appreciate the gifts to the memorial fund that contribute to the ministry of the congregation and give glory to God.

## Deferred Maintenance Projects Update

The Session is overseeing numerous deferred maintenance projects on our sanctuary and manse. Roofers have recently completed re-shingling the sanctuary and steeple and repairing leaks in the manse roof.

The damaged windows in the manse have been replaced with energy-efficient windows and we will soon be replacing the rotting siding on the back porch of the manse and replacing the cellar door to make the building more secure from rodents and the weather. Many thanks to Steve Foxen for replacing the broken water heater in the manse and the door to the back porch.

Other projects under consideration include repainting the inside of the manse and tuckpointing outside portions of the sanctuary. If you would like to contribute to any of these important projects, please speak with Treasurer Bob Monthey.



## DACU (Dubuque Area Churches Unite) Events

*November 1, gather @ 9:30am with celebration and programs starting at 10am:* Church Women United is hosting the **2019 World Community Day**, "Loras College Summer PEACE INSTITUTE for High School Students," and "Creating PEACE in OUR DAILY LIVES." Located at Rockdale United Methodist Church, 1500 Old Mill Road.

*November 9 @ 2pm:* **Children of Abraham: Film Series** is showing *The Last Suit*, 2018, located at the Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium. This is a heartwarming film, even though technically it is classified as a Holocaust film. A Holocaust film does not normally have an uplifting ending, but this one does and for good reason. Viewable for children.

*November 27 @ 7pm:* **37th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service.** Speaker: Rev. Dr. Craig Nesson; Music: Dr. Charles Barland, UD Choir members, and Dubuque Chorale's Childrens Choir. Located at Resurrection Church, 4300 Asbury Road.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

# Mission/Stewardship

## Christmas Joy Offering



Advent is around the corner—December 1!

In December we will be collecting the Joy Offering which provides not only supplemental support for retired Presbyterian pastors and missionaries, but also financial assistance for schools and colleges related to the PCUSA with a particular ministry for students of color. You'll be hearing more about this during worship in December. Envelopes will be in the pews. Please give generously.



## Café Ministry was Thursday, Oct. 31

On Oct. 31, FPC joined First Congregational Church at their weekly Cafe Ministry to serve dinner to our neighbors in need. Thank you to those who donated food and/or volunteered their time to serve and clean up after the meal. The number of those needing a meal continues to grow. Our participation is greatly appreciated. Thank you for sharing the love of Jesus through this important ministry.

## We Walk Because They Walk

CROP Walk was on Oct 2. Thank you for your support of our six walkers! Our little church raised \$863, and together with other Dubuque walkers, CROP raised over \$11,000!

Thanks too, to Jean Holdener for organizing our church participation in CROP Walk. What important work it is to be part of helping hungry people to eat.



## Resource Guide for those in Need

The DDCO (Downtown Dubuque Christian Outreach) put together a resource guide to support the residents in the downtown area.

If you know of someone in need of a little help by way of meals or food donations or if someone stops by the church looking for help, there's a new handout we can share:

"Dubuque Food Resources."



Grab a few of the handouts from the narthex or Coffee Hour room so you are ready to help those in need in our neighborhood or

# November 2019

## Deacons of the Month: Steve & Beth Foxen

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 Pledge Sunday 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. Daniel Emmert, preaching 1:30pm Bethany Home: Tom Jack & Jill Klinebriel	28	29	30 6:30pm Choir	31 5:00pm Café Ministry	1 November 1:30pm Manor Care: Tom Jack	2 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Sunshine
3 Daylight Savings Ends! Food for the 1st 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. John Armstrong, preaching Sacrament of Holy Communion 11:30am Deacons	4	5 11:30am Young at Heart @ Village Inn 5:30pm PNC @ UD	6 6:30pm Choir	7	8	9 8:30am Congregational Life
10 Supplies for the Second 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. Bradley Longfield, preaching 11:30am Christmas play practice	11	12	13	14 7:00pm Children of Abraham @ Clarke University, Jansen Hall	15	16 9:30am Session
17 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. Beth McCaw, preaching 12:30-1:30pm Christmas play practice	18	19 John Knox Presbytery @ Waukon, IA	20 6:30pm Choir	21	22	23
24 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. Timothy Slemmons, preaching 12:30-1:30pm Christmas play practice 1:30pm Bethany Home: Tom Jack & Jill Klinebriel	25	26	27	28 Thanksgiving Day	29	30



Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

## Birthdays & Anniversaries: November

- 4 Lynn Sutter  
Bill & Karen Stant
- 7 Carlie Boelk
- 12 Tim Sheridan
- 13 Tim Boelk
- 17 Harold & Cherie Daniels
- 21 Stu Bear
- 28 Judy Sheridan  
Jean Holdener



## Keeping Our Youth in our Prayers

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

Carlie Boelk	<i>Iowa State University</i>
Cooper Boelk	<i>University of Dubuque</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!**



## OFFICE HOURS

**Part-Time Temporary Pastor  
for Administration and Pastoral Care:**  
Wednesday & Thursday 9:00-12:00pm  
or by appointment

**Admin. Asst. Hours:**  
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday  
9:00-1:00pm

All areas of ministry at FPC could use your help.  
Please volunteer for  
one of the following committees:

<i>Buildings &amp; Grounds</i>	– Tom Boelk & Alex Jack
<i>Christian Education</i>	– Linda Longfield
<i>Congregational Life</i>	– Terri Gronau
<i>Finance &amp; Personnel</i>	– John Dillman
<i>Memorial</i>	– Sandy Spencer & Linda Longfield
<i>Mission &amp; Stewardship</i>	– Annalee Ward & Sandy Spencer
<i>Worship</i>	– Kristen Eby & Bradley Longfield

## PREACHING SCHEDULE

### NOVEMBER

November	3	Rev. John Armstrong
November	10	Rev. Bradley Longfield
November	17	Rev. Beth McCaw
November	24	Rev. Tim 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.

# In the Life of the Church

**From the desk of Rev. John Armstrong,  
Part-Time Temporary Pastor for Administration and Pastoral  
Care**

Although pastoral care is one of my key functions, the truth is, we are all in faithful community with each other and extend care. Did you know that mourning together was a common practice in ancient times? The book of Job describes Job's friends as sitting with him in dust and ashes for seven days after Job lost nearly everyone he loved and everything he owned.

In our world today, we often don't know what to do when someone is mourning. Another person's grief typically makes us uncomfortable. The mourning of others reminds us of our own suffering and loss. It reminds us that life is short. It seems that which was common for Job and his friends, makes us uncomfortable. Sometimes we express our discomfort with another's grief by trying to distract them from their pain. We say things we think will make them feel better like, "Everything is going to be okay; you will see."

But biblical mourning is different so our pastoral care should be different. To mourn with our brothers and sisters in Christ means entering into their pain and sorrow. It means feeling their loss as though it were our own. It is a side-by-side activity, not something done from afar. As the Apostle Paul reminds us, *"If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it."* (1 Cor. 12:26)

When we mourn in community with other believers, with our brothers and sisters in faith, we are following Christ's example of pastoral care.

Rev. John Armstrong      [Armstrongfpcdbq@gmail.com](mailto:Armstrongfpcdbq@gmail.com)      [john1rev@gmail.com](mailto:john1rev@gmail.com)



*Dear First Presbyterian Church,*

*Thank you for continuing to be faithful to our mission here at 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!*

*Sincerely,  
Theresa Caldwell, manager  
Dubuque Food Pantry*

**The Food Pantry is now seeking donations for their annual "Christmas Basket Give-Away." Check out the bulletin board for more information on needed items and important dates.**



Dear Friends,

I am thankful today and know that I represent one small voice in a mighty chorus of grateful Presbyterians and survivors of disaster from all walks of life.

You have put love into action, giving with such generosity to support those in need. Your prayers and gifts enable Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and our partners across the globe to manifest God-with-us to those in chaos and despair. Your generous gift makes divine comfort real. May peace be with you, in all seasons.

In Christ's peace,  
Laurie Kraus, Coordinator  
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

## Food for the First November



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 donations to Food for the First in the basket in the Narthex. Deb and Mark Stant will deliver them. Your generous donations assist those in need in our neighborhood and help to make their lives a little brighter.

**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, tissues, cleaning products, laundry detergent, diapers/wipes, and personal hygiene items.**

**This month’s major needs are tooth-brushes and disinfecting wipes and sprays.**



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.