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First Press ***First Presbyterian Church*** ***February 2020***

The 30th Souper Bowl of Caring will be held Sunday, FEBRUARY 2, 2020

On Feb. 2, we will team up to tackle hunger by playing in the Souper Bowl of Caring! Since 1990, young people have donated more than \$150 million in cash and nonperishable food for local food banks. Last year, FPC raised \$755 and collected 172 food items for the Dubuque Food Pantry. Can we outscore 2019?

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 2nd.



Annual Meeting of the Congregation

The annual meeting of the congregation was held on Sunday, January 26. We heard a report from Jon Dienst, City of Dubuque Engineer, about the Bee Branch Project that will limit access to the sanctuary in May and June, and received reports from the Session Committees, Deacons, Nominating Committee, and Pastor Nominating Committee.

Some highlights of the past year that were noted include:

- Vibrant worship each Lord's Day led by gifted preachers and liturgists
- An extraordinary music ministry directed by Kristen Eby and Jill Klinebriel
- Creative and dynamic Vacation Bible School reaching over 55 people and diligent Sunday School teachers teaching the faith
- A tremendous youth mission trip to Worthington, Minnesota
- Sacrificial giving to mission including the Café Ministry, Souper Bowl of Caring, Dubuque Rescue Mission, Dubuque Food Pantry, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the Domestic Violence Center
- Lively community and fellowship
- Care for each other in visitation and prayer



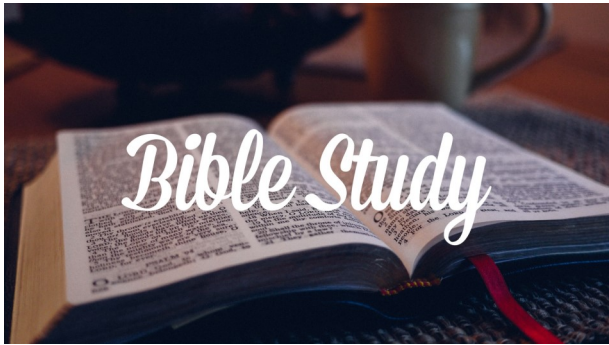
- Encouraging future leadership through Supervised Practice of Ministry
- Numerous repairs and renovations of the physical plant including a new roof for the sanctuary and steeple, new siding, doors, and windows for the manse, and new ceilings and lighting for Sunday School rooms
- Superb staff enabling the day to day work of the church

We have been richly blessed by God in this time of pastoral transition and pray God's guidance on the Pastor Nominating Committee as they seek a new leader for our congregation.

Christian Education

Mid-Winter Bible Study

Marsha Wilfong will be leading a Bible study on "Two Biblical Short Stories: Ruth and Jonah" at Bethany Home on Wednesdays, 2 pm, in February and March (beginning Feb. 5). These well-crafted "short stories" offer insight into how God (and God's people) view foreign immigrants (Ruth) and foreign enemies (Jonah) - perennial issues for human life and community. All are welcome! Come for one (Ruth in February, and Jonah in March) or both!



Spreading Christmas Joy!

Caroling to our church family



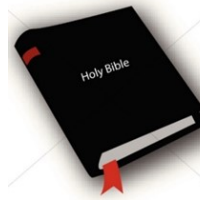
On Saturday, Dec. 14, FPC carolers went out to share Christmas joy. Thanks to the carolers Tom Jack, Leon & Betty Thompson, Mark & Deb Stant, and Linda & Bradley Longfield who brought Christmas cheer to Joyce McClain, Audrey Okey, Dick & Delores Muntz, Carvel Blosch and VeNita Fawcett.

Did you know . . . ?



. . . that Courtney Schnoor and Florence Siefker lovingly and faithfully welcome our littlest family members into the nursery each Sunday? Please thank them for their caring and compassionate ministry.

Adult Sunday School



You are cordially invited to join Adult Sunday School in February as we explore the Psalms under the guidance of Timothy Slemmons. In March, led by Bradley Longfield, we will learn about God's powerful work in the early church as told in the book of Acts. Come grow in grace with this warm fellowship at 9:00 every Sunday morning.

"Waiting for the Christmas Gift"

By: Janet Meili (1978)
Adapted by Linda Longfield



THANK YOU to the following Sunday School participants for proclaiming God's Word to the congregation in the production of "Waiting for the Christmas Gift" on Dec. 15:

Joe, Jill, & Sam Klinebriel, Sara, Ethan, Thomas, & Bryan Blair, Chris, Michelle, Sam, & Makenzie Daniels, Jean, Chris, Audrey & Michael Holder, Mark & Deb Stant, Beth Foxen, & Bradley Longfield. Special thanks to Linda Longfield for directing the play.



In the Life of the Church

Advancing Our Ministry & Mission

Fulfilling our ministry requires a safe, functional, and beautiful sanctuary and manse. In recent months, the Session has overseen numerous deferred maintenance projects as we seek to advance our mission on the corner of 17th and Iowa. Most recently, we have replaced the ceilings and lighting in two Sunday School rooms upstairs in the manse.

Many thanks to all of those who have made donations to support these essential improvements. If you would like to contribute, please speak with Treasurer Bob Monthey.



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

Although pastors and deacons are specific ordered ministries within the church, we are all called upon to share the light of our Lord, Jesus Christ, through the way we speak and the way we live out our lives. Our Book of Order defines pastoral care or the role of deacons as... *"The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress."*

We are *"blessed in order to be a blessing to others"* ... which would indicate that everyone in the Church is being called by God to go forth as agents of God's mission in the world. We read in the Apostle Paul's letter to the faithful in Galatia *"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."*

Along with the pastor and the deacons, we all are called to *pastoral care* within our congregation and within the community where we live and go to school and work. May God find us willing and active servants for His Kingdom here on earth.

Rev. John Armstrong Armstrongfpcdbq@gmail.com john1rev@gmail.com

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, KDTH (and others)



Children of Abraham

A frank series of conversations on faith from personal perspectives. CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM will meet again on Thursday, February 20th at 7:00pm at Tri-State Islamic Center. The topic of discussion is "The Community You Don't Know."

In the Life of the Church

Pastoral Nominating Committee 2019 Annual Report

The Pastor Nominating Committee continues its work. We have reviewed approximately 170 pastor profiles that were matched with our church through the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s Church Leadership Connection service. From those profiles, we held interviews with more than 10 individuals and continued in-depth discussions with three. Of those three individuals, two ultimately pursued other opportunities. Our committee chose to conclude discussions with the third individual.

While we all wish that the process would go more quickly, we understand that we operate on God's timetable, not ours. We are committed to discerning the person that God would have serve as shepherd of FPC. Please pray for the committee and for the person God is calling to our church.



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 2020 is \$33.70 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.

New Officers Installed During Worship

"There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them." We rejoice that new officers, who have heard and responded to God's call, were installed during worship on January 26. Linda Longfield and Sandy Spencer were installed as Elders and Mark Stant and Jamie Dillman were installed as Deacons. Steve Foxen will be installed as a Deacon at a future date. We pray God's guidance and wisdom as these faithful disciples serve God in our congregation.



Café Ministry

THANK YOU to those who helped make our first Café Ministry of 2020 a success on January 30th! Your next opportunity to serve with Café Ministry and/or donate food items is April 30th. Please keep an eye out for the sign up sheet appearing early in April. Thank you for supporting and partnering with this ministry of First Congregational Church!



take note

The Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday on February 26th.

February 2020

Deacons of the Month: Jamie Dillman & Hannah Eby

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. Marsha Wilfong, preaching Annual Congregational Meeting 1:30pm Bethany Home:	27	28	29	30 5:00-7:00pm Café Ministry	31	1 February 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Sunshine 9:30-12:00pm Session Retreat 11:00am Annual Joint Mtg. with Deacons
2 Souper Bowl of Caring Food for the 1st 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. John Armstrong, preaching	3	4 11:30am Young at Heart @ Village Inn	5 6:30pm Choir	6	7	8
9 Supplies for the 2nd 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. Beth McCaw, preaching	10	11	12	13	14	15 John Knox Presbytery Video conf.
16 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. Timothy Slemmons, preaching	17	18	19 6:30pm Choir	20	21	22
23 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. Daniel Emmert, preaching 1:30pm Bethany Home: Tom Jack & Jill Klinebriel	24	25	26 Ash Wednesday	27	28 1:30pm Manor Care: Tom Jack	29

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
- 15 Anne Marx Scheuerell
- 24 Bob Monthey
Aggie Herbst
- 29 Lesley Sheridan

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!**



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 & 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

PREACHING SCHEDULE FEBRUARY

February 2	Rev. John Armstrong
February 9	Rev. Beth McCaw
February 16	Rev. Timothy Slemmons
February 23	Rev. Daniel Emmert



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.

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 \$1312!!

From the Mission/Stewardship Mailbag:

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

From the YMCA/YWCA:

Dear Friends,

Your support of the Dubuque Community YMCA/YWCA helps transform lives and our community. Thank you for your investment. Your donation designated to the Victim Services Shelter directly supports victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and sex trafficking. Thank you again for your generous support.

*Kind regards,
Tony Calabrese & Deb Gustafson*



From Kevin Cullum of Camp Wyoming:

Dear Members of First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you very much for thinking of Camp Wyoming with your wonderful gift of \$100. Your gift helps make Camp Wyoming a fantastic place for people of all ages to experience fellowship, outdoor recreation, and spiritual renewal. We would not be able to provide such a fabulous experience without assistance from organizations like yours.

*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 individuals 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 John Bellini of Hillcrest Family Services

Dear Friends,

Hillcrest Family Services has benefited from many generous donors throughout history. We are truly blessed to count you among some of the most caring and giving people on this God-given earth. Your gift helps us carry put our mission.

Hillcrest gives thanks and praise for your gift of \$575. Your gift means so much to us, but it means so much to us because it helps others in so many ways. That is where the results are.

*Thank you for your support,
John Bellini*

From Sarah Ortmann of Café Ministry:

On behalf of the Café Ministry at the First Congregational, I want to thank you for your gift of \$130. It is gifts like this that enable us to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables when available. We are also able to purchase different cuts of meat to provide a lot of variety to our meals.

*Sincerely,
Sarah Ortmann*

From Rick Mihm of the Dubuque Rescue Mission:

To the Faithful of First Pres—

On behalf of the men, women, and children of the Dubuque Rescue Mission—Thank you! Know that your gift will be used to house, feed, and clothe the poor of the Tri-state area.

*May peace and joy rest upon you,
Rick Mihm*

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 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 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.**

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.