

1684 Iowa Street
Dubuque, IA 52001

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First Press

First Presbyterian Church

May 2020

Congregational Meeting



Moving Forward in May

On Sunday, May 3, First Presbyterian Church, Dubuque, made history by having its first congregational meeting by videoconferencing and phone. The special meeting, called by the Session and in consultation with John Knox Presbytery, amended the bylaws of the congregation to clear the way to call a pastor during the pandemic. Section 5 of the bylaws was amended (amendments in bold) to read:

V. Meetings of the Church

*There shall be a congregational meeting held in the church building **and/or by appropriate technological means** in mid-to-late October, but no later than the first Sunday in November, for the purpose of the election of officers and the at-large members of the Nominating Committee and to approve any changes to the terms of call of the pastor.*

*There shall be an annual meeting of the congregation in the church building **and/or by appropriate technological means** on the fourth Sunday in January, at which only the following business shall be presented: hearing reports of the Session, the board of deacons, and other organizations of the church and transacting other business as appropriate. Special meetings may be called **in the church building and/or by appropriate technological means** as established in G-1.0502. Such calls shall clearly state the purpose of such meeting, and business shall be restricted to that which is specified in the call.*

Thanks so much to all who attended or tried to attend this meeting in these unsettled times.

This change, which will need to be ratified by our next face-to-face congregational meeting, will allow us to move forward with a congregational meeting (face-to face, online, and/or both) on May 3, in order to consider the nomination of Rev. Stephanie Ells as pastor of First Presbyterian Church and set terms of call. The Session will be determining the details when we are closer to that date and will make arrangements that will allow maximum participation by members of the congregation.

Rev. Ells, who was introduced in April's newsletter, will be preaching on May 31 before the congregational meeting. We are delighted that she and the Pastor Nominating Committee sense God's hand on this call and look forward to welcoming her on May 31.

Thank You!

Thank you for your generosity! Please continue to support the mission and ministry of the church by sending your tithes and offerings to Bob Monthey, Treasurer, First Presbyterian Church, 1684 Iowa Street, Dubuque, IA 52001.



In the Life of the Church

FPC & COVID-19

Our lives have changed dramatically as we have adopted ways to combat the spread of COVID-19. We are deeply grateful for all those who have provided leadership and service to and with the church in this unsettled time.

In response to recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control, the Iowa Department of Public Health, and Governor Reynolds, the Session has extended online worship until May 17 and will re-evaluate mid-May. The Deacons have instituted church chats every Wednesday at 10 AM on ZOOM, and the adult Sunday School study of the book of Acts and after-worship "coffee hour" are also available online. Deacons and elders are routinely checking on our members and children's Sunday School is happening at home. If you or someone you know is in need of assistance in this time, or you have questions about our life together, please contact the church office firstpresdbq@gmail.com.



Now and always we take comfort in the sure promise that nothing is "able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

(Romans 8:39)

Rev. Armstrong Resigns as Part-time Pastor for Pastoral Care and Administration

Rev. John Armstrong has resigned from his position as Part-time Pastor for Pastoral Care and Administration. John and Jeannie Armstrong returned to Dubuque in 2018 and shortly after their arrival John, at the request of the Session, assumed responsibility first, for pastoral care, and then administration. In addition, John has been a regular participant in our preaching rotation and has taught adult Sunday School. With the advent of camping season, however, other opportunities beckon.

John's ministry among us will not cease. He will continue to preach periodically and serve in the rotation as pastor-on-call for pastoral emergencies until the arrival of a pastor. We have been richly blessed by John's good ministry and are deeply grateful.



Advancing Our Ministry and 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. We have just completed repair of the sanctuary ceiling and anticipate the completion of repairs of the front doors any day.

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.



Pastors-on-Call in May

With the resignation of Rev. Armstrong as Part-time Pastor for Pastoral Care and Administration, clergy affiliated with the congregation will be available for pastoral emergencies during May. The schedule for pastors-on-call is:

May 3-9	Rev. John Armstrong
May 10-16	Rev. Timothy Slemmons
May 17-23	Rev. Bradley Longfield
May 24-30	Rev. Beth McCaw



Please contact the church office at firstpresdbq@gmail.com if you need to speak with the pastor-on-call.

Linda Longfield Appointed as Part-time Church Administrator

With the resignation of Rev. Armstrong as Part-time Pastor for Pastoral Care and Administration, the Session has appointed Linda Longfield as Part-time Church Administrator until the arrival of a new pastor. Linda has served admirably in this role before, and we welcome her back to this important post.



Christian Education



Honoring Our Sunday School Teachers

Please join in thanking our dedicated teachers who have blessed our church family through their service.

Class

Nursery

Preschool - 1st gr

2nd - 5th Grades

Middle & High School

Adult Class

Substitutes

Opening

Teachers

Courtney Schnoor

Tracy Wildermuth

Sara Blair & Joe Klinebriel

Beth Foxen & Linda Longfield

Bradley Longfield, John Armstrong, John Eby,
& Timothy Slemmons

Florence Siefker, Michelle Daniels, & Tom Jack

John Armstrong, Kristen Eby, Linda and Bradley
Longfield, & Deb Stant

"Teach the way of God in accordance with truth." Luke 20:21

Adult Sunday School: Book of Acts

The Adult Sunday School invites you to join our warm and vibrant fellowship at 9:15am on Sunday. We have been exploring "God at Work: The Book of Acts," to learn about God's powerful work in the early church as recorded in the book of Acts.

For information on how to join us online contact Brad Longfield at fpcmoderator@gmail.com. We complete our study on May 17.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL at
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



GOD CALLS YOU BY NAME

July 6-10, 2020
9:00 - 11:30am

For children ages 4 to entering 6th grade

Registration forms available
on the church website: firstpresdbq.org

PLEASE NOTE

**The last day for Sunday School this spring
is May 17, 2020.**

All classes will resume on Rally Day, September 13.

Mission News



Café Ministry Continues

Despite sheltering at home, First Presbyterian Church "hosted" Cafe Ministry on April 30. We gave \$200, Jamie Dillman picked up and delivered food donations, and several people dropped off donations of granola bars, fruit, and dessert at First Congregational Church.

First Congregational Church is grateful for our help. Nikki and Clay Ketchum reported, "It's been a difficult month for volunteers as we've added the responsibility for a multi-site, Sunday night meal. Serving 400-600 meals per week is vital work, but we're exhausted." This month, they return to Thursday nights only. They've also collected and distributed masks, and taught people how to use masks and gloves properly. Last week was slower since many received Social Security and/or stimulus checks. "We ended up only serving about 50 meals," they said. "However, we prepared enough meals with the money to take care of an upcoming meal." Thanks to all for your generous support of this important ministry.

Summer Fun at Camp Wyoming!



Summer is for adventure, exploration, and fun. Get outside and experience everything that summer is meant to be at Camp Wyoming. Camp Wyoming is a Christian summer camp located in Jones County, Iowa, that offers experiences to equip people of all ages for a journey of faith. Check out the website. They will decide about the 2020 summer programs after May 15. Stay tuned. If you are interested in attending camp, let the Mission Committee know because FPC offers scholarships to help you attend.

From the Dubuque Food Pantry:

Dear FPC,

Thank you for both the food donations and the monetary gift to the Dubuque Food Pantry. There are members of our community that are being hit hard by this COVID-19 pandemic. It is through people like you that the DFP is able to respond to emergency food needs in our community. God bless you for your generosity. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely, Theresa M. Caldwell, Manager, DFP

From the the YMCA/YWCA Victim Services Shelter :

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for your support of the Dubuque Community YMCA/YWCA Victim Services Shelter. The shelter directly supports victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and sex trafficking. We sincerely appreciate your generous support.

Kind regards, Tony Calabrese, President/CEO and Deb Gustafson, Exec. Director of Child Care & Social Services



May Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Michelle Daniels
- 2 Jesse Biekert
- 8 Bill & Janet Spoerl
- 11 Joe Klinebriel
Bob & Tracy Wildermuth
- 12 Aspen Herbst
- 13 Dusty Herbst
- 16 John & Jamie Dillman
- 20 Alex Eby
Joe & Jill Klinebriel
Jim & Tarry Prine
- 22 Mike & Cheryl Heer
- 23 Scott & Beth McCaw
Camilla Daniels
- 24 Stephen Longfield
- 29 Anniversary of our Thailand missionaries



ONE GREAT HOUR of SHARING

One Great Hour of Sharing is at work during the pandemic. Through our gifts to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, we help the 3 ministry areas - Self-Development of People, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance - to extend shelter to those who have no place to stay, offer compassion to those who have pain—be it physical, emotional, or spiritual—and set a feast, with God, for those who lack access to enough food to eat.

Thank you for your generous gifts of \$1500 to care for people in need.

**Your
Church
Family
Needs
You!**



OFFICE HOURS

During the pandemic, there will not be regular office hours.

Part-Time Church Administrator Linda Longfield can be reached at fpcdbqlongfield@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant Ginger Vander Broek works from home. Her hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00-1:00pm. She can be reached through the church email firstpresdbq@gmail.com

All areas of ministry at FPC could use your gifts. Please speak to the committee chair(s) listed below to join.

<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

MAY

May 3	Rev. Beth McCaw
May 10	Rev. Marsha Wilfong
May 17	Rev. Timothy Slemmons
May 24	Rev. Bradley Longfield
May 31	Rev. Stephanie Ells



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.

Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

Food for the First: May



The Dubuque Food Pantry serves the hungry and 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.

During the pandemic, the deacons are picking up donations from your porch. This month the pickup date is May 21. Contact Jamie, Hannah, or Steve if you are interested in having them pick up your donations. In lieu of donations, you may also choose to send checks made out to the church, noting they are for the Dubuque Food Pantry in the memo line. Thanks for supporting this mission, especially in this time of great need.

"Supplies for the Second"

The Victim Services Shelter supports threatened women and children. We can assist by giving: **toilet paper, paper towels, tissues, cleaning products, laundry detergent, diapers/wipes, and personal hygiene items.**



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