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First Press

First Presbyterian Church

October 2020

World Communion Sunday, October 4, 2020

In this unprecedented time, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) has approved the online celebration of Communion and, according to the Book of Order, it is the responsibility of the Session to authorize the celebration of the Lord's Supper. The Session of First Presbyterian Church has so authorized the online celebration of the Sacrament on October 4, 2020 – World Communion Sunday. In this time when we are separated by space, yet united in the Spirit and members of one family through our baptism, we remember that Christ is always at work, gathering us in unique ways.



In preparation for the Sacrament, the Session and Deacons are providing bread and juice for each household of our congregation *to mark our connection through the Holy Spirit as one body of Christ*. An elder or deacon will be contacting you to coordinate the delivery or pick-up of the elements, which they will pray over in preparation for this holy celebration. If you are not comfortable receiving pre-prepared elements, we invite you to use bread and beverage from your own kitchen.

If you, or someone close to you, has not received a coordination contact on or before Friday, October 1, please contact a member of the Session and they will assist you.

Stewardship Sunday

October 25, 2020

Given God's gracious generosity to us who now through Jesus Christ are heirs to a kingdom, we have an opportunity to express our gratitude. The Mission and Stewardship Committee has designated October 25, 2020 as Stewardship Sunday. Prior to that you will receive a letter asking you to prayerfully consider how you can commit to sharing in the ministry of First Presbyterian Church and beyond. The church needs you and your talents, time, and treasures. Thank you for your pledges to support Christ's work at First Presbyterian Church.

Since we will be worshipping virtually on October 25, there are three ways you may return your pledge card to the church office: (1) emailing fpcdbq.treasurer@gmail.com, (2) dropping it off in the church mailbox, or (3) mailing it to the church, in care of our treasurer, Bob Monthey.



Christian Education



SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES!

Sunday School resumed on September 27. Due to the pandemic, classes are meeting in different ways. Preschool-7th graders will be sent lessons that families can do together using *Sunday School Works* curriculum. If you want to be on the emailing list, please contact Sara Blair or Linda Longfield. 8th-12 graders are hoping to meet in the church fellowship hall at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday.

In worship, the congregation presented Bibles to our third graders and the Sunday School teachers were commissioned. Due to COVID-19, we were unable to enjoy our usual delicious Coffee Hour. Hopefully we can take a rain check and enjoy that fellowship when we can safely be together.

Teachers commissioned included:

Classes

Nursery

Preschool– 2nd grade

3rd—7th grade

8th - High School

Adult Sunday School

Book Group

Teacher(s)

Courtney Schnoor

Tracy Wildermuth

Sara Blair & Joe Klinebriel

Beth Foxen & Linda Longfield

TBD

Lindsey Ward and Rev. Ells



Leaders Needed



We are in need of someone to lead a four-week Advent study for adults beginning at the end of November and leading up until Christmas.

If you are interested in this opportunity or in facilitating other Sunday School or faith formation opportunities for adults at FPC, please let a member of the Christian Education Committee or Pastor Stephanie know.



Confirmation Class is off and running!

Pastor Stephanie recently met with the Confirmation class, their parents, and mentors, kicking off a yearlong faith exploration. The class will meet weekly. Mentors will walk beside each Confirmand, sharing their faith. Confirmation is celebrated in the spring for those who successfully complete the program and desire to profess their faith and join the church as active members. Please keep our confirmands and their mentors in your prayers.

Sacraments Class

The Sacraments class is intended for students to interactively learn about Communion and Baptism.

The class will meet over Zoom, with necessary materials delivered to participants' homes prior to class. Participants should plan to be at all of the gatherings, with a parent/guardian attending along with them.

See you from 3:00-4:30pm on:

Sunday, October 4

Sunday, October 11

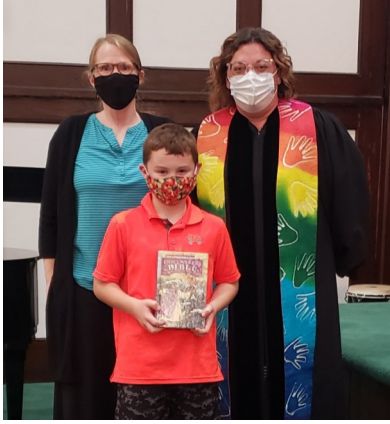
Sunday, October 18

SACRAMENTS CLASS



Christian Education/Congregational Life

Bibles for our 3rd Graders

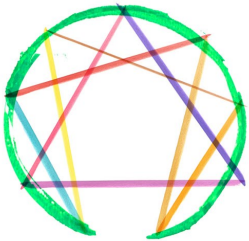


Rally Day was an exciting time for our third graders. Sam and Aggie received Bibles from the Christian Education committee, on behalf of the congregation.

This gift is given in response to our baptismal vow to help God's precious children know about God's love for them through the reading of His Holy Word. Let us encourage our precious children to read their Bibles so they can know and follow Jesus.



Adult Faith Formation Opportunity Discover the Enneagram!



Knowing God involves knowing ourselves and how we can grow within ourselves. The Enneagram is a tool we can use to aid us in honest, reflective introspection guided by the Spirit of God. The Enneagram describes nine different personality types and maps each of these types on a nine-pointed diagram which helps to illustrate how the types relate to one another.

Beginning October 13, 2020, Lindsey Ward and Pastor Stephanie will be hosting a 6-week Adult Faith Formation opportunity each Tuesday night from 7:00-8:00pm via Zoom using *The Road Back to You: An Enneagram Journey to Self-Discovery* by Ian Morgan Cron and Suzanne Stabile. We will have a 5-session companion "study guide," with the first week meeting being a basic introduction to the Enneagram. Please Pastor Stephanie know ASAP if you are interested in this study so materials can be ordered.



Congregational Gathering

On Wednesday, September 23rd, some members of the congregation met at the Dubuque Arboretum for an informal, socially-distant gathering. The weather was beautiful, fellowship was great, and prayers for our sisters and brothers in Christ were said.



Annual Congregational Meeting - Following worship October 25, 2020

We will meet to elect elders, deacons, and at-large members to the 2021 Nominating Committee. We will also vote to approve changes to the Terms of Call for Rev. Ells. **The meeting will take place following worship and over Zoom.** Information to join the meeting will be emailed to you before the meeting.



Mission/Stewardship

CAFÉ MINISTRY Food and Volunteers Needed October 29

Congregation, we are the food hosts for the October 29th Café Ministry held at First Congregational UCC. This month, we get to provide enough hotdogs and buns needed to feed at least 200 people! If there are 8 in a package, we need 25 packages of hotdogs and 25 packages of buns. They say the number of people stopping by to pick up the to-go meals is increasing and the need is great.

They still use volunteers but have created a system to spread people out to follow social distancing guidelines. You can sign up for the week of Oct. 29 or any other week via their online system (see link below). Donations can be dropped off at First Congregational UCC on the table inside the door. Another option is to send a check to the church office designated for Café Ministry. We are in the decision-making process of offering the option to have your food item donations picked up from your home—more details will be given at a later date.

First Congregational writes:

We are still serving to go meals and will be for the foreseeable future, we are excited to be in our new kitchen and able to prepare meals matching what we did while we were in person! It's been a long couple of months cooking strictly out of crock pots and roasters in the youth room but, it was so worth the wait and can't wait to share the space with all of you and your groups.

Starting next week, we are looking for 2 volunteers (no more for safety) to start and join the Cafe committee to assist with packaging up the meals. The times are different from when we are in person as we are matching other meal sites times right now so the guests have a consistent time to pick up a meal no matter the meal site.

We are asking for volunteers to come in between 3:30-5:00, 4:00-5:30, and 4:30-6:00. If you or anyone one in your group are interested, please use the link below to sign up!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0B4AAAA72BA1F85-cafe>

As always, thank you for supporting this important ministry for our community!

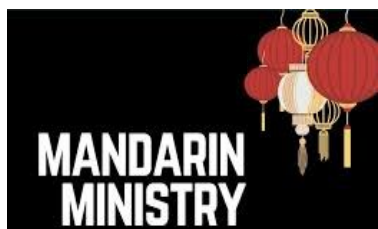


Mandarin-Speaking Ministry of John Knox Presbytery

The John Knox Presbytery has a Mandarin-speaking church which meets (virtually these days) at Westminster Presbyterian Church. It is the only Mandarin-speaking church in the tri-state area. It was founded in August 2015. Pastor Stephanie is on their support team through the Presbytery, taking the spot vacated by Pastor Kat when she left FPC.

The purpose of this ministry is to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ in Mandarin to non-believers and disciple existing Mandarin speaking believers in the tri-state area. The congregation hosts a Lunar New Year Celebration so people may have their traditional celebrations even in a foreign country. For Mandarin-speaking international students, they provide opportunities to build relationships with local Christians, with the hope of planting seeds of faith in their hearts. Pastor Moses Wu said he believes the Lord will continue to lead this ministry.

Due to the pandemic, the congregation has ceased in-person worship and has opted to provide sermon videos and devotional articles for the ministry participants. Each week, they call each person to ask how they are doing and pray for them via phone. Pastor Wu and his wife also do a weekly food fundraiser, where they make traditional Chinese items such as egg rolls, Black peppered chicken and vegetables with rice, and more! If you would like to receive the email to order food and support the ministry, simply email Pastor Wu at wumoses@hotmail.com to inquire.



October 2020

Deacons of the Month: Jamie Dillman & Hannah Eby

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 RALLY DAY 10:15am Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching via live stream -Teacher commissioning - 3rd grade Bible presentation	28	29	30 10:00am Church Chat via Zoom 6:00pm Confirmation	1 OCTOBER	2	3 9:30am Session
4 World Communion Sunday 9:00am Sunday School - PreK-12th grade -Online lessons 10:15am Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching via live stream 3:00-4:30pm Sacraments via Zoom	5 4:15pm CE via Zoom	6 6:15pm Worship Com. Via Zoom	7 10:00am Church Chat via Zoom 6:00pm Confirmation	8	9	10
11 9:00am Sunday School - PreK-12th grade -Online lessons 10:15am Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching via live stream 11:45am Deacons via Zoom 3:00-4:30pm Sacraments via Zoom	12	13 7:00pm Enneagram Study via Zoom	14 10:00am Church Chat via Zoom 6:00pm Confirmation	15	16 3:45pm Mission	17
18 9:00am Sunday School - PreK-12th grade -Online lessons 10:15am Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching via live stream 3:00-4:30pm Sacraments via Zoom	19	20 7:00pm Building/ Grounds 7:00pm Enneagram Study via Zoom	21 10:00am Church Chat via Zoom 6:00pm Confirmation	22	23	24
25 Pledge Sunday 9:00am Sunday School - PreK-12th grade -Online lessons 10:15am Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching via live stream 11:45am Congregational Meeting via Zoom	26	27 7:00pm Enneagram Study via Zoom	28 10:00am Church Chat via Zoom 6:00pm Confirmation	29 5:00pm Café Ministry @ 1st Congl. UCC	30	31

Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

Birthdays & Anniversaries: October

- 2 Tarry Prine
- 8 Kristen Eby
- 13 Cherie Daniels
- 14 Hannah Eby
Jill Klinebriel
- 16 Harold Daniels
Mark & Debbie Stant
- 17 Tom & Dedee Cosgrove
- 18 Leith Fujii
- 20 Anthony Alba
Brandon Prine
- 22 Ashley Mort
- 23 Bob Wildermuth
John Dillman
- 24 Caden Sutter
- 26 Lindsey Ward
- 29 Richard Sturman



Your Church Family Needs You!

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

- Buildings & Grounds* – Tom Boelk
- Christian Education* – Linda Longfield
- Congregational Life* – Terri Gronau
- Finance & Personnel* – John Dillman
- Memorial* – Sandy Spencer & Linda Longfield
- Mission & Stewardship* – Annalee Ward & Sandy Spencer
- Worship* – Kristen Eby & Bradley Longfield

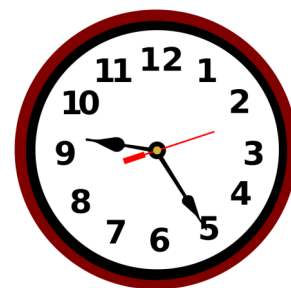


Electronic giving is available at FPC. There's information on how to set up online giving in the Coffee Hour room or you can contact church treasurer, Bob Monthey.

OFFICE HOURS

Due to the current COVID pandemic, **Pastor Stephanie's office hours at the church will be Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00am-1:00pm.** Pastor Stephanie requests you set up an appointment time if you would like to see her, even during office hours. Masks will be required to protect one another's health and well-being.

Pastor Stephanie can be reached at (cell) 507-227-8537 or fpcdbq.pastor@gmail.com. In case of emergency, please call her cell number. If she does not answer, leave a voice message, and she will get back to you as soon as possible.

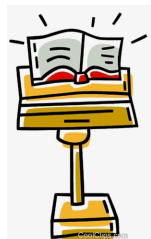


Administrative Assistant, Ginger Vander Broek, works from home. Her hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 10:00-2:00pm. She can be reached through the church email: firstpresdbq@gmail.com

PREACHING SCHEDULE

OCTOBER

- October 4 Rev. Stephanie Ells
- October 11 Rev. Stephanie Ells
- October 18 Rev. Stephanie Ells
- October 25 Rev. Stephanie Ells



Join Us for the Weekly Church Chat!

During the pandemic, each Wednesday at 10:00am, either Jamie Dillman or Pastor Stephanie will host an online church chat to help us stay connected. Everyone is welcome to join the meeting for weekly fellowship. Be looking for the email with the Zoom information for that week.



In the Life of the Church

FPC Contributes to Iowa Derecho Repair Efforts



On August 10, 2020, severe thunderstorms with long track damaging winds (derecho) devastated Iowa causing widespread power outages for more than 150,000 people for several days. 14 million acres of farmland (40% of Iowa's farmland) were damaged. In September, the FPC Mission & Stewardship Committee donated \$500 to repair efforts through the PC (USA) Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) Program.

PDA is supporting local churches within the Presbyteries of North Central Iowa, Des Moines, Prospect Hill, and Eastern Iowa to respond to this storm. The Latino and Congolese refugee communities in the Cedar Rapids area were significantly impacted, and much of the aid has gone to assist these groups. In addition, the

PC (USA) is in the process of approving four initial assistance grants for the above mentioned presbyteries. Thank you for your continued prayers and support for the people of Iowa affected by the derecho.



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER
ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, **HOPE**

CROPWALK 2020 UPDATE: Ending Hunger One Step at a Time

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your support of the October, 2019 CROP Hunger Walk. For the safety and well-being of all involved, the CROP Walk Committee of Dubuque Area Congregations United (DACU) has decided to postpone our planned October 2020 CROP Hunger walk to April 2021. Our local recipients, the Dubuque Rescue Mission, the Dubuque Food Pantry, and People in Need, have said they can survive until then without our usual fall contributions.

The national sponsor of CROP Walk, Church World Service, is in great need of funds now, however, as they also provide resources to those affected by hurricanes. Since they were unable to hold events this spring and summer, they were \$250,000 short at the beginning of August of funds needed to provide hygiene kits and blankets. If you would like to contribute to Church World Service/CROP, we suggest you send those funds to them directly:

www.cwsglobal.org

The CROP Walk Committee of DACU



Children of Abraham



Our general theme of the year: Worldview in Times of Crisis

October 15 at 7:00pm: Crisis & the Common Good: Civic Virtue , How do we respond in times of crisis?

Join us via Zoom or Facebook to keep our interfaith dialogue active and be part of the conversation. If you would like to listen/participate on Zoom, email one of us to get the Zoom link - John (john.eby@loras.edu) or Alan (agarfield@dbq.edu). Or you can view our Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/cofabraham/> on the proper Thursday.

Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

Since we will not be gathering for face-to-face worship in October, and therefore cannot bring donations to the church, we will plan to collect items from your porch for the Dubuque Food Pantry (Food for the First) and the Victim Services Shelter (Supplies for the Second). Watch your email for details.

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:

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.



Victim Services Shelter:

Pajamas of all sizes, twin and full sheets, adult slippers, and laundry detergent



Thank you for supporting these ministries.

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