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First Press *First Presbyterian Church* *February 2021*



THIS SUNDAY FEBRUARY 7th

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, the number of food insecure families continues to rise, especially in this unprecedented time. The pandemic means more and more families in the U.S. worry about when they'll have their next meal.

The Souper Bowl of Caring is a national youth event, where young people team up around the time of the Super Bowl football game to collect dollars and food for local charities. FPC has been supporting this mission since 1995!

You can help!!! Here's how:

1. You can make out a check to First Presbyterian Church and write "Souper Bowl of Caring" in the memo line.
2. You can purchase non-perishable food items for the Dubuque Food Pantry. See the email from the church office informing you how you can let the deacons know to come and pick up your donations on Feb. 10.

Last year, FPC generously gave \$815 and 157 food items to the Dubuque Food Pantry.

Let's huddle up and score big by making this year the biggest collection EVER for the SOUPER Bowl of Caring!



Annual Meeting Wrap-Up

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation to review and receive the reports in the 2020 Annual Report was held virtually on January 24 via Zoom. Thirty-six members and four Ministers of Word and Sacrament who are active participants in the ministry and mission of FPC attended the meeting. It was moderated by our newly installed pastor, Rev. Stephanie Ells.

The Annual Report showed highlights of our year, especially noting, and celebrating how we were able to maintain the ministry and mission of FPC while we were without a pastor for the first 7 months and struggling through the pandemic. Thanks was given to the many FPC folks who have stepped up to carry out the call Jesus has placed on his disciples here on the corner of 17th and Iowa Streets to "serve our church, neighborhood, and world through ministries of worship, nurture, education, and outreach". (from FPC's Mission Statement)



From the Pastor

On Saturday, January 23rd, the Session and Deacons met for the annual retreat. The focus of our time together was team-building, setting goals for 2021, and reviewing our current committee structure and purpose.

Our goals for 2021 will not change from the goals affirmed at last year's retreat. (We sure had fun crossing off the one referring to the Pastor Nominating Committee!) With the pandemic still dictating much of our church life together, combined with a new pastor; the leadership felt this to be the wisest route. As written, these goals provide us with immense flexibility in how we fulfill them as God's servants. The 2021 goals are:

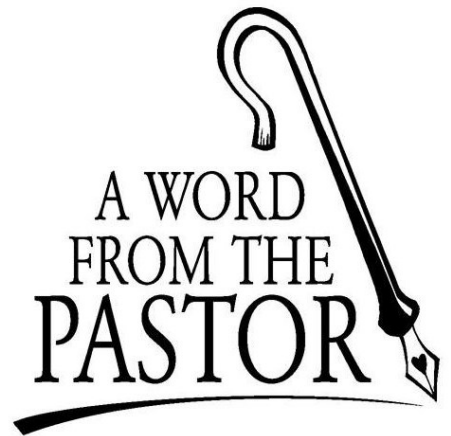
1. Tending the flock; (not letting folks fall through the cracks)
2. "Growing" the congregation – evangelism
3. Providing meaningful worship
4. Maintaining and improving the buildings
5. Nurturing and educating our church family

We celebrated all the ways we were able to meet these goals in 2020, and look forward to what 2021 will bring! Identified as items of celebration were: continued ministry & mission despite the hurdles out of our control, numerous building improvements, the virtual Christmas play, the ability to worship online & our quality/committed streaming team, learning new skills and discovering new ways to use our God-given gifts, faithful financial giving, and MANY MORE!

The conversation about the current committee structure at FPC only touched the tip of the iceberg! Committees enable us to more fully carry out the ministry of Jesus Christ as a church body. With a new pastor on board, this is a good time for a refresher regarding why we do what we do as well as to consider how we might adjust things to be more effective and inclusive. Be watching for more information about this as 2021 goes along; and if you have thoughts to offer, feel free to reach out to a Session member or to me.

You have a group of faithful, committed leaders here at FPC who deeply love this congregation and every person who is a part of it. As I walked away on Saturday, I was filled with anticipation for where God will lead us together! I have a feeling we are in for an adventure of divine proportions.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Stephanie



Thank you for the incredible outpouring of love on my 40th birthday and on the occasion of my Installation Service! I got cards and texts for several days - and it was so fun. You are all a blessing to me.

Love, Pastor Stephanie

Christian Education

Confirmation Art

The Confirmation Class is studying the Apostles' Creed. As we discussed the second article that states our beliefs about Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, we worked on these crosses and poetry. Please continue to lift up the confirmands, mentors, and teachers in your prayers.

Creed

An Acrostic by Ryan McClain

Crucified dead and buried
Reconciliation
Everlasting love
Everlasting life
Dedication to our beliefs in



Reconciliation

An Acrostic by Ella Gunn

Restoration of Christ
Entrusting God with our lives
Choosing to start over
Overcoming the broken
New beginning
Crucified, dead, and buried
Initiating prayer
Letting go of judgment and sin
Inception
Apostles' Creed
Trusting God's Word
Incredibly Savior
Ongoing faith
New blood



Ransomed

A Haiku by Thomas Blair

The price for freedom
Cash or credit to be paid
Freedom earned by price



Join in the Sermon Series Discussion

You are cordially invited to join an Adult Sermon Series discussion group on Sundays at 4:00 p.m. Pastor Stephanie has begun a sermon series based on *The Jesus I Never Knew* by Philip Yancey. Using Scripture, a chapter of the book, and the sermon preached that day, participants will reflect on who is Jesus. Pastor Stephanie and others will lead the discussion. Watch for the email with the Zoom information to join this discussion group. Each week stands alone so you can join whenever you are available.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We sincerely hope that we can enjoy VBS this year, so please mark your calendars!



GOD CALLS YOU BY NAME

June 14-18, 2021
9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

For children ages 4 through
those entering 6th grade.

In the Life of the Church



Let Us Rejoice!

On January 17, 2021, John Knox Presbytery and First Presbyterian Church joyfully installed Rev. Stephanie Ells as pastor.

Pastor Stephanie began her ministry at FPC in August 2020, but due to the pandemic, an installation service was postponed by John Knox Presbytery. Since the act of installation is an action of presbytery, once we were permitted to hold the installation via a streamed service, an administrative commission of the Presbytery - three pastors and three ruling elders from three different congregations of John Knox Presbytery - was elected to install Pastor Stephanie to a permanent pastoral relationship. Rev.

Marsha Wilfong and Ruling Elder Marita Hale, served as liturgists, Rev. Katrina Richardson preached, Ruling Elder Bonnie Sue Lewis led the service of installation assisted by Ruling Elder Linda Longfield, and Rev. Bradley Longfield gave the charge to the congregation. Dr. Mark Ward, co-chair of the Pastor nominating Committee (PNC), also participated by giving the charge to the pastor. Kristen Eby and Jill Klinebriel provided beautiful music. Rev. Ells gave the benediction. A special thanks to Bryan and Sara Blair for their technical support.

Installing our new pastor is an exciting and important event for both Rev. Ells and the congregation. In worship we give thanks to God, recognize the call extended to Pastor Stephanie, acknowledge her responsibilities and duties, and celebrate this new chapter in the congregation's life.

Let us rejoice in our ministry together! We look forward to the time we can celebrate this exciting new relationship between pastor and congregation in person.

Joint Ash Wednesday Worship

This year First Presbyterian Church will again be joining with Westminster Presbyterian Church and the University of Dubuque for an Ash Wednesday service.

The service will be livestreamed at Westminster at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, Feb. 17. It can be accessed at wpcdbq.org or on WPC's Facebook page. The service will be a time of prayer and reflection with music and Scripture readings. This year's service will not include the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, but will provide an opportunity to participate in the "imposition of ashes" by using garden or potting soil mix (or any dirt you can find!) with a little water, and tracing the sign of the cross on your hand or forehead. This symbolic action reminds us of the frailty and uncertainty of human life and our need of God's grace.

As part of our Lenten discipline, we are inviting you to make a contribution to "People in Need" (PIN), sponsored by DACU (Dubuque Area Congregations United), which provides monetary assistance for needs including (but not limited to) fuel, electricity, water, rent, and prescription drugs. Money is paid by PIN directly to the vendor/provider of services. You may donate online at the WPC website listed above, or send a check to "People in Need" to the FPC office and Bob Monthey will direct it appropriately.



February 2021

Deacons of the Month: Jamie Dillman & Franklin Yartey

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 9:00am Sunday School - PreK-12th grade -Online lessons 10:15am Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching via live stream 4:00pm JINK Study via Zoom	1 FEBRUARY	2	3 10:00am Church Chat 6:30pm Confirmation	4 7:00pm Worship Com. (Zoom)	5	6
7 9:00am Sunday School - PreK-12th grade -Online lessons 10:15am Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching via live stream 11:45am Deacons meeting 4:00pm JINK Study via Zoom	8 CE 4:15 (Zoom)	9	10 6:30pm Confirmation	11	12	13
14 9:00am Sunday School - PreK-12th grade -Online lessons 10:15am Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching via live stream 4:00pm JINK Study via Zoom	15	16 7:00pm Buildings & Grounds	17 ASH WEDNESDAY 7:00pm Joint Ash Wed. worship via live stream www.wpcdbq.org	18 7:00pm Children of Abraham	19	20 9:00am-12:00pm John Knox Presbytery (Zoom)
21 1st Sunday of Lent 9:00am Sunday School - PreK-12th grade -Online lessons 10:15am Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching via live stream 4:00pm JINK Study via Zoom	22	23	24 6:30pm Confirmation	25	26	27
28 2nd Sunday of Lent 9:00am Sunday School - PreK-12th grade -Online lessons 10:15am Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching via live stream 4:00pm JINK Study via Zoom	1 MARCH	2	3 10:00am Church Chat 6:30pm Confirmation	4 7:00pm Worship Com. (Zoom)	5	6

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

Your
Church
Family
Needs
You!



All areas of ministry at FPC could use your help. Please volunteer for one of the following committees by contacting one of the Session members below:

- Buildings & Grounds* – Tom Boelk & John Dillman
- Christian Education* – Linda Longfield
- Congregational Life* – TBD
- Finance & Personnel* – John Dillman
- Memorial* – Sandy Spencer & Linda Longfield
- Mission & Stewardship* – Sandy Spencer
- Worship* – Kristen Eby & Bryan Blair

OFFICE HOURS

Due to the current COVID pandemic, **Pastor Stephanie's office hours at the church will be Tuesdays and Thursdays 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 9:30-1:30pm. She can be reached through the church email: firstpresdbq@gmail.com



PREACHING SCHEDULE



FEBRUARY

- February 7 Rev. Stephanie Ells
- February 14 Rev. Stephanie Ells
- February 21 Rev. Stephanie Ells
- February 28 Rev. Stephanie Ells

Join Us for the Weekly Church Chat!

During the pandemic, at 10am every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, Pastor Stephanie will host an online church chat to help us stay connected. Everyone is welcome to join for much needed fellowship. Be looking for the email with the Zoom information for each chat.



Electronic giving is available at FPC. For more information and/or to set up an account, please contact church treasurer Bob Monthey at fpcdbq.treasurer@gmail.com

Mission/Stewardship

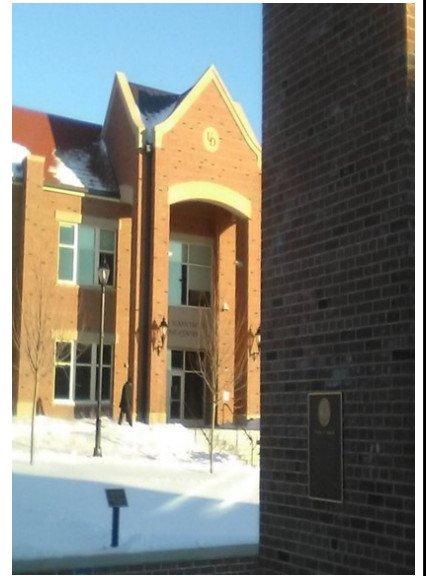
Community Corner: Totem of Honor



There are few living things that remain standing with the passage of time. Native Americans recognize a tree to be one of those things. They also use trees as tools of communication much like our letters. Roughly twenty years ago, the University of Dubuque received one such "letter" in the form of a totem pole. The totem pole was presented to the university by Tsimshian carver David Boxley who is from Metlakatla, Alaska, the hometown of Henry Fawcett. It now stands in UD's new Welcome Center, a building just east of the new Wallace Commons (see below). What is the significance of this totem "letter" to our congregation?

On Christmas day in 2022, our congregation will celebrate its 175th birthday. At the time of our birth, the Rev. Peter Flury had come to Dubuque with a letter of commission to carry the Gospel to the Native Americans who lived here. His commission began in the basement of our church and has continued to be carried out over the

years in many ways. We remember the Rev. Dr. Henry Fawcett (UDTS professor) and the Rev. Dr. Cecil Corbett (UDTS graduate) both of whom were on hand to receive the totem for the university. They have since died, their voices are silenced, but the totem still stands. In the words of carver David Boxley at the totem's dedication, "You have honored us, and we would like to honor you in return."



One Great Hour of Sharing

Restoring Hope, Feeding the Hungry, Empowering the Oppressed

How are OGHS offerings used by the PC(USA)? Gifts received during the season of Lent for One Great Hour of Sharing support efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Giving begins Ash Wednesday, February 17 and continues through Easter Sunday, April 4.

Last year's offerings totaled \$1500.00. We hope to match it this year!



Summer Camp Registration OPEN for Camp Wyoming

Cancellation of 2020 programs has allowed more time to plan and prepare for safely running camp in the midst of the COVID 19 pandemic. Camp Wyoming is anxious to see everyone at their 2021 summer camps! Campers who register before the Early Bird Deadline of March 15 will save \$25.00 on their summer camp fees. Go to campwyoming.net and check out the camps being offered at Camp

Wyoming located in Wyoming, IA.

Check with a member of the Mission Committee if you have any questions regarding Camp Wyoming.

**CAMP
WYOMING**
Sacred Space. Growing Faith.

Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

Since we will not be gathering for face-to-face worship in February, and therefore cannot bring donations to the church, the deacons 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). **There will be a deacon pick up on Feb. 10th.** See 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:

Canned vegetables, boxed potatoes, and pasta mixes but all non-perishables are welcome, as well as, diapers (size 3-5) and baby wipes.



Victim Services Shelter:

Disinfecting wipes, paper towels, glass cleaner, shampoo/conditioner, and paper products.



Thank you for supporting these ministries.