

FIRST PRESS – FEBRUARY 2023

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First Presbyterian Church

"We love because God first loved us."

✦ 1 John 4:19

CURRENT SERMON SERIES: "What Is God Like"

We continue the journey of asking "What is God like?" through our worship gatherings and sermons.

The series is based on Rachel Held Evans children's book, "What is God like?" which guides children in wondering about this BIG question people all around the world have been asking since the beginning of time. It is not only children who ask themselves and others "What is God like?"

While God is too big for any of us to see, we can know what God is like through the words and pictures found in the Bible.



VISION GATHERINGS

Our first vision gathering was held on Sunday, January 8th, 2023. There was good conversation about where we have been, where we are, and how we are going to continue to move together into God's planned future for us as a congregation. God is at work among and around us and it is exciting to think about what might be ahead.



We will continue our visioning process by gathering on the first Sunday of each month after worship for lunch, fellowship and discernment. Your voice and participation is vital to the future vitality of FPC's life and ministry. A light lunch and childcare for children through age 10 will be provided.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



tacklehunger.org

Back for 2023 – The “Souper” Bowl of Caring

Since 1990 this charity has raised over 175 million across the US in its effort to “tackle” hunger. Did you know that each dollar donated generates \$18 for food charities? Please join us in fighting hunger through your donations of cash, dry and canned goods on

February 12th.

SAVE THE DATE: CREATOR’s CAMP

Creator’s Camp will be back this summer! FPC will again host the VBS-like opportunity for children ages 4-12 to grow in their understanding of and relationship with God and one another. This year, it will be held at St. Luke’s UMC on Wednesdays 1-4 PM beginning July 5, 2023 through August 9, 2023.



YOUTH GROUP CONTINUES

The joint youth group with Westminster PC continues to meet with youth in grades 6-12 on Sundays from 5:00pm-6:30pm.

- February 5 @ WPC
- February 26 @ WPC

More to come!



**Thank you to all who
participated in the
“The Little Star of Bethlehem”**

FEBRUARY 2023

Deacons of the month: Alex Jack & Tom Jack

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship: live stream Rev. Stephanie Ells preaching Officer installation	30	31	1 FEBRUARY 11:00am Young at Heart @ Village Inn Pastor out	2 Pastor out	3	4 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Papa Ozz
5 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship: live stream Rev. Stephanie Ells preaching Communion 11:30am Vision Gathering 5:00pm Youth Group @ WPC	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 SOUPER BOWL OF CARING 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship: live stream Rev. Stephanie Ells preaching 11:30am Valentine Potluck	13	14	15	16 7:00pm Children of Abraham @ Emmaus	17	18 9:00am JKP mtg. via Zoom 9:00-10:00am Deacons/Session meet 10:00-12:00pm Joint officer retreat
19 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship: live stream Rev. Stephanie Ells preaching Baptism	20 4:00pm CE (Zoom)	21	22 Ash Wednesday 7:00pm Joint Ash Wednesday worship @ WPC	23	24	25
26 <i>1st Sunday of Lent</i> 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship: live stream Rev. Stephanie Ells preaching 1:30pm Bethany Home worship 5:00pm Youth Group @ WPC	27	28	1 MARCH 11:00am Young at Heart @ Village Inn	2	3	4 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Papa Ozz

Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

Birthdays & Anniversaries February

- 3 Beth Foxen
- 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 people below:

- Buildings & Grounds* – Tom Boelk & John Dillman
- Christian Education* – Sara Blair
- Congregational Life* – TBD
- Finance & Personnel* – John Dillman
- Memorial* – TBD
- Mission & Stewardship* – Hannah Eby
- Worship* – Kristen Eby



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

OFFICE HOURS



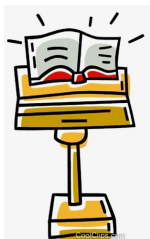
Pastor Stephanie can be reached at (cell) 507-227-8537 or fpcdbq.pastor@gmail.com. In case of emergency, call her cell. If she does not answer, leave a voice message and she'll return the call. Office hours are Monday & Wednesday from 9:00am—1:00pm.

Administrative Assistant, Ginger Vander Broek, works from home Monday & Wednesday from 10:30-2:30pm and at FPC Thursday from 10:30-12:00pm.* You can contact her at firstpresdbq@gmail.com.

*Office hours may change slightly week to week.

PREACHING SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY



- February 5 Rev. Stephanie Ells
- February 12 Dani Postma
- February 19 Rev. Stephanie Ells
- February 26 Rev. Stephanie Ells

FPC BUDGET UPDATE

January thru 1/8

Monthly offering: \$2,034
Budgeted need: \$14,563

Year-to-Date for 2023

Income thru 1/8: \$2,034
Expenses thru 1/8: \$3,855



MISSION



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

It was with joy that we welcomed the Reverend Nathan Longfield to the pulpit on Jan 22!

Nathan, baptized and nurtured at FPC, was ordained last July in the Reformed Church in America. He is starting a new church in Holland MI, called Emmaus Reformed Church. FPC is supporting Nathan's efforts through prayer and financial gifts. Thanks to your generosity, we raised over \$800 for Emmaus.

If you want to learn more about this important worshipping community and ministry that we are supporting, please go to www.emmausreformedchurch.org.

COMMUNITY CORNER: Valentine's Day

In the yearly rhythm of church life, certain events stand out as essential for the congregation to define "community life." There are the obvious church feasts and festivals that are loaded with the theological weight of tradition (Christmas and Easter to name just two). But one event stands out for me as a "can't miss" in church. Although its meaning can get lost in the commercialization of our times, only the church can restore to it the meaning that stands in sharp contrast with the meaning given it by the world. That event is Valentine's Day.

For me, the meaning was brought home graphically when my sister died in my arms on Valentine's Day, 2005. Valentine's Day will never be the same. She did not die on our mother's birthday (February 12) out of respect for her, nor did she die the next day on Friday the 13th (she would never let the "odds" have the final word), but she chose Valentine's Day. That night her church had a party. It was an event that will always define "love" for me. At a time when my pain was overwhelming, the church literally "held me in her arms."



Two weeks ago, our sister Joyce McClain died. Her death reminded me of my sister. If there was ever a person who defined what it meant to "give a party," it was Joyce. She relished working on the cakes she brought to Young at Heart each month. Believe me; Duncan, Dane, and Joel relished them as well (not to mention the rest of us).

For my sister and for Joyce, "love" on Valentine's Day will always mean the "giving" of themselves whether by giving cake (for Joyce) or by giving her life (for my sister). Celebrating the holiday as a church family is important for all of us as we can recapture and practice the true sense of what it means to give love to one another, a message sorely needed by the community all around us.

On Sunday, February 12th following the church service at the Valentine-themed potluck, we all have a chance to demonstrate to the world (and remind ourselves) what is the true meaning of Valentine's Day (and relish in eating some cake as well).

The Mission Committee is offering reflections about the relationship between FPC and our Dubuque community in this space as we celebrate our 175th year of ministry. A special thanks to Tom Jack who has been writing these reflections.

Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

Now that we are having church in person, we invite you to donate to the Dubuque Food Pantry on the first Sunday of the month and the Domestic Violence Victim Services Shelter on the second Sunday of the month. You can bring items to church on Sunday or drop them off during the pastor's office hours. 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:

Any non-perishable food is in need, but also peanut butter & jelly, canned meats, ramen noodles, shampoo, laundry soap, & hot chocolate mix.



Victim Services Shelter:

Along with the always needed paper products and cleaning supplies; shampoo/conditioner, toothpaste & brushes, and feminine products.



Thank you for supporting these ministries.

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