

IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

THANK YOU! A huge THANKS to the folks who showed up last weekend to help mulch so we are ready to plant our pocket prairies at the end of May! The pocket prairies will provide for much healthier soil, water run-off, and wildlife on our property. It is a lot of work getting them set up initially, but within a few seasons, it will be looking beautiful and adding so much color and vibrance!

TOMORROW MORNING, April 15th, at 10:00am you are invited to join the Dubuque faith community in a prayer service for Morgan Frazer, Director of the Dubuque Rescue Mission. Morgan has had another cancer occurrence, this time in his liver. This brief service will take place at Immanuel United Church of Christ (1795 Jackson St). Masks will be required due to Morgan’s compromised immune system.

NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUP: Join the Jackson Park Neighborhood in cleaning up the neighborhood on Saturday April 20. Meet in Jackson Park at 8:30 am. Bags will be provided for small groups to collect trash in the Jackson Park Historical District. Bring the garbage bags back to the park and join our neighbors for coffee and donuts.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING: Our generous church donated \$1,046 to OGHS which supports Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - programs serving individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

PASTOR STEPHANIE’S OFFICE HOURS are Tuesdays/Thursdays from 9am-1pm. As always, it is recommended you contact her via cell phone at (507) 227-8537 with your pastoral needs or to schedule a visit. She welcomes your connections!

THE FAITH EXPLORATION PROGAM (Youth Group) for students in grades 6-12 is held every Sunday night from 5:30 - 7pm at Westminster PC(USA) Church. Join us for fun, hanging out, and learning what it means to follow Jesus – all while connecting with other Christian youth from around Dubuque. Bring a friend or two! *Dinner is served as part of this program.*

WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We welcome you to this worship service. If you are a guest, please fill out a visitor’s card in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. We would love to greet you by name. We invite you to join us Sunday mornings at 9:00am for Sunday School (September-April). Worship follows at 10:15am. Nursery care is located in the basement and is provided for both the Sunday School and worship hours for children through age 5.

THE WEEK IN BRIEF (events at FPC unless noted)

Sun. April 14 <i>Supplies for the 2nd Third Sunday of Easter</i>	9:00am	Sunday School for all ages Lindsey Ward, adult facilitator
	10:15am	Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching
	5:30pm	Youth Group @ WPC
Sat. April 20	8:30am	Jackson Park Neighborhood Cleanup Beginning in Jackson Park
Sun. April 21 <i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i>	9:00am	Sunday School for all ages
	10:15am	Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching
	11:30am	Choir rehearsal after church
	5:30pm	Youth Group @ WPC

GIVING

To support the mission and ministry of our church, we need \$14,930 per month. Offerings received this month through April 7 totaled \$2,415.

- Offerings Year to Date through April 7 - \$29,408
- Expenses Year to Date through April 7 - \$46,494

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Deacon of the month April: Deb Stant

Pastor Stephanie’s office hours are 9:00am-1:00pm on Tuesday and Thursday. Contact her anytime with prayer requests or pastoral care needs at 507-227-8537 or fpcdbq.pastor@gmail.com

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April 14, 2024

3rd Sunday of Easter

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE
“Every Day I Will Bless You”
Blake

FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION:
Lord you are a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold for times of trouble, and those who know your name put their trust in you. Oh Lord, you have not forsaken those who seek you. Visit our hearts this morning and comfort us in our troubles under Eagle’s wings as we worship at your feet. Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Lift up your voice and call out to God.
We cry out, believing that God hears us.
Come together and wait for God.
We come together, trusting that God is still speaking.
Surely God’s presence is here with us now.
We wait in hope, for God’s steadfast love lifts our hearts.
Come, worship the Lord.
We celebrate the power of God that restores us.

*SONGS OF PRAISE #90
“Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners” v. 1, 2, 5
Hyfrydol

“Still”
Morgan
*Hide me now, under your wings,
Cover me within your mighty hand.*

Refrain:
*When the oceans rise and thunders roar,
I will soar with you above the storm.
Father, you are King over the flood.
I will be still and know you are God.*

*Find rest my soul, in Christ alone,
Know His pow'r in quietness and trust.
(refrain)*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
O God of compassion, if you kept a record of our sins, who could stand? We come before you with our brokenness and our wounds for all to see. We bring our anger, our bitterness, our unwhole-some talk, and our deceitfulness. We try to do good, but some-times fail. We choose to do evil, and sometimes succeed. Keep your promise to forgive us when we confess to you completely. Without you, we have no hope.

SILENT CONFESSION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*GLORIA PATRI (#734 in Hymnal)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING
Esther 5:1-8
p. 781

SERMON “Esther’s Persuasion”

*HYMN OF RESPONSE #428
“When Peace Like a River”
Ville de Havre

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles’ Creed
I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE**
The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER (Back cover of hymnal)

THE OFFERING
OFFERTORY
“Consecrated, Lord to Thee ”
arr. Wagner
*DOXOLOGY #34
*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*SENDING HYMN #405
“My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”
Solid Rock

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE
“Joyful Hymn of Praise”
arr. Lopez

**Please stand in spirit or in body
**Please take a moment to extend the peace of Christ to one another by greeting those around you. Say “hello,” wave, learn each other’s names - whatever feels most comfortable to you.*

WELCOMING YOU TO WORSHIP

Officer in Charge of Greeting: Tom Boelk
Nursery Attendants: Florence Siefker & Brooklyn Neyen
(Children through age 5 are invited to the nursery
for any or all of the service)

LEADERS IN WORSHIP

Preacher: Rev. Stephanie Ells
Liturgist: Scott McCaw
Music Director: Kristen Eby

A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP

You are warmly invited to join us for a time of fellowship in the Coffee Hour Room next to the sanctuary immediately following the service.