

# FIRST PRESS – DECEMBER 23/JANUARY 24

1684 Iowa St.  
Dubuque, Iowa 52001  
563.582.4494

firstpresdbq@gmail.com  
firstpresdbq.org



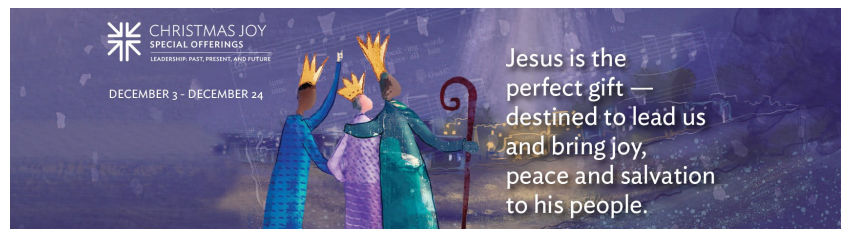
*First Presbyterian Church*

“We love because God first loved us.”

✦ 1 John 4:19

## CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP

Celebrate the Birth of Christ with a service of Lessons & Carols at 7:00pm on Sunday, December 24th. You can also join us virtually. Watch your email for the bulletin and link to the Christmas Eve Service or you can find the link on our website [www.firstpresdbq.org](http://www.firstpresdbq.org)



## CHRISTMAS EVE MORNING!

We will worship together for a “Community Christmas” service with Westminster PC (USA) and Holy Trinity ELCA on Sunday, December 24th at 10:00am. Westminster Presbyterian Church will host. There will be no service at FPC Christmas Eve morning.

In the evening, we will hold our traditional Lessons & Carols Candlelight service here at FPC (see above).

We encourage you to participate in both opportunities to welcome the long-awaited Christ-child into our midst!

## FPC HOSTS BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

A community Blue Christmas service will be held at FPC on Wednesday, December 13th at 6:30pm.

Advent and Christmas are known as joyous seasons, yet there are many whose hearts are aching. This service creates space at the manger to acknowledge our pain and to call on God for help and comfort. All are welcome to join participating congregations (*First Presbyterian - Dubuque, Westminster Presbyterian, First Presbyterian - Bellevue, St. Luke's UMC, St. Johns Episcopal, First Congregational UCC, and Immanuel UCC*). Childcare will be provided.

## CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

The Christmas Joy Offering is one of the denomination-wide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). These offerings play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church in the 21st century, bringing together the diversity of the PC (USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The Joy Offering specifically provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need, and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Christmas Joy Offering will be received on Sunday, December 17th, or at any time leading up to then. In order to be sure your gift is properly distributed, please clearly designate it for the “Joy Offering.”

## Blue Christmas

A Community Service of Healing and Hope  
for anyone feeling blue this season

Wednesday  
December 13th  
6:30 PM

Hosted by First Presbyterian Church  
1684 Iowa St | Dubuque, IA  
Childcare Provided

### Participating Churches:

First Presbyterian Church-DBQ, St. Johns Episcopal Church,  
St. Luke's UMC, First Congregational Church UCC, Immanuel  
UCC, First Presbyterian Church-Bellevue, Westminster  
PC(USA)...**All are welcome**

# WORSHIP

## JANUARY SERMON SERIES

Join us as we discover women's stories in the Bible based on Ashley M. Wilcox's *The Women's Lectionary: Preaching The Women Of The Bible Throughout The Year*. *The Women's Lectionary* provides a vivid and interconnected commentary drawing out the richness of Biblical stories and the opportunities for proclamation of the good news, particularly through the lens of women's stories and the divine feminine; from well-known figures like Miriam and Mary, to lesser-known women like Huldah and Sapphira, to feminine metaphors. How does it change our understanding if God is feminine wisdom, has wings, or is an angry mother bear? Come and find out!



## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

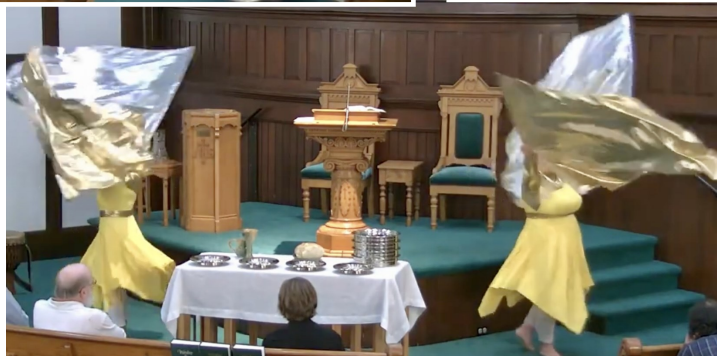
There will be a congregational meeting immediately following worship on January 21st. At that time, we will elect new officers and review the 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Operating Budget. Streaming will continue after worship.

## PASTOR WILL BE OUT OF THE OFFICE

Pastor Stephanie will be on vacation December 26 to January 5; and Administrative Assistant, Ginger Vander Broek from December 22 to January 3. In case there is an emergent pastoral need, you may reach out to Dani Postma, cell (563) 235-9015 (12.26 & 12.27) and Rev. Marsha Wilfong, cell (563) 583-6571 (12.28-1.5).



## PRAISE DANCERS FROM AN OCTOBER WORSHIP SERVICE



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Join Us for the Christmas Play:  
**December 17, 2022**  
Rehearsals 9am December 3, 10, 17



[tacklehunger.org](http://tacklehunger.org)

Bring Food Donations &  
Join Us February 11, 2024

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CONTINUES JANUARY 7!

Join us as we learn the books of the Bible through song.

39 Books of the Old Testament: [Sing the Books of the Old Testament.wmv](#)

27 Books of the New Testament: [Sing the Books of the New Testament.wmv](#)



## YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

Faith Exploration Youth Group will be taking a break for the holiday season. There will be no gathering on Sunday, December 17 or 24. We resume our usual schedule on Sunday, January 7th at Westminster PC(USA) from 5:30-7:00pm.



## NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

**DECEMBER 24TH & DECEMBER 31ST**

Please enjoy the time with your family.  
We will resume Sunday School on January 7th at 9:00am.

PLEASE  
NOTE...

Our next CE meeting is January 9 at 4:00pm via zoom. All are welcome!



Serving the meal at Faith Formation (@ WPC)

# IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

## SESSION MEETING SUMMARY, NOVEMBER 6, 2023

- Elected Tom Jack as Session delegate for the November 14, 2023 John Knox Presbytery meeting
- Review building and grounds needs; discussed prioritizing projects for future planning
- Reviewed congregational approval of movement to a single board of Elders (two-year terms) and Deacons (one-year terms) and tasked the Nominating Committee with the election of two Elders following Congregational approval of update to bylaws
- Set Biannual Congregational Meeting for the election of officers and Annual Report review for January 21, 2023.
- Shared the results of meeting with two local realtors who specialize in downtown properties regarding possibilities for the manse, no action
- Updated Church Rolls

# Welcome

## A NEW FACE IN THE NURSERY!

First Pres has hired a new nursery attendant, Brooklyn Neyen. Brooklyn is currently a UD student and also works in their daycare. Stop down and say "Hello!"

## MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!

Choir will rehearse on Wednesday, December 6 at 7:00pm. January date TBD. Choir is directed by Kristen Eby. As always, all are welcome to join this important ministry. Have fun and enjoy fellowship while making a joyful noise! For questions, contact Kristen.



## THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE IS MEETING AFTER WORSHIP ON DECEMBER 3RD.



Annual Reports are due to the office at 9:00am Tuesday, January 2nd.

Thank you!

## FPC BUDGET UPDATE thru 11/26

Monthly offering: \$8,519  
Budgeted need: \$14,563

	Year-to-Date for 2023
Income	\$106,693
Expenses	\$139,905



## WEATHER BAD? IS CHURCH CANCELED? SEE BELOW HOW TO FIND OUT...

- ◆ Call the church office (582-4494) after 7:30AM on Sunday mornings.
- ◆ Watch your email for an all-church announcement.
- ◆ Check this FPC link: [firstpcdbq.webs.com](http://firstpcdbq.webs.com)
- ◆ (This link is also available on the church website <http://www.firstpresdbq.org>)
- ◆ Notice hopefully provided on KCRG, KWVL, KDTH (and others)

# DECEMBER 2023

## Deacons of the Month: Alex Jack & Tom Jack

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26 NO Sunday School 10:15am Worship: <a href="#">live stream</a> Jim Ott, preaching 11:30am Decorating for Advent	27 Pastor out of office	28	29	30	1 DECEMBER	2 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Kelly's Cafe
3 1st Sunday of Advent <i>Food for the 1st</i> 9:00am Play practice 10:15am Worship: <a href="#">live stream</a> Rev. Stephanie Ellis, preaching Sacrament of Holy Communion 11:30am Deacons 11:30am Nominating Committee 5:30pm Youth Group @ WPC	4	5	6 7:00pm Choir	7	8	9
10 2nd Sunday of Advent <i>Supplies for the 2nd</i> 9:00am Play practice 10:15am Worship: <a href="#">live stream</a> Rev. Stephanie Ellis, preaching 5:30pm Youth Group @ WPC	11	12	13 6:30pm Blue Christmas worship	14	15	16
17 3rd Sunday of Advent 9:00am Play practice 10:15am Worship: <a href="#">live stream</a> "The Nativity" Christmas play	18 6:00pm Session	19	20	21	22	23
24 4th Sunday of Advent NO Sunday School 10:00am Community worship @ Westminster (NO FPC worship) 1:30 Bethany Home 7:00pm Lessons & Carols	25 Christmas Day	26 Pastor out of office	27	28	29	30
31 NO Sunday School 10:15am Worship: <a href="#">live stream</a> Rev. Tim Bees, preaching	1 JANUARY	2 9:00am Annual Reports due	3	4	5	6 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Kelly's Cafe

# JANUARY 2024

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31	NO Sunday School 10:15am Worship: <a href="#">live stream</a> Rev. Tim Bees, preaching	1 JANUARY	2 9:00am Annual Reports due	3	4	5	6 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Kelly's Cafe
	Pastor out of office _____						
7	<i>Food for the 1st</i> 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: <a href="#">live stream</a> Rev. Stephanie Ellis, preaching Sacrament of Holy Communion 11:30am Deacons 11:30am Worship Committee 5:30pm Youth Group @ WPC	8	9 4:00pm CE (Zoom)	10	11	12	13
14	<i>Supplies for the 2nd</i> 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: <a href="#">live stream</a> Rev. Stephanie Ellis, preaching 5:30pm Youth Group @ WPC	15 Birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  <i>Offices Closed</i>	16	17	18	19	20
21	9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: <a href="#">live stream</a> Rev. Stephanie Ellis, preaching Congregational Meeting 5:30pm Youth Group @ WPC	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: <a href="#">live stream</a> Rev. Stephanie Ellis, preaching Officer Ordination/Installation 1:30pm Bethany Home worship 5:30pm Youth Group @ WPC	29 9:00am Newsletter deadline	30	31	1 FEBRUARY	2	3 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Kelly's Cafe

Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

## Birthdays & Anniversaries December

- 2 Joplin Hallstoos
- 11 Crystal Yartey
- 16 Tracy Wildermuth
- 17 Tom Boelk  
Dick Muntz
- 18 Terri Gronau
- 23 Linda Longfield
- 24 Victoria Slemmons
- 27 Delores Muntz  
Micah Dillman
- 28 Tim Slemmons
- 29 Joel Samuels
- 31 Sherry Heer

Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

## Birthdays & Anniversaries January

- 4 Dick & Delores Muntz
- 8 Scott McCaw
- 10 Sara Blair
- 11 Franklin Yartey  
Sam Daniels
- 17 Roger & Susan Ebertz
- 18 Debbie Stant  
Bobby McCaw
- 19 John Wehrspann
- 20 Sam Morales  
Lupe Morales  
Brian & Sharon Hallstoos
- 21 Stephanie Ells
- 22 David McClain
- 23 Audrey Okey
- 24 Jonah Brehm  
Elias Brehm

Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

## OFFICE HOURS



Pastor Stephanie can be reached at (cell) 507-227-8537 or [fpcdbq.pastor@gmail.com](mailto: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.

\*\*\*\*\*

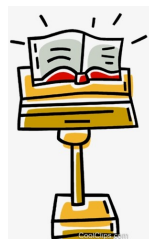
Administrative Assistant, Ginger Vander Broek, works from home Monday & Wednesday from 11:00am-3:00pm\* and at FPC Thursdays

from 10:30-12:00pm. You can contact her at [firstpresdbq@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresdbq@gmail.com). *Ginger will be out of the office 12/22/23—1/3/24. \*Hours may change slightly week to week.*

## PREACHING SCHEDULE

### DECEMBER

- December 3 Rev. Stephanie Ells
- December 10 Rev. Stephanie Ells
- December 17 Christmas program
- December 24AM Community Christmas @ WPC
- December 24PM Service of Lessons & Carols
- December 31 Rev. Tim Bees



### JANUARY

- January 8 Rev. Stephanie Ells
- January 14 Rev. Stephanie Ells
- January 21 Rev. Stephanie Ells
- January 28 Rev. Stephanie Ells

# Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

---

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 hot chocolate, potatoes, graham crackers, canned fruit, cooking oil, toothpaste, lotion, & toilet tissue.



### Victim Services Shelter:

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



Thank you for supporting these ministries.