

FIRST PRESS - FEBRUARY 2024

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

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Join us for the beginning of Lent with our Ash Wednesday Worship Service on Wednesday, February 14 at 7:00pm. We will be hosting this joint service with Westminster Presbyterian Church. The beginning of each Lent brings a new invitation: an invitation into an ever-deepening life of faith, an invitation to a renewed spirituality, and an invitation into continually deeper awareness of God and self. Our Ash Wednesday service is crafted with space for personal reflection and intention-setting at the start of this new season.



LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS



Join us each Sunday evening Feb. 18—March 24th from 5:30-7:00pm for joint Lenten Soup Suppers at Westminster Church held in the Fellowship Hall. Lent is a season in which we are invited to reflect on the immensity of God's love made known in Jesus, his victory over evil, as well as, on our calling to be disciples of Jesus. Over a simple meal, we will feast upon the Word of God in scripture and as portrayed in the video series *The Chosen*. There will be activities for all ages, so you are encouraged to attend as a family.

OGHS: FEBRUARY 18-MARCH 24

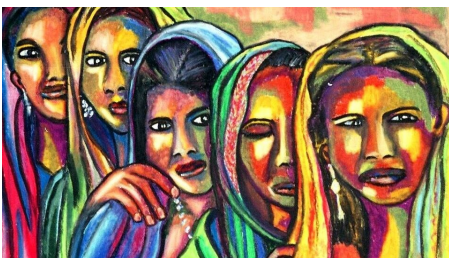
In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve 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.

Please give generously to help lift up others when they are in need.



CURRENT SERMON SERIES: "In Her Voice"



We continue our sermon series, "In Her Voice." We are seeking the wisdom of God as revealed in the voices of women and vivid feminine descriptions of God in the Bible.

In exploring the stories of these daughters, wives, and mothers, who are also strong leaders, disciples, troublemakers, evil queens, and prophetesses; our hope is to expand our faith and understanding.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



tacklehunger.org

Back for 2024 The “Soup”er 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 11th.

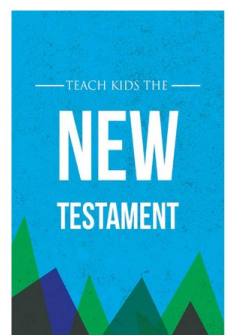


SUNDAY SCHOOL CONTINUES!

Join us as we learn the books of the Bible in Song. Click either book to hear the song and sing along!

The Nativity

Thank You, FPC Youth



Gifts of God: The Sacraments

INTERGENERATIONAL SACRAMENTS EXPERIENCE:


March 10, 17, 24 from 9:00am-10:00am

Pastor Stephanie is looking forward to providing a unique intergenerational opportunity for the congregation to grow in their understanding of the sacraments: Baptism & The Lord's Supper. Don't know anything about them? Great! Come and discover! Think you know everything there is to know about the sacraments? Great! Come and share your understanding! This will be an especially meaningful experience for parents to join in with their young folks; but we hope that many will join in! Come to all three, or come for one – and grow in Christ alongside one another.



FEBRUARY 2024

Deacon of the Month: Deb Stant

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: live stream Rev. Stephanie Ells, 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 @ Papa Ozz
4 Pastor on vacation 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: live stream Rev. Timothy Slemmons, preaching Sacrament of Holy Communion 11:30am Choir 5:30pm Youth Group @ WPC	5	6 4:00pm CE (Zoom)	7	8 Pastor on vacation	9 Pastor on vacation	10 9:00-11:00am Officer meeting
11 SOUPER BOWL OF CARING 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: live stream Scott McCaw, preaching 5:30pm Youth Group @ WPC	12	13	14 7:00pm Joint Ash Wednesday worship w/ WPC	15	16	17 9:00am-3:00pm JKP meeting
18 1st Week of Lent 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: live stream Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching 5:30pm Youth Group @ WPC 5:30pm Lenten Soup Supper/video	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 2nd Week of Lent 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: live stream Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching 1:30pm Bethany Home worship 5:30pm Youth Group @ WPC 5:30pm Lenten Soup Supper/video	26 9:00am Newsletter deadline	27	28	29  HAPPY Leap day	1 MARCH	2 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Papa Ozz

Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

Birthdays & Anniversaries February

- 3 Beth Foxen
- 6 Chrissi McClain
Ethan Blair
- 12 Sandy Spencer
Tatum Hallstoos
- 15 Anne Marx Scheuerell
- 24 Bob Monthey
Aggie Herbst
- 29 Lesley Sheridan



YOUR CHURCH FAMILY NEEDS YOU!

NEW YEAR, NEW WAYS OF ENGAGING!

If you would like to jump into serving or helping out at FPC, you are encouraged to speak with Pastor Stephanie or one of the elders or deacons. There is a place here for everyone and the best way to build connections and community is to share your gifts and skills!

Elders: Kristen Eby
Alex Jack
Tom Boelk
Lindsey Ward
Roger Ebertz

Deacons: Dedee Cosgrove
Debbie Stant



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: NOTE THE CHANGE for Pastor Stephanie



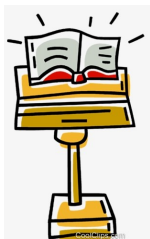
Pastor Stephanie can be reached at (cell) 507-227-8537 or fpcdbq.pastor@gmail.com. In case of emergency, call her cell. If she does not answer, leave a voice message and she'll return the call. Office hours now **Tuesday & Thursday** from 9:00am—1:00pm.

Administrative Assistant, Ginger Vander Broek, works from home **Monday & Wednesday** from 10:30-2:30pm and at FPC **Thursdays** 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 4 Rev. Timothy Slemmons
- February 11 Scott McCaw
- February 18 Rev. Stephanie Ells
- February 25 Rev. Stephanie Ells

FPC BUDGET UPDATE

January thru 1/28

Monthly offering: \$8,124

Budgeted need: \$14,930

Year-to-Date for 2024

Income thru 1/28: \$8,124

Expenses thru 1/28: \$12,895



MISSION

“BACK IN YOUR OUR OWN BACKYARD”

The older I get, my imagination is captured when I hear “Lady Day” Billie Holiday sing the song “Back in Your Own Backyard.” I was reminded of this fascination on the morning of the big snow fall three weeks ago which I call the “Blizzard of ‘24.” I was journaling on the back deck when I wrote “from where I sit, I hear the scraping of the front-walk being shoveled. For a moment, the sound makes me anxious but back here all I see are marsh-mallow pillows covering every flat surface. It’s a cotton ball wonderland hiding all the garden’s weeds, the car’s rusty panels, and the house’s peeling paint normally seen.” That’s the moment when I thought of Lady Day’s song. She must have been singing about what God sees looking at the creation – on that Tuesday morn we were all given a vision of God’s creation in the Garden of Eden “right in our own backyards” during the storm, but it’s so easy to overlook this vision.



On Thursday at the tail-end of the storm, I attended the Downtown Neighborhood Association meeting in Lacy Mansion where this newly reorganized group struggled to define “who are we?” We asked ourselves the questions: what binds us together in this neighborhood and what makes us a unique part of the Dubuque community? Looking out the mansion’s window that overlooked Jackson Park, once again I thought of Lady Day’s song. Hear the lyrics: “The bird with feathers of blue, is waiting for you, back in your own backyard. You’ll see your castle in Spain, through your window pane, back in your own backyard. Oh you can go to the east, go to the west, but someday you’ll come weary at heart where you started from, you’ll find your happiness lies, right under your eyes, back in your own backyard.”

In the city’s formative years, the grounds in the backyard of the Lacy Mansion served as the city cemetery. 11 years after the city was chartered in 1837, our church’s founder Rev. Peter Flury buried his wife Sophia there. When the church edifice was built in 1896, this sacred land became the “backyard” of the church he founded. The land is also sacred to the Mesquakie Tribe who were the inhabitants of the land long before white settlers had arrived. Many Mesquakie revere this land as their own burial grounds. Last summer during our ceremony to consecrate the grounds of Sophia Jackson Flury’s burial, I saw Mesquakie native Jodie Durin praying in the middle of the park, showing his reverence for his own people buried here. Chief Blackhawk, whose people are close relatives of the Mesquakie Tribe, refused to leave his Sauk Village home on the Mississippi River downstream from Dubuque because “the bones of my father are buried here.” Their reverence for the land led to the massacre of his followers by the US government and the opening of the land for white settlement in 1832.

During the Blizzard of ‘24, we were given a glimpse of how God sees the creation – not buried under the front yard grim of a busy working city street, but blanketed with the pristine beauty of backyard snow. Living through many Iowa winters can leave us with jaded outlooks about the “beauty of backyard snow,” but to paraphrase Lady Day Billie Holiday, we need to “take the time to smell the roses.” Jackson Park is one of those “Garden of Eden roses” in our church’s downtown neighborhood located “in the backyard of our church.”



We are offering reflections about the relationship between FPC and our Dubuque community in this space. A special thanks to Tom Jack who has been writing these reflections.

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 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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