

FIRST PRESS - MARCH 2024

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First Presbyterian Church

"We love because God first loved us."

✦ 1 John 4:19

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

Join us each Sunday evening through March 24th from 5:30-7:00pm at Westminster PC(USA) Church for joint Lenten Soup Suppers held in their 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 to us 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.



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- 3-24-2024 Palm Sunday 10:15 am
Palm Processional and OGHS dedication
- 3-28-2024 Maundy Thursday worship 7:00pm
- 3-29-2024 Good Friday Ecumenical Service 12:00-3:00pm @ St. Luke's UMC
Come and go as you are able during these several hours as we walk through the Seven Last Words of Jesus with short reflections, prayers, and music. Stay for a half hour or even the whole time!
- 3-31-2024 Easter celebration 10:15am FPC Choir will sing! Rejoice!

SERMON SERIES



We continue our sermon series, "In Her Voice," 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. Interested in learning more? Check out "The Women's Lectionary" by Ashley Wilcox.

SPRING AHEAD! DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS MARCH 10

FAITH FORMATION & MORE!

FPC VISIONING UPDATE

Our congregation has worked hard to evaluate who we are, what we value, and what we want to focus on in the next few years. As a faithful next step, the session and deacons have joined Presbyterian Foundation's Project Regeneration.

Project Regeneration is for churches in transition and provides a prayerfully guided consultation process that includes expert financial analysis and a range of recommendations for the life and vitality of our shared ministry together. The project is designed to equip churches with information and confidence to make important stewardship and ministry decisions for their unique context. We have met with our consultant, Kyle Nolan, twice to review the process and discuss the strengths and challenges within our context.

After the Easter season, the session and deacons will be joining together in forty days of prayer and discernment as we consider our options, so watch for opportunities to join us in future newsletters and bulletins. If you have any questions about the process or what we're learning throughout the consultation and analysis process, please reach out to any elder or deacon.



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.



Thanks to you,
the Dubuque
Food Pantry is
the big winner
with
121 items and
\$394 donated!

SAVE THE DATE: CREATOR'S CAMP

Creator's Camp is back! 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 through MUSIC! It will again be held at St. Luke's Methodist Church, Monday, July 1 through Wednesday July 3. Stay tuned for more details!



MARCH 2024

Deacon of the month
Dedee Cosgrove

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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 9:00am Karen Stant visitation 10:00am Karen Stant funeral
3 3rd Week of Lent 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: live stream Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching Communion Sunday 5:30pm Youth Group @ WPC 5:30pm Lenten Soup Supper/video	4	5	6	7	8	9 10:00am Harold Daniels visitation 11:00am Harold Daniels funeral
10 4th Week of Lent DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS 9:00am All ages Sacraments Class 10:15am Worship: live stream Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching 5:30pm Youth Group @ WPC 5:30pm Lenten Soup Supper/video	11	12 4:00pm Faith Formation mtg. (Zoom)		14	15 9:00-11:00am Pastor @ JKP Council mtg.	16 9:00-11:00am Officer mtg.
17 5th Week of Lent 9:00am All ages Sacraments Class 10:15am Worship: live stream Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Palm Sunday 9:00am All ages Sacraments Class 10:15am Worship: live stream Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching Palm processional & Fish Banks 11:30am Choir practice 1:30pm Bethany Home worship 5:30pm Youth Group @ WPC 5:30pm Lenten Soup Supper/Video	25 9:00am Newsletter deadline	26	27	28 Maundy Thursday 7:00pm Maundy Thursday worship	29 12:00-3:00pm Good Friday Ecumenical worship @ St. Luke's UMC	30
31 Easter Sunday 10:15am Worship: live stream Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching	1 APRIL	2	3	4	5	6 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Papa Ozz

Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

Birthdays & Anniversaries March

- 8 Chris Daniels
- 9 Ryan McClain
- 10 Aaron Wildermuth
- 13 Preston Yartey
- 17 Tim & Judy Sheridan
- 18 Mackenzie Daniels
- 23 Ron Herbst
- 25 Janet Spoerl
- 26 Kate Tietjen
Kip Ward
Jocelyn Tietjen
Richard & Elaina Biechler
- 30 Thomas Blair
Presley Yartey



2024 CHURCH OFFICERS

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:

<i>Buildings & Grounds</i>	Elder, Tom Boelk
<i>Faith Formation</i>	Elder, Roger Ebertz Chair, Sara Blair
<i>Worship</i>	Elder, Kristen Eby
<i>Community Care</i>	Elder, Alex Jack
<i>Personnel</i>	Elder, Lindsey Ward
<i>Session Clerk</i>	Mark Ward
<i>Deacons</i>	Dedee Cosgrove Deb Stant
<i>Nominating</i>	Chair, Tom Boelk



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

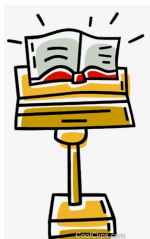


Pastor Stephanie can be reached at (cell) 507-227-8537 or fpcdbq.pastor@gmail.com. In case of emergency, call her cell. If she does not answer, leave a voice message and she'll return the call. Office hours are Tuesday & Thursday from 9:00am—1:00pm.

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



MARCH

- March 3 Rev. Stephanie Ells
- March 10 Rev. Stephanie Ells
- March 17 Rev. Stephanie Ells
- March 24 Rev. Stephanie Ells
- March 31 Rev. Stephanie Ells

FPC BUDGET UPDATE

February

Monthly offering: \$8,877
Budgeted need: \$14,930

Year-to-Date for 2024

Income thru 2/25: \$17,001
Expenses thru 2/25: \$26,511



MISSION

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING SPECIAL OFFERING



Around the world, 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.

Received during the season of Lent, each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact, the OGHS is the single, largest way the Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

You can use your fish bank to collect change, put your cash or check gift in the pew envelope marked "OGHS", use your green calendar to pray; and on March 24th, we will combine our gifts for good.



COMMUNITY CORNER: In Times of Uncertainty

This has been a rough week in the life of our church – with the deaths of Karen Stant and Harold Daniels, and the displacement of Paula McNally, not to mention the on-going health concerns of key members, the uncertainties of life have become much more of an issue in the hearts of many of us. Our Sunday school lesson this morning reminded us that we are not alone in this uncertainty: according to the Gospel of Mark chapter 8, just when the disciples thought they knew Who Jesus was and had made a commitment to follow Him right into the Kingdom, He shocked them by saying “the way to eternal life is through suffering and death”. Peter was so shocked that he actually rebuked Jesus, Who in turn rebuked Peter by saying “get behind me Satan” in order to set him straight!

Our church building is located in a poor part of town, a neighborhood where certainties are often few and far between while suffering and death can often be the norm. Just getting by is often the best we can expect in this life: we have an old building requiring more and more maintenance and we live in old bodies requiring our daily vigilance! Like the disciples, many of us are asking the same question when life throws us “a curve ball” – the shock can be so great that we find ourselves asking “is this what following the risen Savior is all about? We had hoped that it would not be so hard”.

At times like these, I am reminded of the people who occupied this land long before our white settler ancestors had arrived west of the Mississippi River only 200 years ago. These natives were hunted and killed by our white settler ancestors – they were forced to leave the land and live as refugees on an alien land. Jackson Park is revered by our Native brothers and sisters the Mesquakie, The land of Dubuque is their native home, a sacred land next, the ground of their ancestors. They know the land survives and thrives when all else proves to be “temporal” and passes away: their bodies, their dwelling places and even their culture.

What can we learn about certainties in life from our Native brothers and sisters? The land is permanent, the land lives forever, the land is being renewed despite ourselves. Leaving the impermanence of temporal things behind and putting our hope in eternal things carries us through the difficult times of uncertainty. Jackson Park symbolizes the certainty we need in these times of uncertainty, a gift offered to us by our Native neighbors, entrusted to us for our care.

The Mission Committee is 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 soups, canned vegetables, boxed pastas, paper towels, and toilet paper.



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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