

# FIRST PRESS - APRIL 2024

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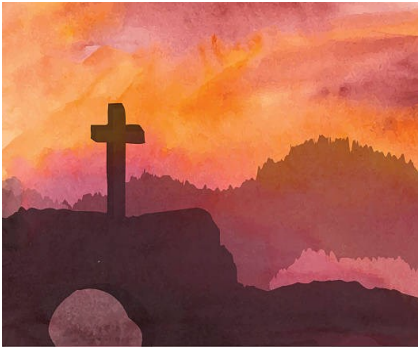
firstpresdbq@gmail.com  
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*First Presbyterian Church*

"We love because God first loved us."

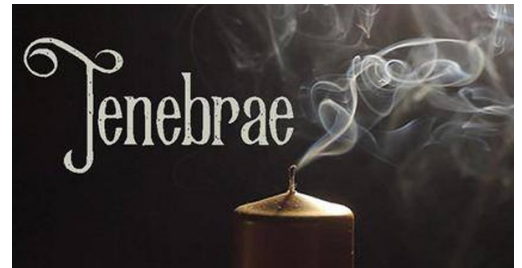
✦ 1 John 4:19



## HOLY WEEK SERVICES AT A GLANCE

- March 28, 7:00pm—Maundy Thursday at FPC
- March 29, noon-3:00pm—Good Friday Ecumenical service at St. Luke's UMC
- March 31, 10:15am—Easter worship at FPC

Our traditional **MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE** will be on Thursday, March 28th at 7:00pm. We will observe the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper together in remembrance of Jesus' last night with his disciples; gathering to wash their feet, and celebrate the Passover meal of unleavened bread. Our English name for this particular day derives from the beginning words of the Old Latin mass that was historically celebrated on this day; "mandatum novum" which means, "a new command." It was on this night Jesus said to his disciples, "a new command I give you that you love one another." The service will conclude with the reading of the last moments of Jesus' life, and the extinguishing of candles and lights.



A **GOOD FRIDAY ECUMENICAL WORSHIP SERVICE** will be held at St. Luke's United Methodist Church on Friday, March 29, noon-3:00pm. This service will focus on "The Seven Last Words of Christ." You may come for all or a part of the service. A variety of preachers, liturgists, and musicians will lead the different portions. Come ponder, sit quietly, reflect, and give thanks.

**EASTER GOOD NEWS!** Our service will be held at the regular worship time of 10:15am here at FPC. Remember, there will be **NO** Sunday School or youth group. *Childcare will be provided during our regular Sunday activities at FPC from 9:00 to 11:30am for children up to age 5.*



## SUSTAINABLE DUBUQUE GRANT UPDATE

Our pocket prairies are getting closer to planting time! We have been solarizing the soil throughout the winter to prep the site, and our prairie plants come at the end of May. The next step is to get mulch laid around the church. We need your help! Come Saturday, April 6th at 10:00am and help us move and rake mulch. Please let Tom Boelk or Alex Jack know if you will be able to stop by.

# IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH



## SAVE THE DATE! CREATORS CAMP

### Creators Camp

July 1–July 3  
9:00am–2:00pm  
@ St. Luke's UMC

Creators 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 UMC, Monday, July 1 through Wednesday July 3, from 9:00am–2:00pm each day. Stay tuned for more details!



## CALLING ALL GRADUATES!

Graduates – where are you? Who are you? We will honor grads on May 19th, if there are any. I cannot think of any off the top of my head, but I want to put it out there in case.



## INTERGENERATIONAL SACRAMENTS CLASS THIS SPRING



## LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

May 5 is the last Sunday of Sunday School until fall. We offer our deep gratitude to each of the Faith Formation facilitators and teachers who have fostered space for us to grow in our faith this past year.

We will be hosting a special Coffee Hour on May 5 after worship to honor our Sunday School teachers and facilitators.

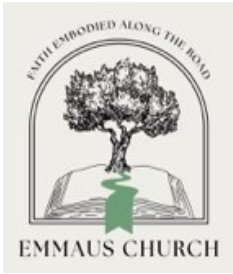


## THANK YOU, GINGER!

We collectively express our deepest gratitude to Ginger Vander Broek for her dedication and tireless service to our church community over the past fourteen years. Ginger shared in the mission and ministry of our church through her administrative gifts, keeping us informed and operating in good order through many changes and transitions. We offer prayers of blessing and encouragement to her and her family!

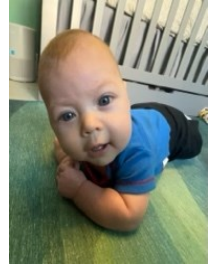
# MISSION

## EMMAUS CHURCH UPDATE FROM NATHAN LONGFIELD



Dear FPC family,

It's been a little over a year since I was able to join you all and share a bit about the work we are doing out here in Holland, MI with Emmaus Church. Before I do that though, on a personal note, Tori and I welcomed our son Solomon Henry (Henry in large part after Henry Fawcett) into the world and our lives in November!



Woodworking Workshop

Since I was with you last, our numbers at Emmaus have continued to grow, though consistency and level of commitment remain a work in progress, as it can take time to build trust with people, particularly those hurt by the church. We, with the help of a grant from Calvin Worship Institute, have been able to explore "Embodied Worship." This grant has helped us engage practices such as Scriptural Enactments, learning about Collect Prayers, and liturgical pottery and woodworking workshops that also led to the production of our own Communion Table, Communion set, baptismal font, and cross, and much more! Through these practices, worship, and the other activities and events we host, we have been thrilled to see the impact we've had on people in our community. We've had members engage in faith and the life of the church for the first time in over 20 years. We have had members find Emmaus as a

hospitable and welcoming space (It is shocking to me how many churches do not have a welcoming and hospitality spirit similar to what I experienced growing up at FPC). We have had members engage in prayer and study of scripture in new and exciting ways as they grow closer to God and grow in love of God and neighbor. This growth and fruit has been very exciting for us to see!

In the midst of this growth, we are working to continue to grow both our numbers and our financial support. Emmaus is an entirely self-funded new church, and this presents several difficulties. Because of this challenge, I am the only paid staff member at only 10 hours a week, as I balance multiple other jobs as well. As we work to continue to grow, we do need your continued financial support. If you are willing to help this important work happening in Holland and to support me in this work, either a monthly reoccurring donation or a one-time donation would go a long way to helping to make the work and ministry of Emmaus grow. The easiest way to donate would be through the QR code or at our website at <https://emmausreformedchurch.org/support/>, or you can send a check to 267 W 18<sup>th</sup> St. Holland, MI 4923 with the check made out to Holland Classis, RCA with Emmaus Church in the memo.



Finally, we continue to covet your prayers as we seek to serve the dechurched population in Holland. Please know that your continued prayers and the loving support of the FPC family means so much to Emmaus, and to me.



*Thanks, from Paula McNally: "I want to let everyone that has helped us, either physically, mentally, or prayerfully, to know that we sincerely appreciate it. We will never be able to pay back all the kindness. I will pray that the Lord will bless you all immensely. I truly love you all. My family."*

# APRIL 2024

## Deacon of the month

### Deb Stant

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31 Easter Sunday 10:15am Worship: <a href="#">live stream</a> Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching	1 APRIL	2	3	4	5	6 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Papa Ozz 10:00am Mulch project
7 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: <a href="#">live stream</a> Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching Communion Sunday 5:30pm Youth Group @ WPC	8	9 4:00pm Faith Formation via Zoom 7:00pm Pray DBQ @ Locust St. HyVee community room	10	11	12	13
14 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: <a href="#">live stream</a> Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching 5:30pm Youth Group @ WPC	15	16	17	18	19 8:30-11:00am Pastor @ JKP Council mtg.	20
21 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: <a href="#">live stream</a> Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching 11:30am Choir 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> Dr. Roger Ebertz, preaching 1:30pm Bethany Home worship 5:30pm LAST Youth Group @ WPC	29	30	1 MAY	2	3	4 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Papa Ozz 9:00-11:00am Officer meeting

Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

## Birthdays & Anniversaries April

- 4 Tony Herbst
- 6 Sharon Hallstoos  
Tim & Annette Boelk
- 7 Audrey Holdener
- 10 Tammy Wehrspann
- 14 Stephenie Morales
- 16 Chris & Michelle Daniels
- 19 Jack Dillman
- 20 Elise Hallstoos
- 21 Paula McNally
- 24 Emily Herbst
- 26 Elaina Biechler
- 29 Deb Herbst



## 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 &amp; 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](mailto:fpcdbq.treasurer@gmail.com)

## OFFICE HOURS

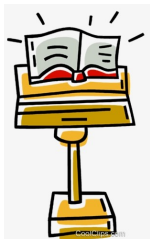


Pastor Stephanie can be reached at (cell) 507-227-8537 or [fpcdbq.pastor@gmail.com](mailto:fpcdbq.pastor@gmail.com). In case of emergency, call her cell. If she does not answer, leave a voice message and she'll return the call.

Office hours are Tuesday & Thursday from 9:00am—1:00pm. You are still encouraged to schedule a visit during office hours.

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## PREACHING SCHEDULE



### APRIL

April 7	Rev. Stephanie Ells
April 14	Rev. Stephanie Ells
April 21	Rev. Stephanie Ells
April 28	Elder, Roger Ebertz

## FPC BUDGET UPDATE

March thru 3/27

Monthly offering: \$9,148

Budgeted need: \$14,930

Year-to-Date for 2024

Income thru 3/27: \$22,146

Expenses thru 3/27: \$31,442

(-\$9,296)



# 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.

First Presbyterian Church  
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