



THE STEEPLE

FEBRUARY 2023

FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WINTERSET, IA

The mission of the First United Presbyterian Church is to make disciples of all people for the glory of God through teaching, caring and worshiping.

Transfiguration of the Lord



Transfiguration Sunday (February 19) celebrates the glorious revelation of God in Jesus Christ and Christ's manifestation as the fulfillment of the law and the prophets. Jesus' radiant appearance on the mountaintop evokes the devouring fire of the glory of the LORD at Mount Sinai (Exodus 24.17). Here, as at Jesus' baptism, God claims him as a beloved child, in whom God is well pleased.

In their account of this event, the synoptic gospels offer an enlightening *tableau vivant*, with Christ flanked by Moses, representing the law, and Elijah, representing the prophetic tradition. With this vivid image, the gospel writers demonstrate the relationship of the human Word of God to the tradition of Israel and set forth the hermeneutic by which they read the Hebrew Scriptures.

The Sunday immediately prior to Ash Wednesday is an appropriate time to celebrate the Transfiguration of the Lord, because this event marked a transition in Jesus' ministry in which he "set his face to go to Jerusalem" (Luke 9:51), where he would die.

In Jesus' transfiguration, we are assured that Jesus is the hope of the ages. Jesus is the One who fulfilled the Law given through Moses, the one dreamed of by the prophets, of whom Elijah is the greatest.

In celebrating this event, we rejoice in the divine majesty of Christ, whose glory shone even when confronted with the cross. It is given us for our journey through Lent toward the agony of the cross and the victory of the empty tomb. We celebrate this mystery in order that our faith may be renewed. We are transformed into the new being in Christ as we join Christ in his death and resurrection in Lent and Easter.

We pray for...

Nolan Collins

Maize Thompson

Family and friends of Amy Nolan who passed away January 25, 2023

Those known only to God



"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

Philippians 4:6

BIRTHDAYS



Paul Millhollin	February 8
Nicole Smith	February 9
Hal Jackson	February 17
Darla Millhollin	February 17
Elaine Newton	February 18
Bryce Landers	February 19
Amanda Ryner	February 27
Ann Pashek	February 28
Chery White	February 28

ANNIVERSARIES IN FEBRUARY!

Dan and Lori Ryner	February 14
Steve and Kim Walker	February 25

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

January 29 – 10:15 AM

Rev. Matt Moeckl

Worship Leader

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 5 – 10:15 AM

Paul Millhollin

Worship Leader, Communion

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 12 – 10:15 AM

Kevin de Regnier

Worship Leader

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

February 19 – 10:15 AM

Paul Millhollin

Worship Leader

Transfiguration of the Lord

MADONNA CIRCLE



February 6 @ 7pm

EVENING GUILD



February 1
4:00 pm

If you have any needs during this time of pastoral ministry change, please contact Dalene in the church office, or any of our Session members.

<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>SESSION</u> <u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>
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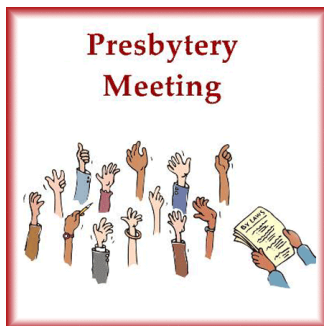
Paul Millhollin
Ruth Reed

Kevin de Regnier
Joe Ekdahl
Tish McKee

Pam Deichmann
Lori Ryner

Church email: churchsecretary3261@gmail.com
Church phone: 515-462-3261
Dalene phone: 319-530-8373 (texts preferred)
Church office hours: Mon – Thurs 9-1; closed Friday

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First United Presbyterian Church will be hosting the Presbytery Meeting on Saturday, February 11. (Registration begins at 8:30; meeting will probably go until 3 - 3:30) We need volunteers to serve as greeters and hosts, food crew, registration and servers.






Please sign up on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by Fellowship Hall. See any Session member if you have questions!

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Join us on **January 29** at 10:15 am when Rev. Matt Moekl will be leading our worship. Matt is the Executive Director of Wildwood Hills Ranch, St. Charles, Iowa. Wildwood Hills Ranch of Iowa exists to transform lives and strengthen communities by providing healing, hope and God's unconditional love to children and youth at risk. Our scriptures are Psalm 68:1-5 and James 1:19-27. He will be speaking to us on "A Problem for the World."

FEBRUARY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			4:00 pm Evening Guild	7:00 pm Property & Finance		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
5th Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship Paul Millhollin 11:15 am Fellowship	7:00 pm Madonna Circle					<div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <p style="color: red; font-size: small;">Presbytery Meeting</p>  </div> <p style="text-align: center;">All day @ 1UPC</p>
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
6th Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship Kevin de Regnier 11:15 am Fellowship				STEEPLE DEADLINE 		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Transfiguration 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship Paul Millhollin 11:15 am Fellowship		 <p style="text-align: center;">SHROVE TUESDAY</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">ASH WEDNESDAY</p>			
26	27	28				
1st Sunday in Lent 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship		6:30 pm Session Meeting				

FEBRUARY FACTS

Valentine's Day - February 14



Where did Valentine's Day originate? The history of the holiday—and the story of its patron saint—is shrouded in mystery. We do know that February has long been celebrated as a month of romance, and that St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition. Saint Valentine, who according to some sources is actually two distinct historical characters who were said to have healed a child while imprisoned and executed by decapitation. Other sources such as the Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred. Whatever the history, Valentine's Day is the second largest holiday for greeting cards in the U.S. - an estimated 145 million. Also, according to a survey by the National Retail Federation, Americans spent \$23.9 billion on Valentine's Day in 2022, the second-highest year on record. The record for spending was set in 2020, with \$27.4 billion spent on the holiday.

Transfiguration of the Lord - February 19 (See front page of this newsletter)

President's Day - February 20

Washington's Birthday is a U.S. federal holiday celebrated on the third Monday of February in honor of George Washington, the first president of the United States. Increasingly, the holiday has become an occasion to celebrate the birthdays of both President George Washington and President Abraham Lincoln.

Shrove Tuesday - February 21



Pancake Day, or Shrove Tuesday, is the traditional feast day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Lent - the 40 days leading up to Easter - was traditionally a time of fasting and on Shrove Tuesday, Anglo-Saxon Christians went to confession and were "shriven" (absolved from their sins). It was also the last chance for a spot of indulgence before 40 days of fasting, and also an opportunity to use up food that couldn't be eaten during Lent. This included eggs, fat and milk, which were made into pancakes and eaten on that day.

Ash Wednesday - February 22

As many other traditions of Christianity, the origins of Ash Wednesday can be traced back to ancient Rome. There, sinners and penitents dressed in sackcloth were sprinkled with ashes to start their period of public penance on the first day of Lent. Ash Wednesday marks the start of the Lenten period leading up to Easter, when Christians believe Jesus was resurrected. The ashes symbolize both death and repentance. During this period, Christians show repentance and mourning for their sins, because they believe Christ died for them.

