



THE STEEPLE

MARCH 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.

My car has been trained to pull into every Starbucks it comes into contact with. I love their coffee drinks, but I also love (and probably am addicted to) their Dragon Drink – a fruity concoction made with coconut milk. I'm thankful the Starbucks in Indianola is inside Hy-Vee rather than a drive-thru. Drive-thrus are just too tempting. And I shop primarily at Fareway so the Hy-Vee temptation remains at bay for the most part. My son and daughter-in-law are enablers. They are both teachers and receive several Starbucks gift cards at Christmastime. Neither of them care for coffee or fruity drinks so they pass on to me the gift cards they receive. For just a while, I can give into temptation and get a Trenta Dragon Drink without my wallet shaking its finger at me.



“As we begin the holy season of Lent, we find ourselves in the desert with Jesus. The Gospel for the First Sunday of Lent is most always the temptation of Jesus in the desert. We are familiar with the three temptations. These three temptations have been traditionally known as the flesh, the world, and the devil. Jesus has fasted for 40 days and is tempted to turn stones into bread.

This is the temptation of the flesh. He is tempted to throw himself off the Temple so that the angels can come to save him. This is the temptation of the world. He is brought up high and tempted with the power and glory of having all the kingdoms of the world if he worships the devil. This is the temptation of the devil. The flesh, the world, and the devil are the three traditional enemies of the soul. These three are the unholy trinity, the three sources of temptation.” (Father Nick Nelson)

(continued)

The world refers to all the vanities and seductions of the world. Think of all the commercials and billboards you see. They all tempt and seduce you to wanting the four main things this world offers us, i.e., power, honor, wealth, and pleasure. But they are four things that by definition cannot totally fulfill us. We need help. Whether as simple as a habitual coffee drink or as difficult as alcohol, drugs, or gambling, we have help. *“It was not unworthy of our Redeemer to wish to be tempted ... in order that by his temptations he might conquer our temptations, just as by his death he overcame our death.”* We have confidence in his mercy. *“For we do not have a high priest, who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”* (Hebrews 4:15-16).

What tempts you? The devil did what he could to tempt Jesus but Jesus had an answer for all the devil’s attempts. *“Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.”* How do you answer temptation? May this Lenten season be one of reflecting on and facing our temptations as God would have us do.

Guess I’ll have a bottled water. – Dalene

“No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.” (1 Corinthians 10:13)

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We pray for...
Nolan Collins
Tish McKee
Maize Thompson
Those known only to God



Do you or someone you know need care?
Contact Kay Stanley,
Congregational Care Coordinator

“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 & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

3/2 Gaylene Blankers
3/5 Pat Montross
3/10 Sally Leeper
3/14 Robert Newton
3/28 Bill Kneller

ANNIVERSARIES

3/18 Jake & Carol Jacobs



**SPRING FORWARD!
MOVE YOUR CLOCKS
AHEAD 1 HR. WHEN YOU GO
TO BED ON SATURDAY,
MARCH 11**

MADONNA CIRCLE



March 6 ~ 7pm

EVENING GUILD



March 1
4pm

happy
st. patty's day



THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD
HAS MADE; LET US REJOICE AND
BE GLAD IN IT.

Psalm 118:24

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

February 26 – 10:15 AM

Donna Vaughan
Worship Leader
First Sunday in Lent

March 5 – 10:15 AM

Kevin de Regnier
Worship Leader
Second Sunday in Lent

March 12 – 10:15 AM

Paul Millhollin
Worship Leader
Communion
Third Sunday in Lent

March 19 – 10:15 AM

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 26 – 10:15 AM

Fifth Sunday in Lent



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER USA

Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action

Friday, March 3, 2023

World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. It promotes justice and equality for women through prayer, partnerships, service & celebration. The Women's World Day of Prayer started in the US in 1887 when Mary Ellen Fairchild James, wife of Darwin Rush James from Brooklyn, New York, called for a day of prayer for home missions, and Methodist women called for a week of prayer and self-denial for foreign missions. It is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March. The theme of the WDP 2023 program is written by the women of Taiwan and is based on Ephesians 1:15-19, the letter sent to a faith community to express gratitude. Paul gave thanks to God for the Ephesians living out their love and faith, and prayed that they could see these three truths: the hope to which God has called the disciples, the riches of God's glorious inheritance among the saints, and the immeasurable greatness of God's power. One of the WDP Guiding Principles states that 'Prayer is rooted in listening to God and to one another. In WDP we listen to the Word of God and to voices of women sharing their hopes and fears, their joys and sorrows, their opportunities and needs.' Check out <https://worlddayofprayer.net/index.html> for more information!

What is Per Capita?



Per capita exists as a way for all Presbyterians to share costs that belong to the whole church. Members share equitably the costs required to connect and coordinate over 8000+ congregations together into one larger body so we can further the mission of Jesus Christ around the world. Per Capita is the main source of funding used to provide support for the local churches across the Presbytery.

The 2023 Per Capita Breakdown:

❖ GA	\$ 9.95
❖ Synod	\$ 5.50
❖ Presby	<u>\$31.65</u>
	\$47.00 per member



The Presbytery of Des Moines pays 100% of each member's Per Capita share to the General Assembly and Synod, which is one of the ways we participate in the unity and interdependence of the body of Christ, the church. *"It's like everyone chipping in for gas when we're all on a trip together in the same vehicle. "Per Capita is like everyone contributing a dish to the potluck meal."* Thank you for your continued participation in the larger ministry of God's church!



On February 26, the Adult Sunday School Class will begin a Lenten Study: "The Passion of Jesus - How One Week Changed the World." Please join us in Fellowship Hall at 9 AM for this 6-week study.



Our shelves are looking bare! Can you help restock them? Our needs are: peanut butter, toilet paper, hygiene products (shampoo, conditioner, feminine hygiene products, deodorant), cereal, pancake mix (just add water), granola bars, pasta, pasta sauce, mac and cheese, and soup. Donations may be dropped off at the Middle School from 8-3:30 or the Admin Building from 8-4. You may also bring

your donation to First United Presbyterian Church and place it in the grocery cart in the narthex. Monetary donations made out to Paw Pantry can be mailed to the church at 210 W. Green Street, Winterset.

May God give you...
 For every storm, a rainbow,
 For every tear, a smile,
 For every care, a promise,
 And a blessing in each trial.
 For every problem life sends,
 A faithful friend to share,
 For every sigh, a sweet song,
 And an answer for each prayer.

www.facebook.com/TheSocialButterflyCommunity



LOOKING AHEAD: We will be offering for purchase Easter lilies again this year to be given in honor or in memory of your loved ones. Stay tuned for more details!











Seasonal Committees...We need you! It's now time to sign up for 2023 seasonal committees. Consider sharing those spiritual gifts to support the church in the week-to-week worship activities and special events for a church season. A volunteer sign-up form which lists each season of the church is posted on the church bulletin board. Please sign up today! Questions, Ideas, Thoughts? Contact Session Members Ruth Reed or Pam Deichmann.

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>
Paul Millhollin Ruth Reed	Kevin de Regnier Joe Ekdahl Tish McKee	Pam Deichmann Lori Ryner

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

MARCH 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 4:00 pm - Evening Guild 	2 7:00 pm – Property & Finance 	3 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 	4
5 2nd Sunday in Lent 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship	6 7:00 pm - Madonna Circle 	7	8	9	10	11 Turn clocks ahead 1 hr. tonight 
12 Daylight Savings Begins 3rd Sunday in Lent 9 :00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship	13	14	15	16 April STEEPLE deadline	17 ST. PATRICKS DAY 	18
19 4th Sunday in Lent 9 :00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship	20  MR. ROGERS DAY	21 <i>CRISP uses Fellowship Hall 5:30 – 7:30 pm</i>	22	23	24	25
26 5th Sunday in Lent 9 :00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship	27	28 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting 				

A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood



*I have always wanted to have a neighbor just like you
I've always wanted to live in a neighborhood with you
So let's make the most of this beautiful day
Since we're together, we might as well say
Would you be mine?
Could you be mine?
Won't you be my neighbor?*

— "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" theme song

Mr. Rogers Day is March 20. Fred Rogers was an ordained minister of word and sacrament for the PC(USA) and was a notable public figure whose work around peace and reconciliation is worth remembering. Rogers was also a pioneer in the world of Christian education and formation of young children. March 20 was his birthday and the day that the PC(USA) has chosen to highlight all we can learn from his work.

"Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood," the immensely popular preschool TV series ran from 1968 to 2001. It's easy to see how he influenced children, whether through his gentle, direct, respectful voice or the use of puppets and music or his emphasis on neighborliness, inclusion and peacemaking. Although it has not aired for the past 22 years, many people still consider "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" as the standard by which they measure all other kids' shows. The show is so iconic that those who grew up in the '70s and '80s would surely have watched Mr. Rogers head to the Neighborhood of Make-Believe and sing songs with his puppet friends.

Mr. Rogers Day encourages people to perform random acts of kindness and gratitude to their neighbors and anyone they cross paths with. Go on and do something neighborly on this "Won't You Be My Neighbor Day," March 20.

Prayer for the day:

Gracious God, give us listening ears, gentle hearts, inquiring minds and feet ready for the work of peacemaking and reconciliation lived out so well by your servant Fred Rogers. Amen.