



First Presbyterian Church

Energy • Intelligence • Imagination • Love

**22nd Sunday After Pentecost
November 9, 2025 at 9:30 AM**



A congregation of the
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A)



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of Davenport

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of Davenport, a church where EVERYONE is welcome. On behalf of the entire First Pres family, we want you to know that we are so glad you're here. We are a proud congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA), where We Choose WELCOME!

We welcome followers of Jesus who are solid in their faith, and we welcome questioning believers seeking deeper meaning in their life. We welcome those who come from different faith backgrounds, such as Methodists, Lutherans, and Catholics, and those with no faith background at all; for we are all one in Christ Jesus. No matter where you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome here!

We hope you experience the warmth and friendliness of our congregation. It is a place that long-term members have described as their spiritual home for generations. It is also a place where people newer to our community of faith have found a safe and sacred space for themselves and their families.

Nursery care is available during the worship service for children (birth through kindergarten). The nursery is staffed by trained and background-checked caregivers from 8:15 AM to 11:30 AM. The nursery is on the third floor of the Christian Education (CE) building. Ask a worship host if you need assistance locating this space.

Kirkwood Choir is offered during the service, after the Children's Message. Kirkwood Choir provides music for worship throughout the program year.

MusikGarten, a program for parents/caregivers and young children (birth through kindergarten), is provided after the service in room #310 of the CE building. MusikGarten is our unique program that allows participation in a fun, energetic environment while instilling a love and understanding of music in young children. Check today's bulletin for schedule.

Sunday School classes for children, youth, and adults are offered after the service. Children and youth Sunday school is located on the third floor of the CE building. High School youth are encouraged to be helpers in the elementary classes. Adult Sunday school is in Von Maur Hall. Please ask a worship host if you need assistance locating these spaces.



Our Session (church council) has adopted a bold vision of creating safe and sacred space for all. We aren't perfect at it, but we are joyfully beginning to live into this new vision. We are an open and affirming congregation, and a proud member of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians (covnetpres.org). The Session and members of First Pres extend a sincere welcome to persons of all races, nationalities, genders, and sexual orientations. This includes an open invitation to membership, the sacraments of baptism and communion, marriage, funerals, memorial services, and service as an officer of the church.



We are a Matthew 25 church in the PC(USA). Matthew 25 congregations identify themselves as working toward one or more of three goals: building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty.

Land Acknowledgement: First Presbyterian Church gratefully acknowledges the Indigenous Peoples on whose ancestral homelands we gather, as well as the diverse and vibrant Indigenous communities who make Iowa and Illinois their home today. The communities we serve through our ministries occupy the traditional homelands of the people of the Kiikaapoi, Myaamia, Očhéthi Šakówinj, Peoria, Sauk, and Meskwaki nations. We honor these and numerous Indigenous tribes who first made the banks of the Mississippi River a center for arts and commerce.

✠ Worshipers who are comfortably able are invited to stand in body or spirit.

Bold indicates congregational response.

22nd Sunday After Pentecost

Order of Worship

To help you get to know the people sitting in your pew/row,
Please complete the Friendship Pad and pass it to your neighbors.

*As we begin worship, please silence your cell phones.
Take a quiet moment to center yourself in the presence of God.
We invite you to meditate silently on art, music, and Scripture.*

Preparing for the Word

Prelude	Praeludium et Fuga in C, BWV 531	J. S. Bach (1685-1750)
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Welcome and Announcements	The Rev. Dr. Kristopher Schondelmeyer
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Minute for Misson	Caring Closet Toy Give Away PUNCH Thanksgiving Dinner	Ruth Ann Tobey-Brown Sherry Williams
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Introit	O Day of Radiant Gladness The Vesper Bells <i>PREMIERE</i>	arr. Cathy Moglebust (b. 1958)
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Call to Worship	Sue Ervin, Liturgist
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One: Please rise, in body or in spirit, for the Call to Worship.

One: Come, let us gather with thankful hearts, for God's steadfast love never fails.

All: We come with praise, rejoicing in God's presence, grateful for grace that surrounds us.

One: In every season and circumstance, God's mercies are new every morning.

All: We will give thanks and not forget, for God's faithfulness endures forever.

One: Let us worship the Lord with joy and thanksgiving!

All: We lift our voices in gratitude, to the One who gives us life and hope.

✠ Passing of the Peace

One: May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

(In a way that is comfortable for you, please share the Peace of Christ with those around you.)

1. For the beau - ty of the earth, For the glo - ry of the skies,
 2. For the won - der of each hour Of the day and of the night,
 3. For the joy of ear and eye, For the heart and mind's de - light,
 4. For the joy of hu - man love, Broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
 For the love which from our birth O - ver and a - round us lies,
 Hill and vale, and tree and flower, Sun and moon, and stars of light,
 For the mys - tic har - mo - ny Link - ing sense to sound and sight,
 Friends on earth, and friends a - bove, For all gen - tle thoughts and mild,
 Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grate - ful praise.

Call to Confession

Please be seated.

As we come before God with thankful hearts, let us also acknowledge where we have fallen short. Too often we forget to give thanks and hold onto worry and complaint instead. Yet God's mercy is greater than our failings. With humble hearts, let us confess, trusting in God's grace to renew us.

Prayer of Confession

Holy and gracious God, we confess that we have not always trusted in your goodness. We have forgotten to give thanks and have allowed fear and doubt to take hold in our hearts. Forgive us, and open us to your abundant mercy. Renew within us a spirit of gratitude, that we might live each day in joyful praise and faithful love. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

One: Friends, through Christ, God's mercy is poured out abundantly upon us.

All: In this grace, we are forgiven and made new. Thanks be to God!

Listening for the Word

Anthem

I Love All Beauteous Things
 The Sanctuary Choir

Judith Weir
 (b. 1954)

*I love all beauteous things,
 I seek and adore them;
 God hath no better praise,
 and man in his hasty days
 is honoured for them.*

*I too will something make
 and joy in the making;
 altho' to-morrow it seem
 like the empty words of a dream
 remembered on waking.
 (Robert Bridges, 1844-1930)*

Children's Message

Prayer for Illumination

God of all grace, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit. As we hear your Word today, help us to see your faithfulness in every circumstance. Teach us to choose gratitude even when life is hard, and fill us with your joy and peace. May your Word take root in us and transform our lives. Amen.

First Lesson

Psalm 100

- ¹ Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
- ² Serve the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.
- ³ Know that the Lord is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
- ⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him; bless his name.
- ⁵ For the Lord is good;
his steadfast love endures forever
and his faithfulness to all generations.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Grateful Living: The Gratitude Choice"
The Rev. Dr. Kristopher Schondelmeyer

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Responding to the Word

♣ Hymn

Now Thank We All Our God

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

1. Now thank we all our God With heart and hands and voice - es,
2. O may this boun - teous God Through all our life be near us,
3. All praise and thanks to God, Who reigns in high - est heav - en,

Who won - drous things hath done, In whom this world re - joic - es;
With ev - er joy - ful hearts And bless - ed peace to cheer us;
To Fa - ther and to Son And Spir - it now be giv - en.

Who, from our moth - ers' arms, Hath blessed us on our way
And keep us in God's grace, And guide us when per - plexed,
The one e - ter - nal God, Whom heaven and earth a - dore,

With count - less gifts of love, And still is ours to - day.
And free us from all ills, In this world and the next.
The God who was, and is, And shall be ev - er - more.

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Our Creator who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kin-dom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering Our Gifts and Lives to God



To share your pledge or offering, you may place it in the offering plate as it is passed down the aisle. If it is more convenient for you, please visit the church website at www.fpcdavenport.org, and click on "Donate Now," or you may donate directly from your smartphone by scanning the QR code with your phone's camera. You may also mail your pledge or offering to the church office.

Offertory

Children of the Heavenly Father
The Vesper Bells

Arr. Matthew Compton

✠ Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise
God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

✠ Prayer of Dedication

Sending Anthem

Go Forth into the World in Peace

John Rutter
(b. 1945)

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Toccata on "How Firm a Foundation"

Claude Murphree
(1906-1958)

WORSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS

Worship Hosts - Doug Wells (Lead Host), Ami Wells, Craig Foster, Nancy Foster

Sound/Video Technicians - Mitch Doremus, Jim Middleton

Acolyte - David Jacobsmeier

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Today's liturgical elements are from sources unknown and used in a spirit of gratitude in the worship of God.

Cathy Moglebust, arr., "O Day of Radiant Gladness" (©2025 Cathy Moglebust, commissioned by FPC-D)

Judith Weir, "I Love All Beauteous Things" (©2016 Chester Music, Ltd.)

Matthew Compton, arr. "Children of the Heavenly Father" (©2022 Hope Publishing Co.)

Gabriel Fauré, Arr. Christina Harmon "In Paradisum" (©2015 Delatour France)

Claude Murphree, "Toccata on 'How Firm a Foundation'" (©1955 H. W. Gray Co., Inc.)

JOYS & CONCERNS

In Our Prayers: families and victims of gun violence; the people of Ukraine, Israel and Palestine, and all who groan under oppression, for God's mercy and grace to touch the friends and family of Patti Sothmann on her passing, for God's mercy and grace to touch the friends and family of Lee A. Schneider on his passing and those in need of God's healing grace; Harold Saunders, Alan Havercamp, Linda Bengfort, Brenda Boyd, Shawn Lambrecht (son of Cathy Lambrecht), Jim Woods, Carol Phoenix, Julie Pedigo (sister of Carol Phoenix), and Wayne Hean.

(Names will be listed in the list above for 30 days unless otherwise requested.)

Mission Partners: Humility Homes and Services; Churches United; Habitat for Humanity Quad Cities; and P.U.N.C.H.

Hospital Visits: The Pastors and Deacons make hospital visits when patients give permission.

In-Touch Information: For anyone who is homebound and would enjoy contact from one of First Presbyterian's In-Touch members, please contact Deacon Colleen Dueñas (563-514-6396).

The Prayer Chain: Connects those who need prayer with those who commit to a ministry of prayer. Contact Mary Ann Francois (563-355-5292).

Printed Prayer Requests: Require permission from the person(s) in need of prayer before prayers are printed in the bulletin. The best way to assure a hospital visit or a prayer is to contact the church office directly (563-326-1691).

Prayer Shawls: Prayer shawls are available for you to give to those you know who are experiencing a challenge or joy. For your choosing, a variety of shawls are hanging on the coat rack near the main office.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Visit the First Pres website to view the full calendar

www.fpcdavenport.org/calendar

Sunday, November 9

Nursery Open	8:15 AM - 11:30 AM	CE Building 3 rd Floor
Worship Service	9:30 AM	Sanctuary & Online
Kirkwood Choir	9:45 AM - 10:30 AM	CE Building 3 rd Floor
Manna & More	10:35 AM - 11:30 AM	Fellowship Hall
Musikgarten	10:35 AM - 11:05 AM	CE Building 3 rd Floor
Adult Sunday School	10:45 AM - 11:30 AM	Von Maur Hall
Chamber Chorale Rehearsal	11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Choir Room
Kids Against Hunger	3:00 PM - 5:30 PM	Fellowship Hall
Justice Choir Rehearsal	5:30 PM - 7:00 PM	Choir Room
Scout Troop 7 Meeting	7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	Gym

Monday, November 10

Pickle Ball	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Gym
Staff Meeting	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Von Maur Hall
Congregational Fellowship Meeting	5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Parlor
Building & Grounds Meeting	5:30 PM - 7:00 PM	
Deacons Outreach	6:30 PM - 7:00 PM	Parlor
Member Care Meeting	6:30 PM - 7:00 PM	Library
Mission Connection	6:30 PM - 7:00 PM	Von Maur Hall
Board of Deacons	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Von Maur Hall

Tuesday, November 11

Caring Closet & Lunches	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	CE Building 1 st Floor
Adult Spiritual Growth Meeting	3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Zoom
Cub Scouts Meeting	6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Fellowship / Gym
Finance Meeting	7:00 PM - 8:45 PM	Zoom

Wednesday, November 12

Pickle Ball	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Gym
Women of Hope Bible Study	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Parlor
DELP Meeting	5:30 PM - 6:30 PM	Parlor
Bible Basics 201	6:15 PM - 7:15 PM	Zoom

Thursday, November 13

Sermon Talks	9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Von Maur Hall
Clean Team	2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	FPC Building
TOPS	5:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Von Maur Hall
Vesper Bells Rehearsal	6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Choir Room
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Choir Room

Friday, November 14

Caring Closet	2:00 PM - 5:00 PM	CE Building 1 st Floor
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Saturday, November 15

Caring Closet	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	CE Building 1 st Floor
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Manna and More

We encourage all to join us today for Manna and More. The menu will include pumpkin and plain pancakes, various toppings including apple compote, sausage, fresh fruit and various beverages. We will also have a gluten free option available instead of the pancakes.

Today we will be making talking sticks, a special tool that helps people take turns speaking and listening. It comes from Indigenous peoples, who used it to make sure everyone's voice was heard and respected.

We can use a talking stick to remember that God calls us to listen with love. It's a way to let everyone's story be heard and show gratitude, respect, and care for one another, just as Jesus teaches us to do.

Kids Against Hunger - Today!



We are again partnering with Kids Against Hunger, a non-profit providing nutritious meals to impoverished families worldwide, **today**, starting at **4:00 PM** in Fellowship Hall.

Donate using the QR code, in the narthex after the service, or at the church office.



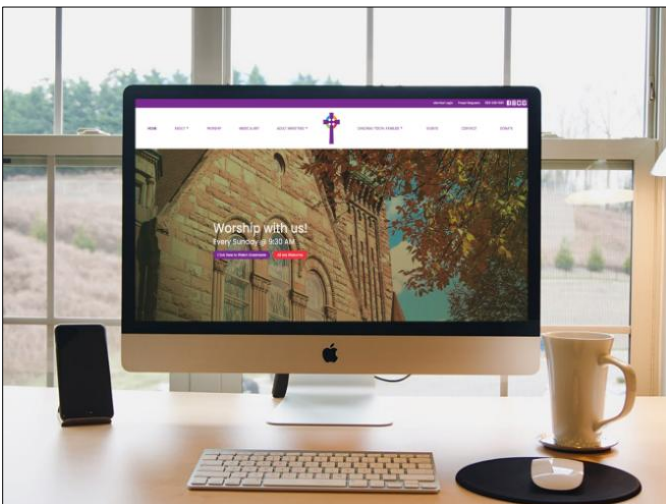
FPC has packaged over 136,228 meals and our goal for November 9 is to add 4,500 more.

Worship Host Information Brunch

Mark your calendars! If you haven't heard, there is a worship host/usher information session on **November 16** in Fellowship Hall **10:45 AM - 11:45 AM**. Brunch will be provided.

Interested in attending? Contact Andy Edwards.

Our Brand-New Website is Now LIVE!



The updated site is designed not only to make it easier for our members to stay connected, but also to help visitors learn more about who we are as a community of faith.

We invite you to take a look, explore the new features, and let us know what you think! Even better—help us spread the word! Share the website with your friends, family, and neighbors so they can get connected, too.

Visit us at: **www.fpcdavenport.org**

Dinner & Christmas Lights Coach Tour

Friday, December 12, 2025

Departure: 4:45 PM from First Presbyterian Church

Join the FPC Travel Fellowship for a festive evening as we journey by coach to Clinton's Eagle Point Park to enjoy its beautiful Christmas lights display. Before the tour, we'll enjoy dinner *on your own* at **Seven Hills**, a charming restaurant located in a former church sanctuary (formerly Great Revivalist Brewery).

Seats are limited to the first 25 participants who reserve with a non-refundable but transferable payment of \$25 per person.

Reserve your spot:

Sign up with a committee member in the **narthex after worship** on Sundays **November 9, 16, or 23**. Payments can be made by cash or check (payable to *First Presbyterian Church*), or in the church office during the week.

This is a wonderful opportunity to invite friends who might be interested in learning more about the fun and fellowship at First Presbyterian!

Questions? Contact **Linda Meadors** for more details.

MISSION & SERVICE

Need a Ride? We're Building a Ride Team!

In recent weeks we've received several requests from different members for rides—to Sunday worship, medical appointments, the grocery store, etc. We'd love to form a small team of volunteer drivers to help members stay connected and cared for.

Ways to help (pick any):

- Sunday morning rides to church (one way or round-trip)
- Weekday appointments (as you're available)
- Quick errands/grocery runs for those who need a hand

If you're willing to be on the "Ride Team" list—even occasionally—please contact the church office at: office@fpcdavenport.org

Basic expectations: a valid driver's license, no major driving violations, and personal auto insurance as the church is not responsible for accidents. Thank you for helping our church be the hands and feet of Christ—one ride at a time!

PUNCH Invites Everyone to a Free Thanksgiving Day Dinner



Join us for a **Free Thanksgiving Day Dinner** on **Thursday, November 27, 2025**, from **11:00 AM to 1:00 PM** at **First Baptist Church (1401 N Perry St.)**. Enjoy a delicious meal featuring turkey, mashed potatoes with gravy, stuffing, green beans, pumpkin pie, cranberries, and drinks—all served with warmth and community spirit.

Carry-out meals are available by calling **563-323-2765**, and if you need a ride, please call **563-323-4435**. Everyone is welcome—come celebrate gratitude and fellowship with us!

The FPC Caring Closet - Updated Requests

Caring Closet Request:

- Our shoppers at the FPC Caring Closet are **in need of winter items** especially **jackets and coats**. We appreciate all that you do for our neighbors!
- Hygiene products such as diapers, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, body wash, and feminine pads. The Dollar Tree provides a great variety. We also need towels and sheets of all sizes. Thank you for your continued support!

The Caring Closet Now Open on Saturday: Join our team of dedicated volunteers at the Caring Closet. We need volunteers to commit to one Saturday morning a month to work in our "store" from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. If you can volunteer, please contact the church office or text or call Ruth Ann at 563-370-6215.

ADULT SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Adult Spiritual Development - Book Study

Join us **today at 10:40 AM in Von Maur Hall** as we open *Worth Fighting For* by John Pavlovitz and begin exploring how faith responds when cruelty is trending. This short four-week book study invites honest conversation and renewed courage to live out Christ's compassion in public life. All are welcome. Some books are available through the church office.

Bible Basics for November

Join us on Wednesdays at 6:15PM on Zoom. In November, we will continue our study of Job and questions about innocent suffering. All are welcome. We will be in recess on November 26 (Thanksgiving Eve).

Please contact Mark Jones (markandkarla75@gmail.com) for more information.

<https://www.zoom.us/join> Meeting ID: 881 1687 5549 Passcode: 630481

Sermon Talks

Sermon Talks is a midweek daytime Bible study led by Pastor Kris where participants explore the Scripture passage for the upcoming Sunday sermon. Through open discussion and shared reflection, the group engages deeply with the text—asking questions, making connections, and preparing hearts and minds to hear God's Word in worship. Sermon Talks meets in person in Von Maur Hall **each Thursday from 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM** (in recess October 30). A Zoom option is not available. All are welcome to join the conversation.

Contemplative Prayer Group

The Contemplative Prayer Group will meet on the **fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM** in Von Maur Hall. Engaging in a variety of compassion-based contemplative practices – such as silence, centering prayer, and guided meditation – the Contemplative Prayer Group is designed to cultivate compassion for self and others. Rooted in ancient Christian traditions, the group offers a peaceful space for deep listening, reflection, and connection with the Divine. All are welcome.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

SAVE THE DATE: Christmas Party and Movie Night!



Do you need an evening to finish (or start) your Christmas shopping, enjoy a night out, or simply take a well-deserved rest? We invite children to join us on **Friday, December 5, from 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM** in Von Maur Hall for an evening of Christmas celebration and fellowship.

The evening will include games, a White Elephant Gift Exchange, pizza, and a movie. Blankets, pillows, stuffies, and pajamas are encouraged.



If your child(ren) would prefer a grown-up stay with them, you are warmly invited to participate in the festivities.

For the gift exchange, each participant is asked to bring one gently used, church-appropriate item from home, valued between \$5 and \$10. Humorous gifts are especially welcome and add to the fun of the evening. Youth are invited to join us as helpers and to participate in the festivities.

Please **RSVP** by **Wednesday, December 3**, by emailing cefy@fpcdavenport.org or speak to Marty or Abby.

Tween (3rd - 5th grade) Fellowship

All 3rd - 5th graders are invited to an awesome afternoon of fun, friends, and fellowship! Come hang out, play some great games, enjoy tasty snacks, and spend time together as we laugh and connect. If you have a favorite game, bring it with you. We will meet at The Schondelmeyer house (we will send the address closer to the event) on **Saturday, November 22** from **1 PM - 3 PM**. If there are questions or to RSVP please speak with Marty or Abby: cefy@fpcdavenport.org. We can't wait to see you there!

Youth Ministry - Sponsor a Dinner

All FPC youth (and friends) in 6th - 12th grades are invited to join us for Youth Group. We will meet most Sunday evenings from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Dinner will be served.

The Youth Group is looking for families or individuals to **sponsor** a dinner(s) for us on Sunday nights at 5pm. If you would like to donate money (suggested donation: \$50) for our Youth Group to buy pizza or would be willing to provide a meal (for approximately 15-20 youth and mentors) please reach out to Abby Schondelmeyer.



Donations? https://fpcdavenport.breezechms.com/give/online?fund_id=1965301
Questions? Please contact Abby Schondelmeyer: cefy@fpcdavenport.org.

MUSIC AT FIRST PRES

Justice Choir of the Midwest Concert

The Justice Choir of the Midwest is a community choir of people from across eastern Iowa and western Illinois with a goal to engage in the collaborative and collective power of singing about justice and using their voices to bring about change. JCM's fall concert is on the theme of **LGBTQ+ Justice** and will include music of remembrance to victims of hate crimes, songs of protest for equal rights for LGBTQ+ people, and songs of celebration of queer joy. The concert is **Sunday, November 16 at 7:00 PM** at First Pres and will be a benefit concert to support the incredible work Clock, Inc. does in the Quad Cities.

For more information about supporting the work this ensemble is doing, talk to Matt Bishop.

FINANCE

Ways to Give at FPC Davenport

Your generosity helps share God's love—within our church family, our community, and beyond! Thank you for supporting the ministries and mission of First Presbyterian Church, Davenport.

Traditional Giving:

Give by cash or check during worship, mail your gift to the church, or stop by the Finance Office, M-F, 9am-5pm.



Online Giving:

Give securely through our church website—anytime, anywhere! Scan the QR code or visit us at www.fpcdavenport.org/donate.

Text-to-Give:

It's quick and easy! Text "GIVE" to **(563) 724-5998** and follow the prompts to make a one-time or recurring donation.

PayPal:

Give directly through PayPal using your account or card by simply scanning the QR code.



Venmo:

Prefer using your phone? For quick, easy giving, log into your Venmo account & search for **@FPCDav** or scan the QR code.



*Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) & RMDs:

If you're age 70½ or older, you can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution directly from your IRA. These gifts can count toward your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) and may offer tax benefits.

*Gifts of Stock:

You can also give by donating appreciated stock or securities. This is a great way to support FPC and may help reduce capital gains taxes.

*For help with QCD, RMD, or stock gifts, please contact the church office or a member of the Finance Committee.

Thank you for giving faithfully and joyfully.
Every gift—large or small—tells the story of God's grace at work through you.



Dear Friends in Christ,

I want to share with you some exciting and humbling news. At our most recent meeting, the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Davenport voted unanimously to send a motion to the Presbytery of East Iowa, recommending that the Presbytery endorse me to stand as a candidate for Co-Moderator of the 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in the summer of 2026, which will take place in Milwaukee, WI.

For those who may not be familiar, the Co-Moderators of the General Assembly are elected by commissioners from across the denomination to serve as spiritual leaders and ambassadors for the PC(USA). They serve a two-year term traveling to congregations, presbyteries, and global partners—sharing stories of faith, listening deeply, encouraging hope, and lifting up the work of Christ's church in the world.

Over the past year, I have felt a growing sense of call to stand for this role alongside my friend and colleague, Rev. Marta Pumroy Cordero, a gifted and compassionate pastor in our denomination. Many of you recall that Marta spoke at First Presbyterian back in April, and we recently partnered with her for the El Paso/Jaurez Educational Mission Trip. Together, Marta and I have been discerning how God might be calling us to serve the wider church in this unique way. We believe this call is not only about leadership but about witness—bearing witness to the kind of compassionate, creative, and courageous faith we strive to live out right here at FPC-Davenport.



Our theme, drawn from Revelation 22, is “Be the Leaves”—inspired by the image of the tree of life whose leaves are “for the healing of the nations.” We hope to invite the church to see itself as a living, growing community of compassion, healing, and renewal—each of us, and all of us together, called to be part of God's work of healing a broken and polarized world.

As we take this step, I want to assure you that my call as your pastor and head of staff remains my primary ministry. The Session and I have entered into a covenant to ensure that my pastoral responsibilities here at FPC-Davenport continue to be my top priority. There will no doubt be other gifted candidates for this position, so even if we stand as candidates, we may not be elected. Should the wider church call Marta and me to serve as Co-Moderators, we have planned for that service to complement the ministry we share here together. Yes...this will require some of my time. Though it is not a paid position, there may be some assistance with providing special guest preachers when I would need to be away.

I am deeply grateful to our Session for their prayerful discernment and unanimous support, and to all of you for the joy, faith, and love that make this congregation such a remarkable place to do ministry. I love being your Pastor and pray that I can make you proud. Please keep Marta and me in your prayers as we continue to discern the next faithful step on this journey.

Peace, Love and God Bless,

The Rev. Dr. Kristopher D. Schondelmeyer (He, Him, His)
Pastor/Head of Staff
First Presbyterian Church
Davenport, IA
www.fpcdavenport.org

FPC STAFF

First Presbyterian Church ♦ 1702 Iowa Street ♦ Davenport, Iowa 52803 ♦ Phone: 563-326-1691

Our Staff

Rev. Dr. Kris Schondelmeyer, <i>Pastor/Head of Staff</i>	Ext 230	schondelmeyer@fpcdavenport.org
Rev. Pat Halverson*, <i>Parish Associate</i>		
Marty Bowles-Edwards*, <i>Co-Director of Christian Education</i>		cefy@fpcdavenport.org
Abby Schondelmeyer*, <i>Co-Director of Christian Education</i>		cefy@fpcdavenport.org
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Madison Hanssen*, <i>Nursery Caregiver</i>		
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Kathy Middleton*, <i>Assistant Choral Director for Children</i>		
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Tammy Versluis*, <i>Accounting Assistant</i>		
Darren Long, <i>Director of Building and Grounds</i>	Ext 205	long@fpcdavenport.org
Chad Dean*, <i>Custodian</i>		

* Part-time employee

ELDERS AND DEACONS

Elders

<i>Class of 2025</i>	<i>Class of 2026</i>	<i>Class of 2027</i>	<i>Co-Clerks of Session</i>
Dan Breinich	Dianna Darland	Dan Darland	Julia Meyer
Nancy Chapman	Denny Jorgenson	Craig Foster	Mark Jones
Bonnie Johnson	Kathy Knox	Paula Hartmann	
Nathan Kabel	Cathy Pratscher-Woods	Sharon Simmonds	
Zoe McCullum	Jed Steckel	Jay Williams	
Julia Meyer		Erin Yingling	
Kristine Oswald			
Mark Ruebling			
Vicki Stegall			

Deacons

<i>Class of 2025</i>	<i>Class of 2026</i>	<i>Class of 2027</i>
Colleen Dueñas (<i>Vice Moderator</i>)	Andy Bowles Edwards	Elizabeth Breinich
Terri Sheetz (<i>Moderator</i>)	Lois Boyer	Andrew Darland
Doug Wells	Connie Connolly	Steve Earp
	John Gere	Sue Ervin
	Al Frohlich	Heidi Pedersen
	Bob Lehnher	Mason Pedersen
	Amy Saskowski	Sherry Williams
	Sarah Soenksen	
	Katrina Williams	