



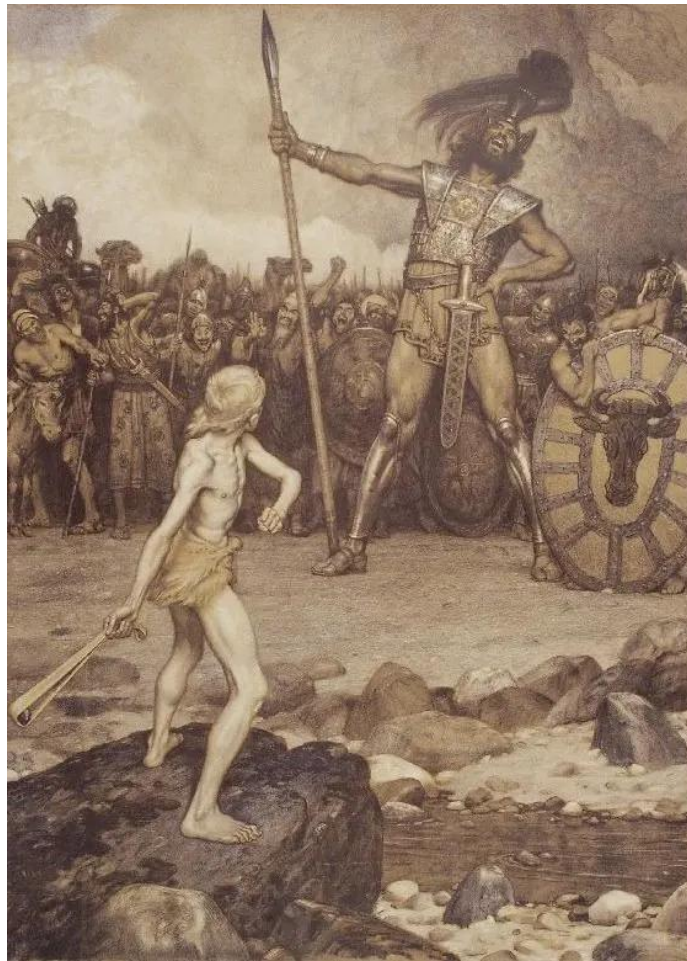
# First Presbyterian Church

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*Energy • Intelligence • Imagination • Love*

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**Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost  
August 31, 2025 at 9:30 AM**



*"David und Goliath", Oskar Schindler 1888*

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.

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**Nursery** care is available during the worship service for children (birth through age 4). The nursery is staffed by trained and background-checked caregivers from 9 AM to 11 AM (summer). The nursery is on the third floor of the Christian Education (CE) building. Ask a worship host if you need assistance locating this space.

**MusikGarten**, a program for parents/caregivers and young children (birth through age 4), 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.

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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.

# Twelfth 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

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<b>Prelude</b>	Praeludium in G Minor, BuxWV 149	Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)
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<b>Welcome and Announcements</b>	The Rev. Dr. Kristopher Schondelmeyer
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<b>Prelude</b>	Come, Holy Ghost, Lord God	Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)
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<b>Call to Worship</b>	Alice Jacobsmeier, Liturgist
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One: Please rise, in body or in spirit, for the Call to Worship.

One: God whispers to each of us:

**All: You are my beloved.**

One: God whispers to each of us:

**All: I have a plan for your life.**

One: God whispers to each of us:

**All: Come, and follow me.**

One: Together we answer:

**All: Speak, Lord, for we are listening.**

### ✠ **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. A might - y for - tress is our God, A bul - wark nev - er fail - ing.  
 2. Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be los - ing,  
 3. And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un - do us,  
 4. That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a - bid - eth.

Our help - er He, a - mid the flood of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing.  
 were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choos - ing.  
 we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to tri - umph through us.  
 The Spir - it and the gifts are ours through him who with us sid - eth.

For still our an - cient foe doth seek to work us woe; His craft and  
 Dost ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus, it is he. Lord Sab - a -  
 The Prince of Dark - ness grim, we trem - ble not for him. His rage we  
 Let goods and kin - dred go, this mor - tal life al - so. The bod - y

power are great, and armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.  
 oth his name, from age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.  
 can en - dure, for lo, his doom is sure. One lit - tle word shall fell him.  
 they may kill; God's truth a - bid - eth still. His king - dom is for - ev - er.

## Call to Confession

Please be seated.

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; yet we are justified by the gift of God's grace through the redemption that is ours in Christ Jesus. Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

## Prayer of Confession

**There can be such giants in our lives, God of Grace. Each day, our fears, our doubts, our worries wash over us, until we come to believe that you do not care for us. There seems to be so much wrong in the world, we are convinced that there is nothing good we can do. The storms of sin and temptation batter at us, and we cower, unable to find the faith to withstand them. Forgive us, God of Hope. Remind us that if we but open our hearts, and listen to your words, that we too can conquer the giants in our lives. We can experience peace and joy if we but open our lives to you, and stand up for those who are vulnerable, those who live in fear. May it be so. Amen.**

## Assurance of Forgiveness

One: Hear the good news of the gospel, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

All: **God's steadfast love endures forever. Hallelujah! Amen.**

# Listening for the Word

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## Children's Message

Winning with God

### Prayer for Illumination

O God, open our understanding of the Scriptures. Help us to see the possibilities you set before us as your children when we turn from our ways and live by your truth. Strengthen our faith and our love for one another. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

### First Lesson

1 Samuel 17:1a-4, 8-11

**17** Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle... **2** Saul and the Israelites gathered and encamped in the valley of Elah and formed ranks against the Philistines. **3** The Philistines stood on the mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on the mountain on the other side, with a valley between them. **4** And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was four cubits and a span (which is very big and tall). **8** He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. **9** If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants, but if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us." **10** And the Philistine said, "Today I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man, that we may fight together." **11** When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### Second Lesson

1 Samuel 17:32-36, 40, 49-50

**32** David said to Saul, "Let no one's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." **33** Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are just a boy, and he has been a warrior from his youth." **34** But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father, and whenever a lion or a bear came and took a lamb from the flock, **35** I went after it and struck it down, rescuing the lamb from its mouth, and if it turned against me, I would catch it by the jaw, strike it down, and kill it. **36** Your servant has killed both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, since he has defied the armies of the living God."

**40** Then he took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones from the wadi and put them in his shepherd's bag, in the pouch; his sling was in his hand, and he drew near to the Philistine.

**49** David put his hand in his bag, took out a stone, slung it, and struck the Philistine on his forehead; the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground.

**50** So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, striking down the Philistine and killing him; there was no sword in David's hand.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### Sermon

"Conquering Giants"  
The Rev. Dr. Kristopher Schondelmeyer

## Responding to the Word

### ♣ Hymn

### Fight the Good Fight

DUKE STREET

1. Fight the good fight with all thy might;  
2. Run the straight race through God's good grace;  
3. Cast care a side, lean on arms on thy guide;  
4. Faint not nor fear, God's are near;  
Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right;  
Lift up thine eyes, and seek Christ's face;  
God's bound less mer cy and will thou pro vide;  
God chang eth not, and thou art dear;  
Lay hold on its life, and be it shall be;  
Life with and thy way, be ing and us lies;  
Trust, and thy trust, and soul shall prove;  
On ly be lieve, and thou shalt see;  
Thy joy and crown e ter nal ly;  
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize;  
Christ is its life, and Christ all love;  
That Christ is all in all to thee.

### 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](http://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


Send Forth a Song  
Brighton Greim - Voice, Alex Gilson - Piano

Mark Patterson  
(b. 1969)

# ✠ Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDREDTH



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all crea - tures here be - low; praise  
God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host; Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

# ✠ Prayer of Dedication

# ✠ Hymn

We Praise You, O God

KREMSER



1. We praise you, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;  
2. We wor - ship you, God of our fa - thers and moth - ers;  
3. With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer  
in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.  
through tri - al and - tem - pest our guide - you have been.  
and glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.  
We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;  
When per - ils o'er - take us, you will not for - sake us,  
With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will guide us.  
we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.  
and with your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.  
To you, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

# Charge and Benediction

# Postlude

Fugue from Organ Sonata No. 6, Op. 65

Felix Mendelssohn  
(1809-1847)

## WORSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS

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**Worship Hosts** - Jed Steckel (Lead Host), Bonnie Parriott, Pam Paulsen

**Sound/Video Technicians** - Mitch Doremus, Jim Middleton

### Copyright Information

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

Mark Patterson, "Send Forth a Song" (©2005 BriLee Music Publishing Company)

## JOYS & CONCERNS

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**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 Carole Scherz on the passing of her son Mitchel Williams, and those in need of God's healing grace; Linda Bengfort, Brenda Boyd, Bill Hawthorne, Bill Weckerley (friend of Sue Ervin), Shawn Lambrecht (son of Cathy Lambrecht), Patti Sothmann, Jim Woods, Carol Phoenix, Julie Pedigo (sister of Carol Phoenix), and Wayne Hean. Also, prayers of protection for Nicholas, grandson of Verna Burrichter, during his deployment with the US Navy.

*(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

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Visit the First Pres website to view the full calendar

[www.fpcdavenport.org/calendar](http://www.fpcdavenport.org/calendar)

## Sunday, August 31

Nursery Open	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	CE Building 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor
Worship Service	9:30 AM	Sanctuary & Online
Musikgarten	In Recess this Sunday	
Fellowship Hour	10:35 AM - 11:30 AM	Fellowship Hall
Staff Photographs	10:45 AM	
Scout Troop 7 Meeting	7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	Gym

## Monday, September 1

Labor Day	Office Closed	
Pickle Ball	In Recess	
Personnel Committee Meeting	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Zoom
CEFY	7:30 PM - 8:30 PM	Zoom

## Tuesday, September 2

Caring Closet & Lunches	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	CE Building 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor
Cub Scouts Meeting	6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Fellowship / Gym
Hospitality & Welcoming Committee	7:30 PM - 9:00 PM	Parlor

## Wednesday, September 3

Pickle Ball	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Gym
Musical Interludes with Alex		
- The Hammond Organ	11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Fellowship Hall/Sanctuary
SDT Tour of St. Paul ELCA	2:00 PM - 3:30 PM	Off-site
Bible Basics 201	6:15 PM - 7:15 PM	Zoom

## Thursday, September 4

Nominating Committee	9:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Parlor
Clean Team	2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	FPC Building
TOPS	5:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Von Maur Hall
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Choir Room

## Friday, September 5

Caring Closet	2:00 PM - 5:00 PM	CE Building 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor
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## Saturday, September 6

Tent Set Up	8:00 AM - 10:00 AM	West Parking Lot
Caring Closet	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	CE Building 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor
Child Protection Training #1	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Von Maur Hall

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## LIFE OF THE CHURCH

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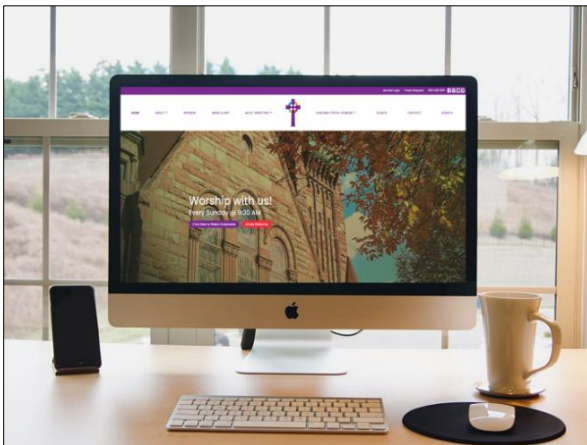
### Kick-Off Sunday - September 7th



Mark your calendars now! Plan to join us on **September 7th** for our **Kick-Off Sunday** as we begin a new season of ministry here at First Presbyterian Church. We will begin with inspiring worship at our regularly scheduled time of 9:30 AM.

Immediately following worship will be a **Congregational Conversation** in the Sanctuary. It will be a time for sharing with the congregation information and highlights on ministry initiatives and programs at FPC.

Then we will move on to the **Community-Wide Picnic** sponsored by our Deacons in the West Parking Lot. Please bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share. During the picnic there will be yard games, activities for all ages and a bounce house for children.



### 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](http://www.fpcdavenport.org)

## ADULT SPIRITUAL GROWTH

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### Adult Spiritual Development for September

**Introduction to Matthew** -- Standing at the beginning of the New Testament canon the book of Matthew has often been considered the first Gospel in importance as well. In this four-session study, participants will learn about the structure of the book, the original audience, and the major themes the author wished to convey to us in the way he tells the story of Jesus' life and ministry. Join us in Von Maur Hall following the worship service starting in September.

### Bible Basics for September

Join us on Wednesdays at 6:15PM on Zoom. In September, we are beginning a new video series on Biblical Wisdom Literature. Our topic for the month will be the book of Proverbs. All are welcome.

Please contact Mark Jones ([markandkarla75@gmail.com](mailto:markandkarla75@gmail.com)) for more information.

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

## CHILDREN & YOUTH

### Child Protection Trainings

We will be offering Child Protection Trainings in the coming weeks. Not only is it a requirement of the Book of Order of the PC(U.S.A.), it is also part of our ongoing commitment to creating safe and sacred space for all children and youth.

Who needs to attend:

- All staff, officers (elders and deacons), and anyone working with children and youth
- Anyone who is interested in preventing child sexual abuse

All members of our church family are welcome and encouraged to sign up. This training is an important way for us to live out our call to care for the most vulnerable among us.

There will be two offerings of the Child Protection Training this September:

- First date is Saturday, September 6 at 9:00 AM
  - o To RSVP to attend the September 6 training, please go to:  
<https://fpcdavenport.breezechms.com/form/d3cb58>
- Second date is Sunday, September 28 at 11:30 AM
  - o To RSVP to attend the September 6 training, please go to:  
<https://fpcdavenport.breezechms.com/form/46b233>

### Blessing of the Backpack

Join us **Sunday, September 7**, as we invite all students (no matter your age), teachers, those starting a new job, or new opportunity to bring their backpack, purse, or whatever you use for a blessing of the backpacks. We will have a special gift for each person as we celebrate the start of a new year!

### Christian Ed Needs You!!

Do you enjoy working with children and helping them grow in faith? We're looking for caring volunteers to teach Sunday School one Sunday a month—or more if you're able.

The Sunday School hour happens after church so you will still be able to attend worship. The lessons will already be planned we just need you to teach the lesson and come with excitement and joy! We have different age groups so you can choose your preference. If you don't feel called to lead the lesson, we also need a helper in each classroom. Questions? Want to volunteer?

Please reach out to Marty Bowles-Edwards or Abby Schondelmeyer: [cefy@fpcdavenport.org](mailto:cefy@fpcdavenport.org)

## MISSION & SERVICE

### Caring Closet Request - Homecoming Dress Give Away

The Caring Closet is once again hosting a Homecoming and Prom Dress Give Away on September 9 & 10 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM here at FPC.

The staff at the Caring Closet is **asking for donations of Party, Prom, or Homecoming dresses** that you no longer need. They can be dropped off at church during the week from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM or on Sunday before or after the church service.

## FPC STAFF

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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
Kathy Knox*, <i>Nursery Caregiver</i>		
Madison Hanssen*, <i>Nursery Caregiver</i>		
Matt Bishop, <i>Director of Music &amp; Arts</i>	Ext 201	bishop@fpcdavenport.org
Alex Gilson, <i>Principal Organist &amp; Assistant Director of Music</i>	Ext 223	gilson@fpcdavenport.org
Linda Bengfort*, <i>Assistant Choral Director</i>		
Kathy Middleton*, <i>Assistant Choral Director for Children</i>		
Jim Middleton*, <i>Director of Office Administration</i>		office@fpcdavenport.org
Diana Miller-Bur*, <i>Administrative Assistant to the Pastor</i>	Ext 235	millerbur@fpcdavenport.org
Kristine Olson, <i>Director of Financial and Business Administration</i>	Ext 219	olson@fpcdavenport.org
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

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### 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	David Edwards	Mark Jones
Bonnie Johnson	Kathy Knox	Craig Foster	
Nathan Kabel	Cathy Pratscher-Woods	Paula Hartmann	
Zoe McCullum	Jed Steckel	Sharon Simmonds	
Julia Meyer		Jay Williams	
Kristine Oswald		Erin Yingling	
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 Lehnherr	Mason Pedersen
	Amy Saskowski	Sherry Williams
	Sarah Soenksen	
	Katrina Williams	