

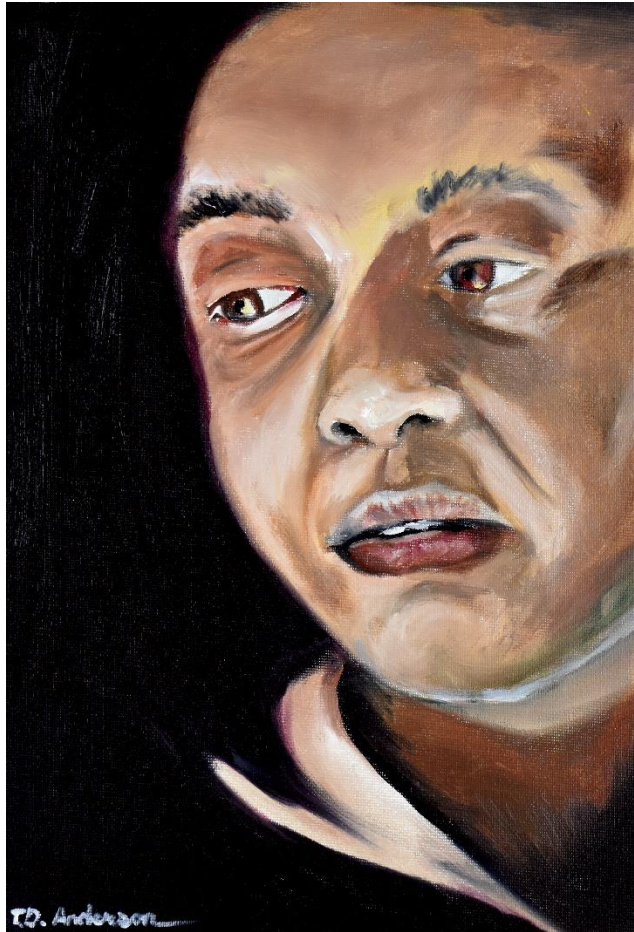


First Presbyterian Church

Energy • Intelligence • Imagination • Love

Ash Wednesday

February 22, 2023 at 7:30 PM



Don't Look Up by T. Denise Anderson Inspired by Isaiah 58:1-12

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 safe and sacred space for themselves and their families.

Nursery care is available during the worship service for children (birth through age 4). The nursery is staffed by trained and background-checked caregivers. The nursery is on the third floor of the CE building. Please ask a worship host if you need assistance locating this space.



COVENANT NETWORK
OF PRESBYTERIANS

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 all persons regardless of race, nationality, gender, or sexual orientation. 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.



MATTHEW 25

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 Šakówiŋ, 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.

Ash Wednesday

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

Abide with Me

William Henry Monk

Announcements

✠ Call to Worship

One: God's people have been called to gather.

All: From newborn infants to aged grandparents, all are welcome.

One: God's people have been called to repent.

**All: From those who wear their faults on their sleeves,
to those whose secret hearts are broken, all are welcome.**

One: God's people have been called to be reconciled to our God.

**All: From those who have turned away from God,
to those whose pain torments in the night, all are welcome.**

✠ Hymn #81

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

ST. FLAVIAN

1. Lord, who through - out these for - ty days For us didst fast and pray,
2. As Thou with Sa - tan didst con - tend, And didst the vic - tory win,
3. And through these days of pen - i - tence, And through Thy Pas - sion - tide,
4. A - bide with us, that so, this life Of suf - fering o - ver - past,

Teach us with Thee to mourn our sins, And close by Thee to stay.
O give us strength in Thee to fight, In Thee to con - quer sin.
Yea, ev - er - more, in life and death, O Lord, with us a - bide.
An Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy We may at - tain at last!

Listening for the Word

Lesson from the Hebrew Scriptures

Isaian 58:1-12

¹ Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ² Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side.

³ "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers. ⁴ You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵ Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? ⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. ⁹ Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am." If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. ¹¹ The LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail.

¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Seeking: Is This the Fast that I Choose?"

Rev. Dr. Kris Schondelmeyer

Responding to the Word

Litany of Penitence

One: Holy God, day after day we seek You, looking for You in our ways, hoping to draw nearer.

All: Yet our ways have not been Your ways.

One: Coming in Jesus Christ, You humbled Yourself, giving us one to follow.

All: We continue to serve our own interests, even as we try to serve You.

One: You have taught us that all are created in Your image.

All: We find ourselves participants in systems that oppress some while granting rights to others.

One: You have told us of the fast that You choose, to loosen the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, and to let the oppressed go free.

All: We struggle to know where to begin, the tasks seem so enormous, and the needs so many.

One: And so, O God, we continue to seek You.

All: Forgive all in us that does not meet Your expectations. Hear our personal prayers of confession...

(confess your sins in silence). . .

One: O Lord, may we come to know You in our search for Your justice. May we feel Your peace in hearts made new. May we heed Your call to let our light shine so that the world knows Your freedom...so that darkness would be no more. We pray for your world, saying together:

All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom 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 kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Imposition of Ashes

Song of Reflection

Meditation on "Be Thou My Vision"

Prayers of the People (Unison)

Merciful God, this night we bow our heads before You, our brows marked with the ashes that acknowledge our origins as creatures of dust. We were destined by nature to return to dust, but now You have intervened on our behalf. There are no words to thank You for such favor or even to describe the force of love by which You call us from death to life at Your side. Grant us the strength to live lives worthy of that calling. With the mark of the cross upon us, help us forgive others as You have forgiven us. Help us strive for the protection and redemption of all people even as You have protected and redeemed us. Help us to let our light shine as we love one another as You have loved us. In the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

♣ Hymn #469

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

CHILDREN PRAYING

Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren pray - ing. Lord, send your

Spir - it in this place. Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren

pray - ing. Send us love; send us power; send us grace. (Sing Twice)

♣ Charge and Benediction

Please exit in silence.

WORSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS

Worship Hosts - Paula Burnett, Jeanne Sherwood

Sound/Video Technicians - Mitch Doremus, Jim Middleton

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

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JOYS & CONCERNS

In Our Prayers: families and victims of gun violence; the people of Ukraine and all who groan under oppression; for God's presence with all who are grieving the loss of Dwight Wood, Juanita White Daugherty Briggs, Gayle Allard, Eleanor Beadles White, Kathy Goldsmith (Ruth Rensberger's daughter), Larry Kisler, Ella Johns, Gloria Wadsworth, Bruce Kahler, for God's mercy and grace to touch Kirk Christie, Lorraine Sewick, Brandon Bufe, Allison Kennedy, Dylan's grandmother, Julia Pedigo, Jim Woods, Tammy Wood, Benjamin Bartnicke, Erin Middleton Cavan, Danielle, Dorothy Bain, Lynette, Brenda Cole, Karlyn Gomez, David Milnes, Dorothy Downing, Avery (Phylis Pecoraro's 4-year-old great-granddaughter). And those experiencing abuse, addiction, violence, loss, suicide, COVID-19, and natural disaster.

Mission Partners: Rev. José Pilar Alvarez Cabrera and Rev. Nestor Eduardo Alvarez Cabrera in Zacapa, Guatemala; Alice Chikomo in Harare, Zimbabwe; Veda Gill in Pakistan.

Hospital Visits: The Pastors make hospital visits when patients give permission and when pandemic precautions permit.

In-Touch Information: For anyone who is homebound and would enjoy a contact from one of First Presbyterian's In-Touch members, please contact Deacon Colleen Duenas.

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 Shawl Group: 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 coatrack near the main office.



Scan to visit
the First Pres
Website.

www.fpcdavenport.org

Scan to visit
the First Pres
Calendar.



www.fpcdavenport.org/calendar



seeking: honest questions for deeper faith

This Lent, take time to journey with God each day through a special Lenten Devotional. The Lenten Devotional, which will be sent out via email, or if requested, is available in hard copy, will accompany Pastor Kris' sermon series through the season of Lent.

This Lent we are seeking: seeking clarity, seeking wisdom, seeking a love that makes us whole. The Seeking...Honest Questions for Deep Faith Lenten Devotional reminds us that Christians have a

long tradition of embarking on spiritual quests, which invite us to look with fresh eyes at our life and the world, and listen for the longing in our souls. All you need to begin is a willing heart. May you join us on the journey with bravery and discover how trust meets you along the way.

Each person is invited to journey with God each day this Lenten season. And, you are invited to join Pastor Kris for a Devotional Discussion Group. Groups will meet either in-person on Sunday mornings immediately following the worship service or Sunday evenings at 7:00PM on Zoom.

Devotional Discussion Group Dates:

Sunday, February 26 / Sunday, March 5 / Sunday, March 12 / Sunday, March 19 / Sunday, March 26 / Sunday, April 2



seeking: honest questions for deeper faith




This Lenten season, we are offering daily contemplative cards beginning on Ash Wednesday and continuing through the first week of Easter.

Each card will have a question to ponder as well as a prayer.

These cards, which are appropriate for young families, have been beautifully written and prepared by Rev. Sarah A. Speed.

We invite you to join us in expanding and deepening your spiritual walk through Lent.

These cards will be available on the FPC Facebook page as well as via email. It is our prayer that these cards will help remind you that, as you seek God, God is always seeking you.

   @sanctifiedart | contact@sanctifiedart.org

FPC STAFF

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Our Staff

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Chad Dean*, <i>Custodian</i>		
Nichole Kerker*, <i>Nursery Coordinator</i>		
Kelley Wohlers*, <i>Nursery Caregiver</i>		

* Part-time employee

ELDERS AND DEACONS

Elders

Class of 2023

David Bowles Edwards
Jim DeReus
Patrick Downing
Michael Ferris
RuthAnn Tobey-Brown
Jim Woods

Class of 2024

Paula Burnett
Peter Bawden
Kirk Christie
Nancy Foster
Bev Koos
Karla Ruiter
Diane Roebuck
Jay Williams

Class of 2025

Dan Breinich
Nancy Chapman
Bonnie Johnson
Nathan Kabel
Kristine Oswald
Mark Ruebling
Vicki Stegall

Clerk of Session
Mark Jones

Deacons

Class of 2023

Ted Brown
Al Frohlich
John Gere
Matthew Hennes
Erin Sodawasser
Katrina Williams

Class of 2024

Anna Putman
Glen Roebuck (Moderator)
Andy McNeil
Tom Vaccaro
Paula Hartmann
Sherry Williams

Class of 2025

Colleen Duenas
Terri Sheetz
Kristy Owens