



THE STEEPLE

FEBRUARY 2026

FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WINTERSSET, 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.



Many years ago my wife and I took the entire family to “*the happiest place on earth.*” A wonderful tagline that belongs to the Disney theme parks, although perhaps it is a bit overstated. Nonetheless, we had a wonderful, even magical time in the Magic Kingdom. It was a trip that we had been planning for several years, and although we were exhausted by the end, we have no regrets.

As Christians we have another kingdom that we look forward to with an even greater enthusiasm and anticipation. We pray for it each week: “*thy kingdom come.*” We look forward to it when we recall that we are to “*seek first God’s Kingdom*” and we strive to make this kingdom a reality in our world when we share the good news of the king.

In each of the gospels, Jesus invites us to become like little children in order to come into the Kingdom of God. Disneyworld is a place for children of all ages and I have to confess that I have yet to grow out of its allure, and to be honest, I hope I never do! But to be invited to be a part of God’s Kingdom and for all eternity! Now that is a family trip that I don’t want to miss!

But God’s Kingdom is not just a reality yet to be had. It is also a part of the here and now. One of the games that we played while at Disneyworld was to look for Mickey’s all around us. Disney hides the profile of Mickey Mouse in thousands of places, sometimes often subtly. We found him embedded in the carpet of our hotel room, sculpted in garden hedges, on wallpaper and water tanks. God’s Kingdom too is all around us. “*The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand.*” (Mark 1:15) Look for evidence of God’s Kingdom all around you. In time, you will learn to see signs of this kingdom all around you. In fact, you can be one of those signs!



The pastor Erwin Lutzer put it this way:

“When we seek first the kingdom of God and righteousness, fulfillment comes as a by-product of our love for God. And that satisfaction is better than we ever imagined.”

- Dave

BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY



Joe Ekdahl	February 4
Reta Brown	February 5
Paul Millhollin	February 8
Nicole Smith	February 9
Darla Millhollin	February 17
Elaine Newton	February 18
Bryce Landers	February 19
Amanda Ryner	February 27
Ann Pashek	February 28

ANNIVERSARIES IN FEBRUARY!

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

MADONNA CIRCLE



February 2 @ 10am

EVENING GUILD



February 4
10:30 am

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

February 1 – 10:15 AM

Kevin de Regnier
Worship Leader, Communion
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 8 – 10:15 AM

Rev. Dave Endriss
Worship Leader
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 15 – 10:15 AM

Rev. Dave Endriss
Worship Leader
Transfiguration of the Lord

February 22 – 10:15 AM

Rev. Ioan Ittu
Worship Leader
First Sunday in Lent

We pray for...
Connie Banks
Diane Blankers
Gordy Clark
Nolan Collins
Jake Jacobs
Kathy Jackson Sas
Bob Kuhns
Pat Kuhns
Sally Leeper
Tish McKee
Dean Schantz
Hank Stuchel
Kate Sullivan
Ruth Wagley
Roy Smith
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*

SESSION

Class of 2026

Ron Berdine
Ann Pashek

Class of 2027

Mike Dickerson
Joe Ekdahl
Don Stanley

Class of 2028

Craig Deichmann
Steve Holmes

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Pastor Dave email: revendriss@gmail.com

Pastor Dave phone: 515-360-0764

Dalene phone: 319-530-8373 (texts preferred)

Dalene email: dds5160@gmail.com

Website: www.1upcwinterset.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/1upcwinterset

**A pastor giving a children's sermon on vestments asked:
"Why do you think I wear this collar?"**

**One kid answered:
"Because it kills ticks and fleas up to 30 days."**

Oldtimes



This week we are thanking...

... **Connie Banks, our organist,** who contributes to our worship every week through her dedication, time and contribution. We thank her

for years of commitment to our music ministry and hold her near and dear to our hearts as she continues to feel better. We've missed you!

... **Kevin de Regnier, Mike Dickerson,**

Robert Newton, and Don Stanley for painting the Administrative Assistant's office on January 24. It looks so nice and fresh!



**Stir Your Coffee
At the Steeple
Wednesdays
at 10am**

Join with the pastor every Wednesday morning for an informal time of fellowship and coffee. There is no agenda except to enjoy each other's company. Bring a snack to share if you like, but it is not required!



FEBRUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 4th Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship Kevin de Regnier Communion 11:15 am Fellowship	2 10 am Madonna Circle 	3	4 Artful Devotions 10 am Coffee with Pastor Dave 10:30 am Evening Guild 4 pm Bible Study	5 7 pm Property & Finance	6	7
8 5th Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship Rev. Dave Endriss 11:15 am Fellowship SOUPER BOWL SNACKS	9	10	11 Artful Devotions 10 am Coffee with Pastor Dave 4 pm Bible Study	12	13	14  Presbytery in Des Moines (Central)
15 Transfiguration of the Lord 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship Rev. Dave Endriss 11:15 am Fellowship POETRY READINGS	16 Presidents' Day 	17 Fat Tuesday 	18 Artful Devotions 10 am Coffee with Pastor Dave  7 pm Ash Wednesday Service	19	20	21
22 1st Sunday in Lent 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship Rev. Ioan Ittu 11:15 am Fellowship	23	24 6:30 pm Session	25 Artful Devotions 10 am Coffee with Pastor Dave 4 pm Bible Study	26	27	28

*"A small bird twitters on a leafless spray, across the snow-waste, breaks a gleam of gold.
What token can I give my friend today? But February blossoms, pure and cold? Frail gifts
from Nature's half-reluctant hand. I see the signs of spring about the land. These chill
snowdrops, fresh from wintry bowers are the forerunners of a world of flowers."*

— Sarah Doudney



Black History Month Begins - February 1

Black History Month, celebrated annually in February honors the achievements, culture, and contributions of Black Americans throughout history. Originating to spotlight overlooked stories, it encourages reflection on struggles and progress, with the 2026 theme focusing on "A Century of Black History Commemorations."

Valentine's Day - February 14



Where did Valentine's Day originate? Some legends say that the day is named after St. Valentine, a Roman priest from the 3rd century who defied an emperor's ban on marriage, secretly wedding couples and eventually being executed, leading to his commemoration on February 14th. Originally a Christian feast day for a martyr, the day has evolved to celebrate all forms of love, including romantic, familial, and platonic bonds. In essence, Valentine's Day is a blend of ancient traditions and evolving cultural practices, centered on expressing love. 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 \$27.5 billion on Valentine's Day in 2025, beating the record setting \$27.4 billion in 2020.



Presidents' Day - February 16

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.

Looking Ahead...

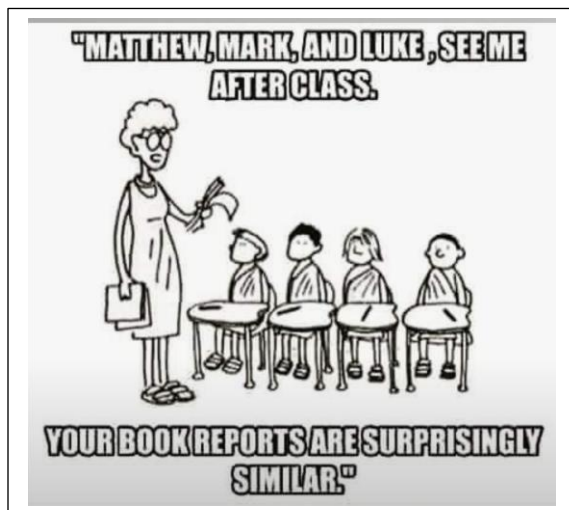
Transfiguration of the Lord - February 15

Fat Tuesday - February 17

Ash Wednesday - February 18

First Sunday in Lent - February 22

More information on these and more coming in your March STEEPLE on February 27!



From the CRISP team...

We had a very busy holiday season at the CRISP office. I wanted to share with you that our Christmas for Kids program was a great success. With your support we were able to serve nearly 305 children this year. That is an increase from 300 children last year. Each family that signed up received Christmas gifts for all of their children as well as a grocery gift card (from CRISP) and a food box (provided by MATURA).

We could not have done it without you and your ongoing support!!! THANK YOU SO MUCH!



Congratulations to our own Bob Kuhns on receiving the Service Award from the Madison County Chamber of Commerce in recognition of his many years of dedication and service. Congratulations Bob!



Baby it's cold outside...worse for some than others. Fire has the living room cozy! I am doing really good. Chemo #5 is next week. I feel really really good. I've put about 8 pounds back on, which helps loads. No paracentesis this week and abdominal fluid is staying at bay..what an answer to many prayers! I'm avoiding large gatherings due to the flu and colds. So far so good on staying healthy. Delton is doing well as my driver, sherpa, dog walker, dishwasher and laundry service! Watson is my service dog. Mostly a thigh warmer and constant companion.

Your prayers are heard and God is wrapping us tight in his arms. Blessings and prayers of thanks to each of you.

Love you,
Kathy Jackson Sas



I just attended worship with you all from my home in Oklahoma. May I say it was simply soul healing to be with you all. Thank you for doing Facebook Live! I heard prayer requests for distant family members which enabled me to pray for them. My family has been in Winterset since the mid 1800s so it's home! My parents were married in your church in 1967. So thankful to be able to be with you all via social media.

- Susan Morrissey Horton

Give instead of Giving up



this Lent Season

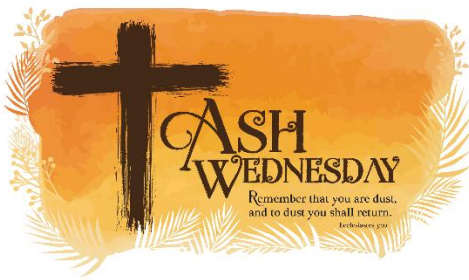
Corn, Beans, Pigs + Kids
www.cornbeanspigsandkids.com

For Lent - how about giving to something rather than giving up something? The Paw Pantry is our Lenten mission for this season of inward reflection and deepening our relationship with God. You can bring food at any time and cash donations are always welcomed.



Share a taste of your favorite Super Bowl Sunday snack and recipe...You are invited to bring a "TASTE OF YOUR FAVORITE SUPER BOWL SNACK" to share during Fellowship on February 8. We will be voting on our favorites... Awards include Hot and Spicy, Sweet and Savoring; and Best of the Show.

Valentine's Day is coming! We will be hosting a Valentine Poem Reading again this year on February 15 during Fellowship. So get out your poetry books to review and plan to share a reading with a message of love.



Ash Wednesday Worship
First United
Presbyterian Church
7:00 pm – February 18
Rev. Erick Swanson, preaching



Tri-Presbyteries Invitation to Conversation

For the past five years, our three presbyteries have been living into our connectional nature through shared executive leadership, joint ministry experiences, and collaboration in important areas such as personnel and support for congregational leadership. Recently, each presbytery has voted to begin a season of intentional prayer and discussion to discern whether God may be leading us toward a new structure: a single, joined presbytery serving Iowa together. You are invited to ask questions and give input on the possible Presbytery merger on **Thursday, March 5, at 1 pm at Covenant Presbyterian Church in West Des Moines**. Carpooling will be available. Let Pastor Dave know if you'd like to go!