



"The Steeple"

A Weekly Newsletter from First United Presbyterian Church
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Friday, January 17, 2025



ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION WILL FOLLOW WORSHIP ON **JANUARY 19, 2025**. WE WILL THEN ENJOY A POTLUCK LUNCH. **PLEASE BRING A COVERED DISH TO SHARE.** WE HOPE YOU WILL ATTEND ON THIS IMPORTANT DAY!

We pray for...

Nolan Collins

Pat Kuhns

Tish McKee

Ruth Wagley

Ilene Holmes

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

Website: www.1upcwinterset.org

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Sunday, January 19 - Second Sunday after Epiphany

9:00 am - Sunday School

10:15 am - Worship, Rev. Dave Endriss

11:15 am - Annual Congregational Meeting

12:00 pm - Potluck Lunch

Wednesday, January 22 - Artful Devotions

10:00 am - Coffee with Pastor Dave

5:00 pm - Bible Study

Sunday, January 26 - Third Sunday after Epiphany

9:00 am - Sunday School

10:15 am - Worship, Rev. Ioan Ittu

11:15 am - Fellowship

Tuesday, January 28 - 6:30 pm - Session

Wednesday, January 29 - Artful Devotions

10:00 am - Coffee with Pastor Dave

5:00 pm - Bible Study

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 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. **Per Capita for 2025 is \$51.84 per member.** The breakdown is as follows: \$10.84 GA, \$5.50 Synod, and \$35.50 Presbytery. Thank you for your continued participation in the larger ministry of God's church! Please mark your check "Per Capita." Thank you!

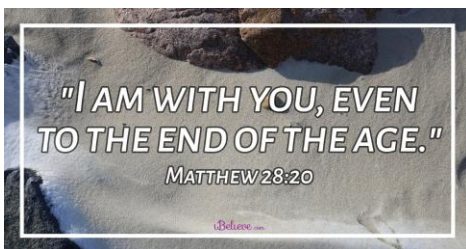
I can't believe we are past the mid-way point of January. I always think that if we make it through January we will be on the downhill slope to Spring. The problem with that line of thinking is that in recent years we have received snow and cold in April, and even the first part of May. This puts robins on notice that they need not venture out of their winter spaces too early.

Today would have been my 50th wedding anniversary with my junior high school sweetheart and kids' dad. 50 years! I always admire those who make it that long in wedded bliss. We did not (divorced in 1997), but I still look back and remember the "good years," and there were many. What were you doing 50 years ago? I have trouble fathoming that kind of a time frame. 50 years ago we were barely 18 years old, I was thin, had dark hair, and was working at People's Bank in Indianola. We were married at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Indianola by Rev. Mike Pulsifer, a much-beloved pastor and friend of the Davies family. We lived in an upstairs apartment that had long narrow stairs leading up to the door and I could hustle up and down them without nary a thought unlike today where the knees struggle to work properly while navigating one or two stairs.

We immediately moved to Minneapolis for Keith to pursue electrical apprentice training at Dunwoody Institute while I was seeking out employment at banks in the area. This was not a good decision for us – we were too young, newly married, and the first time I had been off the farm thrown into big city life. Homesickness is a REAL thing, and brought us back home to Indianola where he secured a job with Morrison Electric and I went back to work at People's Bank in the bookkeeping department. Encoding, filing, hard checks – so much different than today's electronic financial world. It was never a career path I wanted to take – I have a disdain for accounting. But it was a good job for an 18-year-old and I enjoyed the people there immensely.

Two years later we welcomed our first-born son, Michael, and three years after that, a daughter, Carla. I was a stay-at-home mom until the both kids were in school, and then began a career in church administrative assistant work after studying journalism at Grandview University. And the rest, as they say, is history, a tenure of non-profit work spanning forty years.

Can you remember what 50 years ago looked like? What did your car look like in 1975? Maybe a Ford Cortina or a Caprice Classic? How about your home décor? Did you have green appliances and brown and orange carpet? Did your wardrobe include a tie-dyed shirt, a leisure suit, jumpsuit or bell bottoms? What about music? Who were your favorite artists? Earth, Wind and Fire, KC and the Sunshine Band, Linda Ronstadt, The Eagles?



So much has changed in 50 years but one thing has not – God's omnipresence. God invites us to enter God's presence just as the world is changing around us, to hold fast to this promise: *And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.* (Matt. 28:20) God with us. Always. Forever. We are never alone. From 50 years ago and forever...

- Dalene