



THE STEEPLE

MARCH 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.



For years I have been wearing transitional lenses that adjust to the amount of sunlight. In bright light they darken into sunglasses. When I step inside they quickly change, allowing me to see easily. But after a couple of years, the ability for my glasses to adjust begins to diminish and I either have to resort to clip-ons or get new glasses.

Sometimes when change happens too rapidly or too frequently, we become like those tired set of glasses. Our ability to adjust, adapt and transition to new or different circumstances becomes slow or stops all together. It can be hard to keep up when there are changes at work, in our relationships, our health and our all too fluid culture. Just one area can be hard, but when they begin to pile up, we sometimes start shutting down.

As difficult as it sometimes can be, change is inevitable. The Greek philosopher Heraclitus wrote that *“one cannot step twice into the same river.”*

As people of faith, however, we have a resource that allows us a stability that cannot be found elsewhere. As the psalmist affirmed: *“We will not fear though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.” (Psalm 46:2-3)*

The unknown author of the familiar hymn, “How Firm a Foundation” put it this way:

*The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, tho all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake!*

In an ever-changing world know that:

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. (Hebrews 13:8)

- Pastor Dave



BIRTHDAYS

3/2 Gaylene Blankers
3/10 Sally Leeper
3/14 Robert Newton
3/21 Nicki Endriss
3/26 Scarlett Ekdahl
3/28 Bill Kneller

ANNIVERSARIES

3/18 Jake & Carol Jacobs

MADONNA CIRCLE



March 2 @ 10 am

EVENING GUILD



March 4

3:00 pm



Do you or someone you know need care?
Contact Kay Stanley, Congregational Care Coordinator.

MARCH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 1 – 10:15 AM

Rev. Dave Endriss,
Worship Leader

Communion

Second Sunday in Lent

March 8 – 10:15 AM

Rev. Ioan Ittu,
Worship Leader

Worship Leader

Third Sunday in Lent

March 15 – 10:15 AM

Rev. Linda O'Connell,
Worship Leader

Worship Leader

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 22 – 10:15 AM

Kevin de Regnier,
Worship Leader

Worship Leader

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 29 – 10:15 AM

Rev. Dave Endriss,
Worship Leader

Worship Leader

Palm/Passion Sunday

P**W**
PANTRY

For Lent - how about giving to something rather than giving up something? The Paw Pantry is Madonna Circle's 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. Besides non-perishable food items, current needs are shampoo, toilet paper, paper towels, Kleenex, and cereal and breakfast bars.

SESSION

Class of 2026

Class of 2027

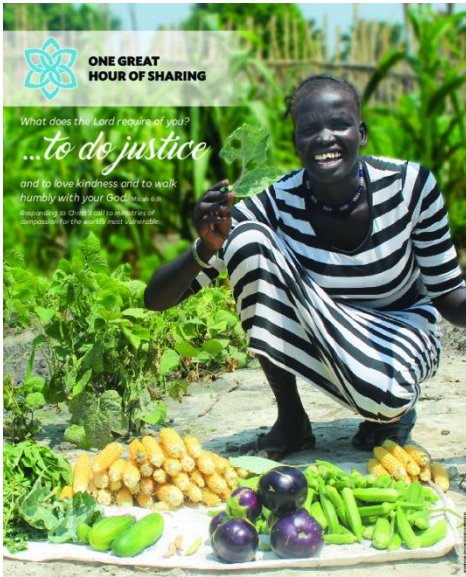
Class of 2028

Ron Berdine
Ann Pashek

Mike Dickerson
Joe Ekdahl
Don Stanley

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



Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The work done in support of the causes supported by **One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)** — disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, and immigration/migration and refugees —serves individuals and communities in need. This work provides people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Received during the season of Lent (Feb. 18–April 5), each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God’s love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. Thank you for supporting One Great Hour of Sharing, an Offering that responds directly to the call to do justice in Micah 6:8. The offering will be received on Easter Sunday, April 5, but you can give at any time during Lent. Earmark your check “OGHOS.” Thank you!

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We pray for...

Connie Banks
Diane Blankers
Hank Stuchel
Nolan Collins
Jake Jacobs
Kathy Jackson Sas
Bob Kuhns
Pat Kuhns

Tish McKee
Gordy Clark
Kate Sullivan
Ruth Wagley
Roy Smith
Judy Stewart
Sally Leeper
Those known only to God

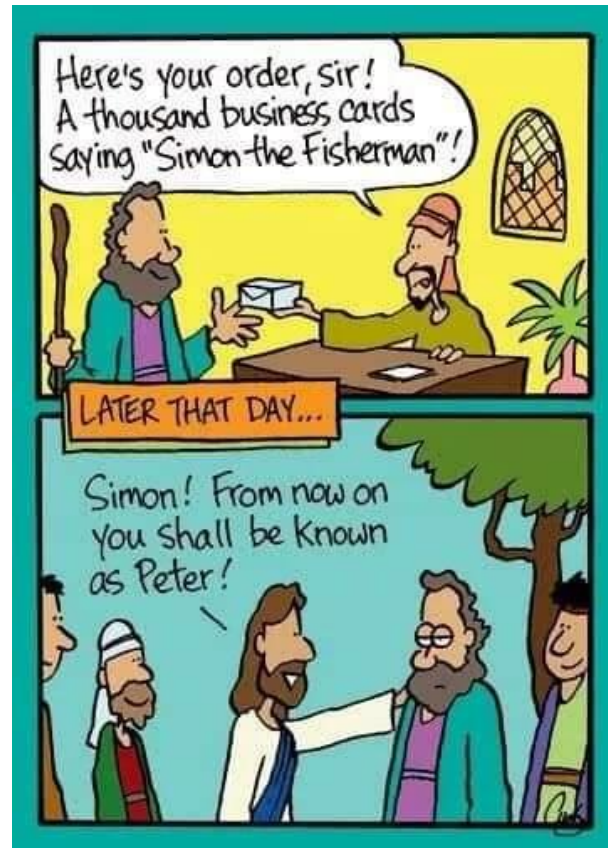


"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus".

Philippians 4:6-7



SPRING FORWARD!
MOVE YOUR CLOCKS
AHEAD 1 HR. WHEN YOU GO
TO BED ON SATURDAY,
MARCH 7



St. Patrick's Day, feast day (March 17) of St. Patrick, patron saint of Ireland. Born in Roman Britain in the late 4th century, he was kidnapped at the age of 16 and taken to Ireland as a slave. He escaped but returned about 432 ce to convert the Irish to Christianity. By the time of his death on March 17, 461, he had established monasteries, churches, and schools. Many legends grew up around him—for example, that he drove

the snakes out of Ireland and used the shamrock to explain the Trinity. Ireland came to celebrate his day with religious services and feasts.

Irish and non-Irish alike commonly participate in the “wearing of the green”—sporting an item of green clothing or a shamrock, the Irish national plant, in the lapel. Corned beef and cabbage are associated with the holiday, and even beer is sometimes dyed green to celebrate the day.

I Will Give You Rest: Come



The **2026 World Day of Prayer** materials from Nigeria bring us a powerful invitation drawn from Matthew 11:28-30. At a time when people worldwide are carrying heavy burdens, our Nigerian sisters offer profound insights into finding rest in God.

Through their exploration of different kinds of burdens - shame, systemic

oppression, religious persecution, poverty and despair - the writers help us understand both the weight of human suffering and the depths of divine rest. Their work shows us that true rest isn't just about physical relief, but about transformation through God's grace and community support. The WDP Nigerian committee has woven together their cultural wisdom with the universal need for rest. Through symbols like the calabash bowl, which represents both daily sustenance and divine provision, they remind us how God meets us in our weariness. As we prepare for WDP 2026, may we learn to embody Jesus' invitation: 'Come to me, all you who are weary.' Together, let us become channels of God's rest in our troubled world.

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide, ecumenical movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year, and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service.

- It is initiated and carried out by women in more than 150 countries and regions.
- It is symbolized by an annual day of celebration observed on the first Friday in March to which all people are welcome.
- It brings women of different races, cultures and traditions together in fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year.
- Through World Day of Prayer, women affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and have immeasurable influence in the world.
- The 2026 motto is "*I Will Give You Rest: Come.*"
- The 2026 prayer focus is "*Come to me, all you who are weary.*"

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!

Mr. Rogers Emphasis Day



Fred Rogers was an ordained minister of word and sacrament for the PC(USA) and is a notable public figure whose work around peace and reconciliation are worth remembering. Rogers was also a pioneer in the world of Christian education and formation of young children. March 20th was his birthday and the day that the PC(USA) has chosen to highlight all we can learn from his work.

Some Scripture connections as we remember Mr. Rogers:

Matthew 22:34-40 The Greatest Commandment

Luke 10:25-37 Who is my neighbor?

Luke 14:15-24 Story of the Great Dinner

Jeremiah 1:4-8 Before I formed you, I knew you

John 21:15-17 A story of Peter and Jesus

Acts 10:28-36 A story about Peter and Cornelius

Genesis 33:1-11 A story two twin brothers

Deuteronomy 10:17–21 A story of the Hebrew people

“This is what I give. I give an expression of care every day to each child, to help him realize that he is unique... I feel that if we in public television can only make it clear that feelings are mentionable and manageable, we will have done a great service for mental health.”

- Fred Rogers, Senate hearing on PBS funding

Ideas for celebrating the legacy of Mr. Rogers...

- **Be a neighbor:** Share a kind word with a friend or stranger.
- **Do a good deed:** Give a neighbor a snack, flowers, or a card.
- **Decorate rocks:** Paint and hide "kind rocks" for others to find.
- **Wear red:** Wear a red shirt or cardigan sweater to remember Mr. Rogers.
- **Donate:** Collect toys and books for a local charity.
- **Learn about Mr. Rogers:** Learn more about his life and work.
- **Watch Mister Rogers' Neighborhood:** Revisit the show that helped teach children to be kind and compassionate.

MARCH 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 2nd Sunday in Lent 9 :00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship PW Meeting after Worship	2 10:00 am - Madonna Circle	3	4 Artful Devotions 10 am – Coffee with Pastor Dave 3 pm Evening Guild 4 pm Bible Study	5 1:00 pm – Listening Session at Covenant Pres. 7:00 pm – Property & Finance	6 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 	7 Turn clocks ahead 1 hr. tonight 
8 Daylight Savings Begins 3rd Sunday in Lent 9 :00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship	9	10	11 Artful Devotions 10 am – Coffee with Pastor Dave 4:00 pm Bible Study	12	13	14
15 4th Sunday in Lent 9 :00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 Artful Devotions 10 am – Coffee with Pastor Dave 4:00 pm Bible Study	19	20 MR. ROGERS DAY Wear Red Today First Day of Spring	21
22 5th Sunday in Lent 9 :00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship	23	24 6:30 pm Session Meeting	25 Artful Devotions 10 am – Coffee with Pastor Dave 4:00 pm Bible Study	26	27	28
29 Palm Sunday 9 :00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship	30	31				

The first day of spring is one thing, and the first spring day is another. The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month.

- Henry Van Dyke

Hello March

- M ay the early spring
- A waken your soul and
- R emind you to
- C elebrate the season with the
- H ope and Joy it brings

