

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2155 University Ave, Dubuque, IA 52001 | (563) 583-1729 | <http://wpcdbq.org>

Inviting All. Exploring Faith. Experiencing God.

MORNING WORSHIP, 9:30AM

MARCH 19, 2023



WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT WESTMINSTER!

We're delighted to worship with you today and hope your experience of worship is meaningful and uplifting. If you are comfortably able, we invite you to stand during the portions of worship marked with an asterisk (). The congregation reads the portions of the worship **listed in bold text**. Also, our worship service is always livestreamed and there are multiple cameras in the sanctuary. You may be on camera during your worship experience with Westminster.*

Everyone is welcome at Westminster! We are always delighted with the presence of (and sometimes the sounds of!) children in worship. They are welcome to use any of the resources in our Pray Ground (located behind the pews). If you prefer, we also provide nursery care for children 5 years of age and under. For those who need them, please note that assisted listening devices are available at the back of the sanctuary. Any of our greeters will be happy to offer assistance to you with locating and using them.

PRELUDE

The beginning of the prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for the worship of God.

*GATHERING SONG: GTG # To be announced

TIME OF WELCOME

God be with you!

And also with you!

*OPENING PRAYERS

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayers.

Prayers of the People

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayers.

Prayers for the Church

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayers.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

TIME WITH YOUNGER DISCIPLES – Noisy Offering!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON - *Again & Again: God Loves First*

Scripture: John 3:14-21 | Ephesians 2:1-10 [NRSVUE]

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

*TIME OF RECONCILIATION

Invitation to Confession

Silent Prayer

Prayer of Confession

God of love, we forget the beginning of the story: that we were made from love, to be love, to give love. Instead of rooting our narrative in the goodness of creation, we skip ahead and find our worth at the fall, with Cain and Abel, lost in the wilderness.

We forget that first there was you, and you are love. We forget that out of that love you created us. We forget that from the very first day, you loved first. We forget because a love like that doesn't make sense to us.

Forgive our low self-esteem. Forgive our resistance to love ourselves. Forgive our hesitation to trust that even we could be made good. And forgive our tendency to pass that doubt on from generation to generation. Write a new beginning for us that roots our confidence in your unrelenting love. With hope we pray, again and again, in Jesus name. Amen.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Again and again, we are claimed, held, forgiven, and cared for.

Thanks be to God!

Passing of the Peace

May the Peace of Christ be with You.

And also with you.

*SONG OF PROCLAMATION: GTG # To be announced

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe God is love: unconditional, unwavering love.

We believe this love exists for all, choosing each and every one of us, day after day, again and again and again.

We believe that God's love is like a river: just as rivers always flow toward the sea, God's love is always moving toward us and seeking us out.

We believe that God loved first. We believe that God breathed life into dust. We believe that God said, "This is good." And because we believe that God loved first, we strive to build our lives - and the whole world - in ways that reflect God's love.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

Musical Offering from Timbrel & Lyre

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

*SENDING SONG: *Build a Longer Table*

**Build a longer table, not a higher wall,
feeding those who hunger, making room for all.
Feasting together, stranger turns to friend,
Christ breaks walls to pieces; false divisions end.**

**Build a safer refuge, not a larger jail;
where the weak find shelter, mercy will not fail.
For any place where justice is denied,
Christ will breach the jail wall, freeing all inside.**

**Build a broader doorway, not a longer fence.
Love protects all people, sparing no expense.
When we embrace compassion more than fear,
Christ tears down our fences: all are welcome here.**

**When we lived as exiles, refugees abroad,
Christ became our doorway to the reign of God.
So must our tables welcome those who roam.
None can be excluded; all must find a home.**

*CHALLENGE AND BLESSING

And all God's people said:

Alleluia! Amen.

*SUNG RESPONSE: GTG # To be announced

POSTLUDE

Unless otherwise noted, the liturgy in today's worship is adapted from resources by Sarah Are, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org





LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

With *The Chosen* Video Series
Every Wednesday During Lent - 5-7 pm Fellowship Hall



Deacons' Fund: Lilies for Easter

Donations accepted through APRIL 3RD
Forms are on the BULLETIN tables.



WESTMINSTER CONGREGATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOISY OFFERING! - Bring your loose coins and support Westminster's mission giving! Each week, the young people of the congregation collect the coins that are designated for 1 of 4 different mission organizations. Each first-time visitor to Westminster gets to choose which organization will receive a portion of this offering!

YOUTH GROUP - We are meeting together every Wednesday until Easter at the Lenten Soup Suppers hosted at Westminster from 5:00-7:00 in Fellowship Hall. Over a simple meal, we will feast upon the Word of God to us in Scripture and as portrayed in the video series *The Chosen*, season 1. You can sit with your family or with your peers for the meal and watch the video, then we will gather at one table for the discussion and community time. This will TAKE THE PLACE of our Sunday evening meetings during Lent. Our next Sunday evening meeting will be on Sunday, April 16th.

PULL TOGETHER TO SUPPORT SURVIVORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING - The Mission Team and Green Team has another project we can all help with. Pull tabs from beverage cans, food cans and other aluminum pull tab containers are being collected. Recycled tabs will be redeemed to provide personal items for survivors of human trafficking recovering in Iowa safe houses in Ames, Sioux City, and Des Moines. Bring your tabs to church and deposit them in the box at the Green Team Donation Station.

A COMMUNITY-WIDE BOOK STUDY - *Laudato Si': On Care For Our Common Home.*

This is Pope Francis' Encyclical on caring for God's creation, climate change and environmental concerns. The book is available at River Lights Book Store, and they are giving a 30% discount for those in the book study group. The Green team in conjunction with the Interfaith Coalition Group are sponsors. There will be 3 sessions held on Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM: March 23 at Immanuel Congregational UCC Church, April 13 at Loras College Alumni Center, and May 11 at Westminster.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY KITS FOR FAMILIES IN NEED - Another great mission project YOU can help with. The Mission Team is launching a new project to assemble "Happy Birthday Kits" for families in need that might not be able to provide a simple birthday for one of its members. The kits will be given to the Dubuque Food Pantry to distribute to families who need them. The kits will provide a baking pan, box of cake mix, can of frosting, birthday candles, can of soda, a generic birthday card and a message of love from Westminster. How can YOU help? WPC members are asked to help by providing any number of boxes of cake mix (any flavor), cans of frosting (any flavor) and birthday candles. Please continue to bring these items over the next several weeks and place in the blue wagon in the hallway by the narthex. We will schedule a Birthday Kit Building Party in the next few months, and YOU will be invited to that as well. We hope to provide 100 kits!

WPC BOOK CLUB DATE CHANGE - *Solito: A Memoir* by Javier Zamora, Discussion 4/5 at 3:30 in the Narthex.

THANK YOU to Jon Davison for sharing his beautiful begonia plant for our use on the communion table!

WESTMINSTER LIFE AND MINISTRY

Church Office Number: 563-583-1729 | For Pastoral Care emergencies: **563-279-4545**

Pastor: Rev. MargaretAnne Overstreet	Church Administrator: Mary Kay Pancratz
Director Christian Formation: Bonnie Sue Lewis	Financial Secretary: Becky Jenkins
Care Ministry Coordinator: Lisa MacNaughton	Custodian: Tim Till
Director of Music: Dr. Luke Tyler	Digital Storytelling Director: Clare Kysely
Adult Choir: Steve Peake	Worship Technology: Monson Nguyen
Timbrel & Lyre Director: Dr. Luke Tyler	Greeters: Neil & Lisa MacNaughton
Adult Handbells Director: DeLano Cain-Watson	Ushers: Adam Etheredge & Randy Roos
WPC Band: Sally Stulken	Hospitality Set Up: Doug & Jean Cheever
Organist/Pianist: Dr. Luke Tyler	Clean Up: Shirley Meriwether

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Prayers for Wally and the family of Barb Brown who passed on March 11. Services were held at Westminster Saturday March 18, 2023.
- Continued prayers for Bill Seiffert as he slowly recovers from open-heart surgery.
- Prayers for Lewy McMahan, Linda & Tom Stovall's grandson, who has pneumonia.
- Prayers for Janet Neumeister's cousin June to get her sight back in one eye.
- Continued prayers for Wendell Comer who is dealing with serious health issues.
- Prayers for Russ Hibben who is recuperating at his son and daughter-in law's.
- Prayers for HannaRose, daughter of Adam and Tarra Etheredge, as she continues to manage her brain health.
- Continued prayers for Janice and Wayne Lewis' daughter, Stephanie, who had brain surgery at Mayo Clinic for an advanced tumor. She is doing fair and will be receiving radiation and chemo.
- Prayers for Julie Woodyard who is having surgery March 21st on a tumor on her right arm. Her address is: 2015 Washington St. 52001
- Prayers for Mary Kay's friend, Mary Schroeder, for a successful return to health.
- Please pray for those whose lives were lost in Turkey and for the survivors.

If you have a pastoral care need, if you would like to have your name on our congregational prayer list, or if you would like your prayer concern to be distributed to our Prayer Chain, please call the Westminster Pastoral Care Hotline at (563) 279-4545.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

FABULOUS FRIDAYS CONCERT SERIES AT ST. LUKE'S AT NOON:

MARCH 24TH - Upper Main Street Jazz/Swing Band – Ric Jones, director

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

MARCH 19TH – MARCH 26TH

BECKY'S SCHEDULE: TUESDAY, WED. &
THURSDAY UNTIL 12:45 P.M.

Sunday, March 19

9:00 a.m. Coffee, Donuts, & Fellowship

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:45 a.m. Children's Sunday School

1:30 p.m. Worship at Bethany Home

Monday, March 20

9:00 a.m. Garden Team, FH

1:00 p.m. J.M. Book Club, Narthex

4:30 p.m. Adult Handbells Rehearsal

6:00 p.m. Den Mtg., FH

Tuesday, March 21

9:00 a.m. Tai Chi

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, WR

6:00 p.m. Session, BR/ZOOM

Wednesday, March 22

EASTER HOTLINE DEADLINE

11:00 a.m. Journey of the Heart, BR

5:00 p.m. Lenten Soup Suppers, FH

7:00 p.m. WPC Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 23

11:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study, Libr
Study Mary Magdalene

2:00 P.M. Green Team Mtg., BR

Sunday, March 26

9:00 a.m. Coffee, Donuts, & Fellowship

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:45 a.m. Children's Sunday School

CHANCEL FLOWERS - Please consider providing Chancel Flowers in memory or honor of a loved one, to recognize a special event, or simply as a gift to our worshipping community. Call Mary Kay in the church office (563-583-1729) to sign up.



FROM YOUR WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION:

Your will speaks for you after death.
Have you include a bequest to WPC in
your will?

GREEN TEAM TIP

Energy Efficient Practices

Buy energy efficient appliances for your home. Be sure to have your furnace and air conditioner regularly maintained and in good working order. This saves energy and money. Use programmable thermostats and set them to comfortable and efficient levels. Consider having an energy audit of your home along with suggestions for improvements.



SUPPORT THE YOUTH PROGRAM BUY SCRIP!

*Buy Scrip in
the WPC office
M - Th,
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Hy-Vee
coupon books
are here!!*