



1684 IOWA ST. | DUBUQUE, IA

2155 UNIVERSITY AVE | DUBUQUE, IA



December 29, 2024 | Morning Worship 9:30 am

Welcome to Westminster! Please sign in so that we can connect with you!
Use the binders in your pew OR text WORSHIP to 563-227-8441

If You Are Worshipping...

Online – All the worship songs and words will be on your screen so that you can fully participate.

In The Sanctuary – If you are comfortably able, we invite you to stand during portions of worship marked with an asterisk (*). The congregation reads items listed in bold text. *Please note:* Our service is always live-streamed with multiple cameras in the sanctuary. You will likely be on camera at some point during your worship experience.

With Children – We are delighted with the presence of (and the sounds of) children in worship. Children are welcome to use any of the resources in our PrayGround (located behind the back pews). The back pews are for parents of children using the PrayGround, and the rocking chairs are reserved especially for nursing mothers or parents whose children need a cuddle and some rocking. **Also, childcare is available in our nursery down the hall.**

Prayer Requests – Each week, we encourage folks to share their joys and concerns with one another using the *Prayer Cards* in the pews. Please complete a *Prayer Card* and place it in the Offering Plate during worship. This will ensure your prayers are lifted up to God in worship and/or in private.

Special accommodations –

Assisted listening devices are available at the back of the sanctuary.

Anyone with mobility issues is welcome to use the padded green chairs located strategically throughout the sanctuary. There are spaces within the pews for wheelchairs. Ushers are happy to assist you with these or other accommodations.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!

arr. Livingston

FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Miraculous God, your Son Jesus Christ is the light of the world. Amid every darkness of our lives, his light still shines. May this good news erupt in us, filling us with joy and laughter all our days.

OPENING PRAYER

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

Those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.

You have multiplied exultation,

you have increased its joy;

For a child has been born for us,

a son given to us;

authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

*SONG OF PRAISE #134

Joy to the World

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

SILENT CONFESSION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*SUNG RESPONSE #582 *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

**PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Please take a moment to extend the peace of Christ to one another by greeting those around you. Say "hello", wave, learn each other's names – whatever feels most comfortable to you.

TIME WITH YOUNGER DISCIPLES

Following the "Time with Younger Disciples," Our youngest disciples, ages 3-grade 3, are encouraged to join our Faith Formation leaders for Children's Church. They will encounter God at a developmentally-appropriate level with safe adults. The child(ren) can be picked up at the conclusion of worship down the hall. Then, enjoy treats and fellowship together!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 55:1-13; Luke 2:8-11

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

SERMON Words for the Beginning: "Don't forget to Laugh"

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** #158 *Born in the Night, Mary's Child*

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:** The Apostles Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty' from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE OFFERING

***OFFERTORY** *All My Heart This Night Rejoices* arr. Leatherman

***DOXOLOGY** #34

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND PETITION**

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.

***SENDING HYMN** #80 (3 x's) *You Shall Go Out with Joy*

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen* arr. Hayes

* You are welcome to stand in body or spirit.

WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE HERE! Interested in learning more about these congregations? Wondering how to get connected on a deeper level? Thinking about what becoming a member of the church may look like? Pastor Stephanie would love to talk with you. Simply contact her at fpcdbq.pastor@gmail.com or (507) 227-8537.

WORSHIP LOCATION: Please remember that beginning next Sunday, January 5th, we will be worshipping here at WPC every week through the end of March. The Sessions of both congregations have approved this in order to provide for optimal safety and ease during the coldest weather months. We will continue to distribute the offering to **FPC** on the *2nd & 4th Sunday* of each month, and to **WPC** on the *1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays*; and will have reminders in the bulletin each week for your convenience.

WEATHER BAD? IS CHURCH CANCELED? If inclement weather exists, ***Sunday morning worship may be canceled.*** Such a decision will be made no later than 7am Sunday morning and will be posted on the WPC and FPC website and emailed to both congregations. If Sunday morning worship is canceled, there will be ***no*** Sunday evening activities. ***During the week***, we will follow the Dubuque Community Schools closings and/or delays. *Please be diligent in planning for winter weather circumstances.*

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The FPC-WPC PARTNERSHIP TASKFORCE meets biweekly as we navigate the needs of our new congregation moving forward. There are four working groups: ***Worship*** - Roger Ebertz (FPC) & Sue Taylor (WPC); ***Care & Culture*** - Deb Stant (FPC) & Tom Stovall (WPC); ***Communication and Technology*** – Chris Daniels (FPC) & Kim David (WPC); ***Legal & Assets*** - Lindsey Ward (FPC) & Rich Henderson (WPC). We encourage you to address these folks when you have questions and/or input regarding the process of joining; and we appreciate your patience as we purposefully and carefully make appropriate shifts together.

CHURCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - Your help is needed for 2025

Looking for Liturgists – one per Sunday

Need two greeters and two ushers per service

Need two families to serve snacks after the church service.

Suggested – 3 dozen cookies or mini muffins and water or juice for the youth.

Sign up at the Information Table. **Thanks for your help!**

The Daily Devotional, **THESE DAYS**, for January, February & March are in the Narthex.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS collected in today's service will be contributed to the general fund of **Westminster Presbyterian Church**. As a faithful pledger, you are encouraged to continue your giving patterns to either WPC or FPC. This can be done via electronic giving, mail, or simply holding your pledge until worship is hosted at the church of your pledge commitment.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reminder: There will be no Faith, Food, and Fellowship activities at 5:30pm tonight. The program will resume on Sunday, January 5th.

Sunday, January 5th in Fellowship Hall after worship join us for a special presentation and workshop by Tom and Linda Stovall. They are trained volunteer AARP Fraud Watch Educators with the Iowa state office of AARP and conduct workshops to present tips, resources and information on how to **prevent identity theft and avoid scams and fraud.** **Their presentation includes informational handouts and discussion.**

The Christian Formation Team is thrilled that during the months of January and February, learners from children through adults will be invited to explore the same Bible passages as are being presented in the Sunday morning worship service. "Feasting on the Word"

January 5 Matthew 2:1-12 "The Road isn't Straight"

SUNDAY NIGHT FAITH FORMATION

5:30 Meal and Fellowship

6:00-7:00 Child Care Available

Youth grades 4-12

Children through grade 3

Adult Bible Study led by Dan Emmert

January 9 Thursday Morning Bible Study led by Shirley Meriwether; 11:00 WPC, Brd. Rm.

Stewardship Update: We would like to let everyone know where we are on our Stewardship Campaign. To date we have received 77 pledge cards totaling \$295,184.00. We had 31 pledges increase by \$25,987.00. We had 23 pledges stay the same. We had 20 pledges decrease by \$43,886.00. We had 3 new pledges. Last year we had 92 cards totaling \$310,249.00.

We are looking for those who **have not returned their pledge cards** to take time and return them asap.

Your pledge allows us to operate our Church and to do so many things in our community that makes a difference.

Green Team Tip – Go Green in 2025!

The New Year 2025 is upon us! Hopefully among your resolutions is what you will do in the year ahead to better care for God's wonderful creation by going green this year. You can probably do much more than you think you can. There are many simple and easy things we all can do for our planet. Your Green Team will be sharing tips for you in the bulletin every week. Happy New Year!

Year End Giving
Thank you for your financial support of First and Westminster Presbyterian Churches.

In order to have your contribution included on your **2024 Contribution Statement**, please make sure it arrives at the office [by TODAY.](#)

Becky Jenkins, Financial Secretary

HAVE A PRAYER CONCERN OR JOY TO SHARE? Folks on the **FPC Prayer Chain** would be honored to pray for you. Simply email Pastor Stephanie at fpcdbq.pastor@gmail.com, and she will distribute your request. You may also join the FPC Prayer Chain this way!

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER LIST FOR WESTMINSTER

- For **Tim Sheridan**, the husband of **Judy Sheridan**, who lost his brother, Kelly Sheridan.
- For Jolene Kilcoyne's son-in-law, **Nate Mrstik**, who is dealing with complications following surgery.
- For **Josiah Otting** who continues to deal with seizures caused by epilepsy. Pray for next steps to be determined and for healing.
- For prayers of Thanksgiving. **Joyce Veach**, Mary Kay's sister in-law's, cancer treatment resulted in a "near complete response" in eliminating her stage 4 cancer. Your prayers are being answered! Thank you! She has a few more treatments left and we ask you to keep the prayers coming...
- For **HannaRose Otting's** brain health concerns.
- For **Janet Porter's** recovery & healing from hip surgery. She is home now!
- For **Doug & Lois Pearce's** ongoing health issues. Doug is at rehab at Grand Meadows.
- For all those on the **Deacons Care List**.

For Pastoral Care please call the **pastoral care # 563-279-4545** with your pastoral needs or call the office at 563-583-1729.

Sunday, December 29

9:30am – **Worship & Children's Church at WPC**

Rev. Marsha Wilfong, preaching

Coffee, treats and fellowship following worship.

NO Food, Faith and Fellowship Tonight

(Resumes 1-5-2025)

Monday, December 30

HOTLINE DEADLINE

Tuesday, December 31

BECKY OFF

Wednesday, January 1

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Both offices are closed

Thursday, January 2

BECKY OFF

9am-1pm Pastor Office Hours @ WPC

Saturday, January 4

9am - Partnership Task force Mtg., WPC, Board Rm.

Sunday, January 5th

9:30am – **Worship & Children's Church at WPC**

Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching

Coffee, treats and fellowship following worship.

5:30pm-7pm - Food, Faith and Fellowship Tonight at WPC

Through December 31

Pastor Ells on vacation. For emergency Pastoral Care needs, you may contact the Rev. Marsha Wilfong at (563)583-6571.

PASTOR STEPHANIE'S SERMONS are available in print form. If you are interested in receiving a copy of her sermon via email or mail, please contact her directly at fpcebq.pastor@gmail.com or 507.227.8537

CHURCH STAFF

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Stephanie Ells

Director of Music and Choir Director: Kristen Eby

507-227-8537 | firstpresdbq@gmail.com | www.firstpresdbq.org

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Preacher: Rev. Marsha Wilfong

Care Coordinator: Sam Wu #563-279-4545

Director of Music: Dr. Luke Tyler

Handbell Director: Kristen Eby

Choir Director: Steve Peake

Timbrel & Lyre Director: Dr. Luke Tyler

Band Director: Sally Stulken

Organist/Pianist: Dr. Luke Tyler

Church Administrator: Mary Kay Pancratz

Financial Secretary: Becky Jenkins

Custodian: Josh Henry

Worship Tech: Deb Seiffert, Marsha Wilfong, Bruce Hallahan

Liturgist: Glinda Manternach

Musician: Kristen Eby

Greeters: Gerda Hartman, Dan Emmert

Ushers: Ed & Ericka Raber

Hospitality Set Up: Merrill Crawford

Hospitality Clean Up: Rich Henderson

CONNECT WITH WESTMINSTER | Scan these codes to ...



WORSHIP
ONLINE



GIVE ONLINE



BUY SCRIP



WORSHIP
CHECK-IN

(563) 583-1729 | churchoffice@wpcdbq.org | WPCdbq.org