



## January 5, 2025 | 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.

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## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

*What Star is This with Beams So Bright*

arr. Collinsworth

### FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Magi, braving distance and desert to find you, O Lord Jesus Christ, and bewildered shepherds, compelled by an angel's invitation, allowed light to be their guide. Please lead us, now and always, out of darkness and into your marvelous light. Amen.

## OPENING PRAYER

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Arise, shine; for your light has come.

**The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.**

Come, worship the Lord of glory.

**Proclaim God's praise among the nations.**

\***SONG OF PRAISE** #744  
#853

*Arise, Your Light Has Come  
We Are Marching in the Light of God  
We are marching...  
We are living...  
We are singing...*

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of new beginnings, We admit that we often follow the well-worn path, simply because others have been there before. Sometimes this is holy and humble, but there are days when a new path needs to be tread. On those new-beginning days, O God, give us the courage to follow your star. Give us the courage to go home by another way. Give us the courage to kick up some dust and walk in a new direction for the sake of justice, love, and neighbor. For when you are doing a new thing, we want to have the courage to follow. With hope in our hearts we wander, we travel.**

## 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**

Matthew 2:1-12, Isaiah 43:16-21

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**

**Epiphany: *The Road Isn't Straight***

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE #377 *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light***

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *Dare to Trust***

**We believe in a with-us God, a God who is beside us in the mountains and valleys, holding our hand through every bump and turn. And in the chaos of our journey, we believe that God sees what we cannot always see: a path home by another way. Therefore, trusting in this ever-present and guiding God, we lace up our shoes. We look for God's fingerprints in the world. We trust that there are paths still unexplored, paths that God has only begun to invite us down. And like the Magi, we dare to follow. May it be so, Amen.**

**THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

**INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE**

**GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**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.**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE** *Please hold the elements until all have been served.  
All bread is gluten-free.*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**THE OFFERING**

\*OFFERTORY

*Creator of the Stars of Night*

copyright: Lorenz

\*DOXOLOGY #606

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*SENDING HYMN #150

*As With Gladness Men of Old*

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

*March of the Kings*

arr. Livingston

Mark Ward, organist

\* You are welcome to stand in body or spirit.

**SCRIP** gift cards are available today in the Narthex.

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

**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](mailto:fpcdbq.pastor@gmail.com) or (507) 227-8537.

**WORSHIP LOCATION:** Please remember that beginning today, 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.

**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.*

**STEWARDSHIP UPDATE:** We have received 81 pledges so far. Our Stewardship amount is now at \$321,050.20. Your support allows us to fund our Church's operation.



If you have donated a Poinsettia and would like to take one, please feel free to take one for yourself or deliver to someone who would enjoy it. Also, if you are a Deacon, please take some and deliver to the members you visit. Thanks!

## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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. Tithes & offerings will be distributed to *FPC on the 2nd & 4th Sundays*, and to *WPC on the 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays*. Thank you for your understanding.

**FPC CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NOTICE:** On Sunday, January 26th, immediately following worship, FPC will hold their Annual Congregational meeting in the Fellowship Hall for the review of the Annual Report and the proposed 2025 budget.

**MUSIC MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES!** Music is a beautiful component of our worship here at church, and we welcome all ages and levels of musical skill to join in making a joyful noise to the Lord! **Handbell Choir** meets on Wednesdays at 5:00pm, and the **Adult Choir** rehearses two Wednesdays a month at 7:00pm. The **Church Band** plays on the 3rd Sunday of every month. Contact the church office if you are interested in an ensemble, and MaryKay will connect you to the appropriate music staff person(s). We are always looking for folks willing to present **special music** as well.

**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!**

### **GREEN TEAM TIP – Go Green in 2025!**

Among your New Year's resolutions please consider doing more to care for God's 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.

## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WORKSHOP TODAY IN FELLOWSHIP HALL ON “HOW TO PREVENT IDENTITY THEFT AND AVOID SCAMS AND FRAUD”.** Get your coffee, a treat and join us after worship for this special presentation by Tom and Linda Stovall. They are trained volunteer AAARP 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 scams. 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.

### **CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER LIST FOR WESTMINSTER**

- We mourn the passing of **Morgan Frazer**, Director of the Dubuque Rescue Mission. Please pray for his husband, Mark Velasquez, and Chico, his puppy during this time. Services are planned for Thursday, January 9th at St. Luke’s United Methodist Church.
- For **Wendell Comer’s** recovery and healing from a bad back injury.
- 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.
- Continued prayers for **Joyce Veach**, Mary Kay’s sister in-law. 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** continued recovery & healing from hip surgery.
- For **Doug & Lois Pearce’s** ongoing health issues. Lois will be having surgery later this month at Mayo Clinic.
- 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, January 5th**

9:30am – **Worship, Communion & Children’s Church at WPC**

**Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching**

Coffee, treats and fellowship following worship.

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

**Tuesday, January 7th**

9am-1pm Pastor Office Hours @ WPC

9am - Tai Chi, FH

11am – Personnel Mtg., BR

1 pm – Property Mtg., BR

5:30pm - Tech Team Meeting, WPC, BR

**Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> – all at WPC**

8am – Men’s Coffee, BR

9:15am – Staff Mtg., WR

10am – Deacon’s Mtg., FH

11am – Personnel Mtg., BR

5 pm – Handbells Rehearsal, SA

7 pm – Choir Rehearsal, SA

**Thursday, January 9th**

9am-1pm Pastor Office Hours @ WPC

11am – Bible Study, BR

**Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup> – Installation of Officers**

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 at WPC

**Starting January 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Becky Jenkins will have new office hours:** Mon. and Wed. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tues. 12:15 to 2 p.m.

**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 [fpcdbq.pastor@gmail.com](mailto:fpcdbq.pastor@gmail.com) or 507.227.8537

# CHURCH STAFF

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Pastor:** Rev. Stephanie Ells

**Director of Music and Choir Director:** Kristen Eby

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

[507-227-8537](tel:507-227-8537) | [firstpresdbq@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresdbq@gmail.com) | [www.firstpresdbq.org](http://www.firstpresdbq.org)

## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Preacher:** Rev. Stephanie Ells

**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:** Mark Ward

**Musician:** Kristen Eby

**Greeters:** Tom & Linda Stovall

**Ushers:** Sue Dravis & Carolyn Dausener

**Hospitality Set Up:** Pat Judge

**Hospitality Clean Up:** Pat Edwards

**Communion Servers:** Linda Stovall, Doug Cheever, Denise Reyerson, Randy Roos, Alex Jack, Deb Stant, Annalee Ward and Lindsey Ward

**CONNECT WITH WESTMINSTER** | Scan these codes to ...



**WORSHIP  
ONLINE**



**GIVE ONLINE**



**BUY SCRIP**



**WORSHIP  
CHECK-IN**

[\(563\) 583-1729](tel:563-583-1729) | [churchoffice@wpcdbq.org](mailto:churchoffice@wpcdbq.org) | [WPCdbq.org](http://WPCdbq.org)