



First Presbyterian Church

"We love because God first loved us."

1 John 4:19

WESTMINSTER

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1684 IOWA ST. | DUBUQUE, IA

2155 UNIVERSITY AVE | DUBUQUE, IA



March 2, 2025 | Morning Worship 9:30 am

Welcome to Church! 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.

Wheelchairs are available to use for church or to get down to Fellowship Hall. Please ask an usher or greeter. They can assist you.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE – Handbell Choir

Fairest Lord Jesus

arr. Page

FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Today, the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday is traditionally designated for celebrating the transfiguration of Jesus. At the transfiguration the great glory of God in the person of

Jesus Christ was made clear, affirming the identity of Jesus as not only fully human but also fully divine. The Transfiguration prepares us for our Lenten journey of identifying with the human side of Jesus, while also trusting his divine glory will prevail in the end.

OPENING PRAYER

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Today we celebrate Jesus' transfiguration.

We are assured Jesus is powerful and holy.

We are awestruck by the glory of his presence.

In our mundane lives, we sometimes struggle to see Jesus.

In our mysterious experiences, we sometimes struggle to understand Jesus.

May we trust the voice declaring Jesus to be God's Son,

living with courage and praise, awe and adoration, for our God reigns!

*SONG OF PRAISE GTG #12 *Immortal, Invisible*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful and gracious God, we bow before your unending compassion, the measure of our falling short. We have not loved as you command. We have not spoken truly. We have not cared for creation, including ourselves, according to your will. What we intend, we have not pursued; what we mean to avoid, we embrace. Help us to know the mind of Christ, that in all thoughts, words, and deeds, our lives might come to honor you. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*SUNG RESPONSE GTG #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 READING

Luke 9: 28-36

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON "The Transfiguration: Encouragement for the Journey"

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** GTG #673 v. 1 & 3 *Jesus, Light of Joy*

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:** *The Apostle's 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 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

I Stand Amazed

arr. Walz

***DOXOLOGY** GTG #606

***PRAYER OF GRATITUDE & DEDICATION**

***SENDING HYMN** GTG #192

Shine, Jesus Shine

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Great God of Might and Glory

arr. Paxton

* You are welcome to rise in body or spirit.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER WORSHIP TODAY - 10:45 Adult Class ***“How to Navigate Church Media”*** led by Ann Miller. This will be an educational class that is an overview of Westminster’s website and Social Media sites: Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

SCRIP gift cards are available today in the Narthex. "Give more without spending more". If you are new to Scrip stop at the desk and pick up a sheet of the local cards available and what percentage each gives back to our church.

CARE CART! REMINDER: Next week we fill the cart for the **Opening Doors**. Items needed are: HE laundry detergent, tall trash bags, Clorox disinfecting wipes, toilet paper, paper towels, Dawn soap, liquid hand soap, and personal items such as toothpaste, tooth brushes, etc.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

TITHES AND OFFERINGS collected in today's service 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. Thanks for understanding.

JOIN US FOR OUR ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE at *First Presbyterian Church* on **Wed., March 5th, 2025 at 7:00pm**. Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, the 40 days of fasting and renewal corresponding to Christ’s forty-day fast when he was tempted in the desert. The imposition of ashes is a central part of the worship service, allowing us to meditate on our mortality while remembering, with confidence and gratitude, that Christ has conquered death and sin.

***Throughout Lent we will be offering **WEDNESDAY PRAYER SERVICES AT NOON**, with the Westminster campus sanctuary remaining open afterwards for individual reflection and prayer. These services will be contemplative and quiet, giving worshippers 20 or so minutes in their week to pause and focus on Christ’s journey to the cross. Printouts of the services will be available as well, in case you are unable to come to the sanctuary, you can join us in spirit from home or office! These will be held March 12th through April 20th, led by Pastor Stephanie Ells.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RETIREMENT, Mary Kay Pancratz! Our sincerest thanks and deepest gratitude to Mary Kay Pancratz for her 13 years of service as the Church Administrator at Westminster Presbyterian Church. She has been a rock of care and knowledge and will be greatly missed as she heads into retirement mid-April. MaryKay looks forward to spending quality time with her grandchildren and traveling with her husband, Tim. A retirement reception for Mary Kay will be held following worship on Sunday, April 6, 2025. We hope you will join us in showing her our love and appreciation! *Check out information about our new Church Administrator, Jeff Gladwin, in the March Newsletter.* Jeff will start on Monday, March 3rd.

SUNDAY NIGHT FAITH FORMATION

MARCH 2 - 5:30 Meal

6:00-7:00 Child Care available

Youth grades 4-12 & children through Grade 3

Moms on Fire

Adult Class "The Chosen" Season 3, Episode 1

MARCH 6 - 11:00 ADULT BIBLE STUDY led by Marsha Wilfong

Genesis 12-13: Abraham & Sarah, the New "First Couple"

THE POURING OF THE WATER INTO THE FONT at the beginning of worship engages our physical senses in worship of God. Hearing the water and seeing it poured connects us to the sacrament of Baptism, a sign & seal of our being marked as Christ's own forever. **By carrying in the water during the prelude, children are offered an opportunity to participate in worship leadership.**

NAME THE NEW CHURCH RESULTS - Thanks to all who submitted entries of suggested names for our new unified church community. A total of 279 entries (WOW!) were submitted and there were 144 different names suggested (another WOW!). The results have been submitted to the Partnership Task Force for review and consideration. You will be hearing more in the future.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HUNGER OUTREACH ON MARCH 22

Our next Presbyterian Hunger Outreach food distribution will be on Saturday, March 22 at Westminster. Around 35+ volunteers will be needed from 8:00-10:30 a.m. to provide traffic control, greet and register participants, organize food for distribution, load food into cars and assist walk-up recipients. We can provide everyone with a job that matches their comfort level. Sign up today on the sheet at the back of the sanctuary or contact Tom Stovall at 563-581-7220 or at tomstov@aol.com. Be sure to sign up in advance so you can receive volunteer communications and instructions before the event. Feel free to invite family, friends and neighbors to help.

My Dear WPC/FPC Community...My heart has been heavy with the loss of my sister, Elaine Grygo, but with you prayerful caring support...you have helped lift me up. Your cards, thoughts, prayers, words and flowers have really demonstrated God's spirit alive in this community and each one of you. I feel blessed to be a part of this community. Thank you for your loving support. It means a great deal to me. ~ Blessings, *Mary Kay*

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**Thank you all** for the many wonderful years at Westminster. I can't thank you all enough. We will always look back fondly at our time spent worshipping and volunteering at Westminster. We have been worshipping with you through the livestream on Sundays, but now we have found a church in Elgin and feel it is time to attend church in person again.

Again thanks, *Julia, Jason, Molly & Devin Smith*



### **GIVE UP PLASTIC FOR LENT**

**March 5 to April 13**

Take your reusable bags with you to shop. If you need a new bag, take one of our soon- to- be collector's items, from the info. desk. Pick up a contest form from the desk also. The person who uses their reusable bags most often will receive a prize.

### **CHURCH PRAYER LIST**

- For Gary Wagner's wife, **Sandy Garrett**, who is under the care of Hospice.
- For **Patt Carmack** who is now back in her daughter's home & praying for a good recovery with therapy and the hope of coming back to Dubuque in April.
- For **Paula McNally** recovering from knee replacement surgery.
- For **Roy Piller's friend, Bill**, with blood cancer.
- For **Lois and Doug Pearce's** ongoing health issues.
- For **Josiah Otting** who continues to deal with seizures caused by epilepsy.
- Continued prayers for **Joyce Veach**, Mary Kay's sister in-law, with liver cancer.
- For **HannaRose Otting's** brain health concerns.
- For all those on the **Deacons Care List**.
- For **all those affected by wildfires in California** – including victims, first responders, volunteers and helping organizations.

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

**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!

# CHURCH CALENDAR

- All activities will take place at WPC, unless otherwise noted.

## Sunday, March 2nd

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

**Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching**

Coffee, treats and fellowship following worship.

10:45am – **Navigating Church Media** by Ann Miller, BR

5:30-7pm – Food, Faith & Fellowship

6pm – Taskforce Mtg., BR

## Monday, March 3rd

5pm – Worship Team, BR

## Tuesday, March 4th

9am - Tai Chi, FH

2pm – Personnel, BR

5:30pm – Ping Pong, Headstart Rm.

## Wednesday, March 5th

9:15am – Staff Mtg., WR

7pm – Ash Wednesday Service, at First Presbyterian Church

## Thursday, March 6th

11am – Genesis Bible Study, BR

## Friday, March 7th

1pm – Property Team, BR

## Saturday, March 8th

9am – FPC Session Mtg., at FPC

## Sunday, March 9th

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

**Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching**

Coffee, treats and fellowship following worship.

3pm – DBQ Interfaith Green Coalition, BR

5:30-7pm – Food, Faith & Fellowship

**WE NEED HELP WITH THE U/D SEMINARY TABLES on the following dates:**

**March 10th, March 24th, April 7<sup>th</sup>.**

Time for helping runs from 9AM to 1PM. We also need treats dropped off for each table. Please let me know if you can help on a certain day and let me know if you would like to bring treats (this is important as we do not want to get a lot of treats for just one day). Thanks, Rich Henderson, 563-580-6289

**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 Co-Choir Director:** Kristen Eby

[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

**Pastor:** Rev. Stephanie Ells

**Care Coordinator:** Sam Wu #563-279-4545

**Director of Music:** Dr. Luke Tyler

**Handbell Director:** Kristen Eby

**Co-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 Stant

**Musician:** Kristen Eby

**Musical Ensemble:** Handbell Choir

**Greeters:** Pat Edwards & Linda Stovall

**Ushers:** Carolyn Dausener & Tom Stovall

**Hospitality Set Up:** Pat Judge

**Hospitality Clean Up:** Pat Edwards

**Snacks:** Jean Cheever

**Communion Servers:** Deb Stant, Ericka Raber, Kim David, Sue Dravis, Denise Reyerson, Mike Jozefowicz, Lindsey Ward and Mark Ward

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