



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 23, 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

The Teaching: Risking Challenge



The Tribute Money by James Jacques Joseph

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.

GATHERING MUSIC

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Enter the Passion”

*CALL TO WORSHIP IN SONG

En - ter___ En - ter the pas - sion.____

4
En - ter the place we be - long not just look - ing on.

8
For this is our pas - sion.____ En - ter the pas - sion.____

***OPENING PRAYER**

Loving God, we come to worship you this morning.

Send your Spirit to open our hearts to sing your praises.

We come to follow Jesus's journey to the cross.

Help us to enter into the Holy Week story.

We come to listen to Jesus's teachings.

Open us to not only hear, but to understand and be changed.

We worship you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen

***SONG OF PREPERATION** GTG #722 *"Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak"*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We come here to encounter the teachings of Jesus.

**Many wanted to destroy him for these teachings,
and sometimes we too find that his words challenge us,
calling us to more than we think we can be or do.**

Forgive us, O God.

**Let us be shaped into a new people,
made in the mold of justice,
not the stamp of Caesar's coin.**

**You entered our story through Jesus,
now help us to enter fully into the story
of your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.**

SILENT CONFESSION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

***SUNG RESPONSE** GTG #581 *"Gloria Patri"*

****PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with 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!

CHOIR ANTHEM

"There is a Redeemer"

arr. Harlan

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 22:15-22

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“The Teaching: Risking Challenge”

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** GTG #475 *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

***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 OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“*Give Me Jesus*”

arr. Giamanco

***DOXOLOGY** GTG #606

PRAYER OF DEDICATION & 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**

“*Cry of My Heart*”

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

“*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*”

arr. Forrest

* Please rise in body or spirit.

**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.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

PIZZA WITH THE PASTOR! Interested in what this congregation is all about? Wondering how to get connected on a deeper level? Thinking about what becoming a member of the church may look like? Join Pastor Stephanie for pizza **after worship TODAY** in the Fellowship Hall. Childcare will be provided.

WORSHIP SERVICES through the end of June will be held at the Westminster Presbyterian Church campus, with the exception of Maundy Thursday and Palm Sunday, which will be held at the First Presbyterian Church campus downtown. Thank you for your flexibility as we unify our wonderful congregations!

CHURCH CHAT COMING YOUR WAY! Join the Partnership Taskforce Sunday, March 30th after worship in the Sanctuary to hear a brief update on the unification process. We can't wait to share all the work happening behind the scenes with you. Please submit your questions using the bulletin insert and placing it in the box at the Information desk.

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RETIREMENT, Mary Kay Pancratz! A retirement reception for MaryKay will be held following worship on Sunday, April 6, 2025. We invite you to bring cards to show MaryKay your appreciation and gratitude for her 13 years of service as the Church Administrator at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

WELCOME, Church Administrator, Jeff Gladwin! Jeff started in the office on March 3rd, 2025. Thank you for your welcome, and assistance of him, as he transitions onto our staff!

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. Thank you for your understanding.

Join us for our **WEDNESDAY PRAYER SERVICE AT NOON**, with the Westminster campus sanctuary remaining open afterwards for individual reflection and prayer. The service 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 are available at the INFORMATION CENTER***, 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.

CARE CART REMINDER: Since the next week is a fifth Sunday bring whatever, you want to the Care Cart, and we will get it to the correct location.

A YOUTH LOCK-IN will be held from 7 pm Friday, March 28, to 7 am Saturday, March 29. We will have food, games, crafts, video games and other activities for young people who are in fourth through 12th grades. **A permission slip is required!** They are available outside the church office or the night of.

GARDEN TEAM: The season is approaching quickly. During the gardening season we have a number of tasks that need to be accomplished: Planting, watering, harvesting, cleaning the produce, cleaning up kitchen, taking produce down to the Food Pantry, cleaning tubs up after produce is delivered, replanting as needed, & weeding. We are also constructing new raised beds. If you are interested in helping please let Rich Henderson or Marsha Wilfong know.

GREEN TEAM TIP – Take your own reusable tote bags with you when you shop for groceries and everything else. Stop using single-use plastic bags as they are dangerous to our environment. Educate yourself on what harm plastic causes to our planet.

THE GREEN TEAM IS MEETING – JOIN US! The next meeting of our church Green Team is this coming Wednesday, March 26 at 4:00 PM in the Board Room. Why not join us? We are a group of friendly folks that care about protecting God's wonderful creation. Our team plans and carries out projects and events to care for God's Creation through worship, education, facilities and advocacy. We are entering a time of the year where there will be lots of opportunities to serve. Contact Tom Stovall, Green Team Chair, if you have questions at 563-581-7220 or at tomstov@aol.com. Go Green!

SYNOD SCHOOL 2025 – JOIN US! This summer there is an exciting adventure waiting for you or the whole family at Synod School 2025. This annual gathering of Presbyterians of all ages is sponsored by the Synod of Lakes and Prairies. It will be held on July 20-25 (Sunday-Friday) on the beautiful lakeside campus of Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa. It will be a week of inspiration, worship, study, play and life together for around 500 people from all over the country. **After hearing a brief Minute for Mission about Synod School in worship this morning, you can find out more by attending an information session following worship in the Board Room.** So, grab a cup of coffee and a treat and come to find out more. The 2025 Catalog Booklets about this great event will be available including all details and registration information. The booklets and more information can also be accessed online at www.lakesandprairies.org/synod-school

CHURCH PRAYER LIST

- Praise for the birth of **Deb Sieffert's** grandson, Rowan, son of Andrew and Alex.
- For **John Barland** who is recovering from surgery.
- For **Chuck Whalen** will had Cervical Spine Stenosis surgery at Mayo Clinic and will be in the hospital until Tuesday.

- For the **members of the Partnership Task Force** and for God's guidance as they carry out their charge of uniting our churches into one community of faith.
- 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 **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**.

Church Family,

Thank you for your kind words and expressions of sympathy. It is deeply appreciated and will always be remembered.

The family of Marlene Kaiser
Marvin, Karla, Frank and Josh

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, 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 23rd

8:45am - Choir Rehearsal, SA

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

Rev. Roger Ebertz, preaching

Coffee, treats and fellowship following worship.

10:45am – New Member Pizza, BR

5:30pm – Food, Faith & Fellowship, FH

6:00pm – Scout Religious Emblem Class, WR

Monday, March 24th

9:00am - Seminary, FH, K

4:30pm – Friends Yoga, Classroom

5:30pm – Hospitality/Outreach Meeting, BR

6:30pm - Cable Car Quilters, FH

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 or 507.227.8537

Tuesday, March 25th

9am – Tai Chi, FH

5:30pm – Ping Pong, HeadStart Rm.

Wednesday, March 26th

8:00am - Men’s Coffee, BR

9:15am – Staff Mtg., WR

12pm – Lenten Prayer Service, SA

4:00pm – Green Team, BR

5:00 pm – Handbells Rehearsal, SA

6:00pm – Scout Religious Emblem Class, WR

Thursday, March 27th

11am – Genesis Bible Study, BR

Friday, March 28th

Saturday, March 29th

4:00pm - AA & AI-Anon, FH

Sunday, March 30th

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

Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching

Coffee, treats and fellowship following worship.

11:00am - Church Forum, SA

5:30pm – Food, Faith & Fellowship

6:00pm – Scout Religious Emblem Class, WR

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

March 24th, April 7th.

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

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Stephanie Ells

Care Coordinator: Sam Wu #563-279-4545

FPC Director of Music: Kristen Eby

Handbell & Co-Choir Director: Kristen Eby

WPC Director of Music: Dr. Luke Tyler

Co-Choir Director: Steve Peake

Band Director: Sally Stulken

Church Administrator: Jeffrey T. Gladwin

Financial Secretary: Becky Jenkins

Custodian: Josh Henry

Today’s Service

Preacher: Roger Ebertz

Liturgist: Rev. Stephanie Ells

Musician: Kristen Eby

Greeters: Judy Sheridan & Deb Stant

Ushers: Jon & Pam Adams

Hospitality Set Up: Merrill Crawford

Hospitality Clean Up: Rich Henderson

Snacks: Shirley Meriwether

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