



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



April 20, 2025 Easter Sunday | Morning Worship 9:30 am

Welcome to church! Please sign in, using the binders in your pew, so that we can connect with you.

Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and may have it to the full."—from John 10:10, NIV



GATHERING MUSIC

Church Band – *"Alleluia" (Lyrica Davidica)* by Elliott Del Borgo

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Church Band – *Fanfare Prelude on "Lancashire"* arr. Curnow

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Welcome today! Look where our Lenten journey has brought us!

**We entered the gates of Jerusalem with hope,
we walked the seashore and the hills with Jesus;
we went to the upper room and to the Garden of Sorrows,
we stood at the cross and hid in a room out of our fear.**

Now we are here, in the splendor and beauty of this place!

Everything is bursting with life. Jesus is alive! He is risen!

Hallelujah!

Hallelujah!

*SONGS OF PRAISE GTG #245

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

Christ is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed

How can it be, the One who died,
Has borne our sin through sacrifice
To conquer every sting of death?
Sing, sing hallelujah.
For joy awakes as dawning light
When Christ's disciples lift their eyes.
Alive He stands, their Friend and King;
Christ, Christ He is risen.

Where doubt and darkness once had been,
They saw Him and their hearts believed.
But blessed are those who have not seen,
Yet, sing hallelujah.
Once bound by fear now bold in faith,
They preached the truth and power of
grace.
And pouring out their lives they gained
Life, life everlasting. **(Chorus)**

Chorus

Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!
Oh, sing hallelujah.
Join the chorus, sing with the redeemed;
Christ is risen, He is risen indeed.

The power that raised Him from the grave
Now works in us to powerfully save.
He frees our hearts to live His grace;
Go tell of His goodness. **(Chorus)**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We have to admit it, Lord, that we had our doubts. We have heard the Resurrection story and for so many years it has remained just a nice story, a strange story, a doubtable story. But this time it is different; we want it to be different. We want to have faith in your resurrection. Forgive us when we so easily forget its meaning for us. Forgive us when we feel we have to have absolute proof of everything. You have shown us your eternal and unconditional love in Jesus Christ, bringing us new life. Give us the strength and courage to respond with songs of praise, hope, and thanksgiving. For indeed, Christ the Lord is risen today.

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.

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. Then, enjoy treats and fellowship together!

ANTHEM

Fanfare and Canticle for Easter

Benjamin Harlan

Choir, Brass, Percussion, Handbells

(incorporating Hymn of Joy by Beethoven)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 24:1-12

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

The Tomb: The Risk of Believing in Resurrection

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** GTG #246 *Christ is Alive!* (v 1, 4, 5)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** based on Corinthians 15:3-7; Colossians 1:15-20

This is the good news that we have received,
in which we stand, and by which we are saved:

**Christ died for our sins, was buried,
was raised on the third day,**

**and appeared first to the women, then to Peter and the Twelve,
and then to many faithful witnesses.**

We believe Jesus is the Christ,

**the Anointed One of God,
the firstborn of all creation,**

the firstborn from the dead,

in whom all things hold together,

in whom the fullness of God was pleased to dwell by the power of the Spirit.

Christ is the head of the body, the church,

and by the blood of the cross reconciles all things to God. Amen.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Do you promise to love, encourage, and support these new members by teaching the gospel of God's love, by being an example of Christian faith and character, and by giving the strong support of God's family in fellowship, prayer, and service?

We do.

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

I Know That My Redeemer Liveth

G.F. Handel

*DOXOLOGY #606

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*SENDING HYMN. GTG #232 *Jesus Christ is Risen Today* (v 1, 2, 4)

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

The Strife Is O'er

Palestrina/arr. L. Smith

* 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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS! We are thrilled to welcome new members to our congregation today. Be sure to greet them after worship: Jackie Arvidson, David & Susan Gossman, Margery Mullins, Gary Wagner & Sandy Garrett, Kate Sweeney (Mary, Stevie, Myles), and Nancy Yaeger.

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.

WORSHIP SERVICES through the end of June will be held at the Westminster Presbyterian Church campus. Thank you for your flexibility as we unify our wonderful congregations!

KNOW A GRADUATE?

We want to celebrate the amazing graduates in our lives! If you have a child, sibling, or someone close to you graduating high school or college this spring, please contact the church office with their information and a picture at administrator@wpcdbq.org.

DREAMING FORWARD: IMAGINING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER! As we join together two congregations, we have the unique opportunity to imagine ways of becoming the church our community needs *today*. The leadership has been considering all the new possibilities ahead of us, **and we need your input and participation!** Join the Partnership Taskforce for a series of Sunday night brainstorming sessions on **Sunday 4/27, 5/4, and 5/11 between 6-7pm** in the Fellowship Hall. A light supper will be served beforehand from 5:30-6pm. Childcare will be provided; older youth are encouraged to participate in our time together! Empowered by the Holy Spirit let's be...courageous! Resilient! Imaginative!

CALLING ALL KIDS! SUMMER SOUNDS MUSIC CAMP IS BACK at St. Luke's UMC and the Presbyterians are partnering with them! This camp is designed for kids (*kindergarten to 6th grade*) who love or want to explore music and the arts! With helpful camp counselors, church choir members, and music teachers, your kids will have a wonderful time learning new skills! Join the fun **June 23rd-27th, 2025, from 9am - 12pm, ending with a performance on Friday, June 27th at noon**. Cost is \$30 with a \$60 cap per family; our church (WPC/FPC) is covering half the cost per student/family, so when you go to register, just pay half! Register & pay by going to: <https://www.stlukesdbq.org/summersounds>

FINANCIAL SECRETARY TRANSITION: Becky Jenkins, who has served as the Financial Secretary for Westminster Pres over the last seven years, and for First Pres over the last year, recently completed her Masters of Business (MBA) degree! Congratulations, Becky! However, this means she will be leaving her position to further pursue her career. *Her last day in the office will be Tuesday, April 22nd, 2025.* **Jeff Gladwin**, Church Administrator, will be taking on these additional responsibilities as the Personnel Team works to ensure the needs of the congregation are being met long-term.

EARTH DAY WORSHIP AND BLESSING OF THE GARDENS AND SOIL. Next Sunday our worship service will celebrate Earth Day and our designation as an Earth Care Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Members of the Green Team will have roles in the service. Be sure to join us as we celebrate God's Creation. Following the worship service, we will gather outside and do a **Blessing of the Gardens and Soil** and learn about plans for our church gardens this year. If you would like to have soil from your home garden blessed, please feel free to bring a small container of soil from your garden to be included. Plan on joining the Green Team in this meaningful blessing.

THE NO PLASTIC BAGS DURING LENT WINNERS ARE: Judy Schuster and Judy Sheridan. The top three recyclers saved 70+ bags during Lent. Let's keep up their good work and remember our reusable shopping bags for the rest of the year. *The Green Team.*

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

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- For **Arlys Williams** who fell this past week and is being cared for at *The Gables*.
- **Patt Carmack** continues to recover in Arizona. She welcomes letters and is grateful for the continued support through prayers and the cards she has received.
- For **Paul Uzel** will have surgery at UWHC-Madison this Tuesday, April 22.
- 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 **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**.

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! **For Pastoral Care** please call **(563) 279-4545** or the church office.

CHURCH CALENDAR

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

Sunday, April 20th

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

Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching

8:40am Choir Rehearsal SA

1:30pm Bethany Home Worship

No Food, Faith & Fellowship

Monday, April 21st

OFFICE CLOSED

4:30pm – Friends Yoga, Classroom

6:00pm – Pack 20 Parent Mtg., Classroom

Tuesday, April 22nd

9am – Tai Chi, FH

9am – Personnel Committee, BR

6:00pm – NISOM Rehearsal, SA

Wednesday, April 23rd

8am – Men’s Coffee, BR

9am – St. Vincent de Paul, BR

9:15am – Staff Mtg., WR

5:00 pm – Handbells Rehearsal, SA

Thursday, April 24th

9am – St. Vincent de Paul, BR

11:00am – Genesis Bible Study, BR

6pm – Dbq. Chorale Dress Rehearsal, SA

Friday, April 25th

4:30pm – Set up for Kiwanis Breakfast, FH

Saturday, April 26th

7am-1:30pm –Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast, FH

Sunday, April 27th

9:30am – Worship at WPC

Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching

10:30am - Coffee, treats and fellowship following worship.

1pm – Dubuque Chorale Concert, SA

6pm – Dreaming Forward: Imagining Our Future Together, FH

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

GARDEN TEAM:

Rich Henderson - hs3eagles@gmail.com

Marsha Wilfong - mwilfong62hr@hotmail.com

AFTER SERVICE CLEAN UP:

Rich Henderson - hs3eagles@gmail.com

BAPTISMAL FONT (CHILDREN):

Michelle Daniels - shelly5183@gmail.com

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

TODAY'S SERVICE:

Preacher: Rev. Stephanie Ells
Liturgist: Jolene Kilcoyne
Musician: Kristen Eby, Sally Stulken
Greeters: Shirley Meriwether & Gerda Hartman
Ushers: Alex Jack, Adam Etheredge & Victoria Slemmons
Hospitality Set Up: Doug & Jean Cheever
Hospitality Clean Up: Shirley Meriwether
Snacks: Susan Taylor

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

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