



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 27, 2025 | Morning Worship 9:30 am

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



Artwork by Charlie Brehm

GATHERING MUSIC

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION *from John 10:11–18*

Jesus said: “I am the good shepherd. ... And I lay down my life for the sheep. ... For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

PRELUDE

Morning Has Broken

arr. Marilynn Ham

OPENING PRAYER

*CALL TO WORSHIP *from Psalm 8*

Gathered in the name of Jesus Christ,
inspired by the Holy Spirit, and blessed by God,

we come to worship one, holy God.

O God, our own God,
how wonderful is your name in all the earth.

Your majesty is the music of the starry skies.

yet even children of dust can sing your praises.

In the name of the Healer, the Provider and the Enabler
let your gratitude and joy be made known.

**O God, our own God,
how wonderful is your name in all the earth!**

*SONG OF PRAISE GTG #32

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creating God, we thirst for power and not for righteousness.

We are quick to show our dominance but hide our dependence

We take what we want without thought of what we should give back.

We see your creation as resources, not members of our community.

We remove mountaintops and clear-cut forests.

We drain the earth to fuel our lifestyles.

Loving God, renew us.

Transform our hearts and minds

so that we might transform the world that we live in.

SILENT CONFESSION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

***SUNG RESPONSE** GTG #48 *Rain Down*

****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!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *The Lord's Prayer*

Soloist: Lizz Tyler

SCRIPTURE READING Revelation 1:1-6

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON The Power of God: *From Extractive Theology to Transformative Faith*

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** GTG #14 *For the Beauty of the Earth*

***RESPONSIVE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Our world belongs to God—

not to us or earthly powers,

not to demons, fate, or chance.

The earth is the Lord's.

In the beginning, God—Father, Word, and Spirit—

called this world into being out of nothing,

and gave it shape and order.

God formed sky, land, and sea;

stars above, moon and sun,

making a world of color, beauty, and variety—

a fitting home for plants and animals, and us—

a place to work and play,

worship and wonder, love and laugh.

God rested and gave us rest.

In the beginning everything was very good.

Made in God's image to live in loving communion with our Maker,

we are appointed earth keepers and caretakers

to tend the earth, enjoy it, and love our neighbors.
God uses our skills for the unfolding and well-being of his world
so that creation and all who live in it may flourish.

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY *I'm Gonna Sing When the Spirit Says Sing* arr. Hayes

***DOXOLOGY** GTG #606

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND PETITION

***SENDING HYMN** GTG #80 *You Shall Go Out With Joy*

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** *All Creatures of Our God and King* arr. Hayes

***BLESSING OF THE SOIL:** Join us outside, near the Church Gardens for this brief time of blessing.

* 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 were thrilled last Sunday to welcome new members to our congregation. Be sure to get to know them: Jackie Arvidson, David & Susan Gossman, Margery Mullins, Gary Wagner & Sandy Garrett, Kate Sweeney (Mary, Stevie, Myles), and Nancy Yaeger.

Today we celebrate **EARTH DAY with WORSHIP AND BLESSING OF THE GARDENS AND SOIL:** Members of the Green Team have roles in the service. ***Following the worship service,*** we will gather outside for a brief *Blessing of the Gardens and Soil* and learn about plans for our church gardens this year.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS collected in today's service will be contributed to the general fund of **First 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!

COME AND PARTICIPATE TONIGHT! 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, beginning **tonight between 6-7pm** in the Fellowship Hall as we brainstorm and plan for the future (and on 5/4, 5/11). A light supper will be served 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!

WELCOME SOPHIA! Sophia Zebarth will join our staff as our **Summer Office Assistant** on Monday, May 5th, 2025. She will work Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9am-2pm through August. Sophia graduates from the University of Dubuque with her BS in Mathematics this spring, and is set to start a Masters in BioStatistics at the University of Iowa this fall. A pastor's kid who's grown up in Dubuque, she is excited to support the congregation and staff here. *Stop by the office and make sure she feels welcome!*

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.

SCRIP/RAISE RIGHT WORKSHOP will be offered after worship on May 4 in the WPC Board Room. This is the perfect chance to learn about SCRIP and see how gift cards and online accounts add income to fund our church programs – Give more without spending more. A lot of new features will be covered including eGift cards, travel, and how to shop 750+ brands. Learn how to set up a safe payment method using bank account, debit or credit card. It will be helpful to have your account numbers available.

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>.

THANK YOU CHRISTIAN FORMATION TEACHERS: It has been a fruitful season of learning and connection in God's name for folks of all ages. Our Christian Formation programs will break for the summer beginning Sunday, May 18th, 2025. *Watch for pop-up opportunities this summer for kids and adults!*

WE'RE AT THE FARMERS MARKET! We have a booth at Dubuque's Farmer's Market on Saturday, May 17th. This will give us a chance to tell folks about our joint summer VBS program with St. Luke's and give them an opportunity to sign their children up to participate. We are also letting them know about the Hunger Outreach dates and church activities we have planned in the Fall. **We need YOU to sign up and help at our booth.** There is a sign-up sheet in the back with times. *Help us get the word out about how wonderful we are and SIGN-UP today!* Contact Deb Seiffert or Rich Henderson.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

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- For **Arlys Williams** who is recovering from a fall.
- **Patt Carmack** as she 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** had surgery at UWHC-Madison on 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 27th

9:30 – Sunday Worship & Children’s Church

Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching

1:00pm – Dubuque Chorale Concert, SA

5:30pm – Provided Meal, FH

6:00pm – Dreaming Forward: *Imagining our Future Together*, FH

Monday, April 28th

9:00am – St. Vincent de Paul, BR

4:30pm – Friends Yoga, Classrooms

5:30pm – Hospitality/Outreach Mtg., BR

6:00pm – Pack 20 Den Mtg., Classrooms

6:30pm – Cable Car Quilt Guild, FH

Tuesday, April 29th

8:00am – Garden Rebuild, FH, K

9:00am – Tai Chi, FH

1:00pm – JKP Administrative Commission, BR

6:00pm – NISOM Combined Ensemble, SA, FH

Wednesday, April 30th

9:00am – St. Vincent de Paul, BR

9:15am – Staff Mtg., WR

5:00 pm – Handbells Rehearsal, SA

Thursday, May 1st

9:00am – St. Vincent de Paul, BR

11:00am – Genesis Bible Study, CR

Saturday, May 3rd

8:00am – Men’s Breakfast, Papa Ozz

Sunday, May 4th

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

Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching

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

10:45am – Partnership Taskforce, BR

5:30pm – Provided Meal, FH

6:00pm – 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

Church Administrator: Jeffrey T. Gladwin

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

TODAY'S SERVICE:

Preacher: Rev. Stephanie Ells

Liturgists: *Green Team Members* -
Tom & Linda Stovall, Tom & Judi Schutt,
Doug Cheever

Musician: Dr. Luke Tyler

Greeters: Judy Sheridan & Deb Stant

Ushers: John & Pam Adams

Hospitality Set Up: Tom & Judi Schutt

Hospitality Clean Up: Rich Henderson

Snacks: Glinda Manternach

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
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