

# HOTLINE



WE ARE ONE IN THE SPIRIT

WE ARE ONE IN THE LORD

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1684 IOWA ST. | DUBUQUE, IA | [firstpresdbq.org](http://firstpresdbq.org)

## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2155 UNIVERSITY AVE | DUBUQUE, IA | [wpcdbq.org](http://wpcdbq.org)

Volume 26, No. 5 | MAY 2025

# Welcome New Members!

Our new members are a fantastic group of folks. We are thrilled to have them join our congregation.

### Received by Letter of Transfer:

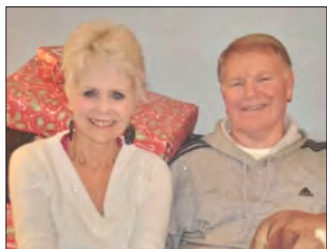


**David Gossman** from First United Methodist, (Maquoketa, Iowa). Dave's wife, **Susan Gossman** is currently a member at Westminster Presbyterian Church (DeKalb, IL) and will be an affiliate member here. Dave and Sue have

a farm near Maquoketa and are passionate about sustainability and seeking to make things genuinely better. They have enjoyed the variety of music in worship on Sunday mornings.



**Margery Mullins** – Montview Boulevard Presbyterian Church, (Denver, Colorado) "Margie" is the younger sister of Doug Cheever (see her for fun stories of Doug as a child), andr recently moved to Dubuque to be closer to family. Margie always has a smile to share and is thankful for the warm welcome by the folks at the church.



**Gary Wagner & Sandy Garrett** – First Presbyterian Church, (Harrison, Arkansas) Gary and Sandy moved to East Dubuque in the fall of 2024 so they would have additional family support following Sandy's dementia diagnosis. Gary and Sandy

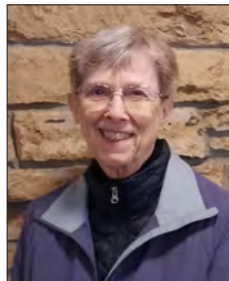
have years of experience as Camp Managers all over the United States. Since their arrival, Sandy's health declined and she passed away on April 24th, 2025. Gary is thankful for the support of Sam Wu, our Congregational Care Coordinator, and our congregation during this difficult time.

### Received by Reaffirmation of Faith:

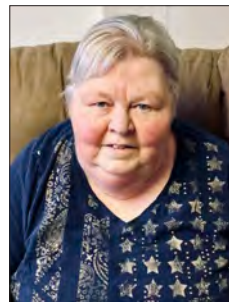


**Kate Sweeney (Mary, Stevie, Myles)** - Kate and her kiddos found our church through a google search on a Sunday morning and fell in love! You can spot Stevie in his cool hats! Kate appreciates

the love her kiddos are shown on Sundays and how she continues to learn about God here at church.



**Jackie Arvidson** is the mother of Erika Raber, and has been worshipping at our church since she moved to Dubuque.



**Nancy Yaeger** started attending church at the invitation of Tom Boelk. She especially appreciates the sermons where she learns new things about the Bible.

**Please be sure to extend a warm welcome to each of our newest members!**

## Summer Office Assistant Joins Staff

Welcome to **Sophia Zebarth** who joined our staff as the summer Office Assistant on Monday, May 5th, 2025. She will work Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9am-2pm through August.

Sophia graduated 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. She has experience coordinating/supporting events at the Heritage Center and Eagle Point Park, and several years working at the Carnegie-Stout Library here in town.

A pastor's kid who's grown up in Dubuque, she is excited to support the congregation and staff here. Stop by the office to welcome her!



**WORSHIP LOCATION:** 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!

Dear friends,

Thank you all so much for your loving support, comments, emails, cards, gifts and the retirement reception. I want you all to know how much you mean to me. I found my niche here ... I found my ministry here ... and I have always known that God led me here. When I was discerning accepting the position here ... I felt His nudge over and over to say yes.

I have always been impressed by your love and concern for each other and for the larger community in Dubuque and afar. You give meaning to God's words to "Be Christ to one another."

This past year, I have seen God's spirit alive and working among you during the collaboration between First Pres and Westminster ... and I continue to see it during this unification process. You all have made an impact on my own spiritual growth, as well. I have been blessed to be part of this community and I will continue to pray with you and for you.

"May Our Lord bless you and keep you....  
May His face shine down upon you and...  
May He hold you in the palm of His hand."

Blessings, *Mary Kay*

# 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!





# CONGRATS GRADUATES!

We celebrate this important milestone in your lives and pray you know God is with you as you take brave steps forward.

## HIGH SCHOOL

**Donovan Dremmel**, son of Mark and Sandy Dremmel. Dubuque Senior High School.

**Adrian Huisman**, son of Pastor Stephanie Ells. Aplington-Parkersburg High School. Adrian will attend Northwestern College (Orange City, IA), majoring in Exercise Science with plans to be a Physical Therapist. He will play Men's Soccer.

**Zachary Heidenriech**, son of Jacob and Karen Heidenriech. Dubuque Senior High School, and has enlisted in the US Air Force. He will be leaving for San Antonio, TX for basic training in either August or September.

**Peter Heiderscheit**, son of Jeremy and Michelle Heiderscheit and grandson of Glinda Manternach, Western Dubuque High School

**Hector Quintana, Jr.**, son of Hector and Christina Quintana. Dubuque Senior High School. Plans to attend Iowa State University this fall. He will be majoring in Zoology.

## COLLEGE

**Ethan Blair**, son of Bryan and Sara Blair. St. Ambrose University B.S. in Biology. Ethan will spend a year working at the Animal Vet Clinic in Dyersville as he prepares to apply for veterinary school.

**Douglas Dremmel**, son of Mark and Sandy Dremmel. Nursing.

## GRADUATE STUDIES

**Sandy Dremmel**, Masters Degree in Management.

**Josh Husemann**, son of Frank Husemann and Karla Kaiser. BA '24, MM '25 Master in Management - Sport Management



Donovan Dremmel



Adrian Huisman



Zachary Heidenriech



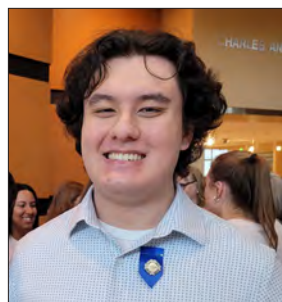
Peter Heiderscheit



Hector Quintana, Jr.



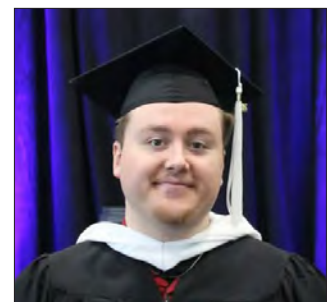
Ethan Blair



Douglas Dremmel



Sandy Dremmel



Josh Husemann



## Let's Fill the Care Cart!

Each month, First and Westminster join together to help those in need in our community. Look for the **Care Cart** located in the back of the sanctuary at Westminster. We'll rotate recipients as follows:

**First and Third Week – Dubuque Food Pantry** to help feed local families. (No egg cartons).

**Second Week – Opening Doors.** Items needed are: High efficiency 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.

**Fourth Week – Dubuque Rescue Mission.** Toiletry items: body wash/shampoo (no bars) toothbrushes/toothpaste, deodorant, underwear, granola bars, beef jerky, fruit snacks, Chapstick, first aid supplies, high efficiency laundry detergent (pods).

If you have questions contact Linda Stovall, Mission Chair at [linstov@aol.com](mailto:linstov@aol.com).



The final night to participate in the Dreaming Forward brainstorming session is Sunday, May 11, from 6:00 to 7:00 PM. Come for a meal and fellowship at 5:30 PM.

This will be the final Faith Exploration dinner and program, as we will break for the summer. We look forward to seeing everyone again in the fall!



## Tree Planting Volunteers Needed

The Green Team invites you to join them in our commitment as a congregation to assist **Trees Forever** and the City of Dubuque in the development, and care of, a neighborhood orchard at the corner of Hill Street and Caledonia.

The first tree planting will be on **Saturday, May 10, at 8:30 am**. This would be a really great family project and a learning experience for kids. If you don't feel physically able, please come anyway to see the action and provide moral support!

If you plan to attend OR have questions please contact Tom Stovall at 563-581-7220 or [tomstov@aol.com](mailto:tomstov@aol.com).

## DACU Update on Hunger in Dubuque

On Tuesday evening, **May 27 at 7:00 PM** Westminster and First will be hosting the monthly meeting of Dubuque Area Congregations United (DACU) at WPC. Both of our churches are members of DACU.

The topic that evening will be an update on hunger in Dubuque, with new information being presented by Jason Neises of the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque. Jason also chairs the Dubuque County Food Providers Network of which our churches are members.

The Mission Team would like to encourage everyone to attend this important update. Our community of faith is a Hunger Action Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and have committed to a ministry of addressing hunger and food insecurity in our community. This new information may guide us to consider new ways of serving those effected by hunger. Please join us!





# Join Our Mission Garden Team

The gardening season is here! Our mission garden team grows produce that is donated to local food banks to help our neighbors in need.

During the gardening season we have a number of tasks that need to be accomplished including: planting, watering, harvesting, cleaning produce, cleaning up the kitchen, taking produce to the food pantry, cleaning tubs after produce is delivered, replanting as needed, and weeding. We are also constructing new raised beds (see photo at right).

If you are interested in helping, please contact Rich Henderson [hs3eagles@gmail.com](mailto:hs3eagles@gmail.com) or Marsha Wilfong [mwilfong62hr@hotmail.com](mailto:mwilfong62hr@hotmail.com).



Erika Raber burns cedar boards for new garden beds as Rich Henderson looks on. This is a Japanese technique (Shou Sugi Ban) that makes the wood less porous and more resistant to weathering and insect damage.



## Garden Blessing

On April 27 the members of Dubuque's Presbyterian Churches (First and Westminster) held their annual Earth Day Worship Service focusing on care for God's Creation and commitment as an Earth Care Congregation. The service was led by Pastor Stephanie Ells and members of the church Green Team. Following the service, members gathered by the church garden for a Blessing of the Soil and Gardens. Each year the church gardens produce around 2,000 lbs. of produce which is given to the Dubuque Food Pantry to be distributed to those in need.

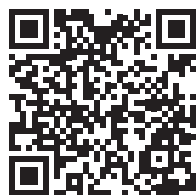
YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

## Give More Without Spending More

The concept is simple: Our church purchases Scrip gift cards from popular retailers at a discount. Members and friends then buy the gift cards from the church at face value.

Stop by the SCRIP desk on Sunday mornings or in the church office Monday through Thursday and pick up a list of available local retailers and restaurants. You can purchase the cards using check, cash, or online at [www.raiseright.com](http://www.raiseright.com).

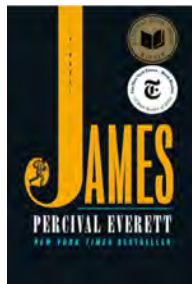
Scan the QR Code,  
or go to  
[www.raiseright.com](http://www.raiseright.com)  
and use this code  
to sign up:  
858E578L1LL3



## LIKE TO READ?

### Join Our Book Group

Join us in lively discussions on a different book each **third Wednesday of the month at 3:30 pm**. In February, Arlys Williams will host our group at Mt. Carmel Bluffs. See our list of reads by month:



**May – James** by Percival Everett  
– National Book Award winner,  
Shortlisted for the Booker Prize,  
Kirkus Prize plus many best book of  
the year awards. A brilliant, action-  
packed reimagining of *Adventures  
of Huckleberry Finn*, both harrowing  
and darkly humorous, told from the  
enslaved Jim's point of view.

For questions or more information, please contact  
Deb Seiffert – [debseiffert@gmail.com](mailto:debseiffert@gmail.com).

## OFFERING FREE FOOD



### Sat. June 28th

Parking Lot at 17th and Main

Food distribution begins  
at 9:00 am and continues  
until food is gone.

DRIVE THRU OR WALK UP

#### SPONSORED BY

Presbyterian Hunger Outreach • St. Stephen's Branch of River Bend Foodbank  
Personal Hygiene items provided by the Red Basket Program and  
1st Congregational United Church of Christ



# Calling All Kids!

**Summer Sounds Music Camp** is coming back to St. Luke's UMC and the Presbyterians are partnering with them!

The camp is happening June 23rd-27th, 2025, ending with a performance on Friday, June 27th at noon.

Camp classes include: Singing, Movement, Drumming, Instruments, Handbells, and Art.

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!

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, while being sure to indicate you are from the PC(USA) congregations.

Register and pay by going to:

<https://www.stlukesdbq.org/summersounds>

**summer  
sounds**  
music camp

**The Big Fish:  
Jonah's Whale of a Tale**

**June 23rd-27th, 2025  
9 am - 12 pm**

**Hosted by: St. Luke's United Methodist Church  
1199 Main St. Dubuque, Iowa**

**In Collaboration With: First Presbyterian and  
Westminster Presbyterian Churches**

Open to Kids Ages Kindergarten through 6th Grade

For more information & to sign up:

[stlukesdbq.org/summersounds](http://stlukesdbq.org/summersounds)




Questions? Contact [emmy@stlukesdbq.org](mailto:emmy@stlukesdbq.org)

# Synod School has Something for Everyone in Your Family

This summer there is an exciting adventure waiting for you and your 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.



The 2025 Synod School Catalog is available in the church office. It has complete details about this great event including all activities and registration information. The catalog and more information can also be accessed online at [www.lakesandprairies.org/synod-school](http://www.lakesandprairies.org/synod-school).

**Let's Get Social!**   

Follow us on social media to get all the church news in a timely manner and join the conversation.

Just search for Westminster Dubuque.

**Be sure to "like" or "follow" our pages.**

WITH DEEPEST  
*Sympathy*

Our entire congregation extends sincere sympathy to the family and friends of church member

**Sandy Garrett**  
who recently passed.

*Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. – Matthew 5:4*



## See Us 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. BUT to make this successful, 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! Thank You! Questions? Contact Deb Seiffert or Rich Henderson.



### Save Energy and Get Paid

Are you buying a new energy efficient refrigerator or freezer but aren't sure what to do with the old one? You can recycle it and get \$50 from Alliant Energy per appliance. Plus, they will pick it up and haul it away for free.