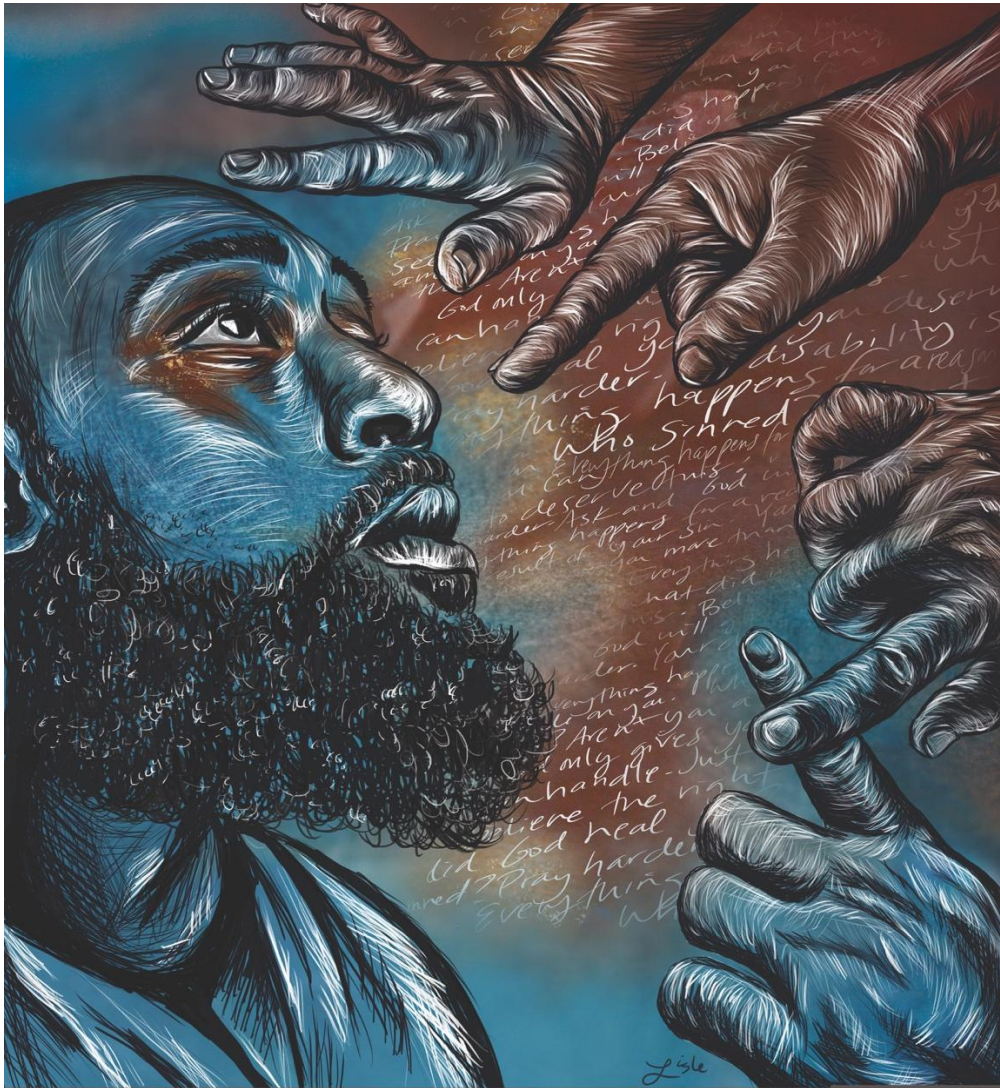




BREAD OF LIFE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 15, 2026 | Morning Worship 10:00 am



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 adults accompanying children using the PrayGround, and the rocking chairs are reserved especially for nursing mothers or adults whose children need a cuddle and some rocking. **Also, childcare is available in our nursery down the hall for children up to age 5.**

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 and **Large Print Bulletins** 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

FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION

“Who sinned?” What assumptions do you carry? How do you seek clarity or understanding? What are better questions we can ask?

PRELUDE Church Band

Hymnsong

by Elliot Del Borgo

SONG OF PREPARATION

Seeking Heart

by Kristen Eby

Bring your questions, come as you are.

The journey is waiting, and peace is not far.

God always welcomes the seeking heart. (2x)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Scripture is full of questions...

Where are you?

Am I my brother's keeper?

Whom shall I send?

Who do you say that I am?

Who sinned?

How many times shall I forgive?

If God is for us, who can be against us?

Scripture is full of questions,

so just like those in our scriptures,

may we bring our full curiosity and wonder into this space.

Let us ask and seek after our merciful God.

***SONG OF PRAISE**

Wonderful Merciful Savior

by Rodgers & Wyse

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful and seeking God, you have come to us in Jesus Christ,
the way, the truth, and the life,
calling us to follow even when the path is unclear.**

**Yet we confess that when faced with questions we cannot answer,
we choose comfort instead of the costly way of love,
certainty instead of trusting your promises,
and familiarity over the transforming work of your Spirit.**

**We turn away from truths that unsettle us,
from calls that confront us,
from neighbors in whom Christ meets us.**

Forgive us, gracious God.

**By your Spirit, turn us again toward you,
restore our curiosity to seek with humility, courage, and love.**

With earnest hearts we offer our journeys to you.

SILENT CONFESSION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS



***SUNG RESPONSE**

I'm Forever Grateful

**I'm forever grateful to you,
I'm forever grateful for the cross.
I'm forever grateful to you,
That you came to seek and save the lost.**

****PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also, with you.

TIME WITH YOUNGER DISCIPLES

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

John 9:1-41

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Seeking: "Who sinned?"

***HYMN OF RESPONSE #817** *We Walk By Faith and Not By Sight*

***RESPONSIVE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH+**

We believe in a merciful God,
**a God who does not keep score,
a God who wants good for us.**
We believe in a creative God,
**a God who would heal with mud,
a God capable of seeing what we cannot.**
We believe in a saving God,
**a God who heals,
a God who greets our questions with patience,
a God who sends us out with hope in our step.**
What wondrous love is this. Amen.

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Living for Christ

by L. Smith

***DOXOLOGY #606**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND PETITION

THE LORDS 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 #729**

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

I Love Your Kingdom, Lord

arr. R. Long

* 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.

+ by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

WONDER WALL INVITATION: During the *Seeking* sermon series, you are invited to share a wondering inspired by worship. After the service, write a question or reflection on a **“We Wonder About...”** card and pin it to the Wonder Wall in the sanctuary. There are no wrong wonderings—only an invitation to seek God and grow in faith together. Cards are located on the far right and left ends of the pews and at the Information Table in the back of the sanctuary.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP: At Bread of Life, we believe children are not only the future of the church—they are part of the church right now. Their voices, questions, laughter, and even their wiggles remind us that faith is something we grow into together. **Children learn what worship is by being part of it.** As they hear the songs, prayers, and stories of faith week after week, they begin to understand that they belong—to God and to this community. **For this reason, we encourage children age 5 and older to remain in worship with their families:** a “Prayground” at the back of the sanctuary offers a space where children can move, play quietly, and engage with worship in ways that are meaningful for them. **A nursery is available for children birth through age 5 only.** Thank you!

BOOKMARKS FOR REFLECTION: To support your Lenten practice, we are offering **weekly bookmarks** in the bulletin featuring poetic prayers for connecting with God throughout the week. *Take it home for yourself or even give it as a gift* to someone who may need the reminder God is with them in their seeking, too.

ARTWORK NOTES: Today's bulletin cover art is "*Insight*" by Lisle Gwynn Garrity & based on John 9:8-41. This mixed-media work shifts focus from physical healing to communal blindness. Pressing hands and layered questions surround the healed man, representing accusation, harmful theology, and fear of change. The image suggests that rigid beliefs can obscure compassion and exile those newly transformed. Yet the man gazes beyond the chaos, embodying deeper sight. The piece invites viewers to examine where resistance to change or narrow vision may prevent us from truly seeing one another.

EASTER FLOWERS TO SUPPORT DEACON'S EMERGENCY FUND: Help fill the Sanctuary with beautiful flowers! Order tulips or lilies (\$20 each) in memory or in honor of a loved one – or simply to add to the joy of the day. With every order, \$5 supports the Bread of Life Deacon's Emergency Fund, assisting neighbors facing urgent financial hardship. Order forms are available on the Information Table. **Please return your completed form with payment in the offering plate or to the Church Office by March 29, 2026.** After worship on Easter Sunday, you are welcome to take your flowers home or share them with someone special.

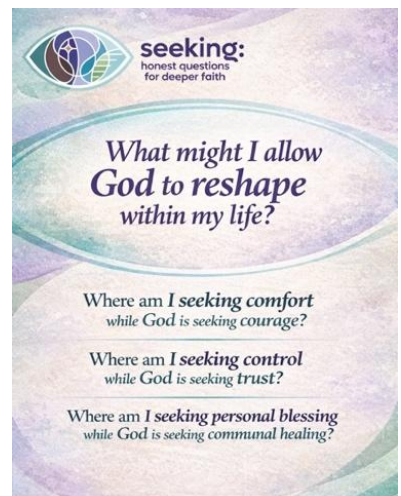
EASTER MORNING BREAKFAST: The Bread of Life congregation and their families are invited to begin the Easter celebration with breakfast in the fellowship hall. Pancakes, sausage and eggs and a cup of hot coffee or refreshing juice will be ready to serve by BOL men starting at 8:30AM. All are invited to come and be filled and then go to worship to be filled again with the joy and hope that comes with Easter!

REFLECTIONS ON WORSHIP: "Worship is at the heart of the church's life. All that the church is and does is rooted in its worship. The community of faith, gathered in response to God's call, is formed in its worship. Worship is the principal influence that shapes our faith, and is the most visible way we express the faith." (*Book of Common Worship, PCUSA*)

NORTHWESTERN BAND DINNER: We are serving a meal on Friday the 27th of March for the Northwestern College Band & the UD Band. We are less than 3 weeks out. We really need your help on donations for supplies, for side dishes that can feed 12, and helpers. Please let Rich Henderson know what you can do to help so we do not have too many of one item. Side dishes should be dropped off on 3-27 by pm. Donations can be dropped off in the kitchen the week of 3-23.

HOSTS NEEDED ON FRIDAY EVENING, MARCH 27: Bread of Life will be welcoming the Northwestern College Symphonic Band for a performance on Friday, March 27. Would you be able to provide a bed for the night for 2 or more band members? Please let Kristen Eby know at keby@dbq.edu.

SURPRISE CARD SHOWER: Ed Blinks is turning 92 on March 20th. Help him celebrate by sending a birthday card to: 10602 Cedar Point Ct. Dubuque, IA 52003



GARDEN NEEDS: We now have enough milk jugs – thank you! We now need toilet paper tubes. Please drop them off in the kitchen.

HUNGER OUTREACH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: March 28, parking lot at 17th & Main, 8-10:30am. Sign up on the sheet in the back of the sanctuary or contact Tom Stovall 563-581-7220 or tomstov@aol.com

GREEN TEAM TIP – ENERGY EFFICIENT PRACTICES: Buy energy efficient appliances for your home. Be sure to have your furnace and air conditioner regularly maintained and in good working order to save energy and money. Use programmable thermostats and set them to comfortable and efficient levels. Consider having an energy audit of your home.

PASTOR KAITY WILL BE ON GONE March 9-16, 2026. As ever, the Church Office is open M-TH 9:00am-2:00pm for your assistance; and in case of emergency pastoral needs, please contact Rev. Stephanie Ells at fpcdbq.pastor@gmail.com or (507)-227-8537. Thank you!

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

- For those folks navigating ongoing health concerns: **Joyce Bausman, Jolene Kilcoyne, Angie Lockhart, Gene Myers, Lois and Doug Pearce, HannaRose Otting, Betty** and **Leon Thompson, Les Sonsken, and Arlys Williams.**
- For the family of **John Barland** who passed away Saturday, March 8th. A private family service is being planned in John's hometown of Eau Claire, WI. John was the father of **Chuck Barland** (Professor of Music / University of Dubuque Organist).
- For **Tom Boelk** who is receiving medical care for pancreatitis.
- For **Tom Stovall** who will be receiving radiation infusion treatments in Iowa City over the next many months.
- For **Paula McNally** on the death of her **Aunt Genevieve**. She had been like a mother to Paula since she was 13 years old.
- For **Jean Sutherland**, sister of **Judy Schuster** and **Jim Donatsch**, who is now in hospice care in Cottonwood, AZ.
- For the **people of Iran**, especially the families of the kids that died in the school bombing.
- For all those on the **Deacons Care List**.

HAVE A PRAYER CONCERN OR JOY TO SHARE? Folks on the **Bread of Life 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 Bread of Life Prayer Chain this way! **For Pastoral Care** please call **(563) 279-4545** or the church office.

*All activities will take place at Bread of Life's Hilltop Campus, unless otherwise noted. *

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, March 15

9:00am – Christian Formation, ClassRms

10:00am – Sunday Worship

11:00am – Coffee & Fellowship, NTX

11:00am – Choir Rehearsal, SA

11:30am – Moms on Fire, CR

11:30am – Youth Group, FH, K, YR

1:30pm – Bethany Home Worship

Monday, March 16

4:30pm – Friends Yoga, CR

6:00pm – Pack 20, HS

Tuesday, March 17

9:00am – Tai Chi, FH

10:30am – Cable Car Quilters, FH

5:00pm – Ping Pong Tuesdays, HS

6:00pm – Boy Scouts, DT

6:00pm – Session Meeting, BR/Zoom

Wednesday, March 18

9:00–2:00pm – St. Vincent Back2Work, BR

9:15am – Staff Mtg, WR

5:30pm – Handbell Choir Rehearsal, S

7:00pm – Keyway Lodge AA Group, HS

Thursday, March 19

8:00–4:00pm – U of D RN &PA, FH, K

9:00–2:00pm – St. Vincent Back2Work, BR

11:00am – Adult Bible Study, CR

Friday, March 20

9:00–1:00pm – St. Vincent Back2Work, BR

Saturday, March 21

9:00–2:00pm – NISOM Suzuki, S, BR, CR

9:00–12:00pm – St. Vincent Back2Work, BR

4:00–10:00pm – AA Intergroup, FH, K

6:00pm – Game Night HS

Sunday, March 22

9:00am – Christian Formation, ClassRms

9:30am – Choir Warm Up, SA

10:00am – Sunday Worship

11:00am – Coffee & Fellowship, NTX

11:30am – Moms on Fire, CR

11:30am – Youth Group, FH, K, YR

CHURCH MINISTRY LEADERSHIP

TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher: Rev. Stephanie Ells

Liturgists: Sara Blair

Musicians: Kristen Eby, Church Band

Greeters: Shirley Meriwether & Julie Woodyard

Ushers: Jennifer Brehm & Adam Etherege

Hospitality Set Up: Doug & Jean Cheever

Hospitality Clean Up: Shirley Meriwether

CHURCH STAFF

Lead Pastor: Rev. Stephanie Ells

Associate Pastor: Rev. Kaity Kemp

Business Manager: Jeffrey T. Gladwin

Communications Assistant: Sam Fenstermacher

Director of Music: Kristen Eby

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

Band Director: Sally Stulken