

LEADERS IN WORSHIP:

Preacher: Rev. Stephanie Ells
Liturgist: Jean Holdener
Music Director: Kristen Eby

IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

YOUR PRAYERS ARE APPRECIATED! Pastor Stephanie and Elder Lindsey Ward will be attending the Stewardship Kaleidoscope Conference September 25-27th. Drawing leaders from across the Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) and other ecumenical partners, this annual conference is designed to help participants explore stewardship in its many colorful dimensions. During this time, in case of emergency pastoral care needs, please contact Rev. Stephanie Schlimm at 563-581-5512.

RALLY DAY UPDATE: It is with gratitude and joy that the Christian Education Committee is able to announce a kick-off for Sunday School on Sunday, October 1, 2023 at 9:00am for ages 4-grade 6 and the adults! This year, we will all gather at 9:00am in the Coffee Hour room for a brief OPENING, then head off to our age-group classes after that.

LET'S LUNCH! Who doesn't love FOOD? On Sunday, October 1, following worship, we will gather for lunch in the church basement in celebration of COMMUNITY. The Christian Education Committee will provide all the fixings for sandwiches, and we invite you to bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share. See you then!

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS ARE NEEDED: Most spots for fall are open and in need of hosts. Fellowship time is a precious chance to express and experience the gift of hospitality. A sign-up sheet and directions for hosting are available in the Coffee Hour room. Please consider serving.

PRINTED SERMON AVAILABLE: If you are interested in receiving a copy of Pastor Stephanie's sermon via email or mail, please contact her directly at fpcdbq.pastor@gmail.com or 507.227.8537.

PRAYER REQUESTS—Send joys and concerns to Pastor Stephanie at fpcdbq.pastor@gmail.com.

CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM PAGES: First Presbyterian Church Dubuque and [firstpresdbq](https://www.facebook.com/firstpresdbq) respectively. Share posts with friends so folks can see what God is doing here at FPC!

WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We welcome you to this worship service. If you are a guest, please fill out a visitor's card in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. We would love to greet you by name. We invite you to join us Sunday mornings at 9:00am for Sunday School (September-April). Worship follows at 10:15am. Nursery care is located in the basement and is provided for both the Sunday School and worship hours for children through age 5.

THE WEEK IN BRIEF (events at FPC unless noted)

Sun. September 17	10:15am	Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching
	5:30pm	Youth Group @ Westminster
Sun. September 24	10:15am	Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching
	11:30am	Neighborhood clean up w/ UUFD
	1:30pm	Bethany Home worship
	5:30pm	Youth Group @ Westminster

*Sept. 25-27 Pastor & Elder Lindsey Ward
to Stewardship Kaleidoscope Conference in Minneapolis*

GIVING

To support the mission and ministry of our church, we need \$14,563 per month. Offerings received through July 23 totaled \$11,224

- Offerings Year to Date through July 23 - \$64,951
- Expenses Year to Date through July 23 - \$80,522

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Deacons of the month September: Judy Sheridan & Deb Stant

Pastor Stephanie's office hours are 9:00am-1:00pm on Monday and Wednesday. Contact her anytime with prayer requests or pastoral care needs at 507-227-8537 or fpcdbq.pastor@gmail.com

Admin Summer Office Hours* for Ginger Vander Broek are 11:00pm-3:00pm Monday & Wednesday at home, and 10:30am-12:00pm Thursday at FPC. *Office hours may change slightly week to week.

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www.firstpresdbq.org

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

16th Sunday after Pentecost

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE “Come Christians, Join to Sing” arr. Hayes

FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION:
Holy, holy, holy God, we worship and adore you—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Today, in our worship, we long for a glimpse of your glory; seen perfectly in Christ, our Lord. As we worship, may we gain new insight about the mystery and wonder of your love. And may we sense new ways to mirror that love in our world, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

*CALL TO WORSHIP
In all our weakness and strength,
with our youth-filled spirits and aging bodies,
 we come to be your people, O God.
Strong in faith and eager with questions,
singing our praise and whispering our prayers,
 we come to be your people, O God.
Filled with saintly determination
yet mindful of our human limitations,
 we come to be your people, O God.
Made strong in your endless love for us,
we know ourselves to be yours and
 we come to be your people, O God.
 May we truly become your people today. Amen

*SONG OF PRAISE
“Speak, O Lord” Getty
 Speak, O Lord, as we come to You
 To receive the food of Your Holy Word.
 Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;
 Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
 That the light of Christ might be seen today
 In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
 Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
 All Your purposes for Your glory.

 Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
 Holy reverence, true humility;
 Test our thoughts and our attitudes
 In the radiance of Your purity.
 Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see
 Your majestic love and authority.
 Words of pow'r that can never fail,
 Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

 Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
 Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us,
 Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
 That will echo down through eternity.

And by grace we'll stand on Your promises,
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built
And the earth is filled with Your glory.

CALL TO CONFESSION

SILENT CONFESSION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*GLORIA PATRI (#734 in Hymnal)

COMMITMENT OF FAITH from Matthew 22:37-40
 We respond to God's forgiveness by living our thanks according
 to God's Word.
 Our Lord Jesus said:
 “‘You shall love the Lord your God
 with all your heart, and with all your soul,
 and with all your mind.’
 This is the greatest and first commandment.
 And a second is like it:
 ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’
 On these two commandments
 hang all the law and the prophets.”

PASSING OF THE PEACE**
 The peace of Christ be with you.
 And also with you.

CHORAL ANTHEM Pethel
 “His Strength is Our Song”

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS p. 1818
 Ephesians 2:1-10, 19-22 p. 1888
 1 Peter 2:4-10

SERMON “Call to Community: Jesus, the Center”

*HYMN OF RESPONSE #547 Symphony
 “We Are God's People”

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Back cover of hymnal)

THE OFFERING
 OFFERTORY “How Can I Keep from Singing?” arr. Lowry
 *DOXOLOGY #34
 *PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*SENDING SONGS #405
 “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less” v. 1 Solid Rock
 My hope is built on nothing less
 than Jesus’ blood and righteousness.
 I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
 but wholly lean on Jesus’ name.

 On Christ the solid rock I stand,
 all other ground is sinking sand,
 all other ground is sinking sand.

“Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand” Kwake Yesu
 Refrain: Here on Jesus Christ I will stand.
 He’s the solid rock of my life,
 He’s the solid rock of my life,
 He’s the solid rock of my life!

It is not the work of my hands
that has washed away all my sins.
I’m redeemed and all of my days,
Jesus Christ will be my heart’s praise. (Refrain)

Jesus Christ, the true cornerstone,
You redeemed us all as your own.
As the church we lift up your name,
Your great faithfulness we proclaim. (Refrain)

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE
 “Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand” Kwake Yesu

 *Please stand in spirit or in body
 **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 comforta-
 ble to you.

A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP

You are warmly invited to join us for a time of fellowship in the Coffee Hour Room next to the sanctuary immediately following the service.

WELCOMING YOU TO WORSHIP:

Officer in Charge of Greeting: Lindsey Ward
Coffee Fellowship hosts: Tim & Victoria Slemmons
Nursery Attendants: Florence Siefker & Baylee Vincent
(Children through age 5 are invited to the nursery
for any or all of the service)