

***WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH***

Grace and peace to each of you in the name of Jesus Christ. We welcome you to this worship service. If you are a guest, please sign the guest book in the back of the sanctuary or 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 every Sunday morning for Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. during the school year, and worship at 10:15 a.m.

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*A Time of Fellowship*

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

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✠ TO KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS ✠

*Those recovering from illness, injury, or surgery*

*Those facing chronic health issues*

*Those battling cancer*

*Those struggling with depression, grief, sorrow, or bullying*

*The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)*

*Missionaries*

*Those traveling during this holiday season*

We offer prayers of joy and thanksgiving for:

*Mark S.'s co-worker back to work following heart attack*

*We celebrate with those friends and family members celebrating birth-  
days and anniversaries this week.*

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## (events at FPC unless noted)

***Banners Currently Hanging in the Sanctuary***

South Wall - Christmas - Isaiah 9:6 (*in memory of Doris Walske*)

West Wall - Isaiah 43:1 (*in memory of Barb Stant*)

North Wall - Epiphany - Isaiah 60:1

***For pastoral emergencies***, please contact the Rev. John Armstrong at 605-354-3891 or [Armstrongfpcdbq@gmail.com](mailto:Armstrongfpcdbq@gmail.com). Office hours are Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00am-12:00pm or by appointment.

*Admin Office Hours* for Ginger Vander Broek are Monday, Wednesday & Thursday  
9:00-1:00pm.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
1684 Iowa St., Dubuque, IA 52001  
(563) 582-4494      firstpresdbq@gmail.com      www.firstpresdbq.org

## A hand-drawn sketch of a sandcastle. The sandcastle is composed of three main sections. The top section is a triangle with a figure of a person standing on it. The middle section is a rectangle with a car-like shape inside. The bottom section is a larger rectangle with a figure of a person standing on it. The word "SAND" is written to the right of the sandcastle.

Rev. John Armstrong

Osman

*Eternal God, through long generations you prepared a way for the coming of your Son, and by your Spirit you still bring light to illumine our paths. Renew us in faith and hope, that we may welcome Christ to rule our thoughts and claim our love, as Lord of lords and King of kings, to whom be glory always. Amen.*

## The Blair Family

**Making peace by the blood of his cross.**

## Besancon

*Card*

Only let us live in you.

Jesus, draw us ever nearer;  
Hold us in your loving arms.  
Wrap us in your gentle presence  
When the end comes, bring us home.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession  
O God, you judge your people with righteousness; we judge our neighbors either right or wrong. Your Servant defended the cause of the poor; it is because of our greed that many still are poor. You bring deliverance to the needy, but we stand in the way of its being received. You send us a Savior who will crush the oppressor, but we raise up idols in his stead. Forgive us, O God, for ignoring your purposes and for doubting the power of your grace. Give us joy and peace in believing, as we seek to follow the way of your Son Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

Silent Confession (Here let each worshiper offer silent, personal prayers of confession.)

Declaration of Forgiveness

\*Gloria Patri #734

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading Isaiah 11:1-10 p. 1076

Choral Anthem “An Advent Alleluia” arr. Wagner  
Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King. Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Children’s message (Children through age 5 are invited to the nursery.)

Second Reading Romans 15:1-13 p. 1766

Sermon “That We Might Have Hope”

\*Hymn of Response Hymn #226 “God’s Love Made Visible!” Posada

\*Affirmation of Faith from A Brief Statement of Faith  
We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and

believe the gospel.  
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. ...  
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer (Back cover of hymnal)

The Offering  
Offertory “Advent Noel” Chaucer/Ryan  
\*Doxology #34  
\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Sending Hymn Hymn #180 “O Little Town of Bethlehem” St. Louis

\*Charge & Benediction

\*Postlude “Christians, Awake!” Walters  
\*Those who are able, please stand.

Leaders in Worship:  
Kristen Eby, Music Director  
Jill Klinebriel, Choir Director  
Rev. John Armstrong, liturgist  
Rev. Marsha Wilfong, preacher

Welcoming you to First Presbyterian Church today:  
Tom Boelk, greeter  
2nd-5th grade Sunday School class, Coffee Fellowship hosts  
Florence Siefker & Courtney Schnoor, nursery attendants

Who We Are  
“We love because God first loved us.” I John 4:19  
First Presbyterian is a community of people who are experiencing the Father’s love in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. We are called through the Scriptures to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. In thankful response for all God has done for us, we serve our church, neighborhood, and world through ministries of worship, nurture, education and outreach.

IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

OUR BULLETIN ADVENT ART is provided by participants in our First Pres Sunday School. We are grateful for the insights they give us into the mystery and wonder of Christ’s birth. Please take time to thank *your* artist.

ORDER YOUR POINSETTIA TODAY! We will be accepting orders through Dec. 15th. See the insert in today’s bulletin.

CHRISTMAS PLAY REHEARSAL TODAY will begin at 12:30pm in the downstairs Fellowship Hall. Dress rehearsal is Saturday, December 14th at 11:00am.

TODAY WE COLLECT SUPPLIES FOR THE SECOND. This month’s needs: cleaning wipes, paper towels, glass cleaner, and shampoo & conditioner. Place items in the tub in the narthex. Your donations help those living at the Domestic Violence Shelter. Thank you!

THANK YOU! To all who brought non-perishable food donations for Food for the 1st that benefits the Dubuque Food Pantry. Thank you!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF LESSONS and CAROLS will be held on Tuesday, December 24th at 5:30pm. Join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Savior, with scripture and music.

TRANSITION NEWS: The PNC continues to pray for God’s guidance as they discern who is to lead this congregation into the future. Please continue to hold our church family and the PNC in your prayers.

PREACHING SCHEDULE FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS:  
Dec. 15 - Presentation of the gospel through the Christmas play  
Dec. 22 - Rev. Marsha Wilfong  
Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols @ 5:30pm  
Dec. 29 - Rev. Beth McCaw

WEATHER BAD? IS CHURCH CANCELED?  
SEE BELOW HOW TO FIND OUT...

- ◆ Call the church office (582-4494) after 7:30AM on Sunday mornings.
- ◆ Watch your email for an all-church announcement.
- ◆ Check this FPC link: [firstpcdbq.webs.com](http://firstpcdbq.webs.com) (This link is also available on the church website <http://www.firstpresdbq.org>)
- ◆ Notice hopefully provided on KCRG, KWWL, KDTH (and others)

To support the mission and ministry of our church, we need \$13,564 per month. Offerings received through December 1st totaled \$4,275.10.