

LEADERS IN WORSHIP:

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

IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

JOIN US TODAY FROM 11:30AM-1:00PM FOR OUR NEXT ALL-CHURCH VISION GATHERING! Lunch will be provided, and we will continue our discernment process. God is doing a new thing among us and it is exciting to think about what might be ahead. If you missed the last one, it's not too late to join in! Your personal investment in the life and ministry of this congregation is valued. Childcare will be available for children up to age 10.

FPC/WPC YOUTH GROUP (grades 6-12) will meet TONIGHT from 5:00pm-6:30pm at Westminster Presbyterian Church. *Join us for fun, food, and faith exploration!*

FOOD FOR THE 1ST is collected today. Drop your donations to support the ministry of the Dubuque Food Pantry in the basket in the narthex. Thank you!

NEW SERMON SERIES: We continue to ask "What is God like?" The series is based on Rachel Held Evans children's book "What Is God Like?" It guides children in wondering about this BIG question people everywhere have been asking since the beginning of time. It is not only children who ask themselves and others "What is God like?" We can know what God is like through the words and pictures found in the Bible.

SUPPLIES FOR THE SECOND helps those living at the Domestic Violence Shelter. Donations will be collected next Sunday, Feb. 12th. This month's needs are feminine products, shampoo/conditioner, and toothpaste & brushes.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING: The "Soup"er Bowl of Caring is back again in 2023!!!! Did you know that each dollar donated generates \$18 for food charities? Help us tackle hunger through your donations of cash and dry & canned goods on February 12th.

VALENTINE POTLUCK NEXT SUNDAY following worship. Check the sign up sheet in the Coffee Hour room to see what is still needed. There will be treat bags for kids to fill and you can also bring valentines to share.

ASH WEDNESDAY OBSERVANCE: Join us as we observe Ash Wednesday together with Westminster PC and the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary on Wednesday, February 22nd at 7:00pm. We will gather at Westminster to receive the imposition of ashes as a reminder that "we are dust and to dust we will return." Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten season, a period of penitential preparation for Easter.

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. February 5 <i>Food for the 1st</i>	9:00am	Sunday School for all ages
	10:15am	Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching Sacrament of Holy Communion
	11:30am	All-Church Vision Gathering
	5:00pm	Youth Group @ WPC
Sun. February 12 <i>Souper Bowl of Caring</i> <i>Supplies for the 2nd</i>	9:00am	Sunday School for all ages
	10:15am	Worship: Dani Postma, preaching
	11:30am	All Church Valentine Potluck

GIVING

To support the mission and ministry of our church, we need \$14,563 per month. Offerings received through January 8 totaled \$2,034

- Offerings Year to Date through January 8 - \$2,034
- Expenses Year to Date through January 8 - \$3,855

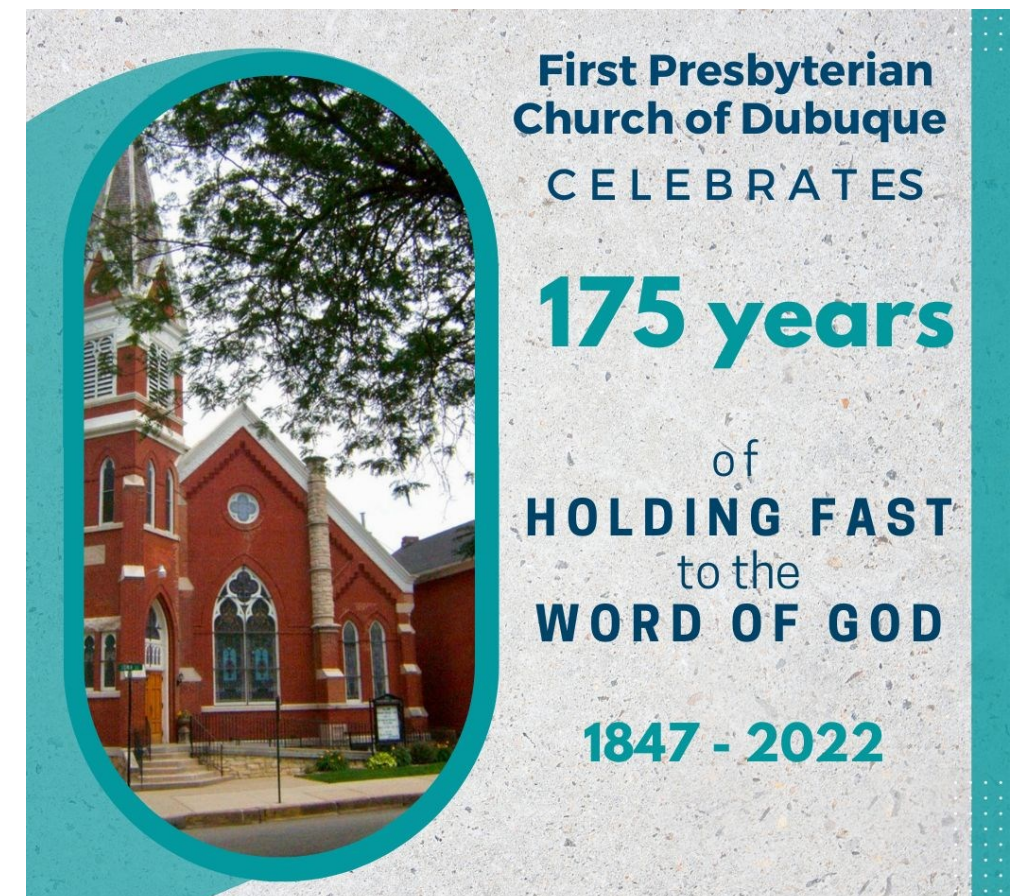
FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Deacons of the month February: Alex Jack & Tom Jack

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 Office Hours* for Ginger Vander Broek are 10:30am-2:30pm Monday (home), Wednesday (home), and 10:30am-12:00pm Thursday (at FPC). *Office hours may change slightly week to week.

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www.firstpresdbq.org

COMMUNION SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 5, 2023

5th Sunday after Epiphany

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSIONSouper Bowl of Caring

PRELUDE“Open My Eyes”arr. Burroughs

FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION:
The God who is there when you feel safe, brave, or loved is here with you now. Grace and peace to you from our God who is like a light; warm and inviting. With God close by, you can look to the light and see through the darkest of nights.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

OPENING PRAYER

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Come to me, all you who sit in darkness
and in the shadow of death! On you has the light shone!
For Jesus Christ is the light of the world
and this is the story; the light shines in the darkness
and the darkness could not put it out!
We have seen the glory of the true light,
which enlightens everyone,
the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.
The Light of the world is Jesus!

*SONG OF PRAISE
“The Light of the World is Jesus”Bliss/K. Eby
The whole world was lost in the darkness of sin,
The Light of the world is Jesus!
Like sunshine at noonday, His glory shone in,
The Light of the world is Jesus!

Refrain: Come to the light, it's shining and free;
God is our guide, and dark shadows flee.
Once I was blind, but now I can see:
The Light of the world is Jesus!

The darkness recedes when we look to the Lord,
The Light of the world is Jesus!
We walk in the light when we follow God's word,
The Light of the world is Jesus! (Refrain)

No need of the sunlight in God's house we're told;
The Light of the world is Jesus!
The Lamb is the Light in the city of gold,
The Light of the world is Jesus! (Refrain)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
God, this morning we confess we have a hard time with hard

times. We want to put bandages on deep wounds and pretend that everything is going to be okay. We want to say magic words and wipe all the tears away. In being unable to surrender our hurt and discomfort to you, we end up causing further harm and heartache for ourselves and others. God, help us to surrender; help us to heal deeply; help us to be agents of your persistent, present, and slow-glowing light.

SILENT CONFESSION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*SUNG RESPONSE #349
“Seek Ye First”Lafferty
Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And its righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you;
Allelu, alleluia!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you,
Seek and ye shall find,
Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you;
Allelu, alleluia!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING
John 1:1-5p. 1645

SERMON“God Is like a Light”

*SONG OF RESPONSE
“Drive Out the Darkness”Marotta/Wardell/Swinton/Zach

CONGREGATIONAL REFRAIN:
Come, O come be our light
Drive out the darkness
Come Jesus come

LITANY OF LIGHT
In moments of discouragement, even despair,
The light shines in the darkness,
And darkness has not overcome it.
In moments of confusion, even bewilderment,
The light shines in the darkness,
And darkness has not overcome it.
In moments of loneliness, even abandonment,
The light shines in the darkness,
And darkness has not overcome it.
Because Jesus came to be God with us:
The light shines in the darkness,
And darkness has not overcome it.
While we distinguish this physical light (blow out candles);
we trust the spiritual light of God to continue to shine.
The light shines in the darkness,
And darkness has not overcome it.
The presence of Jesus is here today,
in the elements of bread and juice

The gifts of God, for the people of God.
The light shines in the darkness,
And darkness has not overcome it.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER
COMMUNION HYMN #472
“Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus”Lemmel
THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks & praise.
WORDS OF INSTITUTION
COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE
Please hold the elements until all have been served.
Gluten-free bread is available in the tray insert.
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

THE OFFERING
OFFERTORY
“When I Consider How the Father Loves”Rodriguez
*DOXOLOGY #34
*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*SENDING HYMN
“We Are Marching (Siyahamba)”South African hymn
We are marching in the light of God (4x)
We are marching, We are marching,
O we are marching in the light of God. (2x)

Si-ya hamb’e ku-kha-nye-ni kwen-khos, (4x)
Si-ya hamb’e, Si-ya hamb’e,
O si-ya hamb’e ku-kha-nye-ni kwen-khos, (2x)

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE“Praise Ye the Triune God”arr. Shackley

*Those who are able, please stand.

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: Alex Jack
To serve as Coffee Host, see the sign up sheet
Communion Servers: Mark Ward, Alex Jack, Lindsey Ward,
Terri Gronau
Nursery Attendants: Lisa Reed, Florence Siefker, Lillian Jones
(Children through age 5 are invited to the nursery
for any or all of the service)