

## IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING: THERE IS STILL TIME!** If you weren't able to donate your Souper Bowl of Caring money or canned items on February 12th, you can still place them in the buckets or football at the entryway to the church today. So far we have collected 108 items and \$263 dollars. Let's score a touchdown to tackle hunger!

**THANK YOU** to all those who contributed to our "love-ly" Valentine's celebration after church last week! What a blessing to share in a meal and life together. A special thanks to Deb Stant, Terri Gronau, and Judy Sheridan for coming up with the idea and executing it with enthusiasm!

**ANOTHER BIG THANK YOU** to those who continue to give to our Food for the 1st and Supplies for the 2nd collections even in these hard financial times. Your donations make a difference in the lives of folks in the community who are being served by the Dubuque Food Pantry and the YMCA Victim Services Domestic Violence Shelter. Please continue to give generously!

**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.

**LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS:** Join us each Wednesday evening during Lent from 5:00-7:00pm at Westminster for joint Lenten Soup Suppers held in their Fellowship Hall. Lent is a season in which we are invited to reflect on the immensity of God's love made known in Jesus, his victory over evil, as well as, on our calling to be disciples of Jesus. Over a simple meal, we will feast upon the Word of God to us in Scripture and as portrayed in the video series The Chosen, season 1. Bring the whole family to join with Westminster in this preparation for Easter beginning Wednesday, March 1, 2023!

**REMINDER: OUR NEXT ALL-CHURCH VISION GATHERING** will be held on Sunday, March 5th from 11:30-1:00pm. 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.

**CAMP WYOMING:** Here is a summer camp opportunity for grades 1-12! Anyone interested in this Presbyterian summer camp is welcome to contact the Mission Committee for a potential scholarship. Email Hannah at [hannah.eby@loras.edu](mailto:hannah.eby@loras.edu) or check out the camp at <https://campwyoming.net/>

## 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)

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>Sun. February 19</b>                              | 9:00am<br>10:15am                         | Sunday School for all ages<br>Worship:<br>Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching<br>Baptism of Willa & Piper Biechler                 |
| <b>Mon. February 20</b>                              | 4:00pm                                    | CE (Zoom)   |
| <b>Wed. February 22</b><br><i>Ash Wednesday</i>      | 7:00pm                                    | Joint Ash Wednesday Observance<br>@ Westminster   |
| <b>Sun. February 26</b><br><i>1st Sunday of Lent</i> | 9:00am<br>10:15am<br><br>1:30pm<br>5:00pm | Sunday School for all ages<br>Worship:<br>Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching<br>Bethany Home worship<br>Youth Group @ Westminster |

## GIVING

To support the mission and ministry of our church, we need \$14,563 per month. Offerings received through February 5 totaled \$3,640

- Offerings Year to Date through February 5 - \$10,509
- Expenses Year to Date through February 5 - \$18,046

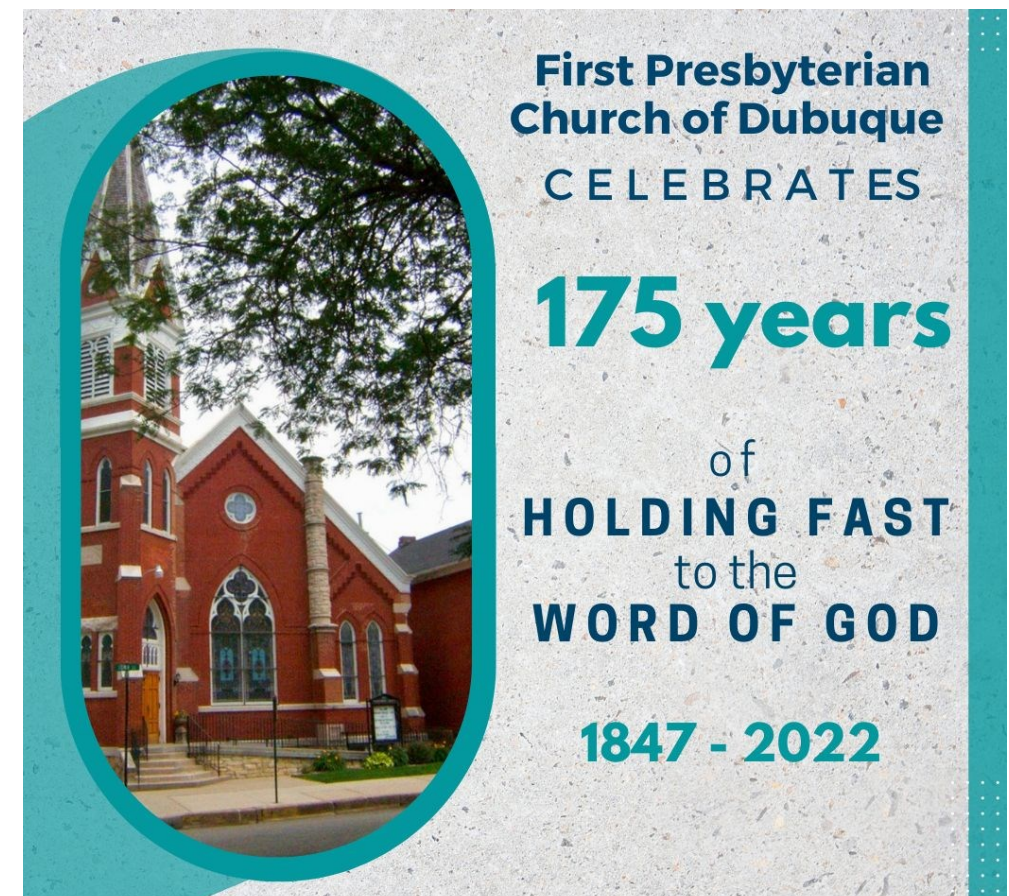
## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

**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](mailto: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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FEBRUARY 19, 2023

Transfiguration of the Lord

We celebrate the Transfiguration of the Lord on this Sunday immediately prior to Ash Wednesday because this event marked a transition in Jesus’ ministry in which he “set his face to go to Jerusalem” (Luke 9:51), where he would die. In Jesus’ transfiguration, we are assured that Jesus is the hope of the ages; who fulfilled the Law given through Moses, the one dreamed of by the prophets. In celebrating this event, we rejoice in the divine majesty of Christ, whose glory shone even when confronted with the cross.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE “Immortal, Invisible” arr. Hayes

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 river: refreshing, constant, and life-giving.*

OPENING PRAYER

\*CALL TO WORSHIP  
Great is the Lord—  
    **exalted among the nations.**  
Mighty is the Lord—  
    **King of heaven and earth.**  
Holy is the Lord—  
    **Immortal, invisible, God only wise.**  
Let us worship our God!

\*SONGS OF PRAISE  
#48 “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” St. Denio  
“As the Deer” Nystrom  
As the deer longeth for the water  
So my soul longeth after thee;  
You alone are my heart’s desire,  
And I long to worship thee.  
  
You alone are my strength, my shield,  
To you alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart’s desire  
And I long to worship thee.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION  
Eternal God, we confess that we have praised you with our lips but have not delighted in your ways. Have mercy on us, we pray, for our weak faith that fades under pressure, for our quick enthusiasm that just as quickly dies, and for the hopes we proclaim but do not pursue. Forgive us, Lord God, that we may live for justice and tell of your loving-kindness; that by our acts, as by our words, we may become more like strong trees planted by the constant, refreshing, and life-giving river of God.

SILENT CONFESSION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

\*GLORIA PATRI (#734 in Hymnal)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING  
Matthew 17:1-9 p. 1524

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING  
Revelation 22:1-7 p. 1938

SERMON “God Is like a River”

\*SONGS OF RESPONSE  
#435 “Like a River Glorious” v. 1 Wye Valley  
Like a river glorious is God’s perfect peace,  
Over all victorious, in its bright increase:  
Perfect, yet it floweth fuller every day,  
Perfect, yet it groweth deeper all the way.  
Stayed upon Jehovah, hearts are fully blest,  
Finding as he promised, perfect peace and rest.

#444 “Rain Down” vv. 1,3 arr. Carter

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Willa Jane Biechler  
Piper Breanne Biechler

CONGREGATIONAL PROMISE  
Congregation of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
do you promise to love, encourage, and support Willa & Piper  
by teaching them about God’s love,  
being examples of Christian faith and character,  
and by praying for them?  
    **Yes, with God’s help**

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH “The Apostles’ Creed”  
I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

\*HYMN #679 “Baptized in Water” v. 1 Bunessan

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S 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.*

THE OFFERING  
SPECIAL CHORAL OFFERTORY “Jesus, Shepherd of My Heart” D. Hannibal/Lopez  
\*DOXOLOGY #34  
\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*SENDING HYMN #423  
“Surely it is God Who Saves Me” In Babilone

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE  
“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” arr. Forrest

*\*Those who are able, please stand.*

LEADERS IN WORSHIP:

Preacher: Rev. Stephanie Ells  
Liturgist: Nick Elder  
Music Director: Kristen Eby  
Special Music: FPC Choir  
Musician: John Eby

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*  
Nursery Attendants: Lisa Reed, Florence Siefker, Lillian Jones  
*(Children through age 5 are invited to the nursery for any or all of the service)*