

WELCOMING YOU TO WORSHIP

Officer in Charge of Greeting: Tom Boelk
Communion Servers: Alex Jack, Mark Ward, Deb Stant,
Annalee Ward
Nursery Attendants: Florence Siefker & Brooklyn Neyen
(Children through age 5 are invited to the nursery)

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.

LEADERS IN WORSHIP:

Preacher: Rev. Stephanie Ells
Liturgist: Sara Blair
Music Director: Kristen Eby

IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

SUPPLIES FOR THE SECOND will be collected Sunday, April 14th. Along with the always needed paper products and cleaning supplies; this month's needs are shampoo/conditioner, tooth-paste & brushes, and feminine products. All go to help those living at the YMCA Victim Services Domestic Violence Shelter.

PASTOR STEPHANIE'S OFFICE HOURS are Tuesdays/Thursdays from 9am-1pm. As always, it is recommended you contact her via cell phone at (507) 227-8537 with your pastoral needs or to schedule a visit. She welcomes your connections!

THE FAITH EXPLORATION PROGRAM (Youth Group) for students in grades 6-12 is held every Sunday night from 5:30 - 7pm at Westminster PC(USA) Church. Join us for fun, hanging out, and learning what it means to follow Jesus – all while connecting with other Christian youth from around Dubuque. Bring a friend or two! *Dinner is served as part of this program.*

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.

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. April 7 <i>Food for the 1st</i> <i>Second Sunday of Easter</i>	9:00am	Sunday School for all ages Jean Holdener, adult facilitator
	10:15am	Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching Sacrament of Holy Communion
	5:30pm	Youth Group @ WPC
Tues. Apr 9	4:00pm	Faith Formation meeting (via Zoom)
Sun. April 14 <i>Supplies for the 2nd</i> <i>Third Sunday of Easter</i>	9:00am	Sunday School for all ages Lindsey Ward, adult facilitator
	10:15am	Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching
	5:30pm	Youth Group @ WPC

GIVING

To support the mission and ministry of our church, we need \$14,930 per month. Offerings received through March 17 totaled \$5,145

- Offerings Year to Date through March 17 - \$22,146
- Expenses Year to Date through March 17 - \$31,148

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Deacon of the month April: Deb Stant

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

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www.firstpresdbq.org

COMMUNION SUNDAY

April 7, 2024

2nd Sunday of Easter

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

arr. Purifoy

FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION:

In the echo of God’s great ‘Yes!’ to life and the cascade of resurrection and hope we hear a queen shout ‘No!’ Between the ‘Yes’ and ‘No’ we find ourselves, our faith and our freedom. In such a place we worship and find a God who waits for us to say ‘no’ to all that hurts and ‘yes’ to all that brings life.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

Serve the LORD with gladness!

Come into his presence with singing!

Know that the LORD, he is God!

It is he who made us, and we are his;

we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,

and his courts with praise!

Give thanks to him; bless his name!

For the LORD is good;

his steadfast love endures forever,

and his faithfulness to all generations.

*HYMN OF PRAISE #110

“We come, O Christ, to You”

Darwall’s 148th

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of all mercy, you have given us a new way, a new life, you have shown us the path we must walk in Jesus’ name, and yet we continue to fail to live up to your expectations of us. We continue to harm, we continue to ignore, we continue to discriminate, we continue to judge and lie and be jealous of others. Please forgive us merciful God. In Jesus’ name, and for his sake, help us to walk in your path, care for all, and love all as you have commanded.

SILENT CONFESSION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*GLORIA PATRI (#734 in Hymnal)

PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Esther 1:10-22, 2:1-4, 7-10, 17-18

p. 775

SERMON

“Queen Vashti and Esther: Agency vs. Power”

*HYMN OF RESPONSE #574

“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

I’m Gonna Live

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Based on Isaiah 40:28-31

This we have come to know,

this is what we have heard:

God is an eternal and everlasting God,

creator of heaven and earth,

who does not grow weary or faint;

whose wisdom is unsearchable,

giving energy to the meek

and strength to those who have none.

Even youths shall faint and grow weary,

young athletes shall fall exhausted;

but those who love the Lord Jesus

and patiently put their trust in God,

shall renew their strength;

they shall soar with wings like eagles,

they shall run and not weary,

they shall walk and not faint.

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“How Can I Keep from Singing?”

arr. Lowry

*DOXOLOGY #34

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

JOYS AND CONCERNS

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION

HYMN #698 “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ (v. 1,2)

Linstead

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

The Lord’s Prayer

*SENDING HYMN

“Christ is Risen, He is Risen Indeed”

Getty/Getty/Cash

How can it be, the One who died,

Has borne our sin through sacrifice

To conquer every sting of death?

Sing, sing hallelujah.

For joy awakes as dawning light

When Christ’s disciples lift their eyes.

Alive He stands, their Friend and King;

Christ, Christ He is risen.

CHORUS

Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!

Oh, sing hallelujah.

Join the chorus, sing with the redeemed;

Christ is risen, He is risen indeed.

Where doubt and darkness once had been,

They saw Him and their hearts believed.

But blessed are those who have not seen,

Yet, sing hallelujah.

Once bound by fear now bold in faith,

They preached the truth and power of grace.

And pouring out their lives they gained

Life, life everlasting. (Chorus)

The power that raised Him from the grave

Now works in us to powerfully save.

He frees our hearts to live His grace;

Go tell of His goodness. (Chorus)

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

“Blessed be the Name”

arr. Pethel

**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 comfortable to you.*