

IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

FPC AND WESTMINSTER have been collaborating more closely over the last year with Summer, Sunday youth, and Sunday evening programs. Last Saturday, for the first time, the Sessions of the two churches met for an informal meeting and agreed to form a task force with members of both churches to explore further possibilities for stronger collaboration. Where might this collaboration take us? God only knows, but this marks the first time in over 100 years that First and Westminster have come together to consider a much stronger and closer relationship. Please keep our shared ministry opportunities in your prayers.

SIGN UP TO HOST COFFEE HOUR. As we enter into the summer season, we need your hosting skills. Coffee hour is a sacred time for us as a congregation, as we continue our fellowship beyond worship. You'll find the sign-up sheet by the bulletin board and coffee maker—sign up for one or more weeks.

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! With summer in full-swing soon, she encourages you to call ahead of stopping by.

THE FAITH EXPLORATION PROGAM (Youth Group) for students in grades 6-12 is held every Sunday night from 5:30 - 7pm at Westminster PC(USA) Church. Next Sunday, April 28, will be the last meeting for the season. *Dinner is served as part of this program.*

PRAYER REQUESTS—Send joys and concerns to Pastor Stephanie at fpcdbq.pastor@gmail.com. If you'd like to receive the prayer request weekly emails, please contact Pastor Stephanie to be added to the mailing list.

GIVING

To support the mission and ministry of our church, we need \$14,930 per month. Offerings received this month through April 7 totaled \$2,415.

- Offerings Year to Date through April 7 - \$29,408
- Expenses Year to Date through April 7 - \$46,494

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 21 <i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i>	9:00am	Sunday School for all ages
	10:15am	Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching
	11:30am	Choir rehearsal after church Brief officer meeting after church
	5:30pm	Youth Group @ WPC
Sun. April 28 <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>	9:00am	Sunday School for all ages
	10:15am	Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching
	5:30pm	Youth Group @ WPC

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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April 21, 2024

4th Sunday of Easter

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE
“Awake to Love and Work”arr. Walz

FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION
Loving God, who made all things new in the life, birth, death, and resurrection of your beloved Son, Jesus, and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we come this day as searching, seeking, doubting, hopeful, disciples, pilgrims on the road towards greater understanding of you. Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Blessed be the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth!
Praise be to God, the Giver of many gifts!
Our help is in God’s name, the One who calls us here.
We come with songs of praise, with prayers too deep for words.
Blessed be the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth!
Blessed be the Lord!

*HYMN OF PRAISE #18
“The Name of the Lord”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

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 7:1-10, 9:20-22p. 783

SERMON “Esther’s Plans Succeed”

*HYMN OF RESPONSE #491
“Open Our Eyes, Lord”

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITHHeidelberg Catechism+ Q&A 1
What is your only comfort in life and in death?
That I am not my own,
but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—
to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.
He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood,
and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.
He also watches over me in such a way
that not a hair can fall from my head
without the will of my Father in heaven;
in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.
Because I belong to him,
Christ, by his Holy Spirit,
assures me of eternal life
and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready
from now on to live for him.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER *(Back cover of hymnal)*

THE OFFERING
OFFERTORY
“He Leadeth Me ”arr. Shackley
*DOXOLOGY #34
*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*SENDING HYMN #719 v. 1-3
“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE
“Postlude in Bb”arr. Ryan

**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.*

+The Heidelberg Catechism, written in 1563, was conceived originally as a teaching instrument to promote religious unity in the Reformed tradition. It is one of the confessions included in the Presbyterian Church (USA) Book of Confessions.

WELCOMING YOU TO WORSHIP

Officer in Charge of Greeting: Tom Boelk
Nursery Attendants: Florence Siefker & Brooklyn Neyen
(Children through age 5 are invited to the nursery for any or all of the service)

LEADERS IN WORSHIP

Preacher: Rev. Stephanie Ells
Liturgist: Alex Jack
Music Director: Kristen 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.