

IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

WE WELCOME ELDER ROGER EBERTZ to the pulpit this Sunday morning. Thank you for sharing God's Word with us, Roger! Pastor Stephanie is assisting at First Presbyterian Church in Bellevue, Iowa this morning with communion and a baptism. Roger will also be sharing God's Word with the residents at Bethany Home this afternoon.

JOIN US TODAY in caring for our neighborhood in partnership with our Unitarian Universalist Fellowship friends across the street. Just walk across the street to the front door of UUFD after worship (11:30ish) to grab some gloves and trash bags as we clean up the Jackson Park area.

TONIGHT is our LAST Faith Exploration Program (aka Youth Group) for students in grades 6-12 for the season at Westminster PC (USA) Church. Dinner will be served beginning at 5:30pm and we will wrap up by 7:00pm. It's been an awesome season!

THE LAST SUNDAY SCHOOL SESSION of the season will be held next Sunday, May 5th at 9:00am. A special thanks to all our Sunday School leaders for 2023-2024: Sara Blair, Brooklyn Neyen, Paula McNally, John Eby, Bryan Blair, Tom Jack, Jean Holdener, Tim Slemmons, Lindsey Ward, and Mark Stant. Your faithfulness is valued as we seek to grow in life and faith.

FPC AND WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH have been collaborating more closely over the last year or two with Summer, Sunday youth, and Sunday evening programs. Recently, 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.

FOOD FOR THE 1ST—Don't forget to bring non-perishable food donations to support the ministry of the Dubuque Food Pantry next Sunday!

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 28 <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>	9:00am	Sunday School for all ages
	10:15am	Worship: Roger Ebertz preaching
	11:30am	UUFD/FPC monthly Jackson Park clean up
	1:30pm	Bethany Home worship
	5:30pm	Youth Group @ WPC
Sat. May 4	8:00am	Men's Breakfast @ PapaOzz
	9:00am	Session Meeting
Sun. May 5 <i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i> <i>Food for the First</i>	9:00am	Sunday School for all ages
	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 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

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 28, 2024

5th Sunday of Easter

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

arr. Ijames

FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION

You were loved because God loves, period. God loved you, and everyone, not because you believed in certain things, but because you were a mess, and lonely, and His or Her child. God loved you no matter how crazy you felt on the inside, no matter what a fake you were; even in you current condition, even before coffee. God loves you crazily, like I love you...like a slightly overweight auntie, who sees only your marvelousness and need.
~Anne Lamott, *Imperfect Birds: A Novel*.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Psalm 139:7-12

Where can I go from your Spirit?

Where can I flee from your presence?

If I go up to the heavens, you are there;

if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

If I rise on the wings of the dawn,

if I settle on the far side of the sea,

even there your hand will guide me,

your right hand will hold me fast.

If I say, “Surely the darkness will hide me

and the light become night around me,”

even the darkness will not be dark to you;

the night will shine like the day,

for darkness is as light to you.

*HYMN OF PRAISE #25

“Let All Creation Bless the Lord”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful Lord, we confess that with us there is an abundance of sin, but in you there is the fullness of righteousness and abundance of mercy.

We are spiritually poor, but you are rich and in Jesus Christ came to be merciful to the poor. Strengthen our faith and trust in you. We are empty vessels that need to be filled; fill us. We are weak in faith; strengthen us. We are cold in love; warm us, and make our hearts fervent for you that our love may go out to one another and to our neighbors. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*GLORIA PATRI (#734 in Hymnal)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 13:10-17

p. 1620

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Jesus Will Still Be There”

Kristen Eby, solo
by John Mandeville

SERMON “Alone in a crowd?”

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

“He Touched Me”

Shackled by a heavy burden

'Neath a load of guilt and shame

Then the hand of Jesus touched me

And now I am no longer the same

Chorus:

He touched me; Oh He touched me

And oh the joy that floods my soul

Something happened and now I know

He touched me and made me whole

Since I met this blessed Savior

Since He cleansed and made me whole

I will never cease to praise Him

I'll shout it while eternity rolls

Chorus

*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.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Living for Christ”

L. Smith

*DOXOLOGY #34

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*SENDING HYMN #391

“Will You Let Me Be Your Servant”

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

“I Love Thy Kingdom”

arr. R. Long

**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.*

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: Roger Ebertz, elder

Liturgist: Susan Ebertz

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.