

## IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

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**WE ARE THANKFUL** for the presence of strong and caring women among us! Many of us celebrate a special person today who has provided a mothering presence for us in one way or another. Praise God for the gift of community!

**LOOKING AHEAD!** Westminster Presbyterian Church will be saying 'good-bye' to their pastor, Rev. MargaretAnne Overstreet, on Sunday, May 26. Their congregation has shown us much hospitality through joint worship services, Lenten Suppers, and joint Youth Group. The FPC Session has invited their congregation to join us here at FPC on Sunday, June 2, 2024 for worship and communion. We look forward to being the hosts!

**JOIN US** for the "Westminster Public Witness Speaker Series" this Thursday, May 16th at 6:30pm we will be gathering to learn more about "Ministry to Migrants at the Border." Pastor Dan Emmert will share about his 2023 trip to the southern border with 11 other PCUSA pastors. He will share stories of migrants, the border wall, and the bi-national ministry to migrants run by the PCUSA mission, Frontera de Cristo.

**CALLING ALL GARDENERS!** Lend a hand to the Mission Gardens at WPC. They have a garden on the church campus plus 3 other plots at the homes of members. Each year the gardens harvest around 1,500 lbs. of vegetables which are donated to the Dubuque Food Pantry. Volunteers are needed all summer long for planting, weeding, watering and harvesting. A weekly email goes out listing the volunteer needs for the week. To get on the list contact Marsha Wilfong at [mwilfong62hr@hotmail.com](mailto:mwilfong62hr@hotmail.com).

**HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?** A summer newsletter is being prepared and will be sent out before the end of May. Send announcements, stories, calendar items, etc. to [fpcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:fpcnewsletter@gmail.com) by Monday, May 20 for inclusion in the newsletter.

**PRAYER REQUESTS**—You can send joys and concerns to Pastor Stephanie and sign up to receive updated weekly prayer requests at [fpcdbq.pastor@gmail.com](mailto:fpcdbq.pastor@gmail.com).

## WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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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. 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)

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<b>Sun. May 12</b> <i>Seventh Sunday of Easter Supplies for the Second</i>	10:15am	Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching
<b>Tues. May 14</b>	4:00pm	Faith Formation Meeting via Zoom
<b>Thurs. May 16</b>	6:30pm	Westminster Public Witness Speaker Series: Ministry to Migrants at the Border, Pastor Dan Emmert @WPC
<b>Sun. May 19</b> <i>Day of Pentecost</i>	10:15am	Worship: Rev. Stephanie Ells, preaching

### GIVING

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To support the mission and ministry of our church, we need \$14,930 per month. Offerings received this month through April 28 totaled \$8,763.

- Offerings Year to Date through April 28 - \$35,755
- Expenses Year to Date through April 28 - \$52,722

### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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**Deacon of the month May:** DeDee Cosgrove

**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](mailto:fpcdbq.pastor@gmail.com)

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[www.firstpresdbq.org](http://www.firstpresdbq.org)

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# May 12, 2024

## Ascension of our Lord

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### PRELUDE

“Prelude on Morning Song”

Paxton

#### FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION

*Almighty God, as we prepare to worship today, we ask that you will stretch our imaginations to sense the majesty and mystery of your ascension. Help us perceive how Jesus' presence in heaven can give us confidence in our praying and hope for the future. Through Jesus, our Lord. Amen.*

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

#5 “Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”

Leader: *Chorus*

Shout to the rooftops! Our Lord Jesus Christ is seated at God's right hand!

**The same Christ who was given by God to help us learn how to live together and love each other is now seated with God!**

**Chorus**

Don't stand staring into the heavens! Christ's spirit is with us, in us, and through us!

**Come, join in! Let's praise God with our whole lives and spirits.**

**Chorus**

#### \*SONG OF PRAISE

“Open the Eyes of My Heart”

Baloche

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord;

Open the eyes of my heart--

I want to see You, I want to see You.

To see You high and lifted up,  
Shining in the light of Your glory.  
Pour out Your power and love  
As we sing holy, holy, holy.

Holy, holy, holy; holy, holy, holy;

Holy, holy, holy; I want to see You.

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God, you have called us to be the church, to live out our Resurrection faith, offering peace and justice, hope and healing, the good news of your saving love to all whom we meet. But we have failed to do this.**

We have given our faith a back seat to the troubles of the world and to the stresses in our own life. Lord, forgive the static smallness of our faith. As we listen to the scripture today, help us to clear our spirits of the clutter of everyday living, and inspire us to move in directions of peace and hope for all people. These things we pray in the name of our risen Lord.

#### SILENT CONFESSION

#### DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### \*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

Luke 24: 44-53

p. 1644

#### SERMON “The Ascension: Keep Calm and Carry On”

#### \*HYMN OF RESPONSE #319

“Shine, Jesus, Shine”

#### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from Heidelberg Catechism+, Q&A 46, 49-52

Christ, while his disciples watched,  
was lifted up from the earth to heaven.

**He will be there for our good until he comes again to judge the living and the dead.**

Christ is truly human and truly God.

**In his human nature Christ is not now on earth; but in his divinity, majesty, grace, and Spirit; he is not absent from us for a moment.**

Christ is seated at the right hand of God  
to show that he is head of his church  
and that the Father rules all things through him.

**Through his Holy Spirit he pours out his gifts from heaven upon us his members, and by his power he defends us and keeps us safe from all enemies.**

In all our distress and persecution  
we turn our eyes to the heavens  
and confidently await as judge the very One  
who has already stood trial in our place before God  
and so has removed the whole curse from us.

All his enemies and ours  
he will condemn to everlasting punishment:  
but all his chosen ones he will take along with him  
into the joy and the glory of heaven.

#### JOYS AND CONCERNS

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER (Back cover of the hymnal)

#### THE OFFERING

#### OFFERTORY

“Open my Eyes”

arr. Bock

#### \*DOXOLOGY #34

#### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

#### \*SENDING HYMN #590

“Rise Up, O Saints of God”

Festal Song

#### \*BENEDICTION

#### \*POSTLUDE

“In Glory Shining”

Broughton

*\*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.*

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## WELCOMING YOU TO WORSHIP

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

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## LEADERS IN WORSHIP

Preacher: Rev. Stephanie Ells  
Liturgist: Hannah Eby  
Music Director: Kristen Eby