

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Inviting All, Exploring Faith, Experiencing God*

2155 University Ave, Dubuque, IA 52001 | (563) 583-1729 | <http://wpcdbq.org>



*Nicodemus and Jesus on a Rooftop*

**MARCH 12, 2017**

**9:30 A.M.**

*"Take a hard look at Jesus. He's the centerpiece of everything we believe."  
(Hebrews 3:1 The Message)*

*"And what about you? Who do you say that I am?" (Mark 8:29)*

***TO OUR GUESTS: WELCOME!*** Thanks for joining us for worship. More information about Westminster Presbyterian Church is available on the Welcome Table in the back of the Sanctuary. We encourage you to fill out the Friendship Binder found in your pew and please join us for coffee and conversation in the Narthex after the service. In the Spring and Fall, Pastor Murry hosts "Welcome to Westminster" orientation meetings for anyone who would like to know more about Westminster or is considering the possibility of church membership. Watch the bulletin for announcements.

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- Large print bulletins are available from the ushers.
  - Childcare for children 5 and under is provided in the Nursery down the hall from the Sanctuary.
  - Children's activities, books and crayons are on the small table in the back of the Sanctuary.
  - \* All who are able may stand.
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*Prelude* "Hymnsong" by Elliot Del Borgo Westminister Band  
"River Songs" by Douglas E. Wagner

*Words of Greeting* Ruth 2:4 Hal Murry  
Leader: The Lord be with you.  
People: And also with you.

### *Welcome and Announcements*

*Chinese New Year Lantern Decorating Awards - see pg. 7* Tina Lee & Moses Wu

### *\*Greeting Our Neighbors*

*\*Introit* "Gather Us In"  
*Here in this place the new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away; see in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day. Gather us in the lost and forsaken; gather us in, the blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.*

*\*Call to Worship* Samuel Wu

Leader: O God, you send us out, like Abraham and Sarah  
People: *We travel by day, in confidence*

You draw us close, like Nicodemus  
*We travel by night, with questions*

With our hopes and our doubts  
*We embark on our journeys of faith*

With the saints of every age  
*We seek the way that leads into your love*  
We pause on our journey to worship you.

*ALL: And rejoice to find you with us, guiding every step*

*\*Hymn - insert* "Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters"

*\*Invitation to Confession*

Samuel Wu

*\*Unison Prayer of Confession*

*Gracious God, we come before you  
in need of forgiveness and grace.  
You call us to trust in you completely,  
but we do not.  
Sometimes we are timid and afraid as we follow you.  
We justify our actions and words,  
though we know they are not what you seek from us.  
We struggle to understand the new life Christ offers,  
preferring old habits to risky change.  
Forgive us, we pray.  
Help us to be born anew into the life of Christ. Amen.*  
(Moment of silence for personal reflection.)

*\*Assurance of God's Forgiveness*

Hal Murry

*\*Response* "O Lamb of God"  
*O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us,  
Lamb of God, and grant us your peace.*

*Children's Message*

"Coming Back to Life"

Hal Murry

*Anthem*

"Step by Step (with Lead, Me Lord)"  
by David Strasser & Samuel Wesley, arr. Ruth Schram

Chancel Choir

*Sermon:* "Come to the Light!"

1. John's "spiritual" gospel
2. Today's Scripture: John 3:1-19 (Common English Bible)
3. Nicodemus
4. What's it like to be a Christ-follower?
5. YOU, come to the light!

*Scripture: John 3:1-19*

<sup>3</sup> There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a Jewish leader. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus at night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one could do these miraculous signs that you do unless God is with him.”

<sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, “I assure you, unless someone is born anew, it’s not possible to see God’s kingdom.”

<sup>4</sup> Nicodemus asked, “How is it possible for an adult to be born? It’s impossible to enter the mother’s womb for a second time and be born, isn’t it?”

<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “I assure you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, it’s not possible to enter God’s kingdom. <sup>6</sup> Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Don’t be surprised that I said to you, ‘You must be born anew.’ <sup>8</sup> God’s Spirit blows wherever it wishes. You hear its sound, but you don’t know where it comes from or where it is going. It’s the same with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

<sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said, “How are these things possible?”

<sup>10</sup> “Jesus answered, “You are a teacher of Israel and you don’t know these things? <sup>11</sup> I assure you that we speak about what we know and testify about what we have seen, but you don’t receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you don’t believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has gone up to heaven except the one who came down from heaven, the Human One. <sup>14</sup> Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so must the Human One be lifted up <sup>15</sup> so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. <sup>16</sup> God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won’t perish but will have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> God didn’t send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in him isn’t judged; whoever doesn’t believe in him is already judged, because they don’t believe in the name of God’s only Son.

<sup>19</sup> “This is the basis for judgment: The light came into the world, and people loved darkness more than the light, for their actions are evil.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

*People: Thanks be to God.*

*\*Hymn #2172*

"We Are Called"

*\*Affirmation of Faith*

(Nicene Creed)

Hal Murry

*We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.*

*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.*

*For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.*

*For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.*

*He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son, is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.*

*We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

### *Pastoral Prayer*

#### *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.*

### *Giving of Our Offerings*

Please use this time to pass the Friendship Binder found at the inside end of your pew.

### *Offertory*

"If With All Your Hearts"  
by Mendelssohn

Dennis Williams-Saxophone  
Patricia Williams-Pianist

### *\*Song of Thanksgiving "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"*

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia! Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

### *\*Prayer of Thanksgiving*

Hal Murry

### *\*Hymn #442 vs. 1,4,5*

"The Church's One Foundation"

### *\*Blessing*

Hal Murry

*\*Response* "God Be with You Till We Meet Again"  
*God be with you till we meet again; loving counsels guide, uphold you,  
with a shepherd's care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again.*

*\*Postlude* "What Wondrous Love is This" Luke Tyler  
by Marylinn Hamm Pianist

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHANCEL FLOWERS are in honor of Arden & Elaine Woodrum's Wedding Anniversary. Congratulations!

TODAY IS THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT. The Christian season of "Lent" draws its name from an Old English word for Spring and the lengthening of days. *"In many cultures there is an ancient custom of giving a tenth of each year's income to some holy use. For Christians to observe the forty days of Lent is to do the same thing with roughly a tenth of each year's days. After being baptized by John in the river Jordan, Jesus went off alone into the wilderness where he spent forty days asking himself the question what it meant to be Jesus. During Lent, Christians are supposed to ask one way or another what it means to be themselves."* -- quote is from Whistling in the Dark: An ABC Theologized by Frederick Buechner.

THANK YOU again to Westminster's "pew crew"! Additional space has been created, this time on the "narthex" aisle, to accommodate worshipers who need a little more space. The spaces created comply with ADA requirements. Thanks to: Doug Cheever, Cameron Fast, Bud Monson, Steve Mosiman, Don Ryerson and Randy Roos.

PICTURES are still being accepted for the church's new photo directory. New deadline: March 22. Please email an electronic file or mail/bring a favorite photo to the Westminster office. Or contact Doug Cheever (563-845-8309) for a free photo. He is available at Westminster before and after worship services through March 19. More than 125 photos have been taken/submitted to date.

BOOKS & BOWLS will talk about local author, Michael Perry's book, *The Jesus Cow* on Sunday, March 19th, after worship about 10:45. This book was reviewed as "A hilarious glimpse into small town life and philosophy, combined with meditations on the meanings of faith, environmentalism, and romance" - Something for everybody. We will meet on April 23 (a week later than usual) to discuss *Our Souls at Night* by Kent Haruf. - and of course there will be snacks.

**WESTMINSTER FOUNDATION GRANTS** - The Westminster Presbyterian Church Foundation was established for the purpose of generating financial resources in order to support, in part, specific projects within Westminster Presbyterian Church. The Board of Managers of the Foundation is pleased to announce that in May 2017 it will be awarding a grant or grants totaling approximately \$4,100 for projects only within Westminster Presbyterian Church and is now inviting applications from interested organizations, groups, or individuals from the Church. **Applications are available in the church office and must be submitted to the office on or before April 15, 2017** in order to be considered. Questions related to the application process may be directed to members of the Board of Managers who are: Betsy Badger, Edwin Blinks, Paul DeLong, George Hellert, Howard McLean, Doug Pearce, Norma Smith and Hal Murry.

**CHINESE NEW YEAR LANTERN DECORATING AWARDS**

Under age 12: 1st place: Effie Drobitsch  
2nd place: Hunter Melcle

Age 13 +: 1st place: Lora Lakin  
2nd place: Yao Jiang

Receiving Honorable Mention: Landin Benn, Emma Musser, Brianna Breiner

**WESTMINSTER LIFE AND MINISTRY: MARCH 12, 2017**

Church Office Number: 583-1729		Rev. Hal Murry: 580-4196
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Rev. Hal Murry, Teaching Elder  
Church Administrator: Mary Kay Pancratz  
Custodian: Tim Till  
Nursery: Amy Ehlers/Emily Meeker  
Adult Choir/Adult Handbells: Pam Crawford  
Band/Youth Handbells: Sally Stulken  
Organist/Pianist: Dr. Luke Tyler  
Refreshments & Bldg Care: Bill & Janet Porter  
Greeters: Dennis & Susie Williams  
Jim & Sue Huff  
Gerda Hartman and Zach Spurgeon & Cody Kramschuster

Missional Community Dev: Rev. Lindsay James  
Financial Secretary: Becky Jenkins  
Faith Formation Leader for Youth: Lisa Fast  
Care Ministry Coordinator: Glinda Manternach  
Youth Choir: Lizz Tyler  
Timbrel & Lyre: Dr. Luke Tyler  
Head Usher: Glinda Manternach  
Ushers: Adam Etheredge, Rich Henderson  
Laura Ting, Ricardo Huang

**COMMUNITY EVENTS**

**SUNDAY EVENING LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES at FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** - Every Sunday thru April 2nd at 6:30 p.m. Come and receive Christ! These are brief contemplative services of prayer, praise, scripture, quiet reflection and Holy Communion. Each service is about 35-40 minutes in length. Childcare is provided.



## Take a look..... LAST WEEK!!!

There are a few smaller coats, a woman's scarf, necklace and lost earring in our Lost and Found. *(Tub is located in hallway by Mission Bulletin Board)*

Items not taken by March 15th will be donated.

### **THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER:** **MARCH 12TH THRU MARCH 19TH**

#### Sunday, March 12

- 8:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, LOFT
- 8:40 a.m. Coffee Fellowship, FH
- 9:00 p.m. WPC Band Rehearsal, SA
- 9:30 a.m. Worship, Rev. Murry Preaching
- 9:30 a.m. Worship, Mandarin Speaking, BR
- 10:40 a.m. Youth Sunday School-FH
- 10:45 a.m. Mandarin Sunday School - CR
- 10:45 a.m. Psalms Bible Study, BR
- 4:00 p.m. 6th Grade Youth Group, FH**
- 4:00 p.m. M.E.S.S. Youth Group, Media Rm.**

#### Monday, March 13

- 2:00 p.m. Training Meeting, WR
- 6:00 p.m. Mission Team, BR

#### Tuesday, March 14

- 5:15 p.m. PIN Board Mtg., WR
- 5:40 p.m. Youth Handbells, SA
- 6:45 p.m. Psalms Bible Study, CR
- 7:00 p.m. Grief Support Group, MS

#### Wednesday, March 15

- 9:00 a.m. Mandarin Baptism Class, CR
- 11:00 a.m. Regional Prayer Group, CR
- 1:30 p.m. Foundation Board Mtg., WR
- 2:30 p.m. Psalms Bible Study, Bethany Home
- 5:00 p.m. Adult Handbells Rehearsal, LOFT
- 7:00p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, LOFT

#### Thursday, March 16

- 7:00 p.m. Table Tennis, FH

#### Sunday, March 19

##### **CHLOE MALONE BAPTISM**

- 8:00 a.m. Youth Handbells Rehearsal, SA
- 8:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, LOFT
- 8:40 a.m. Coffee Fellowship, FH
- 9:00 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal, SA
- 9:30 a.m. Worship, Rev. James Preaching
- 9:30 a.m. Worship, Mandarin Speaking, BR
- 10:40 a.m. Youth Sunday School-FH
- 10:45 a.m. Confirmation Class, WR
- 10:45 a.m. Mandarin Sunday School - CR
- 10:45 a.m. Psalms Bible Study, BR
- 1:30 p.m. Worship at Bethany Home
- 4:00 p.m. 6th Grade Youth Group, FH**
- 4:00 p.m. M.E.S.S. Youth Group, Media Rm.**



Buy in the office or before or after worship  
at the Hospitality Counter