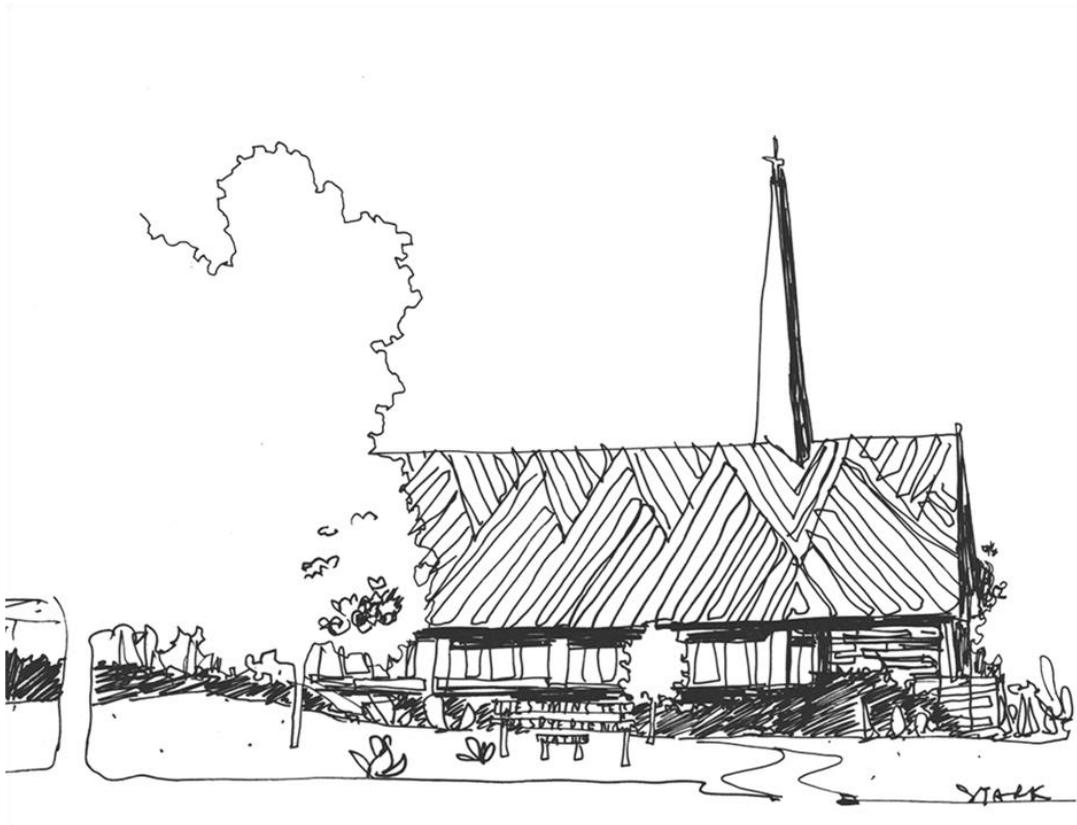


WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Inviting All, Exploring Faith, Experiencing God

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



MAY 7, 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. *The next series of meetings begins May 21st.*

- 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 Luke Tyler
Organist

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

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Mission "Mission Garden Update" Rich Henderson

* *Greeting Our Neighbors*

* *Introit #319* "Spirit"
Spirit, spirit of gentleness, Blow through the wilderness, calling and free,
Spirit, spirit of restlessness, Stir me from placidness, Wind, wind on the sea.

* *Call to Worship* (based on Acts 2) Adam Etheredge

Leader: The Spirit of God calls to us.
People: The Spirit of God nudges us.
Leader: The Spirit of God takes us places we didn't intend to go.
People: The Spirit of God takes us to people we don't even know.
Leader: The Spirit of God empowers us to be more than we are now.
ALL: The Spirit of God calls us by name.
We are God's own daughters and sons.

* *Hymn #281* "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

* *Invitation to Confession* Adam Etheredge

**Unison Prayer of Confession*

God of life and death, we confess that sometimes we are not alive to the possibilities you offer. In the midst of pain, unfairness, and fear, we find little reason for hope. We feel despair or blame others, but we do not turn to you for help. Forgive us and show us how to share the new life you offer, through Jesus Christ. Amen. (Moment of silence for personal reflection.)

**Assurance of God's Forgiveness*

Hal Murry

**Response #210*

"Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"

*Our God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while life shall last, And our eternal home.*

Children's Message

"Geranium Graduation"

Hal Murry

Anthem

"Worship the King of Kings"
by Lloyd Larson

Chancel Choir

Sermon: "Who Gets In?"

1. Who sets the boundaries?
2. **Today's Scripture: Acts 8:26-39**
3. Earnest inquirer meets faithful messenger
4. God's love will not be restrained!

Scripture: Acts 8:26-39 (Common English Bible)

²⁶ An angel from the Lord spoke to Philip, "At noon, take the road that leads from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a desert road.) ²⁷ So he did. Meanwhile, an Ethiopian man was on his way home from Jerusalem, where he had come to worship. He was a eunuch and an official responsible for the entire treasury of Candace. (Candace is the title given to the Ethiopian queen.) ²⁸ He was reading the prophet Isaiah while sitting in his carriage. ²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, "Approach this carriage and stay with it."

³⁰ Running up to the carriage, Philip heard the man reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you really understand what you are reading?"

³¹ The man replied, "Without someone to guide me, how could I?" Then he invited Philip to climb up and sit with him. ³² This was the passage of scripture he was reading:

*Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent
so he didn't open his mouth.*

³³ *In his humiliation justice was taken away from him.*

Who can tell the story of his descendants

because his life was taken from the earth?

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, about whom does the prophet say this? Is he talking about himself or someone else?" ³⁵ Starting with that passage, Philip proclaimed the good news about Jesus to him. ³⁶ As they went down the road, they came to some water. The eunuch said, "Look! Water! What would keep me from being baptized?" ³⁸ He ordered that the carriage halt. Both Philip and the eunuch went down to the water, where Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Lord's Spirit suddenly took Philip away. The eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

**Hymn #2130 vs. 1,2,5*

"The Summons"

**Affirmation of Faith*

(from "A Brief Statement of Faith")

Hal Murry

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The SPIRIT justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church.

The SAME SPIRIT who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.

In a broken and fearful world the SPIRIT gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the SPIRIT, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

Giving of Our Offerings

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

Offertory

"Joyful Alleluia" (an Eastertide Medley)

Adult Handbells

Arr Douglas Wagner

**Song of Thanksgiving #276 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"*

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!

*Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

**Prayer of Dedication*

Hal Murry

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Hal Murry & Deb Seiffert

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(Prayer continues) ...joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. (Prayer continues and then concludes with...)

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.

Participation

As you pass the bread please say, "The body of Christ given for you."

As you pass the cup please say, "The blood of Christ shed for you."

(Please retain the bread to partake together as a sign of our oneness as a community of faith in Jesus Christ. Drink the cup whenever you are ready as a sign of our individual and unique relationship with Christ as our Lord and Savior.)

INDIVIDUALLY PACKAGED GLUTEN FREE WAFERS ARE AVAILABLE

**Unison Prayer after Communion*

Deb Seiffert

Nourished at this table, O God, may we know Christ's redemptive love and live a new life in Him. Help us who recognize our Lord in the Breaking of Bread to see and serve Him in all whose lives are broken. Give us who are fed at

His hand, grace to share our bread with the hungry and with the hungry of heart. Help us continue forever in the Risen Life of Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

**Hymn #302 vs. 1,3,4,5* "I Danced in the Morning"

**Blessing* Hal Murry

**Response #438* "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

*Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christian love:
The fellowship of kindred minds Is like to that above.*

**Postlude* Luke Tyler
Organist

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AFTER WORSHIP TODAY, Marsha Wilfong's class on the *Psalms* continues in the Board Room. Beginning May 21, Hal Murry leads "Welcome to Westminster" a three week class for newcomers to Westminster and/or anyone interested in learning more about church membership.

NEXT SUNDAY, Confirmation Class members will be welcomed into church membership. This is Westminster's first Confirmation Class in several years. A reception in the Narthex follows worship.

WESTMINSTER'S PROPERTY COMMITTEE

- Completed an every three-year mulching of the church grounds;
- Completed sidewalk and curb accessibility improvements to the Fellowship Hall entrance
- Completed a review of property use policies
- Completed repairs to the church office air conditioning unit
- Reports that Westminster's offer to serve as host site for a conversation about the impact of roundabouts on the church neighborhood, has been accepted by the City of Dubuque . No date has been set.

THE BOARD OF DEACONS has elected Jon Davison, Moderator; Dick McMurray, Vice Moderator and Sally Madden Secretary for calendar year 2017. A primary ministry of the Deacons is to periodically visit church members, who for health reasons, are not able to attend worship and other church activities.

Green Team Tip #4 - Plant a tree in your yard or start a garden. Plants and trees help clean the air, are visual expressions of nature's beauty, and uplift us. Even something as simple as growing herbs in a garden can provide nourishment and delicious meals for the family.

Starting May 21st - Green Team will have 2 boxes available to recycle batteries & old medicine btl.



A FAREWELL RECITAL - SAM SYKES, cello
 Saturday, May 13th at 7:00 p.m.
 Westminster Presbyterian Church

This fall Sam will be attending the Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan.
Please join us on Saturday evening.

IMMIGRANT FAMILY SEEKS EMPLOYMENT - a note from WPC's Mission Team

In 2015, Fadi Alkhoury, his wife, Hala, and their two children left Damascus, Syria to come to Dubuque to start a new life. Presently, Hala is an adjunct faculty at the University of Dubuque and Fadi works part-time in Hartig's Drug Store in the photo lab and as cashier.

He is seeking a full-time position to better support his family. He holds a Bachelor Degree in Electronic Engineering with a focus in computer equipment from Damascus University. His experience includes running his own business, acting as IT assistant manager, and teaching. Additional activities include Byzantine music choir leader, Parish Council member of St. Elias the Prophet Church, and volunteering at the Multicultural Family Center and the Dubuque Hooley. Fadi and his family have deep faith in God.

Susan Taylor and Deb Seiffert met with Fadi and found him to be very personable, honest, and open to any opportunity that would lead to full-time work. While living in Dubuque, Fadi has worked on his communication and understanding of English skills. He wants the best for his children who are first and second graders. Fadi's resume is available at the church office. Feel free to speak with Susan or Deb for further information.

WESTMINSTER LIFE AND MINISTRY: MAY 7, 2017

Church Office Number: 583-1729		Rev. Hal Murry: 580-4196
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Rev. Hal Murry, Teaching Elder	Missional Community Dev: Rev. Lindsay James
Church Administrator: Mary Kay Pancratz	Financial Secretary: Becky Jenkins
Custodian: Tim Till	Faith Formation Leader for Youth: Lisa Fast
Nursery: Amy Ehlers/Emily Meeker	Care Ministry Coordinator: Glinda Manternach
Adult Choir/Adult Handbells: Pam Crawford	Youth Choir: Lizz Tyler
Band/Youth Handbells: Sally Stulken	Timbrel & Lyre: Dr. Luke Tyler
Organist/Pianist: Dr. Luke Tyler	
Refreshments & Bldg Care: Carolyn Dausener	Head Usher: Rich Henderson
Greeters: Bonnie Sue Lewis & Judy Schuster	Ushers: Youth: Grades 1st thru 5th
Margaret Callaghan, Patt Carmack and Bev Graves	
Communion Servers: *Janice Lewis, Set-up Only, Ed Hannon, Ross Madden	
Dick & Barbara McMurray, Terry Flynn, Arden Woodrum	
Pam & John Adams, Jeff Oberhoffer, Lois Pearce	

PRAYER REQUESTS: For Betsey Shifflett whose son, Johnny, died April 27th in San Jose, CA. Her address is: 4521 West Camino De Cielo, Tucson, AZ 85745

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER:
MAY 7TH THRU MAY 14TH

Sunday, May 7th

8:00 a.m. Adult Handbells, LOFT
8:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, LOFT
8:40 a.m. Coffee Fellowship, FH
9:30 a.m. Worship, Rev. Murry preaching
10:40 a.m. Youth Sunday School-Classrooms
10:45 a.m. Psalms Bible Study, BR
11:45 a.m. WPC Band Rehearsal, Choir Rm.
4:00 p.m. 6th Grade Youth Group, FH
4:00 p.m. M.E.S.S. Youth Group, Media Rm.

Monday, May 8

7:00 a.m. DSOL Flower Sale, FH, K
6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts, Classrooms
7:00 p.m. Scouts Board of Review, CR
7:00 p.m. Troop 11 Boy Scouts, FH

Tuesday, May 9

9:00 a.m. English Tutoring, CR
5:40 p.m. Youth Handbells, SA
6:45 p.m. Psalms Bible Study, CR
7:00 p.m. Grief Support Group, MS

Wednesday, May 10

9:00 a.m. Mandarin Baptism Class, CR
2:30 p.m. Psalms Bible Study, Bethany Home
5:45 p.m. Youth Choir, Media Room
6:00 p.m. Youth Group Team, CR
7:00p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, LOFT

Thursday, May 11

11:30 a.m. Mandarin Ministry Mtg., BR
7:00 p.m. Sykes Rehearsal, SA
7:00 p.m. Table Tennis, FH

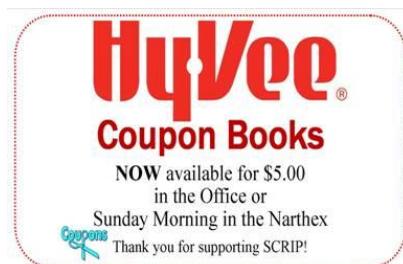
Saturday, May 13th

12:30 p.m. Watkin's Baby Shower, FH, K
5:30p.m. Sam Sykes Recital, SA, NTX

Sunday, May 14th

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

8:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, LOFT
8:40 a.m. Coffee Fellowship, FH
9:00 a.m. WPC Band Rehearsal, SA
9:30 a.m. Worship, Rev. Murry preaching
9:30 a.m. Mandarin Worship, BR
10:30 a.m. Confirmation Reception, Ntx
10:30 a.m. Camp Wyoming Bake Sale
10:40 a.m. Youth Sunday School-Classrooms
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.



The Youth Group will make \$4.00 off each book they sell.



FROM YOUR WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION:

Be a **WILLing** Christian. Remember Westminster Presbyterian Church in your will.