

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Inviting All, Exploring Faith, Experiencing God*

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

# Bitter or Better

SEPTEMBER 17, 2017

9:30 A.M.

*"Take a hard look at Jesus. He's the centerpiece of everything we believe."*

(Hebrews 3:1 The Message)

*"God isn't far away from any of us. For in God we live, move, and exist." (Acts 17:27,28)*

*"Jesus said, "I am the Light of the World. Whoever follows me won't walk in darkness but will have the Light of Life." (John 8:12)*

**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 refreshments and conversation in the Narthex after the service. Periodically, 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* "Shaker Variants" Westminster  
by Eliot Del Borgo Band

*Words of Greeting* Ruth 2:4 Rev. Marsha Wilfong  
Leader: The Lord be with you.  
*People:* And also with you.

*Welcome and Announcements* Rev. Marsha Wilfong

\* *Greeting Our Neighbors*

\* *Introit #2025* "As the Deer"  
*As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you.*  
*You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.*  
*You alone are my strength, my shield; to you alone may my spirit yield.*  
*You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.*

\* *Call to Worship* Adam Etheredge

Leader: Gracious and loving Creator, we come on this special day to celebrate your love in our midst.

*People: We come here secure and assured of your forgiveness, your truth, your salvation.*

Leader: We come to celebrate your sustaining strength and your alluring will.

*People: Yet in this hour we know, too, and confess our weakness, our faltering faith and our rancorous lives.*

Leader: Lead us, Great God, in faith, through the hours and days ahead

*People: That we might glorify you and that we might comfort and serve one another.*

*\*Hymn #455 vs. 1,2,5,6*      "All Creatures of Our God and King"

*\*Invitation to Confession*

Adam Etheredge

*\*Unison Prayer of Confession*

*Holy God, much of the time we go about our business as if we had nothing to confess, as though your goodness were perfectly formed within us. Pride keeps us from admitting our own sinfulness, and from experiencing your forgiveness which in turn humbles and enables our forgiveness of others. We tend to count the offenses against us rather than our blessings! But we now confess that we are among the "all" who have "sinned and fallen short of your glory." We are among those sorely in need of your grace. Grant us the grace of pardoned sin again, we pray, that our forgiveness of others might freely flow, that we might know the peace that passes all understanding. Amen.*

(Moment of silence for personal reflection)

*\*Assurance of God's Forgiveness*

Rev. Nancy Bickel

*\*Response #2030*

"The First Song of Isaiah"

*Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be afraid.*

*For the Lord is my strong-hold and my sure defense, and he will be my Savior.*

*Youth Choir Anthem*

"Let There Be Peace On Earth"  
by Sy Miller and Jill Jackson

Youth Choir

*Children's Message*

"Powerful Words"

Rev. Nancy Bickel

*Anthem*

"Prayer of St. Francis"  
by Allen Pote

Chancel Choir

*Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35 (NRSV)*

21 Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' 22 Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

23 'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. 24 When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, 25 and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. 26 So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." 27 And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. 28 But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat,

he said, "Pay what you owe." <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

*People: Thanks be to God.*

*Sermon*

"Bitter or Better?"

Rev. Nancy Bickel

*\*Hymn* - insert

"God, How Can We Forgive?"

*\*Affirmation of Faith*

(Rom. 8:1, 28, 38, 39)

Rev. Nancy Bickel

*We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.*

*Pastoral Prayer*

Rev. Nancy Bickel

*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 #217*

"Psalm 96: O Sing Unto the Lord"

Chancel Choir

by Warren Angell

*\*Song of Thanksgiving #2036 vs 1,4 "Give Thanks"*

*Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,  
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son.  
And now let the weak say, "I am strong"; let the poor say, "I am rich  
because of what the Lord has done for us." Give thanks!*

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev. Nancy Bickel

\*Hymn - insert

"Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy"

\*Blessing

Rev. Nancy Bickel

\*Response

## Go In Peace

Lyrics by: The Worshipbook

Music by: Austin C. Lovelace  
Arranged by: Westminster Press

**Allegro moderato**

(Congregation)

Vocals

Go in peace. Live in free dom. Serve the Lord. Serve the

8

(Chancel Choir Verse)

Vox.

Lord; re-joic-ing in the pow'r of the Ho-ly spir-it

12

(Congregation)

Vox.

A - men. A - men.

\*Postlude

Luke Tyler, Organist

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR GUEST PREACHER TODAY, The Rev. Nancy Bickel, served as the Minister of Church Life at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Dubuque for twenty-six years. She and her husband Ken are now retired and enjoy traveling, golfing, gardening, pickle balling, reading, and of course, their grandchildren.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES after worship!

- Children/Youth meet right after worship downstairs
- *"Staying Healthy"*; an adult class follows worship in the Board Room. Class topics include personal health guidelines, pro-active navigation of your healthcare support system, patient advocacy and community healthcare resources. Panelists include friends and members of Westminster with extensive professional healthcare experience.

\$1,882 is the amount already donated through the church to help hurricane victims. Because of Irma now, *if so inclined*, you may continue to donate. All gifts are forwarded to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, already actively engaged with congregations and presbyteries in the affected areas. Please note on your check or envelope "Hurricanes."

PASTOR MURRY is on vacation until October 2. Thanks to Rev. Dr. Marsha Wilfong who has agreed to respond to requests for emergency pastoral care in Hal's absence. She may be reached through the church office, 563-583-1729 or at home 563-583-6571 (emergency only).

DATE CHANGE FOR WORSHIP AT BETHANY HOME - The date has been changed *from today to Sept. 24th*. Westminster and First Presbyterian have switched dates due to a Church Picnic at First Pres. on Sept. 24th.

1320.7 POUNDS! That's the harvest from Westminster's Mission Garden thus far -- all donated to local food pantries. Thanks to the many hands that have gotten "dirty" in this mission project! "I planted, Apollos watered, but GOD made it grow." -- The Apostle Paul in I Corinthians 3:6.



## Fall Rummage Sale Thurs., Fri. & Sat., Oct. 19, 20 & 21

Please start saving your unwanted items for us to sell. Filling up Fellowship Hall is what makes these sales so successful and our church mission goals are so generously met.

Co-chairs: Sue Case and Gerda Preston Hartman

*Please call Sue Case @ 599-5289 if you are able to help in any way.*

WESTMINSTER BOOK EXCHANGE - Do you have new reading material for that really big first snow? Please bring your used books to the boxes on the bench by the church office during the week of October 8 and take back new reading material on Sunday, October 15. No text books please. Any leftovers will be sold at the WPC Rummage Sale.

### 2017 DUBUQUE CROP HUNGER WALK COMING OCTOBER 1st

Plan now to join Dubuque's faith community and your Westminster Team on Sunday, October 1st to help end hunger and poverty in our community around the world through the Dubuque CROP Hunger Walk. You can walk, give and change the world! Donations are now being accepted and walkers recruited. Find out how you can help by visiting the Mission Team in the narthex today!

On October 1st, the CROP Hunger Walk will start at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church with a free lunch at 12:00 noon. Registration and team pictures for our Westminster Team will be at 12:30 p.m. and the walk will begin at 1:00 p.m. We will walk to Murphy Park and back, about 4 miles. You can walk as little or as much of the route as you like. All Westminster walkers should wear their purple WPC shirts. There will be a scavenger hunt along the route.

Last year Westminster raised over \$1,100 for CROP Hunger Walk. This year we want to do even better! We are now accepting donations for the WPC Team. Please make your check payable to Westminster and write "CROP WALK" in the memo section. 25% of our donations stay locally

to assist the Dubuque Food Pantry, the Dubuque Rescue Mission and People In Need (PIN). The remaining 75% goes to Church World Service to fight hunger and poverty around the world. You can also donate online and get more information by visiting [www.crophungerwalk.org/dubuqueia/](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/dubuqueia/)

We are also collecting peanut butter and jelly for the Food Pantry. Please bring your jars of both to church the next two Sundays. Thank you in advance for your caring generosity.

## WESTMINSTER LIFE AND MINISTRY: SEPTEMBER 17, 2017

Church Office Number: 583-1729	Rev. Marsha Wilfong: 583-6571 emerg. only
Rev. Hal Murry, Teaching Elder	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	Organist/Pianist: Dr. Luke Tyler
Adult Choir/Adult Handbells: Pam Crawford	Youth Choir: Lizz Tyler
Band/Youth Handbells: Sally Stulken	Timbrel & Lyre: Dr. Luke Tyler
Refreshments & Bldg Care: M. Breiner/G. Maas	Head Usher: Rich Henderson
Greeters: Bruce Hallahan, Janet Neumeister Tom & Linda Stovall	Ushers: Dan & Wendy Tabraham Mary Breiner & Gidget Maas

### PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Continued prayers for Julie Woodyard's aging mother, Milly Conzett.
- Prayers for Wayne Lewis, who is having surgery in Cedar Rapids on Monday.

*If you would like to have your name on our Prayer Request list, please advise the church office (583-1729) or the Pastor.*

### COMMUNITY EVENTS

**JOYFUL STEWARDSHIP** - Your Westminster Green Team and the Dubuque Chapter of Iowa Interfaith Power & Light invites all to a special presentation by Dr. James Martin-Schramm on **Sunday, September 24 at 1:00 p.m.** at the **Sisters of the Presentation, 2360 Carter Road** in Dubuque on **"Joyful Stewardship"**. Dr. Martin-Schramm is a religion professor at Luther College and the author of several All are welcome to attend! - *see flyer in Narthex*

**CONCERT FOR NON-VIOLENCE** - Sun., Sept. 24 from 2-4 p.m. at Blades Chapel, U.D.  
**Performers:** Kristina Castaneda, Ralph Kluseman & Linda Niemann  
**Speaker:** Alan Garfield on "Nonviolence in the Abrahamic Tradition" - *see flyer in Narthex*

**HOSPICE OF DUBUQUE** - will soon be sponsoring **two six-week bereavement support groups**. It is suggested that participants wait at least three months after a loss before attending. The groups will meet on Wednesdays, beginning October 11 through November 15. A morning group will be offered from 10 – Noon, and an evening group will be offered from 6 – 8 pm. Groups will meet at the Hospice of Dubuque office in the Theisen Education Center, 1670 JFK Road.

**THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER:**  
**SEPTEMBER 17TH THRU SEPTEMBER 24TH**

**Sunday, September 17**

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. Nancy Bickel,**  
**Guest Preacher**  
9:30 a.m. Mandarin Worship, BR  
10:30 a.m. Family Youth Dinner Prep, K, FH  
10:40 a.m. Mandarin Sunday School, CR  
10:40 a.m. Sunday School, Classrooms  
10:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School, BR  
12:00 p.m. Rescue Mission Dinner

**Monday, September 18**

6:00 p.m. Scout Master Mtg., BR  
7:00 p.m. Scouts Parent Mtg., BR  
7:00p.m. Troop 11 Boy Scouts, FH

**Tuesday, September 19**

9:00 a.m. English Tutoring, CR  
5:45 p.m. Youth Handbells, SA  
6:15 p.m. Amos Bible Study, BR

**Wednesday, September 20**

11:00 a.m. Regional Prayer Group, CR  
2:00 p.m. Amos Bible Study, Bethany Home  
5:00 p.m. Adult Handbells Rehearsal, LOFT  
5:40 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal, Choir Rm.  
6:00 p.m. Cubs Pack 20, FH  
6:45 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, LOFT

**Thursday, September 21**

5:15 p.m. Green Team Mtg., BR  
6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts, 3-5 Gr. Rm.  
7:00 p.m. Table Tennis, FH

**Friday, September 22**

2:00 p.m. Mandarin Bible Study, CR

**Saturday, September 23**

**PASTOR HAL'S BIRTHDAY**

7:00 a.m. Share Food Distribution  
8:45 a.m. AA Something New, MS  
7:00 p.m. Timbrel & Lyre Rehearsal, SA

**Sunday, September 24**

8:00 a.m. Timbrel & Lyre Rehearsal, SA  
8:40 a.m. Coffee Fellowship, FH  
**9:30 a.m. Worship, Dr. Bonnie Sue Lewis,**  
**Guest Preacher**  
9:30 a.m. Mandarin Worship, BR  
10:40 a.m. Mandarin Sunday School, CR  
10:40 a.m. Sunday School, Classrooms  
10:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School, BR  
**1:30 p.m. Worship at Bethany-Rev Wilfong**  
**3:00 p.m. Youth Group, FH, Media Rm.**



**FROM YOUR WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION:**

Your WILL speaks for you after death.  
Have you included a bequest to  
Westminster Presbyterian Church in  
your WILL?



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