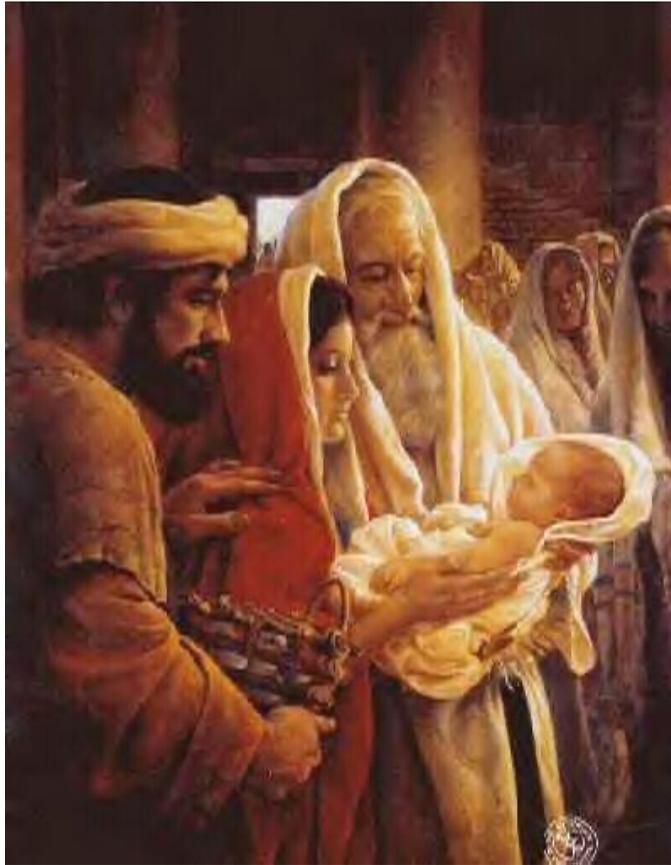


# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Inviting All, Exploring Faith, Experiencing God*

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



**DECEMBER 31, 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.
  - \* All who are able may stand.
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***Prelude***

Luke Tyler, Pianist

***Words of Greeting***

Ruth 2:4

Marsha Wilfong

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

***Welcome and Announcements***

***\*Greeting Our Neighbors***

***\*Introit***

"Lute Carol"

Pam Crawford

by Caldwell and Herrig

Soloist

***What sweeter music can we bring than a carol for to Sing  
the birth of this our heavenly King?***

***\*Call to Worship***

Marsha Wilfong

Leader: Praise God! I will give thanks to God with my whole heart,  
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

People: ***God's work is full of honor and majesty,  
and God's righteousness endures forever.***

Leader: Praise God in the sanctuary  
and remember the wonderful works God has done.

People: ***God's praise endures forever!***

***\*Hymn #40***

"Joy to the World"

***\*Invitation to Confession***

Marsha Wilfong

*\*Unison Prayer of Confession*

*You give us a vision of a world made new, O God, yet we find it so easy to just live in the old. You promise your presence among us, yet we seek so often to hide from it. We continue to mourn for our own way, though you have promised to wipe the tears from our eyes. When, as you promised, the former things have passed away, will we still long for what used to be? You are the beginning and the end; the middle we cling to for ourselves. We confess our nearsightedness, and beg for eyes open to the new creation. May we enter the coming year made whole by your grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

(Moment of silence for personal reflection)

*\*Assurance of God's Forgiveness*

Marsha Wilfong

*\*Response #56 vs 6*

"The First Nowell"

*Then let us all with one accord Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
That hath made heaven and earth of nought, And with His blood our life hath bought.  
Now-ell, Now-ell, Now-ell, Now-ell, Born is the King of Is-ra-el.*

*Children's Message*

Marsha Wilfong

*Anthem*

"Slumber Song of the Madonna"  
by Michael Head

Lorrie Etheredge  
Soloist

*Prayer for Illumination*

Marsha Wilfong

*Scripture:* Luke 2:22-35 (NRSV)

22 When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord<sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'),<sup>24</sup> and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him.<sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.<sup>27</sup> Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law,<sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup> 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;

<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.'

33 And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

*People: Thanks be to God.*

*Sermon*

"Seeing God's Salvation"

Marsha Wilfong

*Hymn #30*

"Born in the Night, Mary's Child"

*\*Affirmation of Faith*

(from "A Brief Statement of Faith")

Marsha Wilfong

*In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one true God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.*

*We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.*

*Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.*

*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!"*

*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.*

*Invitation to Giving*

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

*Offertory*

"There's A Song in the Air"  
(tune: Kohoutek) arr James Laster

Pam Crawford  
Pianist/Soloist

*\*Song of Thanksgiving #63 vs 3* "As with Gladness Men of Old"

*As they offered gifts most rare At that manger rude and bare;  
So may we with holy joy, Pure, and free from sin's alloy,  
All our cost-liest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King.*

*\*Prayer of Thanksgiving*

Marsha Wilfong

*\*Hymn - insert*

"God of Our Life"

*\*Blessing*

Marsha Wilfong

*\*Response #66*

"We Three Kings of Orient Are"

*O \_\_ star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!*

*\*Postlude*

Luke Tyler, Pianist

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKS TO OUR GUEST PREACHER Rev. Dr. Marsha Wilfong, a retired Presbyterian Minister whom we all know as a friend of our congregation. Marsha has been responding to requests for pastoral care while Hal has been on Study Leave. She may be contacted through the church office at 583-1729 or at 583-6571 (emergency only). Teaching Elder, Hal Murry, returns on Tues., January 2nd.

TODAY, PAM CRAWFORD concludes her service as Westminster's Music Coordinator, Adult Choir Director and Adult Handbells Director. Pam is retiring to gain more flexibility to visit with scattered children and grandchildren. She will continue as an active member of Westminster. Many thanks to Pam for the significant worship leadership she has provided. Her commitment to excellence and compassionate heart combined to make Westminster's music programs both accessible and high quality.

### **COME JOIN US NEXT SUN., JAN. 7th TO TAKE DOWN CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS**

We will start immediately after worship. Please help if you can. Many hands make light work. A couple of strong men would be greatly appreciated! Thank you!

## WESTMINSTER LIFE AND MINISTRY: DECEMBER 31, 2017

Church Office Number: 583-1729 | Rev. Hal Murry: 580-4196

Rev. Hal Murry, Teaching Elder  
Financial Secretary: Becky Jenkins  
Faith Formation Leader for Youth: Lisa Fast  
Care Ministry Coordinator: Glinda Manternach  
Adult Choir/Adult Handbells: Pam Crawford  
Band/Youth Handbells: Sally Stulken  
Refreshments & Bldg Care: Teresa Miller  
Greeters: Dorothy & Howard McLean  
Glady & Jack Porter, Gerda Hartman

Church Administrator: Mary Kay Pancratz  
Custodian: Tim Till  
Nursery: Amy, Emily, Megan, & Scarlett  
Organist/Pianist: Dr. Luke Tyler  
Youth Choir: Lizz Tyler  
Timbrel & Lyre: Dr. Luke Tyler  
Head Usher: Lois Pearce  
Ushers: Carolyn Klaver & Jerri Maxwell  
Doug & Lois Pearce

### PRAYER REQUESTS:

*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:

**"THE GIFT OF THE MAGI"** - *an Epiphany Musical*, Friday, Jan. 5th at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 6th at 3:00 and 7:00 p.m. at the Vista Cafe, in the Midwest Medical Center, Galena. This short story by O. Henry has been adapted by veteran actress and director, Pamela McKinsey, and is being played by a cast which includes professional actors, Scott McKinsey and Catiana McKay and community theatre thespians, Jenna Couch and Larry Cording.



#### FROM YOUR WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION:

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



Did you know...**Scrip** can be used  
for your groceries? Buy in the office  
or before or after worship at the  
Hospitality Counter. **It's no cost to you!**



2018

Happy  
New Year

**THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER:**  
**DECEMBER 31ST THRU JANUARY 7TH**

**Sunday, December 31**

8:40 a.m. Coffee Fellowship, FH  
9:30 a.m. Worship, Rev. Wilfong Preaching  
9:30 a.m. Mandarin Worship, BR

**Monday, January 1**  
**New Year's Day**  
**OFFICE CLOSED**

**Tuesday, January 2**

5:45 p.m. Youth Handbells, SA

**Wednesday, January 3**

5:00 p.m. Adult Handbells Rehearsal, LOFT  
5:40 p.m. Youth Choir, Choir Room  
5:45 p.m. Youth Faith Team, CR  
6:45 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, LOFT

**Thursday, January 4**

6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts, 3-5 Rm.  
7:00 p.m. Table Tennis, FH

**Friday, January 5**

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

**Saturday, January 6**

9:00 a.m. English Tutoring, CR

**Sunday, January 7**

8:00 a.m. Adult Handbells Rehearsal, 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. Mandarin Sunday School, CR  
10:40 a.m. Sunday School, Classrooms  
11:45 a.m. WPC Band Rehearsal, Choir Rm.  
**3:00 p.m. Youth Group, FH, Media Room**

**INCLEMENT WEATHER  
CANCELLATIONS**

To learn of any cancellations of worship services or events you can check the following:

1. The church website  
[www.wpcdbq.org](http://www.wpcdbq.org)
2. You can **listen** to any one of these radio stations below:
  - KDTH 1370 AM
  - KATF 92.9 FM
  - "The Rock" 97.3 FM
  - "The River" 101.1
3. **Watch** KCRG -TV, channel 9, or KWWL-TV, channel 7