

WESTMINSTER WITNESS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2019

"GROWING IN FAITH, REACHING OUT IN LOVE"

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MIKE



One of the joys of Christmas is that it is the one time of the year in which we fall back on the traditions of our past. For the rest of the year the idea of 'tradition' is often seen as something that holds us back and limits our freedom and spontaneity. However, during the holidays we are drawn back into the traditions that we know and love, like a warm blanket or a comforting hug. Our traditions guide us by giving us a firm foundation upon which to stand and to live. In these customs, we find the roots and foundations of who we are. They are a loving reflection of our past lives.

But what about the rest of the year? **It seems like more and more our time honored traditions are being subtly altered, willingly ignored or even completely cast aside.** Things of the past are no longer valued and are easily dismissed as being outdated and obsolete. New ideas and dreams push out old realities. The 'potential' has become more sought after than the 'actual'.

Now I'm all in favor of pushing the present boundaries by expanding our hearts and our minds, but we should not do so at the expense of

the past. This was the message that Paul had for the Ephesus Church. Paul had founded this Church and for 3 intense months had lived and ministered with these new believers. These planted seeds of faith grew to great heights as the church flourished, but then the church began to slip away from their chief cornerstone. It was only two decades later that John shared these words from Christ about the Ephesians, **"I hold this against you – You have forgotten your first love."** This church had fallen away from the teachings and practices of Christ. They had moved on to the worldly possibilities that existed and they had forgotten the very center of their faith – Jesus Christ.

I believe that we are in an age when the world is calling Christ's Church away from its foundations. We are slowly losing our unique identity as the Body of Christ. **Our challenge is to move forward into a world that has moved beyond faith and call it back into the traditions of who we are and what we believe.** We should embrace our foundations and remember that we have been knit together by Christ as the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. Let us all reignite the flame of our first love. **Let us reclaim the traditions of our faith - scripture, worship, mission, prayer, and fellowship. Let us root our lives in the cornerstone that is Jesus Christ.** For when we have Christ as our foundation, we are his Church.

*"You are... built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit."
Ephesians 2:19-22*



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'The Crossing' Youth Ministry News



It's time for our confirmation class to start up again!

We can't wait to further explore our faith journeys. 8th graders get ready because you'll get to start working on your Statement of Faith.

Here's the schedule for the next few months:

- 1/6—Confirmation
- 1/13—Confirmation
- 1/20—Confirmation
- 1/27—Confirmation Attends Annual Meeting
- 2/3—Confirmation
- 2/10—Confirmation
- 2/17—Confirmation
- 2/24—No Confirmation, Pancake Breakfast

Youth Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser

It's that time of year!



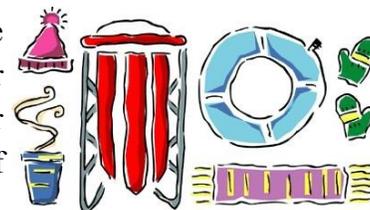
PANCAKES!

You are invited on Sunday, February 24th, to the Youth Pancake Breakfast at 10:45am, following the Sunday worship. The proceeds from the breakfast will support the high school summer trip to Presbyterian Youth Triennium. We look forward to seeing you. Come hungry!

Family Sledding Night

Wednesday, January 16th @ 5:30 pm

Take a break from the indoors and gather together for our annual beginning of year sledding fun.



SLEDDING PARTY

Join us at Skinner's

Hill at 5:30pm on January 16th for a fun time of sledding. Then we'll head back to the church to warm up with pizza, pop, and hot cocoa.

Youth Group

We've had a great time this past year and let's continue to grow in fellowship and faith.



January 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Keep an eye out for the new schedule changes this year.

Also we are planning a ski trip in February, stay tuned for more details.



Hockey Night

Let's get together and go see a game of Hockey!

Where : Riverside Arena

When: January 12th 2019 @ 7:00 pm.





Faith Quest for Children

Sledding Party

Wednesday, January 16th!

Join us for sledding at Skinner's Hill at 5:30 p.m. followed by a pizza supper and hot chocolate!

Please bring a 12 pack of your favorite pop, juice or bottled water too!



Winter Faith Quest

Sunday Education Classes

Our fourth rotation is "Noah's Ark."
Classes are on January 6, 13 & 20.

The fifth rotation is "Daniel and the Lion's Den."
Classes are on January 27 & February 3.

The sixth rotation is "Mary and Martha."
Classes are on February 10 & 17.

Winter Faith Quest

The Gathering Classes

The Wednesday children's program using Hands-On-Worship will be held on January 23, 30 & February 6, 13, 20 & 27.

Gather to Serve Project A Blessing for Many Recipients



We packed 21,384 meals for Hurricane Florence victims with Real Hope for the Hungry on September 26th.

We decorated and filled 12 boxes with treats and fun items for our young church adults. They loved them!

We made 30 tie blankets & pillows and added a friendly stuffed animal to give to young residents who need an extra hug at Gerard Academy. Thank you for your support!



Advent and Christmas Season

Our Christmas Pageant was called "Carriers of the Light" and as always, a true, significant story of Christ that blesses us all. Ann Sundal and Millie Masse work so delightfully with the participants to bring out their talents to praise God!

For Advent, the following children and their families took part in our traditional candle lighting of the Advent Candles: Lauren Nelson, Ariana and Olivia Shapinsky, Riley Szyszkowski, Eva Taylor and Sam Vortherms.

Our Christmas Mission was giving new toys and children's clothing to the Austin Salvation Army and new puzzles and games to the children and youth who are residents at Gerard Academy. These gifts will bring joy to a child's life. Thank you for your Christian giving spirit!



Tuesday Morning Bible Study

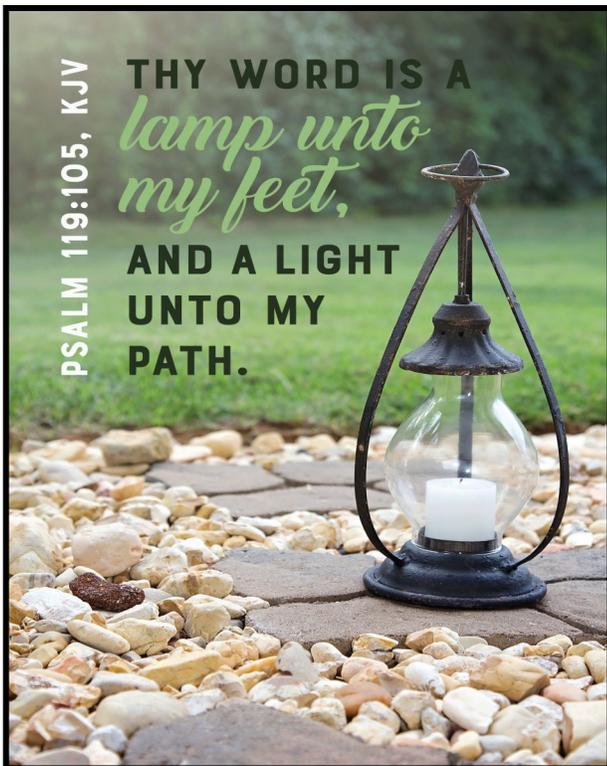
We will begin meeting again on Tuesday, January 22nd at 10:00am in the Church Parlor. Everyone is welcome to join us for great discussions and wonderful fellowship. We will also be enjoying some yummy cinnamon rolls.



Bible Study Opportunities

Thursday Morning Men's Study

Join us for our annual Welcome Back Breakfast at Perkins on January 17th at 6:30am. Our regular studies will begin on the 24th.



Festival of the Nativities

Thank you to everyone who helped in any capacity with this special event. Because of you our second Festival was a huge success. Approximately 450 guests attended on Friday night. Sadly, Saturday night was canceled due to the weather. Then, the good news - the displays were still up on Sunday morning.

There were about 330 nativity images displayed in ornaments, sets and wall hangings. We had 12 decorated trees, another 13 with lights, plus many tabletop trees. Children and families, (plus some adults) had fun with the scavenger hunt, searching tables more than once to find all the unique nativities listed. Children had fun doing crafts. Everyone savored the yummy cookies and refreshing punch. If the sight of the displays didn't get you in the Christmas spirit, the melodious sounds of Carols resounding throughout the church and happy voices greeting each other in friendship and love definitely sealed the deal.

Thank you again for coming together to share the good news of that first Christmas - the birth of Jesus our Savior.

- Publicity - Eric Potter
- Music - Ann Flisrand
- Refreshments - Cindy Jayes
- Greeters - Kim Potter
- Coordinator, Layout & Design - Gloria Aanonson

Save the Dates:

2019 Festival of the Nativities

Friday, November 29

Saturday, November 30





Music News

Chancel Choir

The first Sunday of 2019, January 6th, will feature Westminster's own vocal ensemble, Three Men and a Guy for the special music. The Chancel Choir will return on January 13th, and again on February 3rd & 10th.

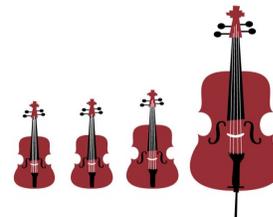
We will try to feature some of the abundant talent within the church in 2019, by featuring vocalists and instrumentalists. This fall Tedd Lund played his cello on an anthem and Ann Flisrand was featured with her clarinet.

We always have room for more singers. If you would like to participate, our rehearsals these two months will be Wednesday, January 9th & 30th, and February 6th & 27th, all at 7:20 p.m.



Westminster Strings

Westminster Strings performed on Christmas Eve, and again on December 30th. They will be returning on Sunday, March 31st.



Church Website Updates

The church bulletins and sermons are now on the website under the **Worship Service tab**. There are 6 weeks of bulletins, however, the Prayer and Praise portion of the bulletin is not included on the website for privacy reasons. The Calendar and Witness tab on the church website now includes Witnesses from the previous year. These can be useful for writing current Witness articles and looking up past events.

Rainbow Ringers

Rainbow Ringers will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, January 16th, from 4:45-5:30. Our goals are learning to read music, be independent to play one's part, and to make music to share with the congregation.



Spirit Ringers

Spirit Ringers will rehearse on Wednesdays beginning January 2nd from 6:15-7:15. We try to choose music that will work with the ringers available. If anyone would like to join us, you are needed and welcome. Please let Ann Flisrand know (annflis44@charter.net) so that we can share the techniques needed and choose music that will work.

The Gift of the Last Supper

Thank you Carol Young for the beautiful gift of an embroidered picture of *The Last Supper*. This exquisite picture has been placed above the fire place in the church parlor. The picture has 1,288,389 stitches and took 80 hours to make. Come check it out.





- 1 Ethiopia Gilo
- 1 Martha Oman
- 3 Cameron Olsen
- 4 Lisa Darling
- 6 Gary Dickman
- 7 Bradley Guy
- 8 Teri Wermager
- 9 Lauren Nelson
- 9 Nicole Wyatt
- 10 Megan Dickman
- 11 Zachary Coffey
- 11 Apoajok Obang
- 11 Rev. Michael Olmsted
- 15 Shirley Guy
- 17 Sean Coffey
- 17 Patty Rayman
- 18 Makenna Tapp
- 20 Zachary Bridgeman
- 20 Renant Hubbard
- 20 Olive Jones
- 21 Ann Flisrand
- 23 Michael Sydenstricker
- 24 Avnielle Kpelevi
- 26 Sidney Brown
- 27 Laura Carlson
- 27 Matt Clennon
- 27 Camille Osmonson
- 29 Rev. Brittany MacMillan

- 1 Toren Bires
- 4 Nikki Nelson
- 6 Lilly Nystel
- 6 Lynda Paxton
- 6 Keith Sayles
- 6 Thomas Walker
- 7 London Watson
- 8 Leland Aanonson
- 8 Hannah Hecimovich
- 8 Meridee Ofstedahl
- 10 Virginia Dunlap
- 11 Tammy Coffey
- 11 Helen Hecimovich
- 12 David Rasmussen
- 14 Lois Dillavou
- 14 Jeanne Wangen
- 15 Carol Hamilton
- 16 Ron Colling
- 17 Connor Braun
- 18 Patricia Hansen
- 20 Doris Schneider
- 20 Theo Sundal
- 22 Lindsey Davidson
- 23 David Dickman
- 25 Audrey Carroll
- 26 Kasey Baker
- 26 Micah Vortherms
- 26 Kim Young
- 28 Vollie Stiebler



Holy Baptism

Andrew Scott Horihan
November 25, 2018

Loretta Grace Davidson
December 9, 2018

“For
I KNOW
the plans
I have for you,”
declares the LORD,
“... plans to give you
HOPE and a
FUTURE.”

Jeremiah 29:11, NIV



If you or someone in your family has a birthday in January or February and it is NOT listed, that means the church office doesn't have your birth date. If it is incorrectly listed or missing please contact the church office so we can update our church records.





Faith Quest Activities

A MESSAGE OF *Love*

Make this valentine for a family member or friend.



What you need:

- 10 wooden craft sticks
- Painter's tape
- Markers
- A photo and glue (optional)
- Craft knife (and adult help)
- Ribbon or a rubber band

What you do:

1. Set the sticks side by side. Secure with two tape strips.
2. Flip the sticks over. Draw (or glue on) a picture or write a message or Bible verse. If using glue, let dry.
3. Flip the sticks again and remove tape. If you glued on a photo, have an adult help cut the sticks (and photo) apart.
4. Secure the sticks with ribbon or a rubber band.
5. Deliver the gift and invite the recipient to assemble the puzzle.



PUZZLE

A fresh start

Baptism is a blessing because it changes us and gives us hope.

Directions: Write the boxed letters in the squares below. Then unscramble those letters to form two words that complete the Bible verse and represent the gift of baptism.

We were therefore buried with him
 through baptism into death in order that,
 just as Christ was raised from the dead
 through the glory of the Father,
 we too may live a _____ .
 Romans 6:4, NIV



kiva

PWC has given loans to 19 women around the world to help them build a better future for themselves and their families. We will continue to lend to at least 3 women per year. If you have any questions, please contact a **PWC** member.

Kiva is an international nonprofit, founded in 2005 and based in San Francisco, with a mission to connect people through lending to alleviate poverty. We celebrate and support people looking to create a better future for themselves, their families and their communities.

By lending as little as \$25 on Kiva, anyone can help a borrower start or grow a business, go to school, access clean energy or realize their potential. For some, it's a matter of survival, for others it's the fuel for a life-long ambition.

100% of every dollar you lend on Kiva goes to funding loans. Kiva covers costs primarily through optional donations, as well as through support from grants and sponsors.

It's a loan, not a donation. We believe lending alongside thousands of others is one of the most powerful and sustainable ways to create economic and social good. Lending on Kiva creates a partnership of mutual dignity and makes it easy to touch more lives with the same dollar. Fund a loan, get repaid, fund another.

You choose where to make an impact. Whether you lend to friends in your community, or people halfway around the world (and for many, it's both), Kiva creates the opportunity to play a special part in someone else's story. At Kiva, loans aren't just about money—they're a way to create connection and relationships.

Pushing the boundaries of a loan. Kiva started as a pioneer in crowd funding in 2005, and is constantly innovating to meet people's diverse lending needs. Whether it's reinventing microfinance with more flexible terms, supporting community-wide projects or lowering costs to borrowers, we are always testing and learning.

Lifting one, to lift many. When a Kiva loan enables someone to grow a business and create opportunity for themselves, it creates opportunities for others as well. That ripple effect can shape the future for a family or an entire community.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



*Nurture Faith, Support Mission, Work for Justice
and Peace & Build Community*

Pot Pourri

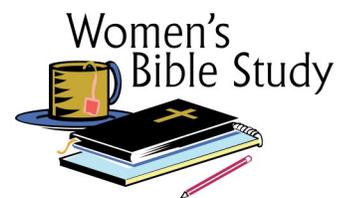
Pot Pourri is open to all women of the church. It is a gathering of women joining together to nurture faith through prayer and Bible study. Our gathering also helps build an inclusive, caring community of women who support and encourage one another.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 22, 2019, 5:30 p.m. in the Church Parlor. We will have a casual meal together and then watch a short video about a woman of the Bible. These women *"reach across generations to touch our hearts and compel us to reflect on Biblical truths. In sharing their stories of triumph and tragedy, they empower us to face the challenges in our own daily lives. You can laugh with these women, cry with them, and perhaps see yourself in their stories."* Actress and speaker Anita Gutschick portrays the women and has developed this study.

January 22nd the video and study will be on Sarah who "follows Abraham into an unknown land. Despite disappointments and mistakes, she brings us a message of faith."

February 26th the video and study will be on Martha who is "too busy to enjoy Jesus at her table. Come hear what valuable lesson she learns." Watch the Sunday bulletin for additional information.

Contact Gloria Aanonson or Ann Sundal if you have questions.





PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Nurture Faith, Support Mission, Work for Justice and Peace & Build Community

Our **PWC Christmas Gathering and Annual Meeting** was held on December 12th. Shirley Hinrichs and Darlene Berhow served hot apple cider, while Ann Sundal (Viola) and Millie Masse (Violin) entertained us with beautiful Christmas music. The Pot Pourri and Rebekah Circles' prepared and served a delicious salad luncheon. Our business meeting began with prayer. Margaret Blue presented the Thank Offering Mission; Gloria gave tribute to the women of the church, who had passed away this year with Ann Flisrand tolling the hand-bell; we thanked last year's Coordinating Team and Service Committee members for their service throughout this past year; Millie Masse led the program for the installation of our 2019 team members; and we closed in prayer, thanking God for the multiple blessings we have received during this past year.

2019 Coordinating Team members for the Presbyterian Women of the Congregation:

Moderator – Shirley Henrichs
 Past Moderator - Jacky Dietz
 Secretary – Ann Sundal
 Treasurer – Selene Schulz
 Search Committee – Peggy Queensland
 Historians: PWC - Margaret Blue
 PW-PTCA – Margaret Blue

Service Committee members:

Ozzie Earl, Peggy Queensland, Gloria Aanonson, Dayle Wedeking, Millie Masse, Helen Hecimovich, Jill Wedeking, Mary Ann Rasmussen, and Carolyn Meier.

Circle Moderators:

Pot Pourri – Gloria Aanonson
 Rebekah – Margaret Blue

PWC MISSION WORKSHOP

FEBRUARY 20th

Save the date for the PWC Mission Workshop. We hope you will join us. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall from 9:00 to 2:30. Bring a sandwich and piece of fruit to share, we will eat at noon. Bring a friend, come whenever you can, and stay with us for as long as you wish.

Throughout the day we will work on many of our mission projects. You may choose to participate in several areas throughout the day. We will make dresses and hygiene bags for the girls in Africa. There will be kits available to make walker caddies for Comforcare Nursing Home residents. Do you like needle work? Join several of our women who will be knitting and crocheting scarfs and caps for the Romanian orphans or Sea Farers. We will be making Easter bags for our homebound members and repurposing greeting cards to be mailed to people who may be going through personal struggles. We will also be adding a new mission. Come see how you can help.

Jacky Dietz
 PWC Past Moderator





Church Directory UPDATE

Email Address Correction

Dan Long
dllong@gofast.am

New Address

Colin & Renae Clennon
702 8th St NE
Kasson, MN 55944

Christopher & Jecenta Levai
601 5th Ave NW
Austin, MN 55912

Alex & Bethany Watson
11508 155th Ave
Hanska, MN 56041

Eira Nelson
The Cedars Apt 240

George Moore
The Cedars Apt 352

SEVERE WINTER WEATHER CHURCH OFFICE CLOSING POLICY

*If schools are closed due to severe weather, the church office will open, if able, at 12:30p.m. All church activities are cancelled for the day.

*When schools are on a two hour or more delay, the church office will open, if able, at 10:00 a.m. All morning activities are cancelled.

*If in doubt, please call the church office before venturing out. This policy has been set for the safety of all.

IN CASE OF SEVERE WEATHER, PLEASE REFER TO KAAL TV, KTTC TV or the church answering machine for church closings.



So faith by itself,
IF IT HAS NO WORKS,
is dead.



JAMES 2:17, NRSV

2019 RUMMAGE SALE

OCTOBER 4 & 5
SAVE THE DATE



The Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Sunday, January 27th at 10:30 am

Snow Date is February 3rd

Please plan to attend

Annual Reports will be in the narthex on Sunday, January 20th. Please take one if you would like to review it before the annual meeting. Remember to bring it back to the Annual Meeting.

THE PENNY JAR

THE PENNY JAR has been emptied and taken to the bank. There was a total of **\$249.00 collected** and with a matching donation from PWC. **\$498.00 was sent** to Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP). Last year, \$301.28 was collected and with PWC's



match, \$602.56 was sent to PHP. A little extra change amounts to a great amount of good. A special thank you to those who emptied the jar and those who took those heavy coins to the bank. That is a big job! Thanks everyone for helping feed the hungry. **PWC**



Now you can give via text or online



Give easily and securely from
anywhere, anytime.

Via Text Message

Text givewpc to 73256

On our website



www.westminsteraustin.com

There are blue cards in the pews if you give online but would still like to put something in the offering plate.

Detailed instructions on how to give online are available on the welcome table.

Any questions, stop in the church office.

*Friendly
Reminder*

1. Keep filling the cereal cart
2. Continue to save:
Labels for Education
Box Tops for Education
Pop can tabs/milk carton caps

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday

8:30am-4:00pm

Friday

8:30am-3:00pm

Church Phone
507-433-3258



PER CAPITA

Per Capita is money each church is asked to pay to cover the administrative costs of the PCUSA General Assembly, our synod, and our local Presbytery. **The payment due for 2019 is \$35.70 per member.**

Staff Email Addresses

Rev. Michael Olmsted
molmsted@westminsteraustin.com

Rev. Brittany MacMillan
b.macmillan@westminsteraustin.com

CE Director-Cinde Goskeson
christianed@westminsteraustin.com

Office Administrator-Lois Haan
secretary1@westminsteraustin.com

Assistant Administrator-Eric Potter
secretary2@westminsteraustin.com



Westminster Website

www.westminsteraustin.com
www.facebook.com/westminsteraustinmn

CHURCH WEBSITE

Do you want to see a **colored** copy of the current or a past copy of the Witness? Do you want to see a **colored** current or past copy of the church bulletin? Did you miss a sermon or want to hear one again? All sermons and bulletins are under the new **Worship Service tab**. Are you looking for information on an upcoming event? Do you need a registration form? Do you wish to give online? Then **check out the church's renovated website**. Click the **Give Now** button and follow the prompts for online giving.



If you have church activities or pictures you would like posted on the church website, please email the information to Eric at secretary2@westminsteraustin.com or drop it off in the church office. Eric updates the church website every Wednesday.



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

802 4TH ST SW
AUSTIN, MN 55912
(507) 433-3258

Non-Profit
POSTAGE PAID
Permit # 330
Austin, MN 55912

CHANGE SERVICE REQUEST

+

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January/February 2019

The Gathering

The Gathering will resume on January 23rd. We will fellowship together with a meal and programming from 5:30 -7:00 PM. Our meeting dates for January and February are:

January 23rd

January 30th

February 6th

February 13th

February 20th

February 27th



***Bring your family, friends & neighbors
with you to "The Gathering"!***