

# WESTMINSTER WITNESS

MAY/JUNE 2023

"GROWING IN FAITH, REACHING OUT IN LOVE"

## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MIKE



"Love never fails."

Corinthians 13:8

### Love Wins!!

The sense of failure is rampant in our world. Go to any school, any ballfield, any place of employment, any family, and you will find that the majority of what we do, if not all, revolves around our fear of failure. It has been instilled in us from a very young age to achieve, to succeed, and to win. But what happens when that success or that victory does not come – we are labeled failures. When the message is as unbalanced as it has become in our world – striving, winning, achieving – become the all-important goal. Which has created in all of us almost a primal fear of failure.

What does failure mean to you? What does failure look like to you? How do you define failure? The dictionary definition of failure is *falling short of an image, hope, destination, value or required action.* We all loosely understand the term, but in so many ways, our practical perception of failure varies drastically. In a quest to understand a current definition of failure, I recently texted of few of our members and asked simply, "what does failure mean to you?" Here are a few of the responses: *failure is letting yourselves down; not trying; never standing up for myself; not living up to my expectations or that of others; turning*

*our face and heart away from God in shame.* From these answers, it is easy to see that failure is understood in the context of performance. If you do not do well enough, then you fail and are counted as a failure. The painful reality is that we do not have to look very far to see the devastation that this mindset has caused in our world.

However, in the responses, I also received some thoughts that challenged this idea of failure: *Victory is rooting our minds in scripture and fighting back against the negativity with God's Word; serving God by laying down our lives through a sacrificial lifestyle; allowing God to turn our failures into opportunities to share his grace.* This is what Paul is speaking of in his final statement regarding love – it does not fail. Failure cannot co-habitat with love. For in love, we have victory. Another response that I received summarized this well, "*When we feel failure thrust a thorn in our side, we have the opportunity to pour love over the wound.*" It is the love of our God that acts as soothing balm that negates the pain of being called a failure. As we strive for the love of our Savior, then we realize that his love does not fail.

I want to challenge all of our thinking regarding failure. While it is true that we all will fail in things that we do, it is not true that we are failures. You are a child of the unfailing love of our God. Jeremiah 31:3 says this, "*I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have*

*drawn you with unfailing kindness. I will build you up again, and you, Virgin Israel, will be rebuilt.*" In spite of what the world tells us, Love Wins!! So go forth, live in this love and sharing this love with others so that everyone can hear that "they are NOT a failure!"

God Bless;  
Pastor Mike

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L.I.F.T. Youth Ministries



May 7—Final Confirmation (Statement of Faith Due)

May 16—Confirmation Banquet

May 21—Confirmation Sunday

**Congratulations to our  
graduating Confirmands!!**

Don't forget to join us for LIFT and don't forget that you can bring a friend! Join us for games, food, fellowship, and discussions.

May 3—LIFT (6:00-7:30)

May 10—LIFT (6:00-7:30)

May 17—LIFT (6:00-7:30)

May 24—Final LIFT (6:00-7:30)

### **Splash into Summer**

Join us as we splash into summer at Soak City and Valley Fair.



Price: \$35.00 admission plus money for snacks/lunch.

When: Thursday, June 8th, leaving the church at 8AM and returning about 6:00PM. RSVP with Pastor Britt by May 31st

### **Youth Car Wash & Bake Sale Fundraiser**

We need all youth's help on Sunday, June 25th for the Annual Car Wash Fundraiser for our mission trip. See you there! Bring a pan or 2 or 3 of bars.



CAR WASH  
FUNDRAISER

### **Mission Trip Participant Meeting**

All Mission Trip participants are asked to join us for a Mission Trip meeting on



Sunday, June 4th at noon.  
We'll have lunch and talk about our trip.



### **Middle School Camping Experience**

#### **Lakeshore Center Camp at Okoboji**

Westminster Presbyterian Church supports and offers camp scholarships to interested middle schoolers in our church for the program at Lakeshore Center Camp at Okoboji with the following program:

**Campers Choice:** June 25-30

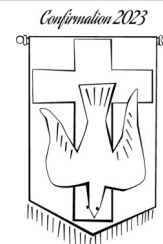
\$500/child

Campers Choice allows students to choose their path for the week. Love the water? Spend your time swimming and canoeing. How about crafts? Spend your days being as creative as possible. You choose what to focus on during the week, while still experiencing the songs, dances, games, and fun! Use the link below to check out their website.

<https://www.lakeshorecenteratokoboji.org>



*Congratulations to our  
High School Seniors and Confirmands*



2023 WPC Graduating High  
School Seniors

Mackenzie Armagost

Lydia Baron

Ben Diang

Russel Fisch

Cameron Olsen

Luke Owens

Rachel Toland

2023 WPC Graduating Confirmands

Dax Boverhuis

Brooke Fisch

Asah Rapha Ngj

Confirmation Banquet, Tuesday, May 16

Confirmand & Elder Interview at 5:30 pm

Meal at 6:00 pm

Session Meeting to follow at 7:00 pm

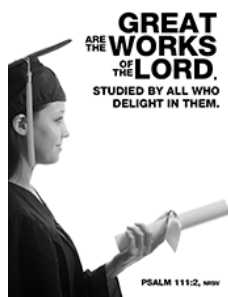
Confirmation Sunday is May 21

Join us for coffee and cake during the fellowship hour on Sunday, May 21, as we lift up our students and their families during a special moment of confirming our new members to the Westminster family. Special thanks to our mentors: Gary Ofstedahl, Cyrene Berthiaume & Richard Carlson



High School Senior Recognition Sunday

Join us for coffee and cake on Sunday, May 28th. We will recognize and congratulate the graduating High School seniors. Come join us in lifting up the seniors as they prepare to enter a new phase in their academic, personal and spiritual lives.





**Adventurer's Club**

For 2nd—5th graders  
 May 7th 2:00-3:30pm  
 Invite a friend to our End-of-the-Year  
 Celebration!

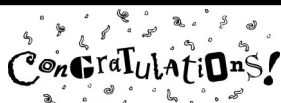


Hats off - Arts & Crafts

**Good Earth Village Day Camp Experience**

for completed grades K-4  
 Tuesday, June 27th  
 \$50 (scholarships available)  
 Transportation provided.  
 Departing at 8am and returning at 5pm.  
 Sign up with Laura Carlson by June 4th.

Thank you to all who  
 helped fill Easter Eggs and bags,  
 helped set up and clean up, and  
 participated in our  
 EGGs-traordinary Easter Adventure  
 We had 100 children, 200 adults, and 50 volunteers.  
 It was a glorious day!



**Connor Baldus**

As of June 1st, you will have completed 5th  
 grade and will officially move up to be a part of  
 our Youth Group!

**Stellar Vacation Bible School**

**June 12—16, 2023**

Ages 4 and 5 (toilet trained) Mini Camp  
 9:00am—11:00am

Kindergarten—5th grade

9:00am—1:00pm Lunch provided

Cost \$15 for one child, \$20 for two or more  
 (scholarships available)

Registration forms available on the children's  
 table or on our website.

All Church BBQ on Thursday, June 15th at  
 5:30pm, VBS Program to follow at 6:30pm.



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

I'd be over the moon, if you'd volunteer to help with  
 VBS!

**Station Leaders needed for:**

- Sing & Play Blast Off
  - Stellar Bible Adventures
  - Imagination Station
  - KidVid Cinema
  - All-Star Games
  - Cosmic Closing
  - Preschool Space Place
  - Lunar Lunch
- Lots of Crew Leaders needed for taking the small  
 groups of children  
 between stations. Crew Leaders may be 6th-12th  
 graders or adults.

Sign up in the Fellowship Hall or contact Laura Carlson.

**VBS Training on Sunday, June 4th at 11:00 am in the  
 Youth Room**





## *WPC Financial Health Snapshot*

### *Personnel & Finance Committee*

*(All totals as of April 25, 2023)*

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Pledges (All forms)                         | \$137,499.28 |
| Income via Endowment/<br>Faith Forward Fund | \$ 17,000.00 |
| Expenses                                    | \$163,747.24 |

*(We will be including this Snapshot in future  
Witnesses to keep everyone apprised of our  
financial status.)*

## ★ NATIONAL ★ DAY of PRAYER

*National Day of Prayer  
On Thursday, May 4, 2023*

Meet at Noon at the Veteran's Memorial for  
the program.



### **Free Community Corn & Pork Feed with Classic Car Show!**

We are in the mid-planning stages for our next Corn & Pork Feed which will be on **Wednesday, August 23rd at 5:30pm**. Save the date and watch the bulletin for signups where you can help with greeting, serving food, setting up, bringing bars, cleaning up, and enjoying the wonderful whole roast hogs (2!) placed on buns, coleslaw, and that fresh sweet corn! **SAVE THE DATE!!!**

### **2023 RUMMAGE SALE**

**Friday, October 6, 2023**  
**Saturday, October 7, 2023**

As you are cleaning and sorting during the weeks ahead, please consider starting your **"take-to-the-Rummage Sale"** box. Contact Gloria Aanonson or Dayle Wedeking if you have questions.

**Items accepted** are good, clean clothing for children, women, and men (including plus sizes), shoes, small furniture, sporting goods, Christmas decorations, knick-knacks, linens, small household appliances (in working order), dishes, games, toys, puzzles, and books.

**Remember: Please mark your calendars!**



## Choirs

The year is almost over, and the **Chancel Choir** will be singing just 3 more times with the first 2 Sundays in May and the first

Sunday in June. **FAMILY CHOIR** is open to anyone who'd like to sing, and they are rehearsing June 4th at 10:30am in the Sanctuary and then sing on June 11th.

Questions? Please contact Sue Radloff.

Sue Radloff - Director

## Music News

**Spirit Ringers** will rehearse every Wednesday through May 24 at 6:15. They will play for church on May 28. We are always looking for new ringers to join the group. If you are interested in joining us, please contact any member of the group. We do take the summer off but will resume rehearsals in early September. Thank you to all who have participated this year.



**Rainbow Ringers** will rehearse on May 3 & 10 and play for church (introtit) on May 10. Thank you to the participants as they have made great musical progress this year.



**Sunshine Singers** will continue to meet every Sunday throughout the summer, except outdoor worship. Ages 3 years-2nd grade are invited to join us! Wednesday evening rehearsals will continue through

May 24th for ages 3 years-5th grade. They will be paused during summer months.

Sunshine Singers will be singing for Mother's Day on May 10 during the Children's Moment, and we are excited to introduce a new anthem!

Miss Emma

## Special Summer Music Needed

Our Worship and Outreach Committee is looking for willing individuals, groups, or families to share their musical abilities with us one Sunday this summer. The commitment is to perform 2 songs/pieces for the service. You will be asked to notify the church office the week before the performance of the names of the pieces and who will be performing. If you or someone you know would like to share your musical gift, please contact Steve Rodewald at 507-438-7408 to set up a date that works best for you.

## Our Music Staff



Katherine Shapinsky - Organist

Lorene Strobel - Pianist & Ascending Truth  
Director

Sue Radloff - Chancel Choir & Westminster  
Strings Director

Ann Flisrand - Bell Choirs Director

Emma Evans-Peck - Sunshine Singers  
Director



## LADIES OF WESTMINSTER

### Ladies Luncheon

You are invited to our monthly Ladies Lunch celebrating our birthdays. You can bring a friend too! We meet at **Bella Victoria at Noon** on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. On **May 10th**, we will be celebrating those of us with birthdays in May, and on June 7th, we will be celebrating those of us with birthdays in June. Watch the bulletins for more info! Please text or call **Selene Schulz at 507-438-3299** if you would like to attend so reservations can be made.

**Please come! Bring a friend!**

### Vestlandslag: Norwegian Gathering

Dates: June 8th, 9th, & 10th. 2023



The Session has approved the use of the church for a group called Vestlandslag. One of its activities is an annual gathering for persons with interest in history and/or emigrants from western Norway. Spread over 3 days, about 90 persons are expected to attend the events scheduled at our church.

Events include:

Several speakers on various topics (including Brenna Gerhart representing Hormel Institute)

Sing-A-Long with a few Norsk folk tunes

Thursday evening program by "Benson Family Singers" (<very> popular)

Tour of Austin highlights

Bunad (national costume) and/or sweaters parade

Friday evening banquet

Friday evening program by Radloff Ladies (also <very> popular)

The event is open to the public, with a very small registration fee.

Nanc Lenz, Betsy Wuebker, Shirley Hinrichs and Cyrene Berthiaume are busy organizing food and need help.

Please contact Nanc if you have any questions at

(507) 438-9771 or [lenznanc@gmail.com](mailto:lenznanc@gmail.com). Meals

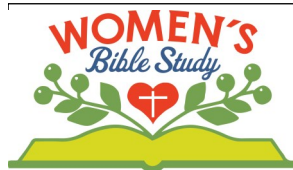
include noon and evening on Thursday and Friday and lunch on Saturday.

We are looking for one or two persons who might be available to help with table and/or chair management or other needs.

Please contact Dick Flisrand if you might be available. (507)

433-9577 or [flisrand68@charter.net](mailto:flisrand68@charter.net)

Dick Flisrand



Join us for 6 Wednesdays this summer, beginning Wednesday, June 21st from 9:00-10:30

Together we will read scripture, pray for and encourage one another, and delve into the book *Steadfast* by Courtney Doctor. This is a Devotional Bible Study on the Book of James.

(June 21, June 28, July 12, July 19, July 26, August 2)

Contact Pastor Britt or Cindy Jayes to order your copy and sign up for this summer book study.

Led by Pastor Britt and Coleen Olmsted

Book Cost (\$15)



### Alive! Fellowship

This is a fellowship group for our 55+ aged people. We

will be having our next get-together on June 17th at 5pm out at The Betsy Wuebker Farm with an Appetizer Potluck Cook-off! So, bring your appetite, your best dish to pass (and get voted on!), and your lawn chair. We will also have a bonfire & s'mores.

(Address: 26305 540th Ave, Austin  
ph: 808-720-0370)





1 Ozzie Earl  
 1 Sean Nelson  
 2 Joan Franklin  
 3 Joshua Merritt  
 6 Kay Scherer  
 7 Justin McFarland  
 7 Achol Obang  
 8 Zac Wilhelm  
 10 Jim Jayes  
 10 Rachel Toland  
 10 Heather Wyatt  
 12 Jane Arhart  
 13 Julie Gray  
 13 Alice Osmonson  
 14 Todd Weaver  
 17 Stuart Riemann  
 17 Ryder Selmecki  
 20 Yawo Kpelevi  
 23 Noah Kaercher  
 24 Marcene Buttshaw  
 24 Carole Lembrick  
 24 Bonnie Tangren  
 25 Kiera Sanchez  
 25 Zachary Wehner  
 27 Adah Baron  
 27 Breanna Kerling  
 27 Kandi Winter  
 28 Cham Obang  
 28 Pat Rodewald  
 29 Jeannie King  
 30 Sarah Wermager  
 31 Josie Decoux  
 31 William Kelly  
 31 Donn Sandell

3 Justin Lindquist  
 4 Ajwa Obang  
 4 Betsy Wuebker  
 5 Terry Briggs  
 5 Tedd Lund  
 8 Corbin Madden  
 8 Dewayne Wilkinson  
 9 Rylee Baker  
 9 Susan Radloff  
 10 Samuel Clasen  
 11 Owen Nelson  
 11 Rhys Szyszkowski  
 11 Maverick Trocinski  
 13 Harold Dietz  
 14 Carol Young  
 19 Davis Nelson  
 19 Emily Braaten  
 20 Deloris Ross  
 21 Beverly Schindler  
 21 Megan Stoulil  
 22 Keith King  
 22 Betty Lou Larson  
 22 Brenda Radloff  
 22 Brynn Sorenson  
 22 Emilia Trocinski  
 28 Ann Sundal  
 30 Matthew Diang

Alex Charlson (Jacky Dietz's great-nephew) -  
 Army



Jamar Salisbury (Mary Boyenga's grandson) -  
 National Guard

Bryce Gerber - Marines

Christine Hiegel - National Guard

Paul Mueller - National Guard

Garrett Smith (Pastor Mike's nephew) - Air Force

If you or a family member are actively serving in the military, please contact the church office, and we will include them in future Witnesses.



**Doris Schneider**

March 6, 2023

**Lonnie Houff**

April 24, 2023





# Summer Sister

You are invited to connect with a Westminster "SISTER" JUNE through AUGUST.

**HOW DO I SIGN UP?** Participation is voluntary. Simply complete a registration slip during the month of May and drop it in the box on the SUMMER SISTER table in the Narthex. Clip the slip from the bottom of this page or pick up a form on the SUMMER SISTER table.

**HOW DO I GET MY NEW SISTER?** SUNDAY, JUNE 4<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 a.m. in the Parlor Sisters will be randomly paired up via a drawing. If you are not able to attend, you will be notified who your Sister is by phone or email. You will exchange a brief BIO page with your basic information with your sister. BIO pages will be available on the SUMMER SISTER table.

### WHAT DO WE DO?

For the first three weeks, plan to connect via phone, text, or email to get better acquainted.....THEN (or even before the three weeks has passed)....

Get together for coffee, lunch, or picnic in one of the parks, OR....

Share and discuss your favorite scripture/Bible story, OR.....

Meet for a walk at the Nature Center or bike one of the trails, OR...

Plan to browse the shops downtown, OR....

Exchange favorite recipes, share hobby projects, OR....

Do a mission project together, OR.....

Join another Summer Sister pair for any of the above, OR.....

Visit a home bound or care center sister together , OR.....

Anything the two of you dream up. The list is open for your interests and ideas.

PRAY FOR EACH OTHER & HAVE FUN TOGETHER!!!



### Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Texting \_\_\_\_\_ Facetime \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_



# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



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

## Presbyterian Women of the Congregation (PWC)

*Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Romans 12:2

### May Outing - May 17

We are looking forward to our Annual May Outing. Visits to local places of interest are in the planning stages at the time of this writing, but mark your calendar for May 17. Lunch is planned at the new Downtown Grill - because reservations are required, **please RSVP to Selene Schulz** (507) 438-3299. All women of the congregation and guests are welcome!

### Summer Sisters - June 4 - August 27

Back this year after last year's success! If you've been yearning for a deeper 1-on-1 connection with another woman of faith, be sure to participate in PWC's Summer Sister activity. You'll be paired at random with another Westminster woman for the summer. Plan to connect over coffee, lunch, and other summer activities to strengthen connections and nurture the bonds of friendship. Names will be drawn on Sunday, June 4, so **sign up in Fellowship Hall**.

### Vestlandslag Stevne is Coming! June 8, 9, 10.

We are looking forward to providing meals for the Westlandet Stevne - an annual gathering of descendants of Norwegian immigrants who originally hailed from southwestern Norway. "Lags" are Norwegian heritage groups, some of which were organized over a hundred years ago, whose purpose is to keep cultural traditions alive in the New World. This year's Stevne will feature speakers and authors, Norwegian handicrafts available for purchase, and traditional costumes, dancing, and music.

Because around 100 attendees are expected for this event, **we need volunteers** to bake bars/cookies for desserts, and assist with meal preparation, serving, and cleanup for lunch and dinner on June 8 (Thursday), lunch and dinner on June 9 (Friday), and lunch on Saturday, June 10. **Sign-ups will be available in Fellowship Hall**. All profits raised by PWC from this event will go to missions. Questions can be directed to Shirley Hinrichs (507-438-1926), Nanc Lenz (507-438-9771), or Cyrene Berthiaume (507-219-8420).

### Penny Jar Collection Continues!

Because school lunches for all students will now be covered by government programming, we have decided to earmark

and match funds collected in the Penny Jar for Westminster's Little Food Pantry. You may continue to place your pocket and purse change in the jar as always.

### Small Group Bible Study for Women

These small group studies are open to EVERY woman in the Congregation. You may participate in one or both.

**Pot Pourri Evening Bible Study** - resumes in August.

**Rebekah Daytime Bible Study** - 9:30am in the Church Parlor on May 24th. Jacky Dietz will lead us through *My Utmost for His Highest* by Oswald Chambers. Everyone is welcome for this time of study and fellowship. Contact - Selene Schulz for more info at 507-438-3299.

**The Circle of Compassion Committee** serves bereaved families by coordinating lunches at Celebration of Life and Memorial Services. Contact Meridee Ofstedahl (507-279-0851) with your willingness to assist.

Check the Witness Newsletter, Sunday Bulletin, and Bulletin Board announcements of other programs open to all women of the congregation. This year, we look forward to additional mission giving.

In Mid-October, we are hosting the Lakes and Prairies Synod PW Coordinating Team. These women from our synod region will meet to plan and work on a mission project.

### Annual Rummage Sale

Don't forget about this well-anticipated event as you clean and declutter! We will begin to accept usable items in good repair just prior to the event, so please set them aside.

*"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."* -  
Philippians 4:13

In the love of our Savior,

Betsy Wuebker  
PWC Moderator

### Your 2023 PWC Coordinating Team

Betsy Wuebker, Moderator  
Gloria Aanonson, Co-Moderator  
Nanc Lenz, Secretary  
Selene Schulz, Treasurer  
Members: Cyrene Berthiaume, Jacky Dietz, Helen Hecimovich, Shirley Hinrichs, Millie Masse, Peggy Queensland.



# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

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



## Upcoming PWC ANNUAL OUTING, not to be missed!

Time to hit the road! Please join in on the fun. Open to all women of Westminster and their friends.

On May 17, meet in the church parking lot. We leave **PROMPTLY** at 9:00 a.m.

**Mystery Tour** of a historical landmark in our area. - Free-will offering.

**Rachel's Hope** has proudly moved into their new home and have invited us to come for a tour. 313 2nd Avenue NE.

**MacPhail Music Center** has been a great addition to the music scene in Austin and provides many services and opportunities for all. Parking is limited. 205 4th Street NW.

**Downtown Grill** our newest restaurant is now open for lunch and we have reservations. 119 2nd Avenue NE.

Please add your name to the sign in sheet located in Fellowship Hall or by texting/calling Selene Schulz, 507 438-3299.

**Reservations must be made by May 10th.**

It's gonna be fun, y'all!



## THE PENNY JAR - Located in the Fellowship Hall

Because the governor has signed into law a bill that **all** children will receive **free** school lunches, Austin Public Schools has notified us that they will no longer need funding from organizations such as ours. They thanked us profusely for all we have done for them in the past and really appreciated our support.

Our collection jar has taken a new turn. Because there is such a need in our community, PWC has decided the funds from the Penny Jar will now go to the WPC Food Pantry. As has been our practice in the past, PWC will match the funds placed in the jar. Please keep filling the jar with your loose change or whatever you can spare. Thanks for your generosity. Proof that every penny counts.





# Church Directory

## UPDATE



**New addresses for:**

**Ann Barnes**  
401 S Miller Ave  
Litchfield, MN 55355-3036

**Nancy Walker**  
2268 Coral Court, NE  
Rochester, MN 55906

**New or updated phone numbers for:**

**Stu Riemann**  
507-412-3296

**Christine Gaskel**  
507-320-0555

**Jake Hiegel**  
763-339-4461

### The Salvation Army Cereal Cart

*She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.*

*Proverbs 31:20*

#### SALVATION ARMY CEREAL CART

Summer is soon approaching (we hope), and the need for cereal products is just as important during these months as it is other times. Thanks everyone for being so generous and keeping our commitment to furnish cereal for the Salvation Army cereal shelf. Please continue filling the cart located in the Narthex. The Austin community needs our help more than ever.

- January 2023 - 58 pounds
- February 2023 - 46 pounds
- March 2023 - 72 pounds

*The Mission & Fellowship Committee*

### The WPC Free Food Pantry

*Our neighbors regularly empty our little Food Pantry which is filled twice a week. Now that it's warming up, we can start placing canned goods out there as well. Thanks to all who donate so faithfully!*



*The Mission Committee*



## Church Photo Directory

### New Pictorial Directory!

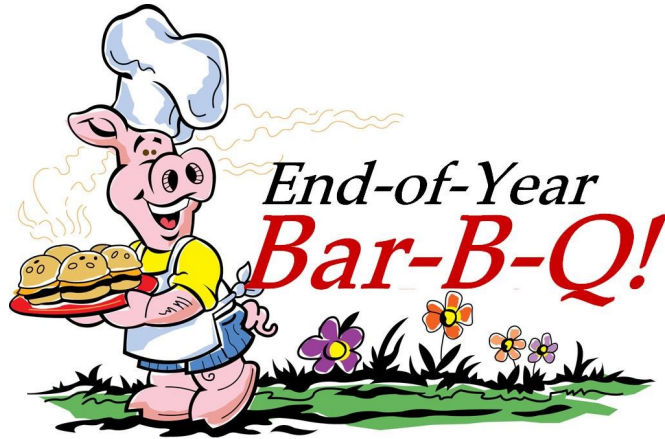
Picture-taking slots are filling up fast! Make sure to go to [ucdir.com](http://ucdir.com) using **Church Code mn322** and **password: photos** to set up your time for Thursday, June 22; Friday, June 23; or Saturday, June 24th. Cindy or Eric are happy to

assist you in the Church Office if you'd rather call and set that up at 433-3258.

Last day to sign up will be **May 7th**.

Thanks!





2023  
VBS & All Church Bar-B-Q

Thursday, June 15th at  
5:30pm

Join in the fun as we celebrate together the ending of the school year and the end of VBS with our Annual All Church Bar-B-Q!

Come join the festivities, invite friends! We will supply all food, plates, and drinks!

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Please join us on Thursday mornings at 9:30 or whenever you can come for a time of knitting, crocheting, needlework of any sort or a project you are working on. You will find us in the Youth Room (how appropriate!) by simply following the chatter and laughter.

Don't know how to knit or crochet? No problem. Someone will teach you. Don't have needles or hooks? No worries. We are well supplied with needles, hooks, looms and plenty of yarn. Everyone is welcome to join us as often as they can.





# Faith Forward FUND

(Formerly Known as the Hocker Fund)

Twelve years ago, our congregation was richly blessed by a gift of Hormel Stock given in loving memory of a longtime member, Helen Hocker. The family placed no stipulations on how the roughly \$725,000 could be used, except that the gift could not be touched for the first five years. Since that time, the gift has grown to around \$2,000,000. We have been able to use this fund to engage in some limited church projects, but it's primary purpose has been to generate income to support our annual operating budget. However, the underlying purpose of this gift has always been to support and grow both the ministry and mission of our congregation.

In light of this, our Session developed a Task Force in December 2022 to determine how to properly understand this Fund and how to begin using it to '*Grow in Faith and Reach Out in Love.*' This task force has concluded their work and Session has agreed to their proposals and now we want to share the results with all of you.

**On Sunday, June 11th, as part of and as an extension of our Sunday Morning Worship Service, we will formerly present to our congregation our new Faith Forward Fund.** We will present the approved recommendations and share with you what this means for our congregation as we move forward. Overall, the direction forward will honor the spirit and value of the original gift for the ministry and mission of Westminster. It will advance our work as the Church of Christ in the furtherance of the Kingdom of God. and it will continue to provide for the longterm financial stability of this congregation.

We will be providing you with more information on this Sunday Celebration in the coming weeks but mark June 11<sup>th</sup> on your calendars and join us as we all move forward in our faiths!!



## Did you know that you can give via text or online?



Give easily and securely from  
any- **Via Text Message**

Text givewpc to 73256

where, anytime.

**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.



Monday-Thursday  
8:30am-4:00pm  
Friday  
8:30am-12:30 pm

Church Phone  
507-433-3258

*Thank you to everyone who has donated to our little food pantry either monetarily or with food! Your donations mean so much!  
The Mission & Fellowship Committee*

### 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 2023 is \$37.50 per member**

### Staff Email Addresses

Rev. Michael Olmsted  
molmsted@westminsteraustin.com

Rev. Brittany Wundermachen  
b.wundermachen@westminsteraustin.com

Children's Ministry Director - Laura Carlson  
christianed@westminsteraustin.com

Office Administrator-Cindy Jayes  
secretary1@westminsteraustin.com

Assistant Administrator/Media Specialist -Eric Potter  
secretary2@westminsteraustin.com

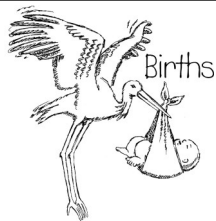


**Westminster Website**  
www.westminsteraustin.com  
www.facebook.com/westminsteraustinn

### CHURCH WEBSITE

Did you miss a sermon or want to hear one again? All sermons and bulletins are under the Worship Service tab. There are 6 weeks of colored bulletins on the website. The Calendar and Witness tab includes colored copies of the Witnesses from the previous year. These can be useful for writing current Witness articles and looking up past events. Are you looking for information on an upcoming event? Do you need a registration form? Do you wish to give online? Click the **Give Now** button, now with new giving options 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.



*Ila Mae Hernandez*

*7 pounds 5 ounces*

*20" in length on April 5, 2023*

*Parents: Sarah & Cory  
Wermager-Hernandez*

*Grandparents:  
Scott & Teri Wermager*

*Great Grandparents:  
Selene & Lonny Schulz  
Congratulations!*



*Bennett Michael Gabbert*

*Baptized on*

*Sunday, April 23, 2023*

*Parents:  
Michael & Ashley Gabbert*

*Grandparents:  
Jane & Randy Arhart*

*Asah Rapha Ngí*

*Baptized on Sunday, May 21, 2023*

*Parents:  
Christopher & Jecenta Levai*



*Carson Coordes*

*Diana Limon-Coordes*

*Brooke Hamilton*

*Barbara Sprandel*

*Terri Stough*

*Bob Thune*

*Emily Grace Toland*

**ANNUAL YOUTH MISSION  
TRIP CARWASH & BAKE SALE**

June 25, 2023, during the Worship Service  
Check in your vehicle when you arrive at church,  
and receive a spankin' clean car when the Worship  
Service is done! You can also purchase some  
delicious baked items that will be for sale as well to  
benefit the Youth Mission Trip to Milwaukee,  
Wisconsin, July 16th - July 22nd







# Session News

## Session News and Happenings from March and April

Your Session met on March 21<sup>st</sup>, on April 18<sup>th</sup> for our regularly called Session Meetings, and on March 7<sup>th</sup> and April 13<sup>th</sup> for a Specially Called Session Meetings to approve a Love Offering for MNATC and to vote on the Concrete Driveway, Overhang, and Garage/Storage Project respectively. Opening prayers and devotions were given by Rev. Olmsted relating to our Officer's Retreat theme – *Loaves and Fishes*.

Below are the discussions and actions of Session that have taken place over the past two months:

### **Items Approved in our Clerk's Report:**

*Deaths: Doris Schneider (03/10/23);*

*Baptisms: Bennett Michael Gabbert (4/23/23);*

*The Lord's Supper was served in Worship on March 5<sup>th</sup> and April 2<sup>nd</sup>, and on April 5<sup>th</sup> (Symbolic Supper) and April 6<sup>th</sup> (Maundy Thursday)*

### **Items of Discussion coming from our Committees and any actions that were taken:**

Personnel/Finance met with our Co-Treasurers regarding having a more access to our funds in order to cover unforeseen expenses. *Session approved moving some of the funds to Margin Accounts. Much discussion was had over the "Garage Project" and via a paper ballot vote, this project was denied.*

Facilities/Grounds presented the bid for the Garage Project. No vote was taken in March as Session asked the committee for a list of Prioritization of current and future Building Projects as well as a Detailed Project Breakdown List with associated costs. *Session Approved the Electrical Upgrade Project for \$48,902 with Austin Electric. Also approved the Bid for lawncare with KC Lawncare.*

Worship/Outreach oversaw the implementation of the Austin Community Variety Show on March 25<sup>th</sup>. They helped select the special music for our Lenten Vespers Services. *Approved having 3 Outdoor Services this Summer (6/18, 7/16, & 8/20)*

Mission/Fellowship oversaw the Fellowship events of MNATC Sunday Brunch (3/19) and the Variety Show Snacks (3/25). Approved the following Mission Monies: VBS - \$1,000; Rev. David Yoon & VOWE 37 - \$2,000; MN Adult & Teen Challenge - \$2,000; Vanessa Krell with YWAM - \$1,000; PCUSA Missionary Cathy Chang - \$1,000; and Rachel's Hope - \$1,000.

Nurture/Discipleship oversaw the Easter EGGs-traordinary Adventure on April 8<sup>th</sup> in which we had over 350 in the building enjoying a great morning. Discussed an appropriate participation fee for VBS, decided to offer a HS Sunday School Class similar to Beyond the Pulpit, and Emma Evans-Peck is considering offering free guitar lessons to our youth.

*The March and April Treasurer's Report from Church Co-Treasurers, Bill Momsen and Eric Potter were approved. The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering was Approved as was the Love Offering for MN Adult and Teen Challenge.*

Also a proposal from the Faith Forward Fund Task Force was given which will seek approval at the May Meeting. Our meetings were closed with prayer by Rev. Wundermachen and the Doxology was sung.

# Deacon News

## March Deacons Meeting

The opening devotional of our meeting consisted of the first in the series of videos for our Office Retreat Theme, "The Boy with the Bread: Five Lessons He Learned that Day". We talked about how 'God is in Control'.

We continued our meeting by reviewing our care list and hospitalization sheet. We discussed each of the people on our list, when they were reached out to, what other needs they might have, and to see if there was anybody we needed to follow up with.

We continued as we looked into our committee business, Selene Schulz is finding greeters for May and June.

We took 2 meals to people last month. Thank you to all who provide meals for those in need.

Our Communion Preparation committee and Westminster Witness Committee continue to plan and organize and set up for their respective ministries. We're so thankful that with their help Communion and the Witness are always assembled and ready for us to receive.

We also began talks to put together "Blessings Bags" for those in need of extra care or love due to life circumstances. Finally in March some of our deacons gathered together to serve at the Salvation Army.

## April Deacons Meeting

The opening devotional of our meeting consisted of the second in the series of videos for our Office Retreat Theme, "The Boy with the Bread: Five Lessons He Learned that Day". We talked about how 'God Loves Math'.

We continued our meeting by reviewing our care list and hospitalization sheet. We discussed each of the people on our list, when they were reached out to, what other needs they might have, and to see if there was anybody we needed to follow up with.

Our Welcome Table is still stocked with bags for our new visitors.

We have added a task to our Birth ministry in presenting the parents of the newborn with a book of "Bedtime Prayers" by Max Lucado. We're excited to share God's love with our families and newborns.

We were able to take 8 meals to people last month. Thank you to all who provide meals for those in need.

Our Communion Preparation Committee did a great job at prepping communion this month and the special communion for Maundy Thursday. Our Westminster Witness Committee is working on setting up a time to put together the witness you are currently holding! We're so thankful that with their help the Witness is always assembled and ready for us to receive.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUEST

+

+

## May/June 2023



Join Us for  
**OUTDOOR  
WORSHIP**

### Outdoor Summer Sunday Morning Worship

WPC's Front Lawn

June 18<sup>th</sup>, July 16<sup>th</sup>, August 20<sup>th</sup>

*(4th Sunday if 3rd Sunday is rained out)*

Beginning on June 18th, we will be outside at the edge of our east parking lot and front lawn worshipping with each other and hopefully our community. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets (folding chairs will be provided as well), your Bibles, and join us in God's creation as we worship together. We will supply treats and specialty coffees again too! Our Live Streaming will continue, so whether it is in person or on-line, we would love to have you with us!! And as always, if the weather isn't cooperating, we will move our service inside and then have the outdoor service the following Sunday. Stay for Fellowship & Cookies after the service!