

WESTMINSTER WITNESS

MAY/JUNE 2024

"GROWING IN FAITH, REACHING OUT IN LOVE"

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MIKE

*Other seeds fell
on good soil and
brought forth
grain*

Matthew 13:8, NRSV



"Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear... But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown." (Matthew 13:8-9; 23)

Fertile Ground: Receptive Soil

As we are living in the blessings of Spring, we don't have to look too far to see life emerging again. Farmers are in the fields planting corn and soybeans. Avid gardeners are busy planting their array of spring and summer vegetables and flowers. Farmers markets are starting to fill their baskets with herbs and produce. It is a great time of the year, but we also realize that these bountiful crops depend on how receptive the soil is to receive the seeds that bring life.

We have reflected over the past few months on the types of soils that seeds are often cast into – the hardened path, the rocky roads, the thorny patch. Finally, and thankfully so, we have reached the receptive soil. This is soil that is rich in nutrients, well-watered, freshened with new dirt, and tilled and ready to receive the seeds. All farmers and gardeners know that in order to produce a good crop, you need good soil.

This is the truth that Jesus is sharing with all of us in the Parable of the Sower. Our God is the one spreading the seed of his word and his truth, but we must be the ones that receive it. The Good News of the Gospel has been shared with all, but not all have fully received it. Their soil is too hard, it is filled with too many rocks, and it is overgrown with weeds and thorns. Jesus quotes from Deuteronomy when he says in Matthew 13:15, "Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing they do not hear or understand." We all long for producing good fruit in our lives, but we do not always spend the time and effort necessary to produce good soil.

So, how do we focus on our own soil? We listen to the Word of God. We seek to understand and discern its truth for our lives. We actively go forth sharing that word with others. With receptive hearts, we do more than simply hear God's Word, we listen to it. We allow his truth to soak into our lives, filling us with nutrients of love and grace and replenishing us by cultivating his presence into all that we are. With receptive minds, as we hear God's Word, we do more than simply acquire knowledge. We pray for understanding, discernment, and wisdom, and we learn from and grow with his truth. With receptive lives, we then step out into this world to shine the light of God's glory amongst the darkness. We become the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

As God transforms our soil from hard, rocky, and thorny ground into the deep, dark, healthy dirt that our God wants, then the harvest will be plentiful. By allowing God's seed to grow

within us, we can produce crops thirty, sixty, and a hundred times greater than what was sown. Let us, as individuals, and as a Church, commit ourselves to 'soil preparation' this Spring. As we do, we will be able to enjoy the amazing blessings of the Lord's Harvest. Amen!

God Bless;

Pastor Mike

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A Season of Transition

These next few months will be bringing some changes to our Ministry and Support Staff. Dave Sundal, our Custodian for over 14 years; Sue Radloff, Chancel Choir Director for 12 years; and Laura Carlson, Children's Ministry Director for 2 years; will all be transitioning out of their staff positions here at Westminster.

Although change in and of itself is not always easy, we are very thankful for the wonderful work and ministry that these individuals have given to all of us.

We wish **Dave Sundal** well as he moves into retirement, and we were blessed to be able to celebrate Dave and his work during and after our Worship Service on April 14th. We are thankful for all that Dave has done for us and how he has cared for and overseen the treatment of the entire property. Currently, our custodial needs are being handled by Jim Jayes and Nanc Lenz, but if you have any needs or concerns, please direct those to the church office.

We are thankful for all of the amazing music that **Sue Radloff** has led us in over the past many years. We will celebrate her ministry and send her off into retirement with a 'Cake and Card' Celebration on Sunday, June 2nd.

Beginning in the Fall, our very own **Emma Evans-Peck** will begin leading our Chancel Choir and overseeing our Music Ministries. That means that she will be transitioning out of her role as the Children's Choir Director, so we will be looking for someone in the months to come to fill that role.

Laura Carlson will also be stepping away from the Children's Ministry Director position. We will miss her energy, her enthusiasm, and her Bible focus as she led our children wonderfully over the last two years. Laura will remain on staff through July, but we will celebrate her ministry on June 16th with 'Cards and Cake' as well. Coming this Summer, we will seek to find an Interim Director for this position.

We are so thankful for these wonderful folks who have led and guided us so faithfully, and we also look forward to the future blessings that God will bring as the roles and positions are filled on a more permanent basis.

One Day New Members Class: May 26th from 11:00am – 1:00pm



New Members Class

"In Jesus Christ, God calls people to faith and to membership in the Church, the body of Christ... A congregation shall welcome all persons who trust in God's grace in Jesus Christ and desire to become part of the fellowship and ministry of his Church." As this excerpt from our Book of Order communicates, Church Membership is an important part of our ministry here at Westminster. It is the main way in which we connect with the Body of Christ. Through membership, we can improve and commit more fully to the fellowship, the worship, and the life of a local group of believers.

On Sunday, May 26th, we will be having a One Day New Members Class for anyone interested in joining our church. If you are interested in learning more about who we are and what we do as Presbyterians, then come and join us. The class will be in the Church Parlor from 11:00am – 1:00pm, and all are welcome!



LIFT Youth Ministries

Calling all youth!!!

We have our final fundraiser for the year on **Sunday, June 9th.** This is our annual car wash and bake sale.



Please arrive at 8:30 with a tray of bars/cookies/pies and wearing clothes that can get dirty while washing cars.

Wednesday Night LIFT

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 1—LIFT (6:00-7:30)

May 8—LIFT (6:00-7:30)

May 15—LIFT (6:00-7:30)

May 22—LAST LIFT (6:00-7:30)

End of School Year Sundae Party



Join us at 6pm on Wednesday, May 22nd for an end-of-school year time to eat, play games, and relax from the chaos of finals and the school year wrapping up. We'll enjoy Sundaes as well!!

Welcome Incoming 6th Graders



Our LIFT Youth Ministries would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our incoming 6th graders!!!

Olive Jones

Nora Nelson

As of June 1st, you are invited to join us in all LIFT Youth Ministry events. We look forward to having you join us!

Mission Trip Meeting

Mission Trip participants. Please join us for a meeting on Sunday, May 19th at 2pm. We'll begin talking about the trip and preparing for mission work.

There will also be a commissioning service on June 16th. All mission trip participants are expected to attend as we get prayed over and commissioned for the upcoming week of ministry.



We will also have a Mission Trip meeting on June 9th after the car wash and church service.

Splash into Summer

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

Price: \$45.00 admission plus money for snacks/lunch. (Scholarships available.)



When: Wednesday, June 19th, leaving the church at 8AM and returning about 6:00PM. RSVP with Pastor Britt by May 31st.



*Congratulations to our
High School Seniors and Confirmands*



2024
Confirmation
Class

2024 WPC Graduating High
School Seniors

Grace Vortherms

Eeva Nelson

Nyanyeik Diang

Ezra Boverhuis

High School Senior Recognition Sunday,
May 26th

Join us for coffee and cake on Sunday, May 26th. 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.

2024 WPC Graduating Confirmands

Eva Taylor

Samuel Vortherms

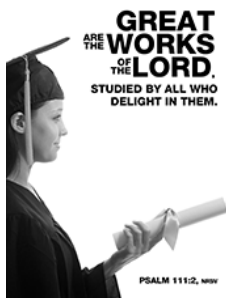
Confirmation Brunch May 5th

Confirmand & Elder Interview at 11am

Brunch at 11:30am

Confirmation Sunday, May 19th

Join us for coffee and cake during the fellowship hour on Sunday, May 19, as we lift up our students and their families during a special moment of confirming our new members to the Westminster family.



CONFIRMATION
SUNDAY



Adventurer’s Club
 For 2nd—5th graders
 May 5th 2:00-3:30 pm



Invite a friend to our end of the year celebration!
 RSVP to Laura Carlson

Good Earth Village Day Camp Experience



for completed grades K-4
 Tuesday, June 25th
 Transportation provided.
 Departing at 8am and returning at 5pm.

Register Directly with the Camp, including a \$15 non-refundable deposit

Tiered pricing \$40, \$45, or \$55 (scholarships available from Westminster Presbyterian Church)

Register at goodearthvillage.org/register

Let Laura Carlson know you have registered your child or children by June 4th

SCUBA Vacation Bible School, Diving into Friendship with God!
June 10—14, 2024



Ages 4 and 5 (toilet trained) 9:00 am - 11:00 am
 Kindergarten - 5th grade 9:00 am - 1:00 pm 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 Picnic on Thursday, June 13th at 5:30 pm, VBS Program to follow at 6:30 pm.

Laura Carlson is “Fishing” for volunteers for SCUBA VBS!



Station Leaders are needed for: Sing & Play Splash, Deep Bible Adventures, Imagination Station, Sticky Scripture, Reef Rec, Lunch Lagoon, Tide Pool Preschool, and Fin-tastic Finale.

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 with Laura.

VBS Training on Sunday, June 2nd at 11:00 am in the Youth Room



To Olive Jones and Nora Nelson

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



THANK YOU to all who generously donated candy, helped fill Easter eggs and bags, helped set up and clean up, and lovingly participated in our EGGs-traordinary Easter Adventure. We had 120 children, 200 adults, and 63 volunteers! What a wonderful morning we had to share the Easter story and smiles with the children and families of our community.



'Adopt A Window' – WPC Stained-Glass Window Fundraiser!!

Our beautiful Stained-Glass Windows have been restored and repaired! These amazing windows have been a hallmark of Westminster for years, and now, we have breathed new life into them for years to come.

We now ask for your support in funding this project. 50% of this project, which cost roughly \$75,000, was paid for by our Faith Forward Funds, but now, we have the remaining \$37,500 that we are asking for from our congregation.

From May 5th – June 9, we will be receiving donations to cover the cost of our Stained-Glass Windows. You can give a general donation to support the overall cost of the project, or you can *'Adopt A Window!'* Join with the generations before us that paid for specific windows and adopt one of these restored windows for the generations to come. You, your family, your church group, or your friends can adopt a window for \$1,000. Select your favorite window or choose one that you find particularly meaningful.

For those who adopt a window, your name, or the names of those you are sponsoring this for, will be added to our Stained-Glass Window Guided-Tour Booklet right next to the names of those who originally paid for that window back in 1961. Stop by our Fundraising Table in Narthex to select your window because it is on a first come basis.

So be sure to stop by our table in the Narthex beginning on May 5th to ***Adopt a Window*** for generations to come!! Thank you for your involvement in this project as we continue to build a legacy of faith for all to enjoy!

Free "Estate Planning & Christian Stewardship" Seminar on Monday, May 13, 2024, at 6:30 pm

Join us for a wonderful presentation and discussion on Estate Planning and Christian Stewardship led by WPC member and licensed Attorney, Emily Toland. The event will be held at church and will go for approximately one hour, with a Q & A time at the end. Light refreshments will be provided.

Topics to be covered include:

- Basic Estate Planning Documents
- Wills
- Power of Attorney
- Health Care Directives
- Tax Advantaged Charitable Giving




All attendees will receive a packet of materials to assist in beginning to develop one's estate plan. RSVPs are appreciated so we can have an accurate count for materials and refreshments. Sign-up sheets will be available in the Narthex after the service on Sunday, April 28th, or you may RSVP to Cindy Jayes at secretary1@westminsteraustin.com.



★NATIONAL★
DAY of PRAYER

*National Day of Prayer
On Thursday, May 2, 2024*


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



FREE!
Ice Cream Social

Annual 4th of July **FREE**
Ice Cream Social!



Time: 2-4pm
Where: East Lawn @ Westminster
Invite your relatives, friends, and neighbors!
Signups for help beginning in June!



FREE! Corn & Pork Feed!

**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 21st 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 pork placed on buns, baked beans, coleslaw, and that fresh sweet corn!

2024 RUMMAGE SALE

Friday, October 4, 2024
Saturday, October 5, 2024

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 Chancel Choir will be singing on the first 2 Sundays in May, the 5th and the 12th, for the 9:30 service. We will be rehearsing on May 1 and 8 in the Sanctuary at 7:20. We also will be singing on the first Sunday in June, the 2nd, rehearsing on May 29. The 2nd Sunday in June, the 9th, will feature the Summer Choir, and all members of the church are invited to participate. That rehearsal will be held right after the service on June 2nd. We are in special need for lady singers, so gals, if you have ever thought about joining choir, this may be a good time to try it out!

Sue Radloff - Director

Music News

Spirit Ringers will rehearse on May 1, 8, 15, & 22 and play for church on May 26.



Rainbow Ringers will rehearse on May 1 & 8 and play for church on May 12.

Happy Spring Everyone!

Sunshine Singers will continue to meet on Sunday mornings during the worship service. We will work on learning songs to pair with Sunday School lessons as well as work toward our Mother's Day performance on May 12. There will be no Sunshine Singers on April 28 for Compassion Sunday. Sunshine Singers will also continue to meet over the summer months, except during the outdoor worship services.



Miss Emma

Special Summer Music Needed

Our Worship & 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 gifts, please contact Kim Potter at 507-219-4573 to set up a date that works best for you.

Thanks!

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



- 1 Ozzie Earl
- 1 Sean Nelson
- 2 Joan Franklin
- 3 Joshua Merritt
- 6 Kay Scherer
- 7 Achol Obang
- 8 Zac Wilhelmi
- 10 Jim Jayes
- 10 Rachel Toland
- 10 Heather Wyatt
- 12 Jane Arhart
- 13 Julie Gray
- 13 Alice Osmonson
- 14 Todd Weaver
- 17 Stu 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
- 26 Aubrey Coordes
- 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 Sue 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 Gaskel - National Guard

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

Joe Carman (Grandson of Joe & Katherine Pacovsky) - National Guard



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.



Vera Duholm

March 16, 2024



Welcome Baby!

Eustace Roy Gaskill
February 17, 2024
21" & 7 lbs. 8 oz.
 Parents: Chrissy & Alan Gaskill

Congratulations!



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, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2

May Outing - May 22

We are looking forward to our Annual May Outing with a visit to **E&E Woodcrafts and Confections in Elma, Iowa**, to indulge in confections and shop for handmade items. **Please RSVP to Peggy Queensland** (507) 440-7557 so that we can ensure we have sufficient transportation. All women of the congregation and guests are welcome!

Summer Sisters - Let Us Know Your Thoughts!

If you've been yearning for a deeper 1-on-1 connection with another woman of faith, be sure to let us know if you'd like to participate in PWC's Summer Sister activity. You'll be paired at random with another Westminster woman for the summer to connect over coffee, lunch, and other summer activities to strengthen connections and nurture the bonds of friendship. We will be making a decision based on feedback at our May meeting.

Mission Giving Recap

We were pleased to donate \$4,400 to a variety of recipients: Rachel's Hope, LIFE-Mower County, Salvation Army Mower County, Parenting Resource Center, The Next Chapter, Crime Victims Center, WPC Food Pantry, Sierra Leone, United Way - Packer Pantry, ESL, Bright Lit House Sober Living, and Infant Layettes. Additional giving will be done in the fall.

Layette Project Benefiting Native American Reservation

We were thrilled with the response to our call for baby layette items! So many cute things for the wee ones were collected this spring, thanks to our

Westminster family! Our Synod person was overwhelmed and could barely see out of her car when she left!

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 - we are finishing up our study on *The Awe of God* by John Bevere before the summer break, with meetings planned on **Monday nights, with the last meeting on May 20th for the year**. Fellowship time with pizza begins at 5:30pm. Contact - Gloria Aanonson at (507) 438-7393.

Rebekah Daytime Bible Study - 9:30am in the Church Parlor the fourth Wednesday of months September - May. Everyone is welcome for this time of study and fellowship. Contact - Selene Schulz 507-438-3299

Spiff Up the Sanctuary Cleaning

We are planning a Spiff Up the Sanctuary Cleaning Day in June, after VBS concludes, to deep clean the Sanctuary. Volunteers are welcome! More information and signups to come!

The Circle of Compassion Committee serves bereaved families by coordinating lunches at Celebration of Life and Memorial Services. Contact Nanc Lenz (507-438-9771) with your willingness to assist.

(Continues on next page....)



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

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



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.

Annual Rummage Sale, October 4th & 5th

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 2024 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, and Peggy Queensland



Women of Sierra Leone

"Thank you Presbyterian Women for your generosity and donation this past year. It is because of you that we continue to improve the health and save lives of mothers and children in Sierra Leone. In fact, your gift has allowed for over 350 mothers to receive care at our Birth Waiting Homes in 2023, continue newborn health visits, and extend vital services for women and children at our Mobile Outreach Clinics. You are giving hope and an opportunity for these families to live long and health lives for years to come."



Church Directory

UPDATE



New addresses for:

Brenda Radloff & Stu Riemann

705 Marigold Dr.
Lady Lake, FL 32159

Landline discontinued:

Gloria & Leland Aanonson

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 2024 - 72 pounds

February 2024 - 41 pounds

March 2024 - 83 pounds

The Mission & Fellowship Committee



Ladies Luncheon

WPC FOOD PANTRY

Please continue to bring in **food products** to the church for our neighbors in need. **Cash donations** work as well to supplement the grocery money spent to continue to fill our Pantry twice weekly.

Thank you,
The Mission & Fellowship
Committee

LADIES OF WESTMINSTER

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 8th**, we will be celebrating those of us with birthdays in May, and on **June 12th**, 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!



2024 VBS & End-of Year-All-Church Picnic

Thursday, June 13th at
5:30pm

Hotdogs
Hamburgers
Coleslaw
Chips
Bars

Join in the fun as we celebrate together the ending of the school year and the end of VBS with our Annual End-of-Year-All-Church Picnic!
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.

Children and Youth Ministry

We appreciate our 2023-2024 Teachers, Youth Helpers, and Nursery Staff. Thank you!

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| ◆ Adah Baron | ◆ Jim Jayes | ◆ Angie Taylor |
| ◆ Jacey Baron | ◆ Emma Evans-Peck | ◆ Eva Taylor |
| ◆ Lenette Baron | ◆ Coleen Olmsted | ◆ Myles Taylor |
| ◆ Louise Berhow | ◆ Alice Osmonson | ◆ Greg Vortherms |
| ◆ Cyrene Berthiaume | ◆ Camille Osmonson | ◆ Sam Vortherms |
| ◆ Laura Carlson | ◆ Kalli & Emma Potter | ◆ Emily Wacholz |
| ◆ Richard Carlson | ◆ Ann Sundal | ◆ Caleb Wundermachen |
| ◆ Jake Hiegel | ◆ Lisa Tapp | ◆ Rev. Britt Wundermachen |

All of our teachers are invited down into the Children's Youth Ministry Wing on May 5th for a time of celebration and to receive a thank you from our kids!



Session News

Deacon News

Session News and Happenings from March and April

Your Session met on March 19th and on April 16th for our regularly called Session Meetings. Opening prayers and meditations on our calling to ministry were given by Rev. Wundermachen and Rev. Olmsted.

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: Vera Duholm (03/16/24 – Service led by Rev. Olmsted on 03/20/24).

The Lord's Supper was served in Worship on March 3rd, April 7th, March 27th (Symbolic Supper), March 28th (Maundy Thurs.), and in person on March 26th.

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

Nurture/Discipleship reported on a wonderful Easter EGGs-traordinary Adventure on Mar. 30th. They are planning for our 2024 VBS (6/10-6/14) and our High School Mission Trip (6/22-6/29 – Next Step Ministries in Colorado Springs). *Approval of the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering was given for March 24th.*

Personnel/Finance received and accepted the retirement of Dave Sundal as our Custodian. *Approved plans for a congregation campaign to pay for half of the Stained-Glass Window projected and using FF Funds for the remaining half. Approved the "Estate Planning and Christian Stewardship" Seminar for May 13th.*

Facilities/Grounds discussed electric work, air conditioning units (both for the facility and individuals' office units). Completed work on pews in sanctuary. *Approved the purchase of two new AE D Machines and KC Lawn mowing and spraying of our lawns.*

Worship/Outreach discussed the upcoming Spring Sermon Series on our Stained-Glass Windows. Recapped MNATC Sunday. Scheduled Movie Under the Stars for July 6th. Discussed Outdoor Worship (June 16th, July 21st, Aug. 18th). *Approved Compassion Sunday (Apr. 28th); NOROC Sunday (May 12th).*

Mission/Fellowship led the service for the MNATC Meal and the serving of cake for the Schulz's (Mar.) and the Sundal Celebrations (4/14). Will be serving Cake Celebrations on May 19th, May 26th, June 2nd, and June 16th. Helping to plan the NOROC Sunday (May 12th). Distributed \$7,500 in Mission Monies.

March and April Treasurer's Report from Church Co-Treasurers, Bill Momsen and Eric Potter were approved. Quarterly Special Accounts Report from Special Accounts Treasurer Cindy Jayes was approved. The preaching of Rev. Kristen Harris (NOROC Mission Coordinator) on May 12th was approved.

Our meetings were closed with prayer by Rev. Wundermachen, and the Doxology was sung.

March

We opened our meeting with the first two sessions of our officer training theme, Jesus Makes Sense: Reaching Out and Reaching In to Share Christ with our 5 Senses. We talked about touch and taste. There are many stories in which we see Jesus reach and touch, and of course, there is a tradition in the church of the laying on of hands. We are a community people, and touch is important. We also talked about taste and read from Jeremiah. We have to consume God's words and put them into action in our lives as they are a pleasing taste and will guide us always.

We discussed our Care List and Hospitalization Sheet to make sure we reached out to those who had surgeries or procedures done and that we had reached out with a follow-up or meal offer.

Our Meal Ministry was able to bring meals to 3 families. We also talked about the Deacon Lenten Supper to make sure we had everything prepared for our chicken and rice casserole. Our Communion Ministry made sure to be prepared for Maundy Thursday. We also took volunteers for Deacons to serve at the Salvation Army on Thursday March 14th.

We closed our meeting in prayer.

April

We opened with the third session of our officer training theme, Jesus Makes Sense: Reaching Out and Reaching In to Share Christ with our 5 senses. This month, we talked about smell and being a pleasing aroma to our God through words and actions. What we do, how we act, and what we say matters in God's eyes. We must be aware of the times in which we are an unpleasing or a pleasing aroma and to hopefully do the latter more often as we follow after our God.

Following this, we discussed our Care List and Hospitalization Sheet to make sure we reached out to those who had surgeries or procedures done and that we had reached out with a follow-up or meal offer.

In Committee discussions, we assigned deacons to find greeters through June. Our Meal Ministry was able to bring 9 meals to people. Our Witness Ministry will be hard at work putting together the Witness you are currently reading this month. Our Communion Ministry made sure to prepare communion for April 7th.

We closed our meeting in prayer.



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

Interested in volunteering in our Church Office?

Cindy Jayes, our Office Administrator, is looking for some help while she is on vacation May 16th - 24th. We would need help answering phones on May 16th, 20, 21, 22, and 23rd between 9-12 and 12-3. Give her a call if you can help at 507-433-3258. Thank you!!

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 2024 is \$38.50 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/westminsteraustinmn

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.

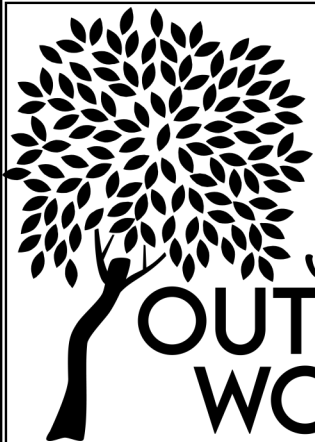
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUEST

May/June 2024



Join Us for
**OUTDOOR
WORSHIP**

Outdoor Summer Sunday Morning Worship

WPC's Front Lawn (east)

June 16th, July 21st, & August 18th

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

This Summer we are going outside again on the 3rd Sundays of the Month!! We will be outside at the edge of our 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 coffee mugs, and 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!