

WESTMINSTER WITNESS

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2022

"GROWING IN FAITH, REACHING OUT IN LOVE"

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR BRITT



It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs." (1 Corinthians 13:5)

Love forgives. Isn't that the heart of the message we have in the Gospel, that through Jesus Christ we are forgiven? I remember sitting in the pews as a teenager, and while I don't remember all of the different prayers of confession we might have recited over the years, the assurance of pardon's refrain, 'through Jesus Christ we are forgiven' still echoes in my ears.

As I read these words from 1 Corinthians 13:5, I am reminded of how love forgives. This famous passage we know as the "love" passage is often read at weddings. They hold a beautiful vision of what this covenant life is like. Yet, often it can feel like we fall short in these areas. I look at each of these four examples of what love is not in this passage and am reminded of how I have not lived into that in some way over the years. I

especially am condemned by that last part, "it keeps no record of wrongs."

As a society, we can want things to be fair; we'll hold onto past grudges because we don't feel like we've received justice when we've been wronged; we'll tally up the ways someone has wronged us, and even after they've apologized, we still might not give it up. Imagine how exhausting this is for our hearts and souls, to focus on these hurts that have been heaped upon us over the years.

But then as we approach this Advent Season, we see how Love reaches down. God came as this helpless child. God, the only one who can really claim being wronged, keeps no records of our wrongs. He came down to love us, to forgive us, and to save us. It's a blessing that our Creator shows love in this way.

None of us are perfect, but we can certainly strive to live out the love that God has shown us. Especially as we pray it every week in church during the Lord's Prayer, "forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." God forgives us freely and abundantly, his love can be a powerful force in our lives. When we really internalize that he forgives, we are more freely able to forgive others, thus sharing God's love.

*God Bless,
Pastor Britt*

Love Gives

Use these scriptures each week to focus on our theme.

Our Time

Luke 5:1-11

Ephesians 5:15-16

Ecclesiastes 3:1-5

Our Hearts

Luke 10:38-42

Matthew 6:19-21

Micah 6:6-8

Our Resources

Luke 12:13-21

Matthew 7:24-27

Malachi 3:10-12

Our Life

Luke 14:25-35

Romans 12:1-2

Ruth 1:16-18

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L.I.F.T. Youth Ministries

Confirmation

- November 7—Confirmation
- November 13—In-gathering Sunday (No Class) Chili Cook off
- November 20—Final Confirmation of 2022
- November 27—Pageant Rehearsals start
- December 4— Pageant Rehearsal
- December 11—Pageant Rehearsal
- December 18—Pageant and Potluck

LIFT Youth Ministries

- Nov 2—5:30-7:30
- Nov 9—5:30-7:30
- Nov 16—6:00-7:30
- Nov. 23 —NO MEETING (Thanksgiving)
- Nov. 30—Pageant Rehearsal 5:30-7
- Dec. 7—Pageant Dress Rehearsal 5:30-7
- Dec. 14—Pageant Dress Rehearsal 5:30-7



Pageant Rehearsal

L.I.F.T. Youth Ministries
CHRISTMAS PARTY



Join us on **Wednesday, December 21st from 6:00-7:30** for our Christmas Party! Bring a friend!

We will have dinner, games, caroling, and a white elephant. RSVP with Pastor Britt

Ice Skating

ICE SKATING

Join us for an afternoon of and hot chocolate in Rochester!



When: **TBD**



We're already planning our 2023 Mission Trip! This summer we're headed out to Milwaukee,

WI from July 16-22. Sign up now! We are also looking for adult chaperones. Talk to Pastor Britt for more details.

Youth Sunday

You all did such a wonderful job in our Youth Sunday. The music was wonderful and everybody loved your singing and the sermons you preached. You should be proud of yourselves and we look forward to you sharing more of your talents in the future.





Adventurer's Club

A Ministry Group for
2nd—5th graders

November 13
Sunday 2-3:30 pm
Attitude of Gratitude
Service Projects



December 4
Sunday 2-3:30 pm
Christmas Party
Treasure Hunt

Salvation Army Angel Tree Game, Puzzle, and Stocking Stuffer Drive

Beginning November 6th, donate new, unwrapped family games, puzzles, and stocking stuffers for newborn through 16 years old.

**Return your gift to the tree by
December 4th.**



(Christmas Tree in the Narthex)

There will be no Sunday School as we prepare for our Christmas Pageant— Cookin' Up Christmas. Our Nov. and Dec. pageant rehearsal schedule is:

Sunday, Nov. 6	10:45-11:45 am Pageant Rehearsal in the Music Room	Ages 3-5th grade
Wednesday, Nov. 9	5:30-6 pm Pageant Rehearsal in the Music Room	All ages
Sunday, Nov.13	No Rehearsal—All Church Chili-Cook-Off	
Wednesday, Nov.16	5:30-6 pm Pageant Rehearsal in the Music Room	All ages
Sunday, Nov.20	10:45-11:45 am Pageant Rehearsal in the Music Room	Ages 3-5th grade
Wednesday, Nov. 23	No Rehearsal—Thanksgiving Break	
Sunday, Nov.27	10:45-11:45 am Pageant Rehearsal	All ages
Wednesday, Nov. 30	5:30-7 pm Dinner/Rehearsal in the Sanctuary	All ages
Sunday, Dec. 4	10:45-11:45 am Pageant Rehearsal in the Sanctuary	All ages
Wednesday, Dec. 7	5:30-7 pm Dinner/Dress Rehearsal in the Sanctuary	All ages
Sunday, Dec. 11	Preview: Meet in Sanctuary at 9 am & 10:45-11:45 am Dress Rehearsal	All ages
Wed, Dec. 14	5:30-7 pm Dinner/ Dress Rehearsal	All ages
Sunday, Dec.18	Pageant! Meet in Music Room at 8:30 am	ALL



Stewardship 2023 – Love Gives...

This year, our Stewardship Campaign – *Loves Gives* explores how, as believers, we can give of God’s abundance with our time, our hearts, our resources, and our lives. Join us as we explore how we as individuals of faith and we as the body of Christ can manage God’s grace and give his love. We will learn how our faithful giving not only supports our congregation but also helps transform our community and our world through God’s love. Stop by our Stewardship Table to pick up a Pledge Card today so we can see how Love Gives!

And as a new twist, we are challenging our congregation to Hang \$10 on someone or something during this four-week campaign. Come by our table or speak with one of the Pastors and learn more about this as we challenge you to give out God’s blessings to others.



Pastor Appreciation Sunday

November 6th will be Pastor Appreciation Sunday. During the service, we will honor our Pastors. This is an opportunity for all of us to show our love and appreciation to our beloved ministers. We are so blessed to have Pastor Mike Olmsted and Pastor Britt Wundermachen guiding us on our faith journeys. They lead us with compassion, friendship, and always good humor. A light breakfast of breads & fruit will be served following the service, and a basket will be out for cards to show your appreciation of our pastors.



CHILI COOK-OFF

**In-Gathering Event
Sunday, November 13th**

We will be hosting our 5th Annual Chili Cook-Off/Feed!

Bring your best chili recipe in a large crockpot to share. We will have small cups to taste test. Try 1, 2, or all, and then choose your favorite chilis. Best chili wins a prize! Don't want to cook? Just come and enjoy the varieties of chili. Plan your chili recipe and sign up in the Fellowship Hall ASAP or call the church office. Let us know what kind you are bringing (spicy, veggie, gluten-free, poultry, venison, chocolate, etc.)

Worship & Outreach will be providing all of the condiments (*sour cream, cheese, cilantro, onions, and corn chips*)

After the tasting, sit down and enjoy a bowlful of chili and homemade cornbread in the Fellowship Hall!

Contestants may only provide their chili in order to keep things fair.

We invite all of our Veterans to wear their military hats to worship on November 13th as we will be honoring and thanking each of you for your service to our country. THANK YOU!



Music News

Chancel Choir & Westminster Strings

The Chancel Choir will be singing on the first two Sundays in November; the 6th and the 13th. We will be rehearsing on the Wednesday right before, Nov. 2 and 9. We could use a few more singers, particularly lady singers! In Dec. we will be singing on the 4th and 11th with Wed. rehearsals right before. Remember, even if you have to miss the Wednesday, its still possible for you to sing on Sunday. We meet for a warm-up rehearsal at 8:45 on Sunday. We will also be doing the Christmas Eve service on Saturday, the 24th. It will include strings playing the prelude music. If you are interested in joining that group please contact me! Sue Radloff



Rainbow Ringers

Rehearsals are on Wednesdays: Nov. 2, 9, 16, 30 & Dec. 7 at 4:45. Play for church on Sunday, Dec.11. They will have the rest of December off.



Spirit Ringers

Rehearsals are every Wednesday at 6:15. Play for church on Nov. 27 & Dec. 25



Sue Radloff - Chancel Choir & Westminster Strings Director -
fiddlesue@yahoo.com
Lorene Strobel - Ascending Truth Director -
507-279-0786
Ann Flisrand - Rainbow & Spirit Ringers Director -
ann44flis@charter.net
Emma Evans-Peck - Sunshine Singers Director -
e.evanspeck@westminsteraustin.com



The Sunshine Singers are in the swing again with Sunday morning rehearsals (10:00am) and Wednesday evening rehearsals (5:30pm). They will be performing the Introit on November 20. Starting November 6th at 10:45am, the Sunshine Singers will be starting to focus on 2022 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

MUSIC! This year, the pageant is called "Cookin' up Christmas" and involves a variety of songs (new and classic) to help celebrate the season and worship God. All youth ages 3 years-12th grade are invited to be a part of this pageant.

If you have questions please contact Ms. Emma at
e.evanspeck@westminsteraustin.com



- 1 Emma Baldus
- 1 Clarissa Madden
- 3 Jaysin Julios
- 5 Richard Flisrand
- 5 Randy Levai
- 6 Harper Braaten
- 7 Tristan Lund
- 8 Scott Wermager
- 11 Dayle Wedeking
- 12 Seth Clasen
- 12 Pam deLeon
- 13 Jecenta Levai
- 13 Duane Olson
- 14 Brooke Fisch
- 14 Robert Rayman
- 14 Charles Schindler
- 14 Joseph Walker
- 15 Lorelei Gerhart
- 16 Robin Weaver
- 17 Kent Simonson
- 17 Jill Wedeking
- 23 Paula Decker
- 23 Paul Mueller
- 24 Bryce Gerber
- 25 Grant Baron
- 26 Terren Baker
- 27 Andrew Bridgeman
- 30 Isaac Dahmen
- 30 Emily Wacholz
- 30 Jeremy Olmsted

- 2 Christine Hiegel
- 2 Lexi Gerber
- 10 David Diang
- 11 Ashlyn Bires
- 11 Emma Evans-Peck
- 11 Josh Jones
- 14 Myles Taylor
- 15 Randy Godfredson
- 17 Matthew Mueller
- 20 Robert Rice
- 20 JoAnn Strey
- 22 Susan Stoullil
- 22 Benjamin Walker
- 23 Payton Nelson
- 23 Andrew Sundal
- 29 Landon Hatleli
- 29 Annika Nelson
- 30 Amanda Forslund
- 30 Mark Munro
- 30 Leo Taylor
- 31 Ava Sorenson
- 31 Greg Vortherms

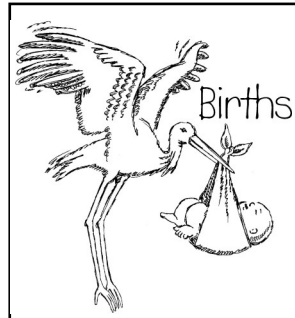
If you or someone in your family has a birthday in November or December and it is NOT listed, that means the church office doesn't have your birth date. If it is incorrectly listed or missing, please contact the church office so we can update our church records.



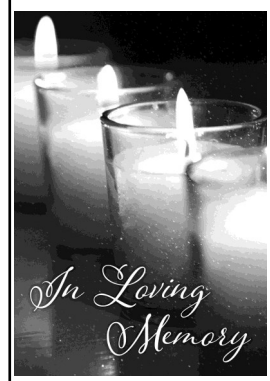
- Alex Charlson
(Jacky Dietz's great-nephew) -
Army
- Seth Clasen -
Army
- Bryce Gerber -
Marines

- 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.



Kayden Ndeh Levai
August 23, 2022
Parents:
Christopher & Jacenta
Levai



- Dona Ziegler*
September 10, 2022
- Marvella Sydenstricker*
September 16, 2022
- Yvonne Tedrow*
September 16, 2022
- Lorimer Nelson*
September 25, 2022



Christmas at Westminster

The Advent season brings many ways to celebrate the birth of Jesus. It's a great time to invite family and friends to join in the celebration at Westminster. The enclosed insert can be shared with others as an open invitation to experience the joy of Christmas at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Invite Someone to Worship

Blue Christmas Worship Service **Sunday, Dec. 18th @ 5pm**

The Christmas Season brings with it excitement and joy for many. However, we also acknowledge that this time may be difficult for those who have experienced loss, are living through discouragement, or are feeling alone.

This year, we are once again offering a 'Blue Christmas' Worship Service for those who are seeking a quiet space that can bring hope, comfort, and healing to their lives. This service is open to our congregation and our community and will focus on being restored and renewed by the Light of Christ. There will be reflective holy music, personal and corporate prayers, meditations, and opportunities for all to quiet themselves before the Babe in the Manger.

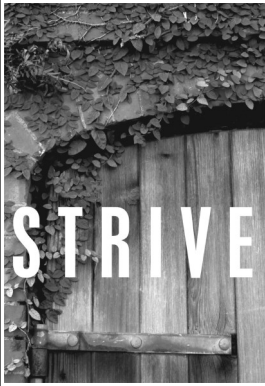
Please join us for this unique opportunity to worship this Advent Season.



Advent Devotionals will be available mid November in our Narthex. Our theme this Advent Season is "Love Reaches Down" The devotionals are by members of our own congregation.

Watch the bulletin for more details.





Strive Ministries (For Young Singles, Couples, and Families late 20s to early 50s)

Join us this Fall for fellowship, study, and great times as we reengage with this wonderful ministry. Our Men's Strive and Women's Strive Bible

Studies will be paralleling each other as we study "Live Rich Without Money" by Christian Comedian and Speaker Phil Callaway. Both groups will meet in the Youth Room at 7:00pm, and light snacks will be provided. Check out our schedule for the rest of the year:

Men's Strive - Nov. 21st; Dec. 5th

Women's Strive – Nov.28th; Dec. 12th

Also be on the lookout for a new 6-week Strive Study called 'Relatable' by Louie Giglio starting some time in January.



Our Alive! Fellowship (ages 55 and beyond) had a wonderful Bonfire & Potluck on October 15th with about 40 people participating! Thank you to Pete & Betsy Wuebker for hosting it at their farm! The next Alive! get together will be in January for a Winter Warmup Potluck and Game Night. Stay tuned for the date!

Find your age group and join in the fun!



Thanks for our New Kitchen

Door Portico:

Leland Aanonson

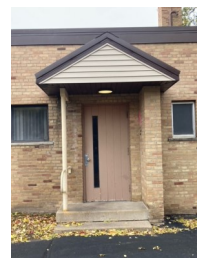
Gary Ofstedahl

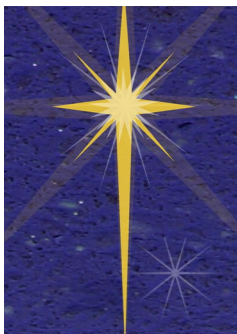
Rollie Hanson

Bill Momsen

Dave Rasmussen

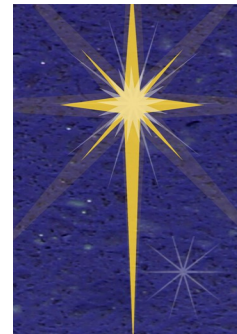
Check out the beautiful job these gentlemen did!





Festival of the Nativities

Hosted by Westminster Presbyterian Church



Friday, December 2, 4-8 p.m.
Saturday, December 3, 4-8 p.m.

Excitement is building for the Fourth Festival of the Nativities celebration. The event is an ecumenical and FREE "gift" to everyone in the community. It is a time to reflect on baby Jesus – a "Holy birth one Holy night so long ago."

Celebrate through sacred Christmas music, scripture, fellowship, and lighted displays of nativity sets.



The Festival needs help from all of you.

There are many preparation steps and something each one of you can do.

Please review the list below
and make a commitment to be part of the celebration.



- ◆ Loan nativity set (s):
- ◆ Volunteers to assist with setting up the nativity display. Set-up hours will be Monday, November 29 through Thurs. Dec. 2. Hours generally are from 9am-2pm. Other times may be arranged by contacting Gloria;
- ◆ Volunteer to Bake Cookies, pending best practices for health safety;
- ◆ Volunteer to preside over an area or room during the festival to protect the safety of the display, greet the guest, and answer questions (information sheets will again be available for each area/room);
- ◆ INVITE ALL YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS and COWORKERS, STRANGERS, AND EVEN ENEMIES!

Pray for God to guide us to provide an inspirational gift to our community this Advent Season, celebrating His gift to us – the birth of Jesus who brought us love, grace, and peace.

Registration & Supply drop off

Sunday, November 28 , 11:00am-1:00 pm

Monday, November 29, noon-2:00 pm

Pick Up Your Loaned Items

Saturday, December 4, 8:30 pm-10:00 pm

Sunday, December 5, 11:30 am- 2:00 pm

Monday December 6, Noon - 2pm

Festival Contacts

Coordinator: Gloria Aanonson (507-438-7393) g.aanonson@gmail.com

Publicity: Eric Potter (507-433-3258) secretary2@westminsteraustin.com

Music: Ann Flisrand (507-438-4079) annflis44@charter.net

Refreshments: Amanda Gilbert (507-219-4573) amandagilbert@gmail.com

Greeters & Monitors:

Layout & Design: Gloria Aanonson (507-438-7393) g.aanonson@gmail.com





PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



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

MEGA THANKS to everyone who helped with the 2022 Rummage Sale! The donations were over the top! Westminster is blessed with so many faithful and willing volunteers to help as needed – spreading the word through publicity and social media; moving equipment and furniture; providing morning treats and lunches; sorting, arranging, creating a safe and inviting shopping environment; preparing a delicious luncheon; greeting and helping shoppers; packing and cleaning up - WOW! It was amazing, and the results were the best ever with proceeds over \$5,488.00 for missions. Watch for the list of Missions receiving funds on the PWC bulletin board and in the PWC Annual Report.

The Rummage Sale continues to be a valued services to the Community as people in need can find quality items at very reasonable prices. In addition to all the shoppers benefiting, the leftover items are donated to the following agencies:

- Poor condition clothing and shoes – The Green Space
- Men & Women's clothing and shoes – Veteran's Administration
- Children and youth clothing – Rachel's Hope, Packer Pantry, Salvation Army & Savers
- Pet Supplies and worn linens – Mower County Humane Society
- Selected Books – Mower County Jail
- Everything else – Second Act, Mower County Horticulture Society, Hardy Geranium, Salvation Army, Epileptic Society, and Savers

The Presbyterian Women of Presbytery - Twin Cities Area (PWP TCA) held it's first Gathering, since the covid shut-down on October 1. Due to the Rummage Sale, we were unable to attend. However, our Mission Projects from the last two years were able to be delivered by our PW friends from Rochester. We give thanks and praise that 61 little girl dresses and 26 girl's hygiene kits (made during the covid years) are finally on their way Sierra Leone.

At the request of the Summer Sister participants, a new PWC SISTER option is beginning the end of October. All ladies of the congregation are invited to participate in the "*Secret Sister - Shhh*" Program. Participation is voluntary. You may join in the fun by completing a registration form, putting it in an envelope; decorating the outside of the envelope; bringing

it to church; hanging it *secretly* on the "*Secret Sister - Shhh*" tree in the Parlor. Registration runs beginning **NOW - November 6th**.

On Sunday, November 6th, we will meet in the Parlor to select an envelope. The fun begins, and for the next **6 weeks**, you will *secretly* send your sister notes, cards, small gifts through the mail or by hanging them on the Parlor tree. The fun continues until **December 18** when we will once again meet in the Parlor for the Secret Sister Reveal. Dates and times will be noted in the Sunday Bulletin and appear on the information page. The **overall spending limit is \$30.00**. Please honor the spending limit so it is fair and affordable by all.

The PWC Christmas Party will be December 14th for a noon salad luncheon. Plan to join us to CELEBRATE a joyous 2022 in person year. Make your reservation by signing up on the PW bulletin board in the Parlor. Plan to stay for the Annual Meeting and Installation of 2023 Coordinating Team.

Grace & Peace,

Gloria Aanonson, Co-Moderator





PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



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

Austin Public Schools Lunch-Tray Project

To qualify for the Free- and Reduced-Price Lunch program, families need to fall into specific income guidelines. To put this into perspective, a single parent with one child must gross less than \$2525 per month to qualify for free or reduced priced meals. That number is before taxes, insurance, transportation, housing, and all other life expenses that are accounted for. It is easy to see how school lunch money can become overwhelming. In Austin, there are a number of families whose income puts them outside these guidelines, but by such a small amount that paying for lunches is still a challenge.

To address this need, the Food & Nutrition Department at Austin Public Schools has launched the Lunch Tray Project, where interested citizens, businesses, and other entities can donate money to help pay for a year of lunches for students whose families fall into this group. Those families we are hoping to help are working families who, more than likely, do not qualify for any supportive services. They are families to whom this would be appreciated as a "helping hand," one which would take one worry off their plate.

An average year of lunches cost \$450 per student. Each year, there are approximately 20-40 children who would be helped by this program. All money raised will go directly into student accounts, as there is no extra cost to administer this program.

We know that having healthy meals improves academic success for students. Austin is part of a program that allows us to provide all students with breakfast at no charge for this very reason. Now we're hoping to help families whose income puts them just outside the guidelines to provide their students with healthy lunches as well.



*Save your change for
the Money Jar!*

THE PENNY JAR – located in Fellowship Hall

Coins are still being collected. An anonymous person will match what is in the jar up to \$300.00. Please continue to bring in your coins so we can make good use of this opportunity. Of course, PWC has already committed to match the amount in the Penny Jar. Look how many kids we can help with our loose change.

Thank you!

**PWC Christmas
and the End-of-the-Year
Celebration**

All Women are welcome to come to the PWC Christmas and the End-of-the-Year Celebration on Wednesday, December 14th. Come at 11:45 to enjoy Christmas music and visit over a cup of hot apple cider punch. After lunch, yearbooks will be distributed, and officers for 2023 will be installed.





Church Directory

UPDATE



*New phone numbers for:
Joan & Daryl Franklin (F)
Home - 651-388-4586 or cell
507-279-4527*

*New apartment number:
Vera Duholm
#121*

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 canceled 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 canceled.

*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 or the church answering machine for church closings.



*She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.
Proverbs 31:20*

SALVATION ARMY CEREAL CART

Thanks everyone for being so generous and keeping our commitment to furnish cereal for the Salvation Army cereal shelf. Please remember to continue bringing cereal when you can as the winter months can be very hard. The Austin community needs our help.

- 2022 Deliveries -
- January - 82 pounds
- February - 62 pounds
- March: 40 pounds
- June/July: 64 pounds
- August/September: 47 pounds
- Year-to-date total: 365 pounds

Thank you.

Many thanks to all who helped out in our Church Office during Cindy Jayes' recovery from hip surgery. We appreciate you so much!



WPC FOOD PANTRY

Please continue to bring in boxed food products to the church office that will keep outside in the below-freezing weather for our neighbors.

Don't forget the time change on November 5th.

Time to get that extra hour of sleep!



Thank you to Nanc Lenz, Selene Schulz, Terry Briggs, Pam deLeon, & Karen Krachmer for helping in our Church Office while Cindy Jayes was away on vacation in September. You are all so appreciated!!
Pastor Mike, Pastor Britt, Laura, Cindy, & Eric

Session News

Session News & Happenings from September and October.

Your Session met in person on September 20th and October 18th. The meetings were opened with devotions and prayers from Pastor Olmsted. Below are the discussions and actions of Session that took place at our Sept. and Oct. Meetings:

Items Approved in our Clerk's Report:

Baptisms Requests: Rapha Ngi & Kayden Levai (11/13/22); Baptisms Performed: D'Anna Hastings (9/25/22) & Harrison Nordean (10/23/22); Weddings Performed: Bridgeman (10/1/22) & Toland (10/16/22); Deaths: Dona Ziegler (9/10/22), Marvella Sydenstricker (9/16/22), Yvonne Tedrow (9/16/22), & Lorimer Nelson(9/25/22); Membership: D'Anna Hastings & Emily Grace Toland; Lord's Supper was served collectively on 9/4/22 & 10/2/22.

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

Personnel/Finance Discussed the forming of an Ad Hoc Committee to handle the Hocker Funds. Also presented the Stewardship Campaign for discussion. Approved the following actions: *WPC Employee Classification Sheet for the Manual of Operations, Passing of the Offering Plates beginning in Sept., creation of an Ad Hoc Committee to manage the Hocker Funds, the 'Hang \$10' Stewardship Challenge*

Facilities/Grounds Working on water condition of toilets and sinks with Harty Mechanical and waiting for our new phones to come in. *Approved and completed the refurbishment of the Kitchen Overhang. Received Session approval to develop plans and to begin receiving bids for the construction of a 2 Stall Garage on property.*

Worship/Outreach: Discussed the upcoming Chili Cook-Off and Festival of the Nativities. *Session reversed a previous approval and voted to continue have people come forward for Communion; approved the purchasing of a 2nd Sanctuary Camera and the development of a Supplemental Contemporary Hymnal.*

Mission/Fellowship: Session approved their request for increasing 2023 Mission Budget to \$40,000 (funds will be taken from Hocker Fund) *Approved these allocations: MNA/TC - \$800; Real Hope for the Hungry &1,000; YWAM – Vanessa Krell \$500; United Way Coat Drive \$500; PDA Hurricane Ian \$800; World Mission – Trevin & Ruthie Hoot \$500; Youth For Christ \$800.*

Nurture/Discipleship: Discussed Fall Ministries and began planning for Candy Caravan (10/31) and Christmas Pageant (12/18).

Session voted on and approved the following: Approved the Aug. & Sept. Treasurer's Report as well as the May-August Special Accounts Report. Meetings was closed with prayer by Pastor Wundermachen and the singing of the Doxology.

Deacon News

September

We opened our meeting with a Devotional from *You are the Beloved* by Henri Nouwen. We read about how *God is Mercy*. We see that we have to turn our hearts toward God remembers his mercy for us and sharing that with others. We need to let God love others through us.

We continued our meeting by preparing for Celebration Sunday which would be highlighting the Deacons. We chose people who would do 1. The Minute for Mission 2. Who would oversee the Care Group Bulletin Board, and 3. we worked on creating talking sheets for the Deacons to help teach people about what Deacons do.

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 December. Our Meal Ministry were able to bring 2 meals to people and a few names were suggested about other people who could use some meals.

We closed our meeting in prayer.

October

We opened our meeting with reading from the Devotional *You are the Beloved* by Henri Nouwen. The Devotion talked about "The Freedom of the Children of God" and we were reminded of how God's love strengthens and empowers us and that nothing can separate us from that, no matter how chaotic the world can be.

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, securing greeters for the next few months. Our Meal Ministry Team is doing well and were able to deliver 7 meals this month. We always reflect on those that might be able to use a meal after a surgery, procedure, birth, death, or through other illness.

Our Communion Preparation 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.

This month, we heard from Betsy about a small booklet of scriptures that our Deacons can use as a resource for those who are sick. It is called *God's Creative Power for Healing*, by Charles Capps. It is filled with scriptures that people can pray regarding illnesses they might have. We want to empower our Deacons to help others with fruitful resources.

We closed our meeting in prayer.



Did you know 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



Detailed instructions on how to give online are available on the welcome table. Any questions, stop in the church office.

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 2022 is \$36.50 per member.**

Staff Email Addresses

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Westminster Website

www.westminsteraustin.com

www.facebook.com/westminsteraustinmn



HAPPY
New Year

Praise be to his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory.

Psalms 72:19, NIV



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

Church Phone
507-433-3258

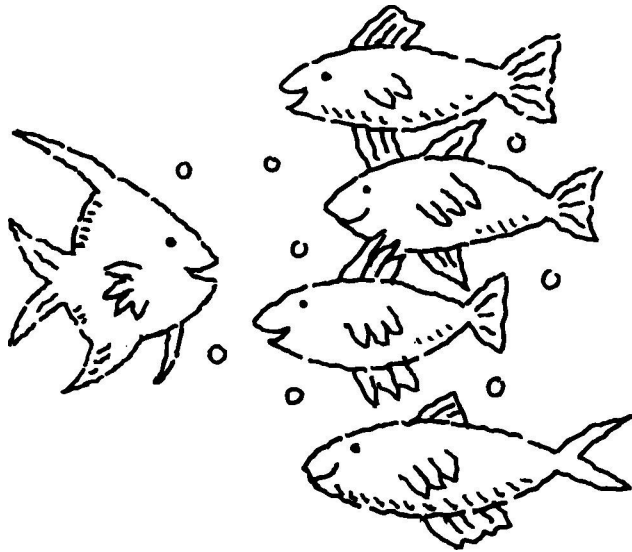


CHURCH WEBSITE

Do you want to see a colored copy of the Witness? Did you miss a sermon or want to hear one again? 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 website.** You can now find past and current issues of the Witness. All sermons are posted for your listening pleasure. 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.





NEW Member Class

*FYI - New Member Class starting in February!
Look for further bulletin announcements as well as the
January/February Witness!*

May your Christmas be filled with joy and gratitude because of all that Christ has given you. God gave His greatest gift to us on that first Christmas day, and may the wonder of it always guide and light your way. May you have the gift of faith, the blessing of hope, and the peace of His love at Christmas and always.

As a church staff, we are so grateful for your prayers, encouragement, and support.



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS
& HAPPY
NEW YEAR**

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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Austin, MN 55912

CHANGE SERVICE REQUEST

+

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November/December 2022

POINSETTIAS ORDER FORM

Christmas is a special time of joy. To celebrate Christmas, let us bring the beauty into our Sanctuary. Complete this order form and leave it in the church office with your donation. Thank you!

Suggested donation per poinsettia is \$20.00.



Poinsettia Orders

Name: _____

In Memory

of: _____

Or

In Honor

of: _____

Number of Poinsettias: _____ Amount: _____ (include with order please)

Yes, I will pick up _____ or No, I will not pick up _____

*Poinsettias can be picked up after the Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve.

ORDER DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 11th