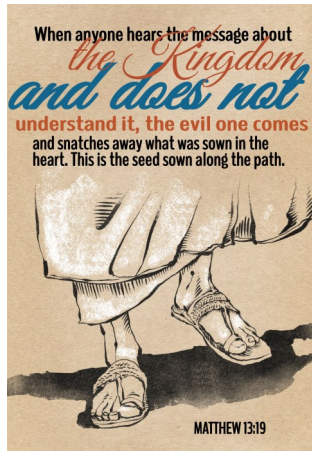


WESTMINSTER WITNESS

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023

"GROWING IN FAITH, REACHING OUT IN LOVE"

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR BRITT



Matthew 13:19 "When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path."

This is a passage I have wrestled with at various times, but the more you read it, the more your perspective can change. There are many things I don't understand, and so originally when I read this, I would be disheartened. It was saying to me that my lack of understanding was going to lead to "the evil one snatching away what was sown" in my heart. How terrible! But I know God wouldn't be that harsh. Our God is a God of love, and so that word "understands" must be something a little different than what I originally thought.

Then I looked to another of the words in that passage, "hears." When I focus on that, it changes. In our world today, we "hear" a lot. We take in so much information on a daily basis. Whether it is from radio, television, newspapers, books, or social media. We are constantly being bombarded with messages of the world. What we do with these messages will shape the trajectory of our lives. Do we accept them without any examination of their source or truthfulness? If so, then we are being blown about, grasping onto

every new thing we hear. Do we ignore them completely? Then we might become misinformed and unwilling to change or adapt. Do we try to understand them and incorporate them into our lives? God sows his words in our hearts, but we must respond. We must take these words and understand that we are beloved, that we are saved, and that the good news must be spread.

Knowing we are beloved by God will change everything about how we live. Hearing this message and taking it to heart will affect how we act and what we say. It will lead us to greater understanding and growth in our own lives as we know how God has impacted us and led us into victory. But if we don't respond, if we don't seek to understand how God is working, then it will be as the passage says, "the evil one takes away the seed that was sown."

In a month, we will be heading into the Advent Season. We will be hearing the message of Jesus' birth. We will read scriptures and see how people sought him out, although we don't need to wait for Advent to know that the seed has already been sown in our heart. What we need to do is make sure that the seed God planted is being nourished. We need to make sure that we are responding to God's message.

As we continue on this journey, let us open our hearts to God's word. Let us be transformed by his love and mercy, and let us share his love with others.

God Bless,

Pastor Britt

Stewardship 2024

'True Wealth'

Use these scripture's each week to focus on our theme.

U-Turns Allowed

Ecc. 6:1-12

John 12: 20-28

2 Cor. 5:16-21

Speed Bumps Ahead

Ecc. 7:11-20

Philippians 4:10-13

1 Cor. 1:26-30

Oncoming Traffic

Ecc. 8:1-10; 16-17

Galatians 6:7-10

James 3:13-17

Is Life a Dead End?

Ecc. 9:1-12

John 11:25-26; 38-44

1 Thess. 4:13-17

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Youth News	2
Children's Ministry News	3
Chili Cook-Off, Veterans, Pastor Appreciation, Stewardship	4
Music News	5
Birthdays, Serving, Deaths, & Births	6
Advent, Blue Christmas & Advent Devotional Info, & Staff Message	7
Strive, Alive!, Prayer Shawl & Faithful Families	8
PWC News	9-10
Session & Deacon News	11
Office News, Thanks, & Cereal Cart	12-13
Nov./Dec. Calendars	
Advent Invitation	





LIFT Christmas Party



Join us on Wednesday, December 20th at 6:00 pm for our LIFT Christmas Party. We'll unwrap presents, play games, and have a fun time eating and fellowshiping.

Caroling at South Grove

Join us on Saturday, December 9th to go caroling to the residents at South Grove Living Lodge. Let's get together and share God's love and our voices with our neighbors. Meet at the church at 1pm, and we'll head on over. We'll also enjoy snacks with the residents.

We are changing things up a bit. Confirmation is now only for 8th grade students. You'll have a chance to delve deeper into your faith and prepare for membership. During the Fall, we will be meeting 1x/month on Sunday afternoons.

November 12 (2:00-4:00pm)
December 10 (2:00-4:00pm)

*** While there is no confirmation on Sunday mornings, we will be having 6th-12th grade Sunday School.

Wednesday Night LIFT


LIFT Youth Ministries is continuing on **Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:30 pm (unless otherwise noted).**

We will eat dinner, play games, and study God's word. We look forward to seeing you and hope you will bring a friend or two!

Nov. 1—Sharing the Good News
Nov. 8—Sharing the Good News
Nov. 15—Sharing the Good News
Nov. 22—NO MEETING (Thanksgiving)
Nov. 29—Pageant Rehearsal **(5:30-7:00)**
Dec. 6—Pageant Dress Rehearsal **(5:30-7:00)**
Dec. 13—Pageant Dress Rehearsal **(5:30-7:00)**
Dec. 20—LIFT Christmas Party

***NEW* LIFT Sunday School**

Nov. 5—Fruits of the Spirit (part 4)
Nov. 12—Chili Cook Off (NO CLASS)
Nov. 19—Review
Nov. 26—Pageant Practice
Dec. 3—Pageant Practice
Dec. 10—Pageant Practice
Dec. 17—Pageant & Potluck (NO CLASS)




No more Sunday School until January 7th

Christmas Pageant

The Christmas Pageant is quickly coming up. We're seeking all you thespians out there to come on out and help make this a wonderful pageant. On Nov. 1, 8, and 15th we'll begin practicing the music from 5:30-6:00 (before LIFT), and then, Pageant Practice will replace LIFT for the remaining sessions.

Adventurer’s Club
 Sunday, November 19
 2-3:30 pm
 Medieval Feast &
 The Reformation



Adventurer’s Club & Faithful Families
 Saturday, December 9 from 1-3 pm
 Christmas Caroling at South
 Grove Lodge.
 Meet at church. Come join us in
 song! Spread some cheer!



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

Beginning November 12th, donate new,
 unwrapped family games,
 puzzles, and stocking stuffers for newborn
 through 16 years olds.
 Return your gift
 to the tree by
 December 3rd.



During Sunday School and on Wednesday nights, we will be preparing for our Christmas Pageant—“Carriers of the Light.” Our rehearsal schedule is:

Sunday, Oct 29	10:45-11:45 am Pageant Rehearsal in the Music Room	Ages 3-5th grade
Wednesday, Nov. 1	5:30-6 pm Pageant Rehearsal in the Music Room	All ages
Sunday, Nov. 5	10:45-11:45 am Pageant Rehearsal in the Music Room	Ages 3-5th grade
Wednesday, Nov. 8	5:30-6 pm Pageant Rehearsal in the Music Room	All ages
Sunday, Nov. 12	No Rehearsal—All Church Chili-Cook-Off	
Wednesday, Nov. 15	5:30-6 pm Pageant Rehearsal in the Music Room	All ages
Sunday, Nov. 19	10:45-11:45 am Pageant Rehearsal in the Music Room	Ages 3-5th grade
Wednesday, Nov. 22	No Rehearsal—Thanksgiving Break	
Sunday, Nov. 26	10:45-11:45 am Pageant Rehearsal	All ages
Wednesday, Nov. 29	5:30-7 pm Dinner/Rehearsal in the Sanctuary	All ages
Sunday, Dec. 3	10:45-11:45 am Pageant Rehearsal in the Sanctuary	All ages
Wednesday, Dec. 6	5:30-7 pm Dinner/Dress Rehearsal in the Sanctuary	All ages
Sunday, Dec. 10	Preview: Meet in Sanctuary at 9 am, 10:45-11:45 am Dress Rehearsal	All ages
Wed, Dec. 13	5:30-7 pm Dinner/ Dress Rehearsal	All ages
Sunday, Dec.17	Pageant! Meet in Music Room at 8:30 am	ALL

(All Church Potluck immediately following the Pageant in the Fellowship Hall.)

Packets with music and CDs will be available upon request. Please let Ms. Emma or Miss Laura know if you would like an advance copy of the rehearsal materials.



***Stewardship 2024 –
True Wealth – Taking
the Road Less Travelled***

Our 2024 Stewardship Campaign will focus on how we are able to understand what true wealth is and how we are called to use it. We are directing our Stewardship energy to understanding the blessing of *True Wealth* that comes only from a life of faith

and service. Through our Campaign, we will explore how as believers we can ‘manage’ living in the wealth of our God and giving these blessings to ourselves, our families, our church, and our community. Join us as we journey together on the road that is less traveled.

Please explore our Stewardship Packet for more information on this and our whole Stewardship Campaign. Let us join together as we as individuals of faith and we as the body of Christ faithfully manage the wealth that our God has given us. Stop by our Stewardship Table to pick up a Pledge Card today as we invest our time, talents, and treasure into True Wealth.

Pastor Appreciation Sunday

November 5th 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 baskets will be out for cards to show your appreciation of our pastors.



**CHILI
COOK-
OFF**

**In-Gathering Event
Sunday, November 12th**

We will be hosting our 6th 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, saltines, and corn chips*).

Homemade cornbread will also be provided along with honey & butter.

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 12th as we will be honoring and thanking each of you for your service to our country. THANK YOU!





Music News

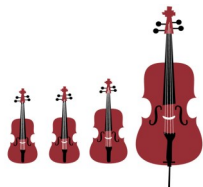
*Chancel
Choir*



Chancel Choir & Westminster Strings

The Chancel choir will again be singing on the first two Sundays for November the 5th and the 12th. Rehearsals for them will be Nov. 1 and 8 at 7:20.

In December, the Sundays will be the 3rd and the 10th. The Westminster Strings will join the choir on Sunday, Dec. 24 for the 5:00pm Christmas Eve Service. This is a very special time, and often, some of our regular members are out of town. It would be a perfect opportunity for anyone who might be interested in singing or playing but does not want to commit to it on a regular basis, to join us. We will be having a string rehearsal at 7:00 on Wednesday, Dec. 20 and the choir at 7:30 on that evening. Just give Sue Radloff a call, 507-437-4940 if you would like to join.



Guitar Club for 3rd - 8th graders!

Joyful Noise on Wednesday nights concludes for the year on October 25. Participants are invited to keep their guitars with them until November 26 (Sunday following Thanksgiving). Please let Ms. Emma know if you'd like to keep it for longer and we will create a checkout system. We hope the kids enjoyed learning beginner guitar, and a "Course Evaluation" will be sent out to participant's families to determine its continuance in the new year (2024).



- 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 & Joyful Noise Director - e.evanspeck@westminsteraustin.com

Rainbow Ringers will rehearse Nov. 1, 8, 15, and 29 at 4:45. No rehearsal on Nov. 22 because of Thanksgiving. In December, we will rehearse on Dec. 6 and play for church on Dec. 10. The rest of December will be free. Please plan to attend and let me know if you must miss any time.



Spirit Ringers will rehearse every Wednesday at 6:15 and play for church on the fourth Sunday of the month (Nov. 26 & Dec.24).



Pageant rehearsals start on October 29th this year. Kids ages 3-12th grade are invited to be a part of this year's pageant, "Carriers of the Light." Please see the schedule on the Children's Ministry page.

Packets with music and CDs will be available upon request. Please let Ms. Emma or Ms. Laura know if you would like an advance copy of the rehearsal materials.

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



November
BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Emma Baldus
- 1 Clarissa Madden
- 3 Jaysin Julios
- 5 Dick 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
- 14 Brooke Fisch
- 14 Robert Rayman
- 14 Charles Schindler
- 14 Joseph Walker
- 15 Lorelei Gerhart
- 16 Robin Weaver
- 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



December
BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Christine Gaskel
- 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
- 28 Barbara Sprandel
- 29 Landon Hatleli
- 29 Annika Nelson
- 30 Amanda Forslund
- 30 Mark Munro
- 30 Leo Taylor
- 31 Ava Sorenson
- 31 Greg Vortherms



- Alex Charlson (Jacky Dietz's great-nephew) -
Army
- Jamar Salisbury (Mary Boyenga's grandson) -
National Guard
- Bryce Gerber -
Marines
- Christine Gaskel -
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.

IN LOVING
Memory

Sharon Toland
August 24, 2023

Robert Schaub
August 25, 2023

Kenny Dippell
September 7, 2023

Kent Simonson
September 24, 2023

Duane Olson
October 5, 2023



Welcome

Henry Benjamin Bridgeman

8 Pounds 7 Ounces & 19 inches in length

Parents: Amanda & Andrew Bridgeman

Grandparents: Marjorie & Brad Bridgeman



Blue Christmas Worship Service ***Sunday, Dec. 17th @ 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.

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.



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

May God grant you the light of Christmas, which is faith; the warmth of Christmas, which is purity; the righteousness of Christmas, which is justice; the belief in Christmas, which is truth; the all of Christmas, which is Christ.

*As a church staff, we are so grateful for your prayers, encouragement, and support.
Pastors Mike & Britt, Cindy, Laura, Eric, Dave, Emma, Sue, Ann, Lisa, Emily, Dominic, Jim, Katherine, & Lorene*



Advent Devotionals will be available beginning in December in our Narthex. Be sure to pick one up!

"The Gift of Christmas"

Watch the bulletin for more details.

**Advent
Devotionals**





Faithful Families

Faithful Family Event will be caroling at South Grove Lodge on Saturday, December 9th at 1pm.

Check the bulletins for future events!

'Alive!' Fellowship

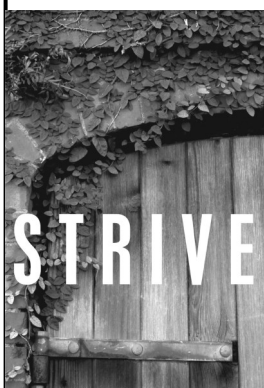
Our 'Alive!' Fellowship Group is for those who are 55 years+. Our focus will be on creating connection and community through quarterly fellowship activities that are geared



towards those approaching retirement or already there. Have questions or ideas, get in touch with Betsy Wuebker (808-720-0370), Cindy Jayes (507-438-7707) or Meridee Ofstedahl (507-279-0851).

We are looking forward to some great times ahead! Check the bulletins for future events!

'Strive' Ministries is for Young Singles, Couples, and Families in their late 20s - early 50s



Join us this Fall/Winter as we reengage with this wonderful ministry. We are adding some unique study and fellowship opportunities – just be sure to come ready to eat! This year, we

will be gathering each month around a shared meal as we study (and put into practice) "A Meal With Jesus" by Tim Chester. Each month, on the 4th Monday at 6:00pm, we will eat together and will approach the meals that Christ had during his ministry. We will be nourished, strengthened, and encouraged by them. Please watch the bulletins for when we meet next!



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY
Every Thursday at 9:30, Youth Room.

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 are able.





PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



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

A BIG and HEARTFELT THANK YOU to all who helped make the 2023 Rummage sale a Mega Success. Proceeds were record-breaking! We have taken in more than \$6,000 at the time of this writing. The family of Westminster stepped up to publicize this event, set up the sales floor in the most inviting way possible, sorted and priced the merchandise, provided treats and lunches for workers, ensured that shoppers were greeted in a friendly way and could shop in a safe environment, and then cleaned up and packed things away for donating to charities. It really takes a village to put on this event, and our village is the best! Keep track of the list of Missions receiving funds on the PWC bulletin board and in the PWC Annual Report. Leftover merchandise was donated to a variety of agencies in Austin and Rochester.

The Presbyterian Women of Presbytery - Twin Cities Area held their annual gathering on October 14 in Long Lake. Mission Projects - little girl dresses and adult underwear - were taken to the event. Gloria Aanonson and Peggy Queensland attended.

The PWC Christmas Party will be held on December 13 at noon with a festive luncheon. This will be combined with the monthly birthday luncheon, so please plan to attend. Indicate your participation by signing up on the PW Bulletin Board, and plan to stay for the Annual Meeting and installation of the 2024 Coordinating Team.

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 5th**.

On Sunday, November 5th, 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 17** 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 Rummage Sale Committee needs three additional volunteers. Please contact Gloria for details. The 2024 Rummage Sale will be scheduled as soon as the Committee is back to five volunteers. Thanks for your service.

The PWC Christmas Party will be December 13th for a noon salad luncheon. Plan to join us to **CELEBRATE** a joyous 2023 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 2024 Coordinating Team.

In Christ, we can do all things for He strengthens us,

Betsy Wuebker, Moderator

2023 RUMMAGE SALE REPORT A GLORIOUS SUCCESS!!

Thanks to everyone who helped by donating items to this year's sale. There was a wonderful variety, and our shoppers were thrilled with all their bargains. Some shoppers returned to purchase “new treasures” 3-4 times on Friday plus came again on Saturday. The Saturday bag sale was phenomenal and definitely helped cut down on our clean up.

“YEA GOD” for our Volunteers!” We averaged over 25 volunteers Monday-Friday to sort, mark, test, organize and manage the sale. Saturday's clean up was amazing and the fastest in history - thanks to our 29 volunteers. Everything was basically cleaned up and furnishings back in place by 11:50 am! Special thanks to Nanc and Mark Lenz for the delicious & nutritious lunches; to Kathryn Pacovsky for the yummy desserts; to Shirley Hinrichs and Committee for the wonderful and traditional Friday lunch; and to Dave Sundal and his crew of furniture movers.

Preliminary figures to date show Rummage Sale gross income of \$6,214.65 (this includes the pre-sale of the old silver and glass serving items no longer used.) To-date expenses \$450.00. Please look for the final figures in the January 2024 Annual PWC Financial Report. Also check our list of Missions receiving funds.

Missions already benefiting from the items leftover items are:

- Poor condition clothing & shoes – The Green Space
- Men Clothing - Veteran's Administration
- Children's clothing – Rachel's Hope
- Shoes - Le Roy Lion's Club Soles for Souls mission
- Vases and Baskets – Hardy Geranium
- Everything else left over – The Salvation Army, A to Z Treasures, Second Act, The Next Chapter and Savers

Thanks again for sharing your treasures, time and talents. It was a fantastic event and fulfilled a huge need in our community.

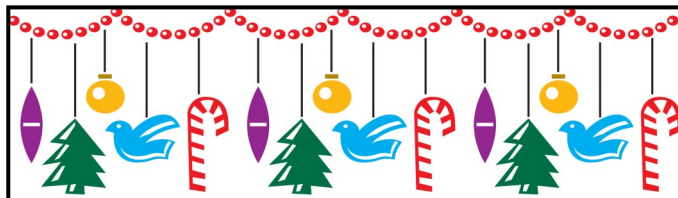
Rummage Sale Committee,
Gloria Aanonson, Dayle Wedeking



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN




Nurture Faith, Support Mission, Work for



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 13th. 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 2024 will be installed.




THE PENNY JAR – located in Fellowship Hall

Save your change for the Money Jar! We are fast approaching the time when the coins are taken to the bank, turned into dollar bills, and given to the WPC Food Pantry.



Currently, the Penny Jar is looking kinda sad and empty. Please bring your loose change to fill this jar and provide food for those who need it. Of course, PWC will match the amount in the Penny Jar.

Look how many families we can help with our loose change. Thank you!


Rebekah Bible Study Christmas Gathering

Wednesday, December 6th

Time: 11:30am

Where: Peggy Queensland's Community Room

2007 Oaktree Ln D




Session News

Session News & Happenings from September and October.

Your Session met in person on September 19th and October 17th. The meetings were opened with devotions and prayers from Pastor Olmsted (9/18) and Pastor Wundermachen (10/17). 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 Performed: Ila Mae Hernandez & Claire Sorenson (8/20/23); Deaths: Sharon Toland (8/24/23); Robert Schaub (8/25/23); Kenneth Dippell (9/7/23); Kent Simonson (9/24/23); Duane Olson (10/5/23); Lord's Supper was served collectively on 9/3/23 & 10/1/23.

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

Nurture/Discipleship: Presented plan and schedule for changes to our Confirmation Class as well as added a Youth Sunday Class. Shared on upcoming Faithful Family Events and Adventurer's Club. Discussed Fall Ministries and began planning for the Candy Caravan (10/31) and Christmas Pageant (12/17). The Confirmation Class served at the Salvation Army on Sept. 14th.

Personnel/Finance: Began planning for and implementing and presented the Stewardship Campaign for this year. Working on possible payment plans for repairing our Stained Glass Windows.

Facilities/Grounds Planted two new trees on property. Monitoring the electrical work being done by Austin Electric. Authorized work done for wrapping of pipes in tunnels to avoid any asbestos. Calling L&M Boiler to have them come and service our boiler pipes down in the CYM Wing. Working and receiving bids for the following projects: Kitchen Door/Ramp project; repair of Air Conditioner Units. Met with P/F Committee on the reparation bids for our Stained Glass Windows. *Approved retroactively the purchase of two new Refrigerators for the Kitchen.*

Worship/Outreach: Discussed the Elder participation in worship and that it is going well. Discussed the upcoming Chili Cook-Off. *Approved Rollie Hanson as our new Head Usher.*

Mission/Fellowship: Discussed the idea of adding fresh fruit to our Fellowship Time on Sundays and are tabling that discussion for future meetings. The Food Pantry is going very well. They served at the Salvation Army on Oct. 12th.

Session voted on and approved the following: *Approved the Aug. & Oct. Treasurer's Report and the PCI Attestation of Compliance Form.* Both meetings were closed with prayer by Pastor Wundermachen and the singing of the Doxology.

Deacon News

Deacons

September

We opened with a devotion from Jesus Calling. We are reminded to center ourselves in Christ. When we embody and understand the love that he gave us, we are able to live differently and more fully love others. As Deacons seeking to serve our congregation, we must remember and be centered by God's love, so that when we reach out, we can share his goodness with others.

During our meeting, we discussed our homebound members and anyone who had been hospitalized recently making sure that we were following up with them.

We discussed our different committees and made sure that everyone was on the same page and getting their tasks for their committees accomplished. Our meal ministry in particular was able to bring 3 Meals to people this month.

We closed our meeting in prayer.

October

We opened with a devotion from Jesus Calling. It told us that are circumstances can be difficult at times, but we must rest in the presence of Christ who provides true joy.

We continued our meeting as we went through our care list and keeping up to date with who we've been able to reach out to and who might need some more care.

We discussed the tasks of our committees. Our correspondence committee made sure cards have been sent out and our welcome ministry has tasked Selene with finding greeters for November and December. Our meal ministry has been working hard and brought 6 meals to people last month. If you are interested in joining this ministry and cooking a meal every now and then, please talk to Pastor Britt.

We closed our meeting with prayer.





*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.

- 2023 Deliveries -
- January - 82 pounds
- February - 62 pounds
- March: 40 pounds
- June: 64 pounds
- July/August: 45 pounds
- September: 63 pounds
- Year-to-date total: 356 pounds

Thank you.



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 voicemail for church closings.



All Ladies are invited to our monthly birthday lunches on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, meeting at Bella Victoria at noon. Please RSVP to Selene Schulz 507-438-3299, to be included in the group reservation! Bring a friend!

November 8 Bella Victoria at noon
December 13th Birthday Lunch - Note the change.

We will join PWC for their Christmas Gathering in Fellowship Hall and the Parlor.

More details will be announced soon. Watch the bulletin and the PWC bulletin board for more information. A sign up sheet will be posted soon.

WPC FOOD PANTRY

Please continue to bring in boxed food products to the church office and frozen meat 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, and Millie Masse 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



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 2024 is \$38.50 per member.**

Staff Email Addresses

Rev. Michael Olmsted
molmsted@westminsteraustin.com

Rev. Brittany Wundermachen
b.wundermachen@westminsteraustin.com

Office Administrator-Cindy Jayes
secretary1@westminsteraustin.com

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

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

Westminster Website

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



Happy Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks!

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.



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUEST

+

+

+

November/December 2023

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 18th