



VOLUME 84, ISSUE 3 MARCH 2014

Lenten Spiritual Journey

Around the year 495, the philosopher Parmenides said: "Nature abhors a vacuum."

In other words, when there is nothing going on, the world conspires to fill in the empty space. So it is in our lives.

We become rushed and frantic with all the minor things we do, places we go, with frittering things that take up our time and eat up our days. We try to fill in the emptiness. Even our major life goals become distorted with the cacophony of voices that distract us from what is truly important.

There is another way. This Lenten season in worship, we will explore some of the classical spiritual practices; **prayer**, **worship**, **meditation**, **hospitality**, and **community**.

These steps on the spiritual journey take us out of the rush of everyday busyness and create an empty space where we can listen and begin to perceive life and the world differently.

The spiritual practices require a sense of discipline so we can begin to perceive the world differently. These disciplines open up space in our lives where we can listen for the quiet voice of God, and pay attention to the guidance of the Spirit.

I look forward to these next steps on our spiritual journey together.

Warmly,
Rev. Andrew McDonald
Senior Pastor



April 28-29, 2014

Church Growth Leadership Summit

Register online at homesteadpres.org or call (402) 474-0612 COST: \$75 Please plan to join us!

Reverend Dr. Andrew L. McDonald Senior Pastor

Reverend Jennifer Strickland Associate Pastor

Reverend Ellen Davis
Parish Associate

Cheryl Rennick
Business Administrator

Boyd Bacon
Director of Music and Fine Arts

Dr. Masako Nakamura Bacon
Associate Director of Music and Fine Arts

Suzanne Schneider Preschool Director

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Tex Sample

The Craft of Discipleship

Turning members into disciples. Discovering the deeper meaning of Christian spirituality.

Tex has worn many hats from cab driver and community organizer to local church pastor and seminary academic dean. He has published 12 books including his best seller *US Lifestyles and Mainline Churches*.



Shannon Craigo-Snell

Performing Church in the 21st Century

Worship has a great impact on attracting new people to church, however old models of worship have not connected with new generations. Consider a new model based on theater and theology to help reenergize worship.

Formerly at Yale and now at Louisville Seminary, Shannon is the author of *Living Christianity: A Pastoral Theology for Today*.



Charles Arn

Welcome to the Family:

Helping Visitors Assimilate into Your Church

Gain the practical tools needed to turn visitors into new members and new members into engaged, active members through big, positive impressions.

Charles, a leading authority on church growth, has authored eight books on church growth strategies.



Dick Meyer

Building Community for Church Growth

Explore the theological, ecclesiastical and personal rationale for how and why a "masks off" community of faith helps build the vibrant church of tomorrow.

Dick is author of the three-volume *One Anothering Series*, which aids congregations in building transformational small group communities.

Adult Education

Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall



March 2: An Important Story of the Salt Creek Tiger Beetle, Whitehead Oil, the NRD and Saline Wetlands. Led by Mark Whitehead and the NRD Staff. March 9: Faith at the Movies. The film "Son of God" (February 28 release) tells the story of Jesus. Prepare for or debrief the Hollywood version based on Rev. Andrew McDonald's discussion of the essential elements of Jesus' life.

March 16: Faith at the Movies. This film "Noah" will be released March 28. Ernie Hines will present a Biblical study of this well-known Genesis story.

March 23: Ken Moore begins a study on the book "The Faiths of the Post-War Presidents: From Truman to Obama." This week's focus on Harry Truman.

March 30: "The Faiths of the Post-War Presidents" continues. This week's focus on Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Alternative Worship Planning

Sundays, March 2 and 16, 9:00 a.m.

You're encouraged to attend one of two brainstorming sessions planned for March as we moved forward with planning our Alternative Worship Service — any and all ideas are welcome! Meetings will take place in the Chapel.

Mission Trip to Moore, OK Moore, Oklahoma, April 6-11

The Westminster Disaster Recovery Team will travel to Moore, Oklahoma, for a one-week mission trip April 6-11 to help clean up and rebuild homes from the 2013 tornado that hit the Oklahoma City area. If you are interested in joining the mission trip, or need further information, contact Ken Govaerts at 402-483-1726. No special skills needed, just a willingness to perform demanding work in a challenging environment and desire to minister to the spiritual needs of disaster victims.

Men's Tuesday Morning Breakfast

Westminster men will start the New Year with a great lineup of programs. A continental breakfast (only \$2 and FREE for first-timers) is available soon after 6:30 a.m. with an hour-long program beginning at 7:00 a.m.

March 4

Bible Study

March 11

IANR Initiatives to 2025
Professor Ron Yoder, Associate Vice
Chancellor, Institute of Agriculture
and Natural Resources, UNL

March 18

Bible Study Rev. Andrew McDonald

March 25

Management of Ground Water for All Nebraskans Jane Griffin, President, Nebraska Groundwater Foundation

Westminster Club

Tuesday, March 25, 5:30 p.m.

Westminster Club resumes this month with a great catered dinner and program. Fellowship begins at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner and programming at 6:00 p.m. Chris Campbell Eells will share ideas for spring container planting for flowers, herbs and vegetables.

Children's Activities

Faith Village classes are a great place for children in elementary school to learn about the Bible in ways that are meaningful to them. Each month students explore

a theme through workshops in cooking, art, drama, music, computers, games, science, videos and storytelling. Class sessions open with group songs, the Lord's prayer and an offering. Faith Vil-

Faith Village (K to 5th Grade)

lage is every Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. (following the Children's Conversation at 10:30 a.m. worship). Join us!

March: JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

"Truly this man was God's son." ~ Matthew 27:54

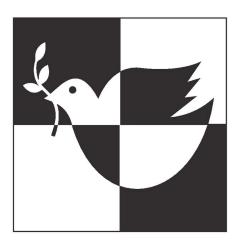
Jesus, during the last week he lived on earth, journeyed to the cross in order to show God's powerful love for us. In spite of danger, Jesus journeyed to Jerusalem to teach God's message of love and forgiveness.



Kindergarten of Eden is for preschool children ages 3-5 years. Classes meet on Sunday mornings, beginning at 10:30 a.m. worship and regrouping in Room 210 at 10:45 a.m. after the Children's Conversation. Nurturing volunteers lead children utilizing the Wee Believe

Kindergarten of Eden (Preschool)

curriculum, classes that teach Bible-based stories of God and God's People using a wide range of activities including stories, songs, crafts and games.



Faith Building Blocks helps children build a firm foundation of faith and strong sense of God's love and gives families opportunities to learn and grow in faith together. There is no FBB scheduled for March, but we will meet in April!

April 16: The Sacraments

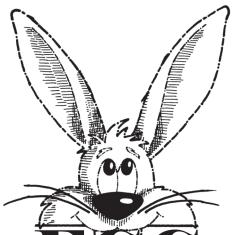
A Faith Building Block Experience for Fourth Grade

Toddler Sunday School

Toddler Sunday School is available for young ones ages 18 months to 3 years. Our leader, Jennifer McCollough, leads children in songs, stories and play each Sunday morning at 10:45 a.m. following the Children's Conversation at 10:30 a.m. worship.

Nursery

Our professional nursery staff provides infants with a safe and loving place so parents can take part in worship, adult education and fellowship activities during Sunday mornings at Westminster. Care is available on the main level, across from the reception area, every Sunday from 7:45 to 11:45 a.m. Infants (birth to 18 months) are cared for by adults. Swings and cribs are used, as well as toys for motor skill development. Parents and caregivers may check out a beeper to stay connected with staff.



Please join us on **Saturday, April 19 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** for a free and exciting Easter event! There will be games, crafts, and an Easter Egg Hunt for children age 3 years through 5th Grade. We will also be offering a peanut free room. Please mark your calendars and join us for this fun event!

There will also be an opportunity to participate in the Adopt-an-Egg program. Feel free to grab a bag (or two) of empty eggs and fill them for the hunt. Eggs will be available at the East entrance starting March 16. We will need the filled eggs returned by April 13. Thank you for your help!

EGGstravaganza!

2NDSundays March 9

Join your WPC family for a **second helping** of fellowship on the **second Sunday** of each month! All WPC friends and families are invited to enjoy a heaping plate of community and some delicious lunch too. Lunch on March 9 will feature BBQ. Cost is \$6 for adults; \$4 for children 10 and under.

Don't have second thoughts; come enjoy 2nd Sundays at Westminster!

Parent Ed. Workshops

Westminster Preschool presents a Parent Education Workshop the third Wednesday of each month. Open to all parents of Westminster students and the public! Upcoming topics include:

March

CYBER SAFETY

April

WHAT TO EXPECT IN KINDERGARTEN

WOW Menu for March

Served Wednesdays from 5:45 to 6:30 p.m. Served with salad, fruit and desert. \$5/adults; \$3/children; \$15 max per family

March 5: Pancakes and sausage

March 12: No WOW

March 19: Tuna casserole

March 26: Spaghetti with alfredo

sauce, garlic rolls

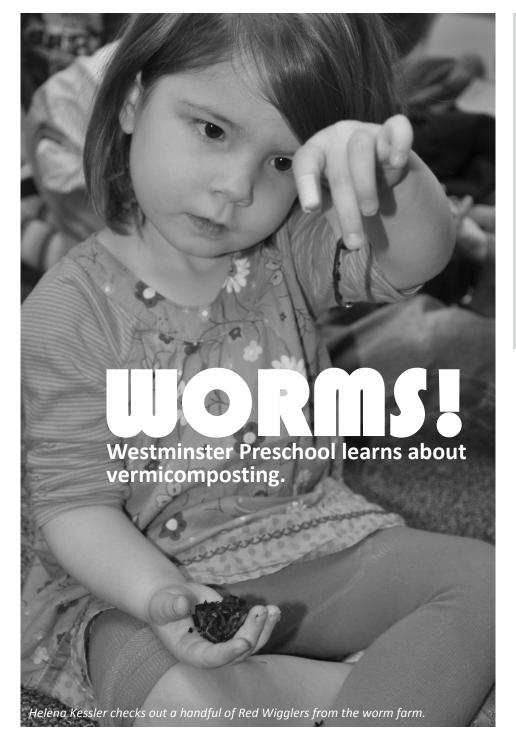


SAVE THE DATE: June 16-20

Grab a hammer, find a paintbrush and put on your creative thinking cap for "Workshop of Wonders" — our 2014 Vacation Bible School!

"Workshop of Wonders" takes children (preschool through 5th grade) to a place where they can start an adventure and discover how to imagine and build relationships with God.

Paid registration is \$25/child (\$75 max/family) before May 15. For more information, contact Betsy Guyer at 402-475-6702.



Donate Your Buttons!

It's nearly time for spring cleaning, and Westminster Preschool is happy to take those pesky jars of buttons off your hands!

Buttons of all shapes and sizes are appreciated and can be dropped off at the church office or preschool anytime.

Preschoolers at Westminster are learning early how to solve one of the world's biggest problems — an evergrowing amount of waste — and they're doing it with worms.

In November, Preschool Director Suzanne Schneider was contacted by Gina Egenberger with the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department to see if the preschool would be interested in starting a worm farm. Together, they ordered 1,000 "Red Wiggler" worms from Uncle Jim's Worm Farm in Spring Grove, Pennsylvania, and three months later students and teachers are seeing waste disappear and worm populations grow.

"We've already more than doubled our worm population," Schneider said.

The preschool's vermicomposting is one of the Lincoln-Lancaster County

Health Department's Eco-Healthy Child Care pilot projects on ways families can go green. Through vermicomposting, worms take in food and paper waste and turn it into nutrient-rich compost. The class, which feeds its worms leftovers from lunch like crackers, lettuce and apple slices, hopes to use its compost this spring in its herb garden outside.

"As our worm population grows, we may even be able to sell worms to the community for fishing bait," Schnieder said.

The system used by Schneider's classes, the Worm Factory 360, uses a stack of trays in what is called a "self-sorting upward migrating system." Plainly said, as food is added to the topmost tray, worms work their way up leaving behind waste in various stages of decomposition in the trays below. After approximately 90 days, the vermicompost in the bottom tray is ready for harvest.

"We believe part of caring for our children is caring for the world they are growing up in," Schneider said. "We are excited to announce that our program is working on ways to go green."

World on a Plate

New Small Group Meets March 21

Let's take a trip around the world via our dinner plate. World on a Plate is a new Small Group where members will explore international cuisine and PCUSA missions. The group is looking for 10-12 people who enjoy cooking, sitting down to a good meal, fellowship and learning about the current missionary work going on. The group will meet monthly at Westminster or in members' homes.

The guidelines are simple.

- Members will choose a country to visit (preferably countries where PCUSA has missionaries)
- Members will be responsible for bringing dinnerware
- Each member will be responsible for preparing one dish: appetizer, main entrée, side dish, dessert or drinks
- A member or two will be responsible for sharing the ongoing mission work in that country
- In the spirit of mission work, the group will have a monetary bread basket collection that will be designated to a local food program.

Our March 21 dinner will explore Irish cuisine from 6:00 to 7:45 p.m. at Westminster Lounge. For more information or to sign up contact Kathy Rohwedder at (402) 202-9889 or email kathrohw@yahoo.com.

Green at Heart

Westminster's Green Team has sponsored many activities in the past decade important to Creation Care, including WaBiCa Sunday, the celebration of Dr. Seuss's birthday and screening of The Lorax, and the Lenten disciplines that many of us made to protect our environment. The Green Team also eliminated the use of disposable cups and glasses for coffee time, and has volunteered for dish duty for most events.

It's time for the Green Team to re-boot, make-over and re-name itself, but continue to guide our faith community in ways of conservation that honor our faith and God's gift of this planet.

Will you be a part of deciding when and how to take the next step? Watch the Vine for more information on our upcoming survey.

Faith and Cancer

The Faith and Cancer Small Group has resumed its meetings on the third Tuesday of each month. Members come together in fellowship and prayer, and participate in a book study of "Finding the Light in Cancer's Shadow," by Lynn Eib.

For more information, contact Janice Rohwedder at janicerohw@yahoo.com.

Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, March 4

The Eatery (2548 S 48th Street) Lunch Bunch meets the first Tuesday of every month at 11:30 a.m. for fellowship and conversation!

Prairie Readers

Wednesday, March 19

Westminster Parlor
Prairie Readers will meet at 1:00 p.m.
this month for three book
reviews: Diana Wild will review *The*Kings and Queens of Roam by Daniel
Wallace; Weston Crawford will
review Songs of Willow Frost by Jamie
Ford; and Faye Moulton will review
Knocking on Heaven's Door: The Path
to a Better Way of Death by Katy
Butler. All are welcome.

Ladies' Night Out Thursday, March 20

Henry's on South (2110 Winthrop) Ladies' meet for cocktails and appetizers from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. No RSVP needed!

The Empty Nesters

Join the Empty Nesters for a study of The Happiness Project by Gretchen Rubin. The group will focus on one aspect of the book each month, combined with other resources to further their spiritual journey. For more information contact Maureen Hergert at mhergert75@gmail.com.



connect • grow • serve

Celebrate Lent!

Ash Wednesday Worship March 5 at 7:00 p.m. (Sanctuary)

Start your Lenten spiritual journey here with Alleluia! Amen! children's choir and Westminster Choir.

Holy Week Worship Services

Join us in worship as we come together to give thanks to God for His great sacrifice to us and learn why we as Christians celebrate Easter. Join us in praise and prayer for the climax in the life of Jesus.

Palm Sunday April 13 at 8:00 (Chapel) and 10:30 a.m. (Sanctuary)

Children are invited to meet at 10:15 a.m. in Cole Hall for a parade with palms. Celebrate the day that Jesus entered Jerusalem for the true triumph. Holy week starts here!

Maundy Thursday April 17 at 7:00 p.m. (Sanctuary)

In remembrance of the Last Supper, we will celebrate sharing wine (grape juice) and bread. With Alleluia! Amen! children's choir, Westminster Choir and Liturgical Dance performance.

Good Friday April 18 at Noon (Chapel) and 7:00 p.m. (Sanctuary)

"God so loved the world" — Remember the story of the Passion of Christ. Music by Westminster Choir.

Easter Worship April 20 at 7:00 a.m. (Chapel) 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. (Sanctuary) Alleluia! He is risen! Join us for the celebration of Easter.

WOW Activities/Rehearsal Schedule

Please note our WOW activities and rehearsal times will be modified, so everyone can participate in our Lenten Devotionals Wednesdays March 19 through April 9. Regular scheduling will resume April 16.

5:00	Youth Bells
5:30	Dinner
6:20	Lenten Devotional
6:40	Westminster Carillon
6:40	Alleluia! Amen!
	Cherub Choir, Knit N Sit, WOW XL, Adult Education
7:40	Westminster Choir

Deacon's Easter Breakfast

Mark you calendars and plan to join us for Easter Breakfast on Sunday, April 20, from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Westminster Deacons will prepare and serve fruit, egg casserole and delicious Miller & Paine cinnamon rolls. A free will offering is encouraged, with proceeds to benefit the church.

This is the Board of Deacons' one fundraiser for the entire year, so please come hungry and support the efforts of the many hands that prepare and serve this meal!

Ash Wednesday WOW Schedule

5:45	Dinner
6:30	Alleluia! Amen!
	Cherub Choir
	Westminster Choir (Chapel
7:00	Ash Wednesday Worship
8:00	Westminster Choir

March 12 Schedule (LPS Spring Break)

0:20	Lenten Devotional
6:40	Carillon
	Adult Education
7:40	Westminster Choir

Liturgical Dance

Parent/Dancer Meeting March 30, 9:30 a.m.

Interested dancers are invited to attend an informational meeting in the Youth Room on Sunday, March 30. Rehearsals are scheduled for April 2, 9 and 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the gym for a performance at the April 17 Maundy Thursday service.

Apply for Swanson Scholarship

Full-time undergraduate students and high school seniors are encouraged to apply for Westminster's Swanson Scholarship. The Swanson Scholarship was established in 1999 by Libby and Steve Jacobs, daughter and son-in-law of Bill and Mary Swanson of Lincoln. The scholarship provides financial support in the amount of \$500 per recipient per academic year.

Applications are available at the church office or can be downloaded from our website. The scholarship is open to individuals in all courses of study, however, preference will be given to applicants demonstrating an interest in Education and Community Service. Deadline is April 1.

Thanks from the Food Pantry...

Thanks to all congregation members who helped make our Annual Food Drive a success. It is wonderful to have a well-stocked pantry. The items donated will last about a month, so please continue to support it throughout the year!

We all know that hunger knows no season and is a constant battle for some families. It takes many volunteers to keep our pantry running smoothly. Special thanks to our packers Chip and Marilyn Smith (assistant coordinators), Bob and Sheri Michaud, Larry Peach and William McConnell, Cherie Ryan, Lee Darnell, Marcia Hollestelle and Jane Lacy, Fred and Susan Zander, Pat Hackley and Ben Kessler, Martha Kingsbury, Scott and Nancy Stuckey, Deb Schorr and Nancy Hlava, Abbe Boonstra, and David and Kathy Anderson. And thanks to all of you who help and bring food items and monetary donations. Keep shopping!

Hank and Nora Hinrichs, WPC Pantry Coordinators

TGIS

Westminster High School Youth are looking forward to a busy spring! All events listed below are from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

March 23

Movie at the theaters: "Son of God" Cost \$10. Show time TBD.

April 6

Seder Meal with Rabbi Lewis! Experience a Jewish Seder meal and learn about the roots of Christianity. 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

April 27

Service Opportunity TBD

May 11

End of Year Party

Questions? Contact Maria at 605-940-6115 or marianiech@aol.com

Thank God I'm Saved!

Don't forget High School Youth also meet for "Thank God I'm Saved!" every Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m.

WOW XL

WOW XL is our Middle School Youth group for Grades 6-8. Join us Wednesday nights from 6:30 to 7:30 for XL-sized portions of fun!

All In The Family:

Best wishes to **Bill and Nadine Wiley** who were married on February 14.

Congratulations on the birth of **Clare Elise**, born February 13, to Beth and Glenn Pappalardo; grandparents are Sharon and Dan Wherry.

Comfort for the family and friends of **Rita Mills**, who died on February 17.

Foundation Birthday Club

The following members celebrated birthdays during February and renewed or became members of the Foundation Birthday Club:

Tom Allman

Dwain Carlson

Ruth Elwell

Ernie Hines

MaryBeth Johnson

Rex Martin

Martha McLeod

Bob Morey

Rich Nolte

Matt Olson

Mary Peach

George Peterson

Joe Rivera

Regi Schirmer

Alice Schnabel

Larry Shafer

Sue Shamblin

Lee Sonderegger

Nancy Stuckey

Robyn Uebele

Valery Wachter

Jean Wiedman

Amber Winter Marge Young

How Does Our Westminster Foundation Grow?

The Foundation, in partnership with the Session, identified six strategic areas vital for the future of Westminster. Our shared vision is to grow endowments in these areas in the next few years. Growth will come from people who feel God has blessed them to be a blessing to future generations.

In 2013, we received the following:

- Stained Glass Windows: \$109,081. We need an additional \$40,919 to reach our goal of \$150,000 for long-term maintenance and repair.
- Major Event Endowment: \$10,000. We need an additional \$190,000 to reach our goal of \$200,000.
- The Trinity McDonald Endowment for Visual and Performing Arts: \$35,000 has been received to begin an annual celebration of the arts.
- General Purpose Endowment: \$3,000 was received through memorials to the Foundation.
- Preschool Scholarship: \$550 was received through memorials.
- Worship & Music: \$3,000 was received through memorials.
- Foundation Birthday Club: \$14,252 was received to add to our General Fund in the Foundation.

We want to express our sincere and deepest thank you to all of the individuals and families that included the Foundation as a one time gift or through memorial gifts. You have added more than \$188,400 to the Foundation in 2013.

Our goal for 2014 is to continue to grow our Foundation to make a strong church even stronger. If you would like further information on specific Endowment Funds or the Foundation, please visit our website and click on Westminster Foundation under the "About Us" tab.



Members of the Barky Parky Pack Small Group met on February 22 for National Walk Your Dog Day! Pictured from left to right are Ken Moore, Susan Kehrli Moore, Janice Rohwedder, Kathy Rohwedder, Robyn Uebele, Jennifer Strickland and Josh Whitfeld.

Westminster Bible Class

Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

March 2

An Eternal Kingdom

2 Samuel 7:14-16 Rev. Ellen Davis

March 9 Son of David

Psalm 89:35-37; Isaiah 9:6-7; Matthew 1: 18-21 Rev. Ellen Davis

March 16 Peter's Report

Psalm 100:1-4; Acts 2:22-24, 29-32 Bud Tenney

March 23

Worthy is the Lamb

Revelations 5:6-13 Rev. Ellen Davis

March 30

Triumphant and Victorious

Zechariah 9:9; Matthew 21:1-11 TBD

A Note from Rev. Davis...

Over the past month and a half, I have watch spouses grieve the death of their life companion and while that has happened before in my ministry, it has reached into my heart in a new and different way. For that reason, I had been thinking of cutting back my ministry at Westminster and when the opportunity to do that was presented to me, I felt God was affirming my need to be a spouse and life companion to my husband Lynn in a more intentional way. We love and need each other as we move toward and through our 80s. We would like to travel more, spend more time 'hanging out together,' and with our families both in Lincoln and in other states.

I will continue with the primary ministry and mission for which I was called nine years ago — to call on the shut-in and homebound — although I will cut my work hours significantly. To that end, Dr. McDonald and I have planned how that can happen without the care of our older members suffering.

I will continue as any good church member does as a volunteer in those areas in which I have a passion. I am an educator at heart and will always enjoy working with the Bible class and the women of the church in their Horizon Bible study.

Lynn and I enjoy the company of our friends in Westminster Club and will continue to support its ministry as well.

It goes without saying that worship will be at the center of our lives as it always has been. We look forward to sharing with you from the pew each Sunday and on those special Holy Days. You will always be in our thoughts and prayers as we move into this new phase of our ministry together.

Blessings,

Ellen



Presbyterian Women

Circle 1

Wednesday, March 5 at 9:30 a.m. Westminster Lounge Ramona Riley (402-466-5715)

Circle 3

Wednesday, March 5 at 10:00 a.m. 4400 S 80th Street Apt. 224 Jean Patoka (402-488-1833)

Circle 4

Monday, March 3 at 7:00 p.m. 2650 Calvert Street Faye Moulton (402-423-7608)

Circle 5

Tuesday, March 11 at 10:00 a.m. Westminster Lounge Jane Grabenstein-Chandler (402-483-6533)

Circle 6

Tuesday, March 25 at 7:00 p.m. Westminster Library Jane Hines (402-488-8302)

Mission Sewers

Wednesday, March 26 at 1:00 p.m. Westminster Lounge



2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE 68502 402.475.6702 westminsterlincoln.org

Footprints in the Dust

On Wednesdays in Lent, join us for Lenten Devotionals. Each week we will consider a character from the Gospel lesson and how their perspective helps us approach our own trials, suffering and temptations. Join us for a simple meal from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. (WOW Dinner) and a 15-minute worship service at 6:20 p.m. Regular programming will resume at 6:40 p.m.

Can't make it on Wednesdays? Pastor Jen will lead the same devotional during her Sunday morning FOCUS group at 9:00 a.m. beginning March 9.

March 12: Temptation and Vocation
The Money-Changers (Matthew 21:12-17)

March 19: Denial
Peter (John 13:36-38)

March 26: The Cup of Suffering James and John (Mark 10:35-45)

April 2: Complete Surrender

Woman with alabaster jar (Mark 14:3-9, Matthew 26:6-13, John 12:1-8, Luke 7:36-50)

April 9: *Demanding Answers*Caiaphas the High Priest (Matthew 26:57-68)

