
Dear friends and sisters and brothers in Christ –

I write a cover letter for *the Messenger* that I would never have expected to be writing a few short weeks ago. When Dr. McDonald first told me about the summons to be Transitional Pastor at House of Hope in St. Paul—eight days before the Session was informed—he said,

“I hope you have a good Easter sermon, because you are gonna’ be preaching!”

It was unexpected that I would need to fill in this gap for a few months between that resignation and the arrival of our interim pastor. I made it clear that I would not be a candidate to be the Interim Pastor. But I was ready and willing to hold the “wheel of the ship” until we have the person who will help us move toward the next phase, when Westminster calls its 14th called Pastor since the charter of the congregation in 1905.

There is a member of this congregation who was in my first confirmation class in Beatrice in 1986. Several weeks ago, commenting on how my retirement from Beatrice turned out to be good for Westminster, he said, “I think it was in the plan.”

My response was, “It wasn’t in my plan!” Matt replied, “I didn’t mean *your* plan.” I think I must have taught him some good theology in that 1985-86 confirmation class!

In a letter that Jeremiah wrote to the Jewish exiles in Babylon, his trust in God’s faithfulness led him to an anticipation of an eventual end to the exile, but his sense of reality kept him aware that it would not be “the day after tomorrow.”



In that epistle he told them:

*Surely know that the plans I have for you, says the Lord,
are plans for your welfare and not for harm,
to give you a future with hope.*

*When you call upon me and pray to me,
I will hear you.*

*When you search for me, you will find me,
as you seek me with all your heart. (Jeremiah 29:11-13)*

May those words for the exiles be alive in us
as Westminster is in transition.

God bless you.

Jimmy

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn



CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & EVENTS



“Water, Water Everywhere, but *not* a Drop to Drink”

These often quoted words from Coleridge’s ‘The Rime of the Ancient Mariner’ are familiar and refer to a sailor on his ship in need of water, but as he looks around himself all he sees is salt water. Though thirsty, and having plenty of water readily available, it is undrinkable.

The situation in many African countries is even worse. As many thirsty villagers well know, there is little, if not any, water near them. It is far away, or within the earth, where it is for all intents and purposes *not* available, so their thirst continues.

One way Presbyterians are trying to help meet the needs of African communities is to build shallow wells. Money donated to The Presbyterian Church USA directly helps mission workers like Jim McGill drill wells and promote sanitation and hygiene in

the countries of South Sudan and Niger. Your contributions are vital. All donations go directly to help build wells in Africa. Won’t you please help Westminster meet its goal of helping to build ten wells in Africa? You can simply make your checks out to: Westminster Presbyterian Church. Memo: Wells for Africa.

Foundation Birthdays APRIL 2018

Joan Roberts, Bob Rediger, Betty Beam, Sandy Gallentine, Loy Olson, Jon Peterson, Margot Peterson, Claire Titus, Gary Haller, Chip DeBuse, II, Beth Carveth, Dan Cuda and Scott Lippstreu.

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Birth: Congratulations on the birth of Lurna Lee, born March 29, to Krystal and Tyrell Harlow and Evelyn Irene, born March 29, to Mary and Drew Hofferfer.

Bereavements: Comfort for the family and friends of Comfort for the family and friends of Mary Ann Townsend who died on April 12; Gage Parker who died on April 21; David Miller who died on April 22.



CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & EVENTS

Hostamania is Set for Mother's Day

Westminster's annual plant sale got its name because about 30 years ago, Clay Bradley was doing a renovation that required moving 25 or so Hosta plants. We put them in pots and added some other varieties of landscape plants and put on a plant sale. The idea stuck.

Over the years the management of the sale slid under the Lohmen umbrella and folks active in that project took care of the details and used the earnings to host our German visitors or finance a gift and provide a church-wide American meal while in Lohmen.

This July a youth contingent is traveling to Germany and WPC youth will be working Hostamania to supplement their trip. What shoppers spend on donated landscape plants will be a welcome shot in the arm for these young international travelers. It is a remarkable thing to get to do.

Hostamania is always on Mother's Day, and you will see a fine array of mostly perennial plants. The relaxed pricing means shoppers are expected to pay a fair price yet still get great bargains.



Mission Opportunity

The Outreach Committee is hoping to revitalize the Westminster Disaster Response Team. In the past we have gone on one or two mission trips per year to areas that have been hit by natural disasters. i.e. hurricanes, tornados, floods. We spend a week there helping to rebuild the damaged area. To get re-started doing this, we need to find volunteers that are willing and excited to do this work. Although it is helpful to have volunteers knowledgeable in the building trades, that is not necessary to join in this effort. All skill levels are needed. If you can paint, cook meals for the volunteers, pick up trash, or just go get supplies that is great.

We do not have a mission trip planned at this time. We are just wanting to find out who would be interested in this type of opportunity. If you would like to do this, or just want more information, please call Steve Hughes at 402-450-2524 or Gary Haller at 817-757-2980.

The Andrew McDonald Church Growth Endowment

The Endowment that has been set up in Westminster's Foundation in honor of Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald is for Church Growth. Dr. McDonald is very passionate on enabling the church to grow – this is how he wants the endowment to be used. If you would like to contribute to this endowment – we will continue taking gifts. Just mark your check or offering envelope McDonald or Church Growth, or Text #WPCGIVING and note Church Growth or McDonald.

Let us help Westminster continue to grow.



UPCOMING EVENTS

VBS ROLLING RIVER RAMPAGE:

Experience the Ride of a Lifetime with God!

June 17 noon-2pm; June 18—20, 9 am—Noon

All children ages 4 through Grade 5.

Family kick-off on Sunday, June 17! Join us for 10:30 worship, followed by a camp-style lunch, late registration, and the beginning of an adventure down the river! See the opening program skits, participate in a VBS activity!



Rumor has it there will be S'MORES! Meet VBS staff! Kids returns Mon – Wed, 9am-noon. This VBS experience includes music that will energize your ears, interactive Bible fun, super science, cool crafts, Sudanese village well mission, delicious snacks, great games, and more! Hope to see you there for some RAPID fun, Rafters! “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.” –Isaiah 43:2. Register online at www.westminsterlincoln.org.

Vacation Bible School Team is going on now—Adults and youth are invited to participate in this church-wide and community ministry-- contact Barbara Hipple, barbara@westminsterlincoln.org, 402-475-6702.



Creative Arts Camp July 23-27

Kindergarteners through 5th graders will explore their creativity through art, music and movement activities. All classes will be led by an expert in the area. All classes will be led by an expert in the area. Register online at www.westminsterlincoln.org.

Westminster has been recognized as an Earth Care Congregation for the 5th year running!

We received a letter from the Presbyterian Mission Agency saying, in part, “*Congratulations for recertifying as a PC(USA) Earth Care Congregation, now in your 5th year! We appreciate your ongoing ministry, creativity, and impact on God’s creation. You have done outstanding work in your own corner of the world. We notice and value what you do, and want to take the time to say:*

Thank you! for all you are doing and continue to do”.



CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

FAITH VILLAGE

9 AM: features a computer lab. **10:45 AM:** Kindergarten – 5th Grade will focus on Pentecost this month—all about the birthday of the church! Fire and wind and the Holy Spirit. *

KINDERGARTEN OF EDEN | Room 210 A | 10:45 AM *

Childcare: 7:45—11:30 AM every Sunday in Rm. 210. Infants and toddlers are welcome.

Middle School Sunday School 6-7th Grade at 9 AM, Youth Areas | This class is an important prelude to the Confirmation Class as it gives students a chance to Explore the Core of the Bible, approaching such questions as: What is the Bible, and how do I use it? What are the differences between the Old and New Testament? How are the Biblical characters important to my faith? How does the Bible relate to me, today?

Confirmation Class | 8th-9th Grade | Youth Areas | 9 AM

Coffee & Company | Senior Highs Students—30 somethings are invited to participate in Coffee & Company discussion in Cole Hall following The Rising.

NEW OFFERING PROJECT Faith Village children will be joining the church-wide project to provide wells for communities in Africa who do not have easy access to clean water. Our children are learning to give generously as a sign of gratitude, and by joining their gifts together, they are witnessing to God's gracious and abundant work in the world. Please help by encouraging regular giving.

Summer Sunday School begins June 3

Children ages 3- 5th Grade are welcome to join us for our summer video/lesson series, Buck Denver asks... What's in the Bible? Featuring lessons on the New Testament. Children will go to the Faith Village Amphitheatre following the Children's Conversation at 10:30 Worship. Adults and youth are invited to sign up for a week or two to stay with the children and follow a brief, simple lesson plan. Two volunteers are needed each week. Please sign up in the Garden Room in late May through the summer months.

***PLEASE NOTE:** May 20 marks the last day of regular Kindergarten of Eden and Faith Village classes as well as youth Sunday school, for the summer. There will be NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on May 27.



CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

LOUNGE RENOVATION BEGINS MAY 16

Thanks to the efforts and support of our congregation, the renovation of the Lounge is scheduled to begin May 16th! This multi-purpose room will be transformed into one that is warm and inviting, creating a coffee shop atmosphere.

The renovation will include:

Replacement of the paneling with drywall, which will be painted a warm, neutral color; replacement of the carpet with tile that will simulate a wooden floor; and installation of new acoustical ceiling tiles, recessed LED lights, and speakers. We would like to purchase more comfortable chairs if the budget permits.

Renovations to the walls are as follows:

The North Wall (to the left as you walk in the room) will include a coffee bar, new kitchenette, and storage space. The East Wall will have new shutters installed over the windows. The South Wall will feature artwork, selected by Karen Janovy and Nancy Dawson, that will showcase Westminster. The West Wall (to the right as you walk in) will feature a sorely needed upgrade to the technology in this room. A 75-inch Smartboard will be installed, which will be adaptable to any type of computer for presentations. It can also operate as a whiteboard or a monitor for showing movies.

The Lounge is used almost daily. Adult Education classes, various ministries, committees, and other groups use it throughout the week. Importantly, the Lounge is where we host speakers including state senators, university officials, and numerous other professionals. We believe that creating a welcoming environment in this room is vital to the future of our church – for new members as well as future generations.

As we approach our launch date, we are still a bit short of our goal. If you would like to contribute, please write a check and include “Lounge Renovation” on the memo line or contact: Cheryl Rennick.



MEET YOUR DECONS

DORRIE GAGE

Where are you from? Lincoln, NE

Do you work or volunteer outside of the home? I am a retired Lincoln Public Schools teacher I babysit for my grandchildren & volunteer at church through the Cook 'n Carry program of Member Care.



What brought you to Westminster and how long have you been a member? I have been a member for about 28 years. I wanted a strong Children's Ministry Program. I wanted to hear good sermons. And I wanted to enjoy the music. I wanted a spiritual home.

What is your favorite aspect of being a deacon?
Serving our elderly members.

What do you like to do for fun?
Outings with grandchildren, lunches with friends, walking & swimming for exercise.

What is your favorite food? Salads, cheese, fruits, seafood, & chicken.

Tell us something about yourself that most people don't know or is unique to you?

I taught for LPS for 25 years. My family lived in Sweden for one year, & I speak a little Swedish.

Anything else you would like to share?

My husband & I have three children, eight grandchildren, & eight great grandchildren.

"I LOVE THIS CHURCH!!!" ~Dorrie Gage



WESTMINSTER YOUTH

Senior Sunday

May 13 | During 10:30 Worship

Recognition of our seniors during 10:30 worship. Come celebrate Mother's Day with our graduating youth! Fruit and veggie reception after church.

Confirmation Sunday

May 20 | During 8 & 10:30 AM Worship

Come listen to our confirmands give portions of their faith statements at the 8:00 and 10:30 worship.

Confirmation Dates

May 1: Faith Statement Due Date!

May 14: 6:30—8:30 PM Session meeting. Youth will read their statements, rehearsal to follow.

May 19: 9 AM Saturday – Rehearsal in the sanctuary and chapel.

May 20: 7:30 – 2 PM Confirmation Sunday, pictures, luncheon.

YOUTH END OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION | PIONEER'S PARK | MAY 5 | 5 PM

Hi YOUTH ! Come Celebrate our Awesome Year at Pioneer's Park. We will end hot dogs and burgers! Everyone Bring your favorite side dish, dessert and drinks!

WESTMINSTER IS GREEN @ HEART

Our May Creation Challenge:

"Outen the Lights!"

We have just had a lot of fun raising money (and awareness!) to obtain some solar energy for Westminster's use. So... what's better than getting our energy from a renewable source? **Using less energy in the first place!**

Cheryl Rennick and our Building and Grounds Committee do a wonderful job of conserving the energy we use in our church home. But they have noticed that we have been kind of careless about turning out the lights when we leave a room. We're not suggesting that we sit in the dark. But it's simply poor stewardship to light up a room that's not occupied.



Let's try to develop a better habit this month:

Last one out, "Outen the lights!"



WESTMINSTER ON WEDNESDAY

We serve a home-cooked meal each week followed by adult education, WOWXL, and music! Our last WOW of the school year is May 16, until Fall.

MUSIC REHEARSALS | May 2 & 9

No Rehearsals on May 16

- 6:30 pm Westminster Carillon | Sanctuary
- 6:30 pm Alleluia! Amen! Grades K-5 | Room 210
- 6:30 pm Cherub Choir Pre-K | Room 210 — East
- 7:30 pm Westminster Choir | Sanctuary

Knit-N-Sit

Wednesday | LIBRARY | 6:30 PM

Come to knit or crochet for the People's City Mission, whether you are experienced, a beginner, or want to learn how. We have some supplies to share; donations are always welcome. Come to just sit and visit.

MAY DINNER MENU

Cole Hall | 5:45–6:45 PM

All dinners include salad, fruit & dessert.
\$4/Children, \$6/Adults, \$17 Max/Family

May 2 Twice Baked Spaghetti Casserole

May 9 Homemade Runzas

MAY 16 Hotdogs & Hamburgers

WOW concludes until next Fall

WOWXL

Youth Café | 6:30 PM

Youth in grades 6-8 meet weekly during the school year for engaging activities to grow in faith together.

Adult Education | Lounge | Wednesday, May 9 & 6 | 6:30 PM

We will be viewing a Foreign Film and having a discussion afterwards.

Summer Special Music

Look forward to new special music offerings this summer! We encourage volunteers from all generations to participate in a point-and-ring bell/chime opportunity, a women's choir, men's choir, and ukulele group in July. This is a great way for families to make music together, and each offering will also provide an opportunity to try something new without the rehearsal commitments of our regular program year. If you have other ideas for fun musical experiences that you would like to see at Westminster, or if you were interested in performing as a soloist or small group, contact John Ross at 402-475-6702 x111, or john@westminsterlincoln.org.

Congratulations are due to Westminster for a successful celebration of Our Place in the Sun!

At the time of press we do not know the final outcome of the auction, but we are confident that we will be able to purchase at least two solar panels.

Watch the Vine for grand total!



SUNDAY ADULT ED & BIBLE CLASS

SUNDAY ADULT EDUCATION | Lounge | 9 AM

How can we steward God's creation? A different speaker each week will help us explore practices that keep our environment clean and beautiful.

May 6: "Women in the Old Testament" video lecture by Research Scholar and Lecturer in Middle Eastern New Testament Studies, Dr. Kenneth E. Bailey.

May 13: Mother's Day | No Adult Education Scheduled.

May 20: "Women Leaders in the New Testament" | Ken Bailey video.

May 27: "Women Prophets" | Ken Bailey Video.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS

Join us any Sunday in May | 9AM | Parlor

As we conclude our study centered around the theme Acknowledging God, our focus in May will be on giving praise to God through worship and stewardship of our whole lives. If you haven't joined the discussion yet this spring, we invite you to do so this month. We look forward to sharing our study together with you.

Coffee and donut holes are waiting along with a friendly, spirit-filled group of friends.

May 6: Marathon Day | Exodus 35:20-29, 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 | Giving from a Generous Heart | Ellen Davis

May 13: Mother's Day | Leviticus 23:9-14, 22 | Bringing First Fruits | Greg Hershberger

May 20: Leviticus 25:1-12 | Remembering with Joy | Bill North

May 27: Memorial Weekend | Psalm 34:1-10; Hebrews 2:17-18 | Rejoicing in Restoration | Ellen Davis

Do you remember the song that starts "***One is the Loneliest Number***" from Three Dog Night? Do you think you have an idea for a small life group that would allow some "*ones*" to gather? Your Life Groups committee would like to explore how your idea might grow into a viable life group. If you have an idea to consider please contact me. I will be the "one" to buy coffee. Rob Otte, 402-770-9379, robot4nu@gmail.com.



Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, May 1 | 11:30 AM

We are meeting at the Golden Corral this month, 3940 N 26th Street. Come for fellowship & good food. Lunch Bunch meets at a different dining establishment on the first Tuesday of each month. All are welcome. Contact: Larry Wieskamp at 402-802-6883.

History Buffs May—August

We will not have a formal History Buffs meeting again until September 8th depending on the time for the NU vs CU football game.

Sausage, Eggs & Scripture

Saturday, May 19 | 8 AM

Scooter's 2901 S 84th St.

Men of Westminster are invited to a breakfast Bible study on the third Saturday of each month. We meet in the private dining room of Scooter's, just south of 84th and Van Dorn. Dr. Shelbourn leads the study which concludes promptly at 9 am. For more info, call Jimmy at 402-475-6702.

Presbyterian Women's Circles are small groups based on study, friendship, and action. All Westminster women are invited to visit any of the following circles:

Circle 3: Wednesday, May 2 | 10 AM | Nora Hinrichs.

Circle 4: Monday, May 7 | 6 PM* | Susie Hughes.

Circle 5: Tuesday, May 8 | 10 AM | Pat Hackley.

Circle 6: Tuesday, May 22 | 7 PM | Jane Hines.

* Note time change

LNO—Ladies Night Out

Thursday, May 17 | 5 PM

HopCat in the Haymarket

Parking is easy, the food is great, and the company is awesome! <https://hopcat.com/lincoln>. Feel free to drop-in at your leisure, and bring a friend. Please RSVP Robyn Uebele, so that we may have ample seating, at robynu2@hotmail.com.

Faith & Cancer

Tuesday, May 15 | 7 PM | Parlor

No matter where you are in your journey, this group is where cancer survivors can come together for fellowship, prayer and study. This Life Group meets at the same time every third Tuesday of each month. Contact : Bruce Sheffield.

Prairie Readers

Wednesday, MAY 16 | 1 PM

Westminster Parlor

Book Selection: *"Back When We Were Grown Ups"* by Anne Tyler.
Facilitator: Judy White.

Tour de Friends | MAY 20 | 2 PM

We are meeting in Westminster parking lot and we will ride to the UNL Dairy Store for ice cream & conversation. This was one of our favorite rides last year. Helmets are required and you'll need to carry your own water, and bring money for ice cream. Most rides are between 8– 12 miles. Contact : Tracy Murray @ 402-475-6702.



♦
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BROADLY INCLUSIVE
GROWING IN MISSION

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402.475.6702
westminsterlincoln.org

The Lohman youth travelers thought we needed some Westminster Swag!

**Brand new every day swag
that is! Watch for details in
the Garden room on how to
order Westminster apparel
to support our
youth travelers!**

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