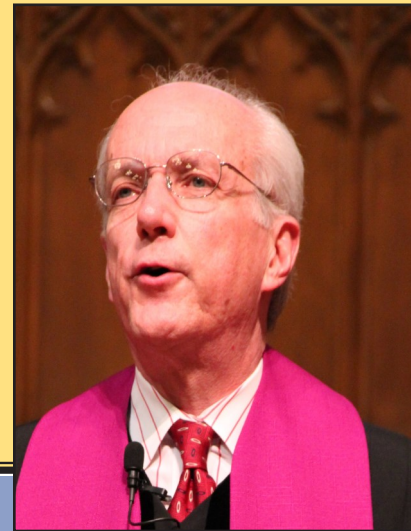




THE MESSENGER

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Rev. Bob Snell to preach on June 30th

It is with great joy that we welcome to the pulpit this Sunday, June 30th, our former Pastor, Rev. Bob Snell.

Bob served Westminster as an Associate Pastor almost a decade ago. He will also teach Adult Education Forum following worship that day on the Book of Ecclesiastes.

Please welcome Bob and Jo Anne.

A 30 Year Relationship Celebrated

Our sister church in Lohmen Germany invited us to join them this August for the dedication of the addition to their parish house. Since Westminster cannot be there in person, we will be taping a short video of greetings from our sanctuary immediately following the church service on August 4 for them to share during their dedication service on August 25.

All are encouraged to join in our greeting. It will be a group message and you will not be asked to say anything. Following the video, there will be an educational hour with stories of our Lohmen relationship through the last 30+ years along with "Kuchen und Kaffee."



This stained glass window is our gift to our sister church, the Lohmen church, in Germany, in honor of the dedication of their new parish house.

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Presbyterian Disaster Assistance & the floods of 2019 in Nebraska

Most of the world would have difficulty remembering exactly what they were doing on March 15, 2019. But for people living in Nebraska, the date will be forever etched in their mind as “the day all ‘heck’ broke loose and blizzards and floods washed away decades of memories and possessions and forever changed the landscape of parts of the Nebraska farmland.” Those “in the know” tell us that every single Nebraskan will be (or has been) affected in some manner by the floods of 2019!

The floods were “old news” to most people outside Nebraska within a few days – too many other natural disasters and world changing/shaping events were happening. But, having been with “boots on the ground and running (driving) from Niobrara to Falls City, from Fremont to Lynch – and all points between – for the past three months, we assure you – the flood has NOT gone away – nor will it anytime soon!

Within a week of the flood, representatives from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance were in Homestead Presbytery, assessing initial damage and giving us Gary Haller (Westminster PC) and Sue Babovec (HR) basic information needed to start connecting with the areas most in need. Wow, have we learned a lot!!! And there is still tons to learn. There are groups who focus on “rapid response” to needs of those hurting (food, shelter, water, clothing) and that first “muck and gut” of damaged property – people like The Red Cross, The Salvation Army, Team Rubicon and many other (often faith-based) groups who were in Fremont, North Bend, Schuyler, Niobrara, Nebraska City, Columbus and other places around the Presbytery within hours. Many of our Presbyterian Churches opened their doors to welcome displaced people or provide meals or serve as collection/interview sites.



As this was happening, Homestead Presbytery made an initial request for a \$7,500 grant for immediate needs. Part of that has been spent – providing direct help to children; helping host seminars in Columbus, Nebraska City and Fremont PC's to connect help and assistance groups and FEMA; assisting as requested with Long Term Recovery Groups being formed; and replacing some damaged appliances in a manse. The remainder of that grant is being used to establish host sites in some of our congregations



within the directly flooded areas to provide housing, a place to cook and shower for work groups coming yet this summer to begin working under the direction of trained volunteer and construction coordinators.

Most of the “rapid response” teams have moved on to the next disaster (and there have been many!) but we in Homestead Presbytery continue to work with our brothers and sisters to find ways to help in the long term recovery. To that end, we have been attending many meetings and making connections to other faith based (and government) organizations. As our initial grant is used, we will be making grant requests for PDA for “brick and mortar” expenditures – and we have some funds that have been donated directly to Homestead Presbytery that we will also be honored to prayerfully distribute on your behalf.

Working the past three months with this, sometimes seemingly slow, process, we have come to appreciate the value of the Long Term Recovery Groups in each community and their use of case managers to clearly interview, track and determine need. Working in this manner with them assures that the most people are helped in the best ways! It took time to get to this point – and as we said, most of the world has forgotten the floods of Nebraska – but many are still working faithfully and tirelessly to provide for good recovery for flood victims.

We are also in the process of forming a Homestead Presbytery Disaster and Beyond Response Team. Thanks to all who have indicated an interest in helping us – you will be getting a letter in the near future telling of specific needs we have and that our initial meeting will be at Camp Calvin Crest at 1:30 on July 10th. If you didn't respond yet but are interested in this group, there is plenty of work for everyone – and not everyone has to do everything! So please email Gary (txhaller2@att.net) or Sue (chaplainsueb@hotmail.com) and we'll add you to the list.

In the meantime, please continue to remember all those affected by the flood and those seeking to help find a “new normal” for them.

Blessings to you all – Rev. Sue Babovec and Elder Gary Haller

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE MINISTRY

July 1, 2019

Dear Friends,

As members of Westminster and the Presbyterian Church USA, we are called by God to support the life of the church and do so with gratitude for God's abundant love and the blessings we have already received. That call includes the inspiration to give our time, our talents, and to give financially. Our church is blessed with a wide variety of leaders who have stepped forward to not only lead us in these efforts to "right size" our church today, but also build a vision for our future. When we succeed in matching our vision with our giving, it enables our church and us as members to do God's work and to share God's love here on earth.

In this time of transition, the Session of the church is working diligently to manage our resources for where we are as a church right now...and this includes implementing some new strategies. To better coordinate these efforts, the Stewardship & Finance Ministry earlier this year formed a task force named the "Financial Leadership Council." This Council brings important leadership voices from Buildings & Grounds, Personnel, Foundation, Grants, and our church staff together monthly to coordinate budgets, to monitor giving trends, and to adjust our plans as needed throughout this year. Please reach out to me if you have questions about this Council.

This is a very important year for Westminster. As we come together and form a new shared vision for the future of our church, our collective generosity will determine our ability to enact that vision plan. We will need your financial support to make this possible. In the coming weeks and months, we will be reaching out to each of you to encourage and inspire you to consider how you can give toward these key building blocks of the financial plan:



- **Special Giving to the Pastor Nominating Process**
- **Fundraisers & Sponsorships**
- **Non-Pledge Giving & Donation Appeals**
- **Annual Pledge Drive Campaign**
- **Per Capita Campaign**
- **Weekly Offering Gifts**

Please take this time in your busy summer to open your mind and your heart to these opportunities. To move Westminster forward, to call the new pastor to lead our future, to support our church staff and programming, and to strengthen our connection to the Presbyterian Church in our region and nationally, we will need your valuable financial support.

Sincerely,

Allen Wachter

Co-Moderator, Stewardship & Finance Ministry

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS

10:30am Parlor

Sunday Bible Class is a unique opportunity to explore and discuss not only the texts used in Sunday worship but to discuss the sermon. Join an energetic group exploring the Bible in this new way each Sunday or drop in when you can. Sunday texts in July will be available each week in the bulletin.

Facilitator: Rev. Ellen David (edavis11@neb.rr.com)

June 30: No class - combining with Forum
in Lounge with the Rev. Bob Snell

July 7: Luke 10: 1-11, 16-20

July 14: Luke 10: 25-37

July 21: Luke 10: 38-42

July 28: Luke 11: 1-13



ADULT EDUCATION FORUM

10:30am Lounge

In Christian circles the term meditation is used frequently but for some of us, the practice is a mere mystery.

The Adult Ed Forum offers **Meditation & Contemplation:**
A Gift to the Christian Spiritual Life

Join us for this four week series on contemplative practices and how they enrich the Christian Spiritual Life. We will spend most of our time learning and practicing. Adam Luedtke and Patty Forsberg from Contemplate Lincoln will lead this four week study.

July 7 - Centering Prayer with Adam Luedtke

July 14 - Lectio Divina: Praying the Scriptures with Adam Luedtke

July 21 - Welcoming Prayer with Patty Forsberg

July 28 - Focusing with Patty Forsberg

Adam is director of Contemplate Lincoln a PCUSA New Worshipping Community sponsored by WPC. Adam completed a PhD in psychology by researching the spiritual development of contemporary Christian mystics. Adam has also studied worship trends and spiritual participation among millennials, Nones, and Dones.

Patty is a spiritual director, retreat director at Contemplate Lincoln, co-coordinator for Nebraska Contemplative Outreach, and certified presenter of Centering Prayer and Welcoming Prayer by Contemplative Outreach. She is also a presenter for Boundless Compassion and the Enneagram.



Patty Forsberg



Adam Luedtke



FAITH THROUGH THE GENERATIONS

When Eleanor Adamson died in April at the age of 93, she left behind a legacy of faith that spilled into the three generations that followed — her children, their children and then their children, her great-grandchildren. Four generations who found more than a Sunday worship practice at Westminster Presbyterian; they found faith, fellowship, friendship and fun through a life-nurturing community of like-minded folks.

Two of Eleanor's daughters, Cathy Adamson, who became her mother's caregiver, and Nancy Leavitt and her husband, Bob, along with their daughter Cory — and Cory's two children Mircalla, 9, and Revan, 5, came together on a recent June evening to talk about just how meaningful the church has been in their lives.

And it's just as clear how the church has benefited from the active participation of this bunch. It all began in 1958 when Eleanor's family moved from Auburn to Lincoln, and she joined the choir at Westminster. Music provided the gateway for all. From middle-school-on choirs for Nancy and Cathy to Nancy's handbell ringing to Bob adding his voice to the choir when he joined the family to their children's singing and occasional instrument playing — Cory with her violin and viola, Cathy's son with his guitar accompanying the organ on a rendition of "Silent Night" — music added a dimension of pleasure and investment in the church. Both Nancy and Cathy have gratitude for the full musical program and the staff that nurtured the talent and interest of those musically inclined members, young and old.

And more. It takes a village to raise a child, said Cathy. "The church was our community."

Nancy and Cathy gave back to the church that gave their families so much. They taught Sunday School — Nancy with the grade-schoolers, Cathy preferring the middle-schoolers. Both have served as elders. Nancy volunteered many years as the director of Camp Calvin Crest, a weeklong summer overnight experience, where Cory went as a camper and then worked as a counselor. Cory credits her first job after college as an English teacher on the Macy Reservation to a Camp Calvin Crest friend who recommended her. The church connections run deep, and this family nurtures them.

"When the Leavitts got involved with the Lohman community as a sister church, they made five mission trips to the former East German town. They have since made two more trips to see their original hosts, who have been here twice to visit after the reunification of Germany. And in 1997 Nancy took a youth group overseas as well. The fact that Nancy can speak German is an added benefit, and to this day church members call on her to translate letters they receive from their Lohman friends.





The church has opened the door for a lot of different opportunities for our family,” Cory said. From the Westminster Family Days of earlier times, a two-day retreat at various local colleges, which Cathy describes as a “grown-up camp,” to the Wednesday Parents Night Out that offers entertainment and a meal for youngsters while their parents enjoy the reprieve, the church has touched their lives in so many ways. “It’s just such an integral part of what we’ve done,” said Nancy.



Although she is technically retired as a social worker at Bryan Hospital, Nancy still fills in on an as-needed basis. The volunteer work she did at the church qualified as her practicum when she received her master’s degree in social work.

But she has also honed her leadership skills through the church, which early on sent her to Minnesota for training. She has since served as a moderator for the Presbytery, attended general assemblies in Louisville, Kentucky, and was recognized with the Robert Giles Outstanding Homesteader Award. Cathy remembers accompanying her mother to her regular Sunday seat in the back pew of the balcony for Sunday services until the stairs became too much. But Eleanor’s devotion to the church carries on through the generations. Mircalla, who will be a fourth-grader, loves the drama activities, especially playing a church mouse, that she’s participated in, and she and Revan, a kindergartner, look forward to musical events as well.

Cory, who has lived in Omaha for 17 years as a high school librarian, is delighted her kids are experiencing the church as she did. She recalled her time as a 20-year-old church elder — the rule has since changed to 21 — and as a youth delegate to the general assembly, all experiences that helped her grow.

As Nancy said, church for this family goes well beyond Sunday mornings. “The church is part of the weave,” Nancy began, “the fiber of who we are,” Cory finished. And, Cory added, she knows that she can always return and find people she knows. “Church is a safe place. It’s comforting to come back to it.”

Article by Patty Beutler



CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & EVENTS



Acolytes:

Is your child going into the 3rd, 4th or 5th grade this year and interested in volunteering as an acolyte on Sunday mornings? Contact Sara Campbell at sara@westminsterlincoln.org to be added to the list. Training/refreshers will take place on July 21st after church.

There will be no Session meeting in July.

There will be no Worship Committee in July.

There will be no Sausage, Eggs, and Scripture in July, and it will resume the 3rd Saturday of August (August 17th).

Creative Arts Camp Cancelled

CAC 2019 has been cancelled due to low enrollment. Thanks to everyone who helped during the planning process and who set aside time to volunteer. If you're still interested in helping the church during that week, please contact sara@westminsterlincoln.org for other volunteer opportunities.

At worship, please ask an usher if you would like assistance with a hearing device or reading glasses.

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH:

Four different circle groups will begin meeting monthly in September. If you are interested in joining a group, contact Rev. Ellen Davis at ellen@westminsterlincoln.org for more information. Rev. Jimmy Shelbourn will present an introduction to the study on Saturday, August 24 in Fellowship Hall with refreshments beginning at 9 a.m.



Mondays at noon: deadline for E-Vine * Wednesdays at noon: deadline for Vine

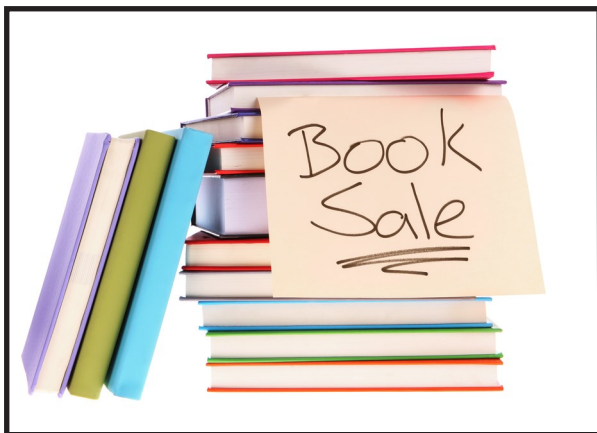
* 20th of each month: deadline for Messenger

Thank you!



Reunion Choir July 28th

If you have ever sung in any choir, enjoy the music of John Rutter, or have just wanted to know what it feels like to sing in a large choir, then you're invited to join our Reunion Choir! Westminster Choir and friends will gather at 6:30pm on Wednesday, July 24th to rehearse Rutter's *For the Beauty of the Earth*. We will meet again on the 28th at 8:30am to warm-up for our 9:30am worship service. No RSVP required, but if you have any questions do not hesitate to ask Laura for more information!



The Book Sale is coming! The Book Sale is coming!

It's that time of the year when the halls fill up with tables of books, CDs, DVDs, puzzles, games, and all sorts of treasures! So check your shelves and closets for anything you want to donate. This year's sale will be from August 18 through August 25; please bring your donations to the library no later than August 14. Then plan to join in the fun and search for new books to read.

Prayer Ministry Reinstated

If you are interested in being part of Westminster's Prayer Ministry (formerly Prayer Chain), please notify the office by phone (402) 475-6702 or email Andrea Scott at: andrea@westminsterlincoln.org.

If you have a prayer concern you would like to share, please notify the church office. Thank you.



WESTMINSTER WELCOMES YOU!



Ladies Night Out

Tuesday, July 9th 5-7 PM at Cactus Modern Mexican & Cantina - 5500 S 56th St. Suite 1 (Edgewood Shopping Plaza area, next to The Parthenon)

Lunch Bunch

We will meet at Mr. Hui's 3256 Cornhusker Highway on **July 2nd**. @ 11:30AM. If not available please contact Ed Plander, plandere@prodigy.net. I will schedule for 12.

Prairie Readers

**1:00 pm, Wednesday,
July 17, 2019**

Book: *A Prayer for Owen Meany*
by John Irving; facilitator Marissa Kemp

Irving believed the first sentence of the novel captured the essence of the entire book: "I am doomed to remember a boy with a wrecked voice—not because of his voice, or because he was the smallest person I ever knew, or even because he was the instrument of my mother's death, but because he is the reason I believe in God; I am a Christian because of Owen Meany."



Knit & Sit

Church Library

6:30 PM (every Wed.)

We warmly welcome you to come to knit, crochet, do other hand work, or just sit and enjoy the fellowship. We can also help you learn to knit and we have some supplies to share. We meet year round, just come when you can.

Faith & Cancer

July 16th

7 PM in the Parlor

"Faith is a Journey - When we're lost in a dark wood and we need to find our way home, prayer is as good a path as we're likely to find."

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.

Westminster is an Earth Care Congregation

What does it mean that we are an Earth Care Congregation? Technically, it means that our actions in four categories (worship, education, facilities, and outreach) qualify us for recognition by our denomination.

But closer to home, it means that we are being Earth Care People. It means that our Building and Grounds committee members are diligent about conserving energy. It means that our youth clean up a stream bed and our children perform a musical about creation. It means that we praise God for the gift of creation and learn what we can about being good stewards of that gift.



Our Creation Challenge for July is to PONDER (*consider, review, think carefully about*)—what it means for us as individuals to belong to an Earth Care church and what we as a congregation can do to express that commitment: Does it matter to me? Why or why not? What different approaches would I like Westminster to consider? What practices might we start or stop doing? Is there a way I'd like to be more involved—or not? Then watch for a chance to share your thoughts in August. Happy pondering! Thanks for be willing to take a turn!

Family Fun

Mark your calendars for the LES Sustainable Living Festival, 9:00 to noon on Saturday, **July 27**. Located on Canopy Street at the north end of the Farmers Market, this signature community event provides hands-on activities for kids and adults—design a turbine, see the newest electric cars, step into a tiny house, try an e-bike and more. See LES.com/fest.



Elders for the Earth

Adults 50 years and older can save the date now to enjoy a fall getaway at Platte River State Park, Sunday, October 13th through Tuesday, October 15th. Enjoy an array of speakers, Drawdown Jeopardy, good food, live music, local wine tasting, and plenty of time to simply relax in these beautiful surroundings.



SPIRITUALLY ALIVE
BROADLY INCLUSIVE
GROWING IN MISSION

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



GENESIS SUNDAY AUG. 18th

Mark your calendars for our Fall Kickoff Sunday!

WILD!



Worship
Invitational
Loving
Discipleship

MESSENGER VIA E-VINE

If you would be interested in receiving the Messenger once per month via email,
please let us know by calling the Church Office at 402-475-6702 or email: andrea@westminsterlincoln.org.
Please consider helping our impact on the environment. Thank you!