



THE MESSENGER

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Hope on the Move:

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." I Peter 1:3

It is truly hope that changes us and sustains us and ultimately changes the world. We as Christians believe that all of God's blessings and promises are already being fulfilled. We live in the anticipation that God's hand of mercy and goodness will lead us into a future with hope. Still, we must all participate in that fulfillment. Active participation on our part means we discern, pray, work and rejoice at what God is doing and will do in the future.

As we prepare for a pastor, let us all prayerfully live into the hope of a new tomorrow. As we actively discern, each one of us can visit with members of the PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee) and share our vision as well as our concerns. Together as a connectional family of faith we will make an informed decision that involves the voices of everyone.

Please commit to pray for Westminster's PNC and their work ahead. We are a congregation of hope and great blessings. Thanks be to God.

- Pastor Val Putnam, Interim





You're Invited to Celebrate with Us!

Sunday October 13 @ 9:30

Join us as the Preschool children sing during the 9:30 worship service and share their artwork with you in Fellowship Hall immediately following. (Please plan on an influx of visitors which may affect parking)





CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

The Pastor Nominating Committee Report (PNC)

Our Ministry Information Form (MIF) was approved by Session and submitted to the Homestead Presbytery Committee on Ministries and approved by them on September 19, 2019. The MIF was then entered on the Church Leadership Connection (CLC) online system. The request to begin the matching process was completed on September 23, 2019.

A large part of the MIF was for the PNC to determine the strengths we wanted in our next pastor. We had a choice of 33 characteristics but could only select 10. We selected the following as our top five:

Preaching and Worship Leadership; Collaboration; Interpersonal Engagement; Strategy and Vision; and Spiritual Maturity.

We wanted an individual with 5 to 10 years of experience and further explained who Westminster is in the five narrative questions. As mentioned previously, we welcome comments from our members as we move through this process. Thank you.

- Joyce Douglas



Confirmation 2020!!

There are seven ninth grade youth exploring faith and what it means to be a Presbyterian together. This class will use the curriculum from our Presbyterian denomination called **“Professing Our Faith.”** This year the youth will have an opportunity to discuss, discern, wrestle and hopefully make a commitment as to what it means to be a Christian. We spend time discussing God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the church and sacraments and the Presbyterian Church. The students will express what they believe by writing a Statement of Faith prior to being confirmed and becoming members of the church.

On a Sunday morning from 10:30 — 11:30 you will find the first item on the agenda is donuts then digging in to explore issues of faith and practice. Please be in prayer for our youth as they prepare for Confirmation Sunday, April 5, 2020.

Photos by Allen Wachter



Caretakers of Creation: A New Challenge

Following up on the wonderful attendance and participation in last month's "Taste and Cheese" Earth Care event, we are eager to highlight some of the ways that Westminster's Earth Care People are taking care of creation at home, work, or in the community.

Did your family replace your furnace with a heat pump? Are you experimenting with a more plant-based diet? Are you aware that a Westminster friend has traded for an electric car? Did you see a Westminster member refuse a plastic straw or styrofoam container? We want to know!

Please "turn yourself in" or "report a friend" by contacting Glenna Haller (glenna0952@att.net) or leaving a note in the Outreach mailbox behind the front desk.



Elders for the Earth

There's still time for adults 50 years and older to enjoy a fall getaway at Platte River State Park, Sunday, **October 13th through Tuesday, October 15th.** Enjoy an array of speakers, Drawdown Jeopardy, an inspiring movie, good food, live music, local wine tasting, and plenty of time to simply relax in these beautiful surroundings. Questions? Talk to Tom Pappas. Then register at <https://www.elders4theearth.com> 402-202-4454 or tpappas@windstream.net



Interchurch Climate Event

Lincoln's faith communities are coming together to address creation care! You are invited to join believers from around the city for a Skype presentation by Katharine Hayhoe on **Wednesday, October 30th, 3:30pm** in Hardin Hall (East Campus). Dr. Hayhoe is a professor of Climate Science at Texas Tech University, a conservative Christian, and a pastor's wife who also happens to be an entertaining and compelling speaker. This event is free and requires no reservations.



ADULT EDUCATION

Bible Class Invites You

Did you hear something in the sermon that surprised you? Or perhaps you have a burning question? Join the Sunday Bible Class as we pour over the scriptures used in each Sunday's sermon and discuss how the sermon text and the pastor's message impact our daily lives. In October we will be exploring Luke. Everyone is welcome – drop in for a Sunday or stick around all month!

Sunday, October 6	Luke 17:5-10	"Increase Our Faith"
Sunday, October 13	Luke 17:11-19	"The Cleansing of the Lepers"
Sunday, October 20	Luke 18:1-8	"The Parable of the Widow and the Unjust Judge"
Sunday, October 27	Luke 18:9-14	"The Parable of Pharisee and the Tax Collector"

Adult Forum Invites You

Forum in the Lounge 10:45 on Sundays

October 6 Church Fathers continues

13 Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn begins a series on Sermon on the Mount - "the Beatitudes"

20 Sermon on the Mount continues "You have heard it said of old." with Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

27 Sermon on the Mount continues "Charity, Prayer, and Fasting" with Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH—PW CIRCLES

Circle 3

2019: 10/2, 11/6, 12/4

2020: 1/8 (note change), 2/5, 3/4, 4/1, 5/6

First Wednesday 10 a.m. Church Lounge

Leader: Linda Miller

Circle 4—First Mondays at member's homes

will meet on **Monday, October 7**, at 7:00 p.m.

at the home of Cynthia Olson, 9321 Thornwood Drive.

Meeting Dates: 10/7 Cynthia Olson 11/4 Faye Moulton
12/2 Joyce Douglas 1/6 Kathy Anderson 2/3 Linda Burchard
3/2 Marijane Hancock 4/6 Carolyn Harp 5/4 Susie Hughes

Circle 5

Second Tuesday 10 a.m. Church Lounge

Leader: Pat Hackley

Meeting Dates:

2019: 10/8, 11/12, 12/10

2020: 1/14, 2/11, 3/10, 4/14, 5/12

Circle 6

Fourth Tuesday 7p.m. | Church Library

Leader: Jane Hines

Meeting Dates:

2019: 10/22, 11/26, 12/TBA

2020: 1/28, 2/25, 3/24, 4/28, 5/26



NEW MEMBERS' INQUIRY CLASS

There will be a New Members' Inquiry class for anyone interested in more information about the mission and ministry of Westminster Presbyterian Church. The class is for those interested in membership, but there is no obligation to join the church. Please feel free to attend and bring your children.

Class: Thursday, October 10th

Time: 6:30 pm to 8:00pm
(church tour included)

Location: Church Lounge

FAITH THROUGH THE GENERATIONS

The Baltensperger Family



Sarah and Rob Baltensperger enjoy a friendly game of one-upmanship, but the winner is always Westminster Church. That's because when he or she jokes about outdoing the other in volunteer commitments to the church, the church comes out ahead. It reaps the benefits of two highly committed adults who give willingly of their time and energy to keep the church and its congregation moving forward in an orderly fashion.

But that's getting ahead of the story.

Rob, originally from Gering and now an administrator at Lincoln Southeast High School, had been a member of the congregation when he met Sarah. Not only did he like the services, he relished the building and its woodwork finishes, something a guy who had previously taught shop and woodworking at Benson High School in Omaha might appreciate.

Sarah, originally from Holdrege and a senior project manager at Perceptyx, was introduced to the church by longtime members she nannied for. She was set up on a blind date by her friend, who happened to be Rob's cousin. Sarah joined the church in 2005, and the couple were married in 2008.

They joke that their wedding at the church on a Saturday postponed renovations of the sanctuary, which was finally closed on the Monday after. That may have been the plan, but the Baltenspergers prefer to think they had something to do with the timetable.

Even before they were married, they worked with a youth group as leaders. Now they have their own youth brigade at home: Sam, 9, and a fourth-grader at Rousseau Elementary School; and twins Addie and Reese, 7, second-graders. The kids were baptized at the church and have known no other.



Sarah, 36, remembers being overwhelmed when the twins were born, and members of the church reached out to her. Now she repays the kindness by reaching out to congregation members going through some difficult patches in their lives.

The two have been involved in most every position and committee the church offers. They started out serving together, but then they each found the niche that suits best. Both have served as Elders, and Sarah is now a Deacon. A former Sunday School teacher when her kids were younger, Sarah plays a less active role but is still involved, mostly with the twins' class. Rob prefers the older kids and is helping with confirmation.

Where there's a need, these two are likely filling it.

"We probably don't say no as often as we should," Rob, 37, confides. But the work of committees is balanced by the fun and friendships that come with it as well as the satisfaction of giving back. Besides, adds Sarah, they are setting an example for their kids about the value of giving back. Oh, and she's in the bell choir too!

"The church has been there for us," she declares.

Westminster is a warm, loving, welcoming church, and the kindness of people is what keeps them involved. And there's a sense of belonging that is important to both.

The church takes up the bulk of their spare time – their commitment level is manageable, they say – but there's more. Sarah is president of the Rousseau PTO and a Make-A-Wish granter. Rob spends nights supervising LSE sports activities, and the kids are involved in baseball, softball, basketball and piano lessons for the girls. And then there's the handcrafted wood furniture Rob has found time to make for the house.

But Sarah has a confession that few people know about her: She's obsessed with podcasts, especially of a true-crime bent – so much so that she traveled alone to Baltimore for a social justice event for Adnan, featured on the first *Serial* podcast, and to Nashville with her sisters for a podcast convention.

Rob doesn't bat an eye; he loves the outdoors and goes fishing and deer hunting with his friends.

"We all get what we want," Sarah says with a sigh.

Article by Patty Beutler



Parents' Night Out



Parent's Night Out is every Wednesday evening from Sept. to May, from 5 — 7pm, free of charge.

Enjoy two hours to take a breath and restore your soul. Delight in the free time to have a date night, run errands, or just R & R.

Toddlers through fifth graders will be lovingly cared for by the Westminster Church Staff. Children will enjoy: Music, games, dinner, Bible lessons, and a bedtime story.

Open to all. Tell a friend.

Trick or Treat



Parents' Night Out is hosting a Spooktacular Event Wed., Oct. 30th from 5-7pm. Children can come in costume for an evening of fun and trick or treating!

Mondays at noon: deadline for E-Vine * Wednesdays at noon: deadline for Vine * 20th of each month: deadline for Messenger
Thank you!

Westminster Has No Barriers When It Comes To Safety!

Playgrounds and outdoor play equipment offer kids fresh air, friends, fun, and exercise.

But it's important to make sure that safety is priority!

Vehicle traffic during school hours pose a threat to the safety of children at play.

Westminster Preschool is so fortunate to have the support of Westminster Presbyterian's Building and Grounds Committee to ensure the children that attend Westminster Preschool are kept safe! The Building and Grounds Committee researched, purchased, and installed safety barriers on the north side of the preschool playground to prevent any opportunity for traffic to impact the playground. While Building and Grounds headed up this project, Steve Larson took a personal interest and spent countless hours researching and investigating the best and most cost efficient solution. For days leading up to the delivery of the concrete barriers Steve could be found digging trenches and clearing the spaces, preparing for the install. Steve organized the installation and oversaw the project from start to finish. Westminster preschool is grateful for Steve and the entire Building and Grounds Committee.



Concrete barriers on north side of playground.



Installation of the barriers.

Photos by Jim White

History Buffs Fall Schedule

9AM in the Lounge

Sat. Oct. 19 Two Irish Aviators Michael Gregg

Sat. Nov. 9 My Korean Adventure Dave Atkinson

Sat. Dec.14 Slavery in Washington D.C.

from 1820 -Civil War Dr. Will Thomas (UNL)

Questions? Contact: Bruce Sheffield at bgsheffield@gmail.com

Music: Join Us!

Contact John or Laura Ross for more info.:

John@westminsterlincoln.org or

Laura@westminsterlincoln.org



GENESIS SUNDAY WAS WILD!

Thank you to all who came and to all who helped make it such a success.



Photos by Allen Wachter





NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

NHN-Sign up now! The Westminster Mission and Outreach Committee is promoting a Neighbors Helping Neighbors Day again this fall. We will be serving Barnabas Community, Clinic with A Heart, Cedars, The Center for People in Need and Friendship Home. We will meet at the church on **Sat., Oct 19th at 8:30 am** for coffee and fellowship.

Each project work team will depart at 9:00 to their worksite and will work until noon.

For more information on projects and to sign up, call or email Jennifer Smith at 402-525-6560 or jennifersmith7801@outlook.com.

Your friendly Outreach Committee members will be in the Garden room
also with details and signup sheets Oct. 6th and Oct. 13th.

Whatever you do to the least one of these, I tell you in truth that you do unto me. Matthew 25:31

Faith & Cancer—Oct. 15 at 7 PM in the 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

Westminster's own Pat Leach will be at Prairie Readers in October to tell us about some of her favorite titles from the American Library Association's Notable Books. You are welcome to attend even if you are not a regular participant in Prairie Readers. If you have heard this presentation, you know that Pat does not disappoint.

Wednesday, October 16, 1:00 p.m.
Westminster Parlor

LUNCH BUNCH

First Tuesdays of the month. Location varies. **Oct. 1** is at Perkins Restaurant, 7301 Husker Circle. **11:30am** gathering time.

Next one will be **Tues., Nov. 5:** location TBD.

Then, **Tues., Dec. 3:** location TBD.

Questions? Contact Ed Plander. Email is: plandere@prodigy.net.

LADIES' NIGHT OUT

Ladies of all ages join in fellowship and to experience new restaurants throughout Lincoln. Bring a friend, sister, mother, daughter and feel free to drop-in at your leisure. Contact Robyn Ubele at (937) 935-6858 if you would like to be added to our monthly E-vite, or, if you have questions. RSVPs are appreciated to insure ample seating.

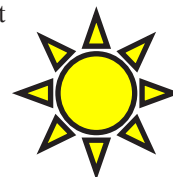
Monday, Oct 14th Billy's (\$10/assortment of heavy appetizers, family style. Plus drink cost, tax and tip)

Tuesday, Nov 12th Venue; 4111 Pioneer Woods Dr, Suite 100 (Happy Hour prices until 6 PM)

SAUSAGE, EGGS, AND SCRIPTURE

On Sat., **Oct. 19th**, 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, (2901 S. 84th) just south of 84th and Van Dorn, at **8a.m.**, and Pastor Jimmy Shelbourn leads the study, which concludes promptly at 9a.m. October's Scripture is Mark 6:30-44. For more info., call Jimmy at 402-475-6702.

Knit and Sit
6:30pm—8:30pm
Every Wednesday
Church Library
Year Round



Westminster Presbyterian Church

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



Photo by Casey and Jess Wedding Photography

1 Corinthians 13:13

*“And now faith, hope, and love abide,
these three; and the greatest of these is love.”*

***Congratulations to
Tracy Murray and Todd Hoffman
who were married Sept. 21, 2019.***

FALL PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN’S GATHERING

On August 24, 2019, at the annual Fall Kick-off, Linda Miller and Eliza Sams were recognized for their years of service as coordinators of Presbyterian Women at Westminster. Circle members honored them by donating financial gifts to the Eileen Gould Scholarship Fund.

The Eileen Gould Scholarship Fund was established to honor the memory of Eileen Gould, a member at Westminster and a nationally known Presbyterian Woman. Eileen grew up on the East Coast and was active at all levels of Presbyterian Women, widely known for her beloved column named **The Button Box** in the PW **Concern Magazine**. Eileen and Sam Gould moved to eastern Nebraska in 1970 with their adult sons, Don and Jack. They developed Pinecrest Farms between Valparaiso and Ceresco, which is now a well-known bed and breakfast.

At Westminster, Eileen served as PW Moderator in 1976 and was often a guest of other PW groups in Nebraska. The Eileen Gould Scholarship Fund is available to any Westminster PW to defray costs to attend Presbyterian Women events and programs. Westminster is blessed to have the continuing generosity of this remarkable woman and the opportunity to add to the fund to honor Linda and Eliza.

Submitted by Linda Burchard, PW Coordinating Team