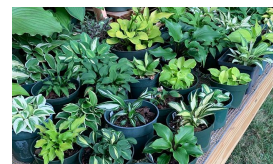


**MONTHLY  
NEWSLETTER**

CALL 402-475-6702  
TO REQUEST THE  
MESSENGER SENT TO  
YOU THROUGH EMAIL



**VIRTUALLY  
WORSHIP WITH US**  
INFO ON BACK COVER



**HOSTAMANIA**  
SUNDAY, MAY 10  
**CURBSIDE PICK UP**

# THE MESSENGER



## When Will We Reopen the Church?

We are hearing that some businesses may reopen soon utilizing PPE and social distancing. The Session of WPC has determined that reopening for public worship is not a good option just yet. In addition to watching the statistics and listening to public health experts there are logistical and safety issues to address before we join in the sanctuary for worship. For now, we will continue with virtual worship.

**Only the WPC  
Session has the  
authority to restart  
public worship and  
activities.**

# Friends at Westminster:

**How I miss seeing you as we did at coffee in the Garden Room! The unplanned chatter, without an agenda, the pleasant conviviality .... That is on hiatus. For now.**

As I write this, I have just virtually attended the Mayor's Interfaith Prayer "Breakfast." In his benediction, the Rev. Oscar Sinclair of the Unitarian Church mentioned that social distancing must not, for people of faith, become spiritual distancing. God connects us. We need only to be attentive to the gifts that God continues to provide in the midst of the pandemic.

What I want to share are these words – from about 590 B.C.E. -- that come to us from a time when the first waves of exiles from Judah were in Babylonian captivity, yet the city of Jerusalem had not yet been ransacked and the prophet Jeremiah was still in Jerusalem. Jeremiah wrote a letter of encouragement to the exiles in Babylon.

I will paraphrase:

*"Build houses there and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. Maintain family life. Have children and grandchildren. But seek the welfare of the city where God has sent you, for in its welfare, you will find*

*your welfare. And know that God has plans for you, for your welfare and not for harm; to give you a future with hope."*

*(--from Jeremiah 29)*

Westminster Church is at a crucial time, yes, and this is falling within a crucial and troubling era of world history. The "big picture" problems will have unpredictable effects on the smaller scale hopes that we have for our own lives, our families, and our beloved congregation. But in the midst of uncertainties, be assured that as certainly as God has plans for the welfare and the future of exiles in Babylonia 2,600 years ago, God has plans for the welfare and the future of each of us and for Westminster Presbyterian Church.

I like the way one theologian boiled the message of the book of Revelation down to two words: "God wins." At the end of the pandemic, God will be in charge, just as God is in charge now.

Blessings,  
Bridge Pastor, Jimmy Shelbourn

# CHURCH NEWS

## Telephone Rollover

With staff often working from home during the pandemic, please be aware that often no one is at the church. If you call 475-6702 just let it ring. After the sixth ring it rolls over to Pastor Jimmy's mobile phone. 24/7. If Pastor Jimmy does not pick up he is likely on another call... or in the shower! Please be patient.

## Hostamania Curbside Pick Up | Sunday, May 10

A loved Westminster tradition for two plus decades. It is pretty inspirational to see dozens upon dozens of plants on the sidewalk outside the East doors on Mothers' Day. Because of the COVID-19 virus, we will need to be differently inspired in 2020. The plan is to go curbside. Tom Pappas is taking requests from a list and will provide some images and ask people to make their selections by email. Contact Tom through email, his email address is: [tpappas@windstream.net](mailto:tpappas@windstream.net).

These plants are happily growing in the ground at Winsome Manor (4150 South Street). If you can name somethings you want, Tom can dig them, pot them and have your selections ready for you to pick them up. Conversely, if you have something to donate, let him know and they can include it in the inventory.

### This is an updated list of plants that are available:

Tom will update it frequently on the Westminster Lincoln Presbyterian Church Face Book group page.

Husker Red Penstemon	wild ginger	Plumbago
Ajuga	Red bee balm (monarda)	Lily turf
Fern	Spiderwort	Bamboo
Creeping euonymus (winter creeper)	Lily of the valley	Lamb's ear
Coral bells variegated Pink blooms	Solomon's seal (plain and variegated)	Hen and Chicks
Strawberries (in packs of 6)	Black eyed Susan	Double pink knock-out rose plants (4)
Hosta variegated	Bleeding heart	Steve and Susie Hughes's reliable asparagus
Hosta (large and small - many varieties)	Vinca	Michael Gregg's Old World
Coreopsis moonbeam	Yellow flag (Siberian Iris)	Marmalade
	Caesar's brother (Siberian Iris)	
	Potted Golden Raintree	

# May Family of Faith

Written by Patty Beutler

You might say Henry Adamson took his parents to church.

That's because the almost 6-year-old had been going to Westminster Preschool long before his parents Jenna and Zack Adamson, joined the church.

Oh, they'd gone to some Christmas services for several years, but it wasn't until this fall that they made the commitment to join.

"We decided it was time to find a place," Jenna said.

Both she and Zack are from York and met through mutual friends in 2001; both were raised in a fairly strict Catholic tradition. Zack even went to parochial schools.

But like many young people, Jenna, 34, and Zack, 39, were never consistent about going to church after they moved to Lincoln and married in 2009. They had a destination wedding in Negril, Jamaica.



Life propelled them on a busy course. Jenna graduated from Nebraska Wesleyan and got a teaching job at Riley Elementary School. In her 12 years there she taught special education and first and fifth grades. Zack, who came to Lincoln to work in glass companies, started his own business, Nebraska Door and Windows, eight years ago out of the garage at the couple's new home in north Lincoln. The business now has its own 15,000 square-foot facility in town and several employees.

When his parents decided to sell their York business, King's Glass, Zack stepped in to buy it, and Jenna took a leave from her teaching job to help out, commuting to York several times a week. "The teacher in me never left; I have bags and baskets I carry with me," says Jenna, who adds that her "learning limits have been pushed in all directions."

And waxing a bit more philosophical, the woman with a master's degree in curriculum and instruction, and a school libraries endorsement, says with certainty, "you don't know what your future holds."

So, church sat on the back burner for a while.



But the outdoor activities did not. These avid water lovers own a large speedboat for skiing and surfing and a fishing boat for, well, fishing. Summer weekends find them at Branched Oak Lake or Okoboji doing what they love to do. And when the weather is frigid, Zack takes Henry ice fishing, with all the appropriate equipment. In fact, Henry was the only one to catch any – two bluegill – at a recent outing.



And then there's their love of travel, most recently to the Dominican Republic with a dozen friends and family for an adults-only getaway. Closer to home, the family visit's Jenna's sister in Flagstaff, Arizona, and even spent time on a houseboat on Lake Powell.

Their interest in the world beyond Lincoln passes to Henry who relishes trips to the

Lincoln Children's Zoo and Henry Doorly Zoo and zoo camps.

"We like to be outdoors, and we want to instill that in Henry," says Zack.

Plus they have their own pet to take care of at home, Norman, a frisky 1-year-old yellow lab.

But if the Adamsons have to name one of their passions – besides following UNL volleyball -- it's frequenting locally owned restaurants, from Hacienda Real in Lincoln to Chez Bubba Cafe in Goehner to Zio's in Omaha.

# Stewardship & Finance Ministry Giving Update

## Thank you for your generosity and continued support to Westminster.

Many of you have been so kind to keep Westminster in your prayers and ask how we are doing financially during this unprecedented time of COVID-19, social distancing, and with our worship services going online for the time being. It is heartwarming to know so many of you are keeping Westminster and in particular your care for the wellbeing of the church staff top of mind.

The combination of your generosity through both your special year-end gifts and your response to the 2020 Power of Ten stewardship campaign have placed us on a solid financial footing right now. Giving through March remained largely stable. In these times of disruption of our normal life touching so many at work and at home, we are humbled to see the stable trend we are on.

## Online Giving Convenience

With us all distancing ourselves and missing the in-person calls to give and the stories of generosity we hear weekly in worship, many of you have asked about what options the church has for online giving. Here we have more good news to share.

As many of you know, in the past year the church migrated to a new church management software system called REALM. With it comes some terrific new tools to make giving as easy as possible for you from the comfort of home. Getting started is very, very easy:

1. Go to: **WestminsterLincoln.org** and at the top navigation menu click on the **GIVE** tab
3. From the dropdown menu click **ONLINE GIVING**
4. Scroll down to the **CLICK HERE FOR ONLINE GIVING** link under the page graphic
5. This opens the Westminster page in the **REALM** system
6. At this point you can proceed by choosing to **Sign In** if you have created an account in the **REALM** system already or as a guest and saving your account information at the end.
7. You then follow the list of questions as presented including deciding:
  - a. If you wish to donate using a credit card or as a debit from your bank account
  - b. If your gift is a one-time gift or set up as a recurring gift
  - c. Your gift fund designation from the options listed (2020 Pledge, Non-Pledge, etc)
  - d. The system will email you a receipt at the completion of the transaction It is as fast and easy as that.

**THANK YOU** again for being so mindful about Westminster during these times and for considering the option of online giving while we are apart from one another. We promise to update you regularly. Please reach out to us if you have any questions.

# The 2020 Spring Garden Clean-Up

Each spring, church members join in community to clean and restore the gardens of Westminster. The advent of the coronavirus posed a challenge to find an alternative way of tending the gardens without endangering those who volunteer to help. Volunteers were asked to bring their rakes and brooms to avoid any cross-contamination. Leaf bags and hand sanitizers were provided. Important, detailed instructions along with images for each zone were prepared.

The response to the request for this unique spring clean-up was phenomenal! Within a few days all the zones were assigned and many began work immediately. Our heartfelt thanks to these “Gardeners of Eden” and to all those who offered to help.

Bill and Joan Roberts  
Barb Anderson  
Jason and Meg Woita  
Jean and Dave Atkinson  
Pam and Jay Wealand  
Tim Gergen

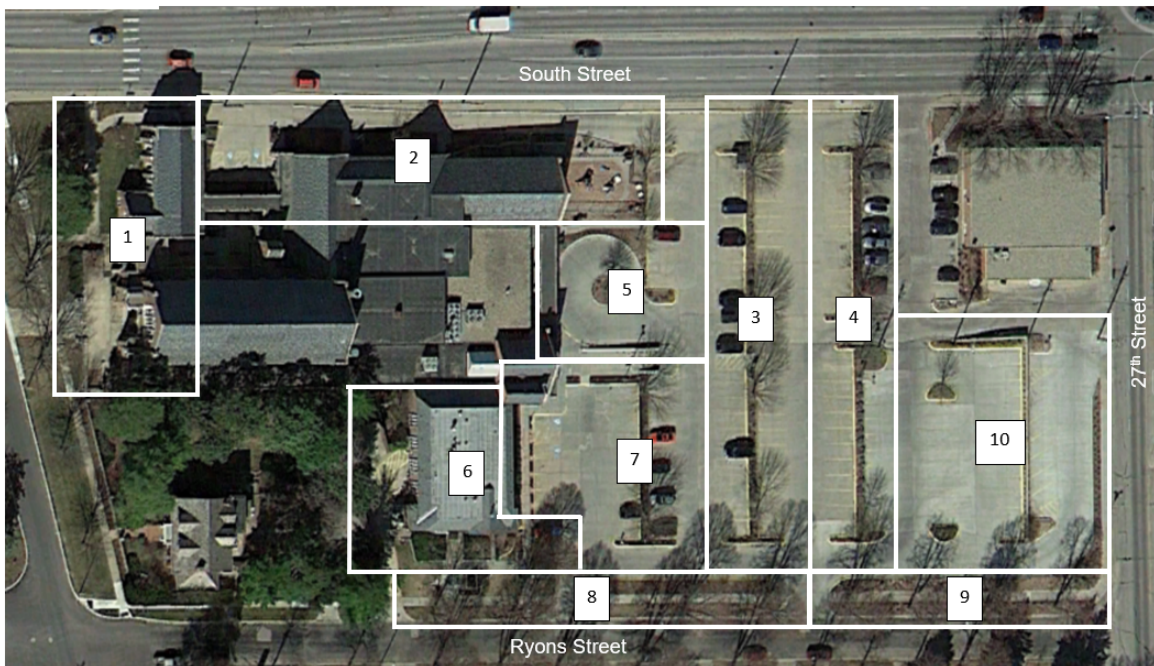
Dale and Deb Minter  
Marybell and Stan Avery  
Marijane England  
Doug Karsting  
Gary Moulton  
Karen Stephens

Amy Clare  
Bob Rediger  
Jessica Sandmeier  
Lauren Dyer

A special thanks to Tom Pappas who prepared the detailed instructions and images to assist the Gardeners with their work. Life will go on. So will our gardens!

This year, members were asked to sign up to clean one of 10 a prescribed garden zones.

**Aerial view of the zones:**







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68502 402.475.6702  
westminsterlincoln.org

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## Join Us in Virtual Worship on Sundays!

At: <https://www.youtube.com/user/WestminsterLincoln/videos?app=desktop>

Westminster Worship will also be televised on Spectrum channel 1302 and Windstream channel 13 at 12:30 pm on Thursday and 1:00 pm on Saturday.

### **WESTMINSTER FOOD PANTRY**

During this isolation don't forget about the Food Pantry. Because of the greater than ever need to provide food to families in Lincoln we are still packing for 6 families each week.

Since donations are not filling our box we have to order from the grocery store. Monetary donations are needed to help us continue this important mission. Checks can be sent to the church and marked Food Pantry.

