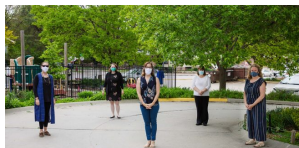


AUGUST MESSENGER 2020



**VIRTUAL COMMUNION
SUNDAY, AUGUST 2**

See page 4



**PRESCHOOL BEGINS
AUGUST 12**



**WORSHIP VIRTUALLY
WITH US
SUNDAYS ONLINE**

THE MESSENGER

A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS...



Dear Friends of Westminster:

Sunday, July 26, 2020, was the beginning of a new chapter in the history of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Lincoln. A Congregational Meeting was held and Rev. Christopher Peters was elected as the next Pastor and Head of Staff.

**Rev. Chris Peters
will commence
duties as Head
of Staff on
September 14.**

Our morning worship started at 10:00 a.m. and included comments from Rev. Sue Babovec, a representative from Homestead Presbytery, and Joyce Douglas, as Moderator of the Pastor Nominating Committee. The sermon was presented by Rev. Peters which was recorded when he was in Lincoln in early June. If you did not see it on Sunday, please go to WestminsterLincoln.org to view this YouTube service.

Following the service, members logged into Zoom for our first online Congregational Meeting that began at approximately 11:00 a.m. There were over 120 connections for this very important meeting. Technology is an amazing gift. One member joined from his cabin in Minnesota; one couple was driving down the highway; most were in our homes. Pastor Jimmy served as Moderator and opened with a prayer. A quorum was definitely present so the meeting continued. Adam Luedtke provided us an overview of technical Zoom pointers.

As Presbyterians, we all made certain that this online meeting was conducted decently and in order. Homestead Presbytery provided the approval for our procedures, and we as a church updated our bylaws to allow an online meeting of this type. And since the Presbyterian Book of Order requires voting by “raised hands or secret ballot”, this Zoom environment meant we needed to vote by raised hands. Pastor Jimmy appointed six Assistant Clerks to count the Zoom screens during the vote. They were Andrew Finkner, Michael Gregg, Steve Hughes, Jim Kinkennon, Sandi Larson and Deb Schorr.

Allen Wachter then presented information on Rev. Peters from his biography and from the interactions that the PNC had with him to better explain why the PNC felt he was the choice of the Pastor Nominating Committee.

- *Education* – Bachelor’s degree in religious studies from the University of South Carolina (2004), Master of Divinity degree from Columbia Theological Seminary (2014).
- *Career Highlights* – Began as Youth and Young Adult director at Forest Lake Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC. Served churches in Madison, GA and Atlanta, GA. And for the past six years served as associate pastor at Trinity Presbyterian in Fairhope, AL.
- *Focus Areas* – Worked with the leadership for children and teenagers to reshape those education programs to a vision relevant for today’s young people. Started two successful bible study programs... one for adults, one for teenagers. Oversaw the successful hire of a director of Children & Family Ministries. Led mission trips nationally and internationally. Served as co-director at the national Montreat Youth Conference. Is tech savvy and helped his church grow in the area of social media.

A few may have questions about the fact that Rev. Peters has never been a head of staff. We found that in all our interactions he demonstrated skills, abilities, and wisdom beyond his title. And to a person, all of the reference checks we made told the same story: *He's ready.*

Finally, we share with you a couple of key quotes that came from our dialogue with him that resonated with us and we hope reflect a strong fit with the spirit of Westminster.

"God is calling me to lead a place by encouraging the community to joyful worship, thoughtful discipleship, and just service that values all people.... Where joy and laughter are welcome, connecting scripture to daily life is paramount, ministries for all ages are valued and supported, and creativity and hope are integral to life together."

"I feel called to an inclusive and hopeful congregation that values God's invitation to worship with gladness, care for the church family, and to engage our neighbors with grace and empathy whether we meet them locally, nationally, or globally."

Allen then presented the full terms of the Call and presented the following Motion:

The Pastor Nominating Committee and the Session recommend that Christopher Stuart Peters of Daphne, Alabama be approved as the next pastor and head of staff of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Lincoln, Nebraska with the terms of call as they have been read, and with the expectation that he begin his duties no later than September 14, 2020.

Pastor Jimmy asked for all in favor of the Motion, and in the Zoom environment, to please raise hands towards your computer screen. After the vote was recorded, he asked for all opposed to the Motion to raise hands. The final vote was recorded as 162 in favor of Rev. Peters to be our next Pastor and 0 opposed. It was an exciting time for all attending. At one point, it appeared there was one negative vote. After investigation, there was an Internet interruption and the person's intention was to cast a yes vote which was earlier counted correctly.

Former Interim Pastor Val Putnam attended as a guest since she was with us during many months of our search. Pastor Val said she felt this was an exciting time for Westminster and felt Rev. Peters was an excellent choice.

Following the conclusion of voting, Rev. Peters was contacted and he joined our Zoom meeting to express his excitement to know that he will be coming to Lincoln to lead Westminster. He closed our meeting with prayer.

Please know that the Pastor Nominating Committee's work will continue and is committed to help during the transition period in two key areas. First, we will assist Rev. Peters in the transition period between now and September 14 when he officially begins at Westminster.

And second, the PNC knows that there is a unique challenge before us to help Rev. Peters get to know all of you and you get to know him during a time when we cannot easily meet as a congregation in person. We have a number of ideas in mind and will be introducing those to you in the coming days. We encourage you to seek out these opportunities and make Chris feel welcome early and often in the days and weeks ahead. We will keep everyone informed on these via the eVine and Messenger newsletters.

The PNC thanks all the members who participated in the Congregational Meeting. It was wonderful to see all of those familiar faces gathered together again. More importantly it was a special, blessed day that marks what we believe to be a bright and vibrant future for our church with the Rev. Chris Peters as the next pastor at Westminster.



Celebration of Life Service

A Celebration of Life service for Marguerite (Marge) Young will be held on Saturday, August 29 at 1:30 in the Westminster Sanctuary. Masks are required. Marge and Lyle Young were active members of the church for 67 years, and Marge died on May 16 at age 99.

Virtual Communion Sunday | Worship Service | August 2



The Virtual Communion YouTube service will be posted August 2. The General Assembly Council and Clerk have given churches leave to have members prepare their own elements at home and receive as they watch virtual worship. Before you watch the Communion service, please have bread (of any sort) and a cup of grape juice or wine for each member of your household who is watching.

Pastor Jimmy Shelbourn preaching.

Scripture: Genesis 32:3-32



The 2020-2021 Preschool Year Begins on August 12

Register now. Limited openings available! Call Rachel at 402-475-6702, or email at rachelh@westminsterlincoln.org.

Meet our Preschool Director & Teachers. Here are some recent photos and bios of our preschool staff to help you know us.

Rachel Hinze is the director of Westminster Preschool. Rachel began at Westminster in 2016 as a preschool teacher and assistant director. Rachel holds a degree in Early Childhood Education and has been active in Early Childhood Education for 15 years as a teacher and director. The love of interacting and building relationships with children and their families makes this career the perfect fit. Rachel and her husband, Trevor, have four children; Jazmine, 23, Maddie, 20, Brady, 16 and Lily 8. They also have a bonus daughter, Dina Elisabet, who came to live with them through an exchange student program from Norway. The Hinze family loves doing home improvement projects and spending time with their church family at Messiah Lutheran. When she's not drinking coffee or spending time outside, Rachel loves teaching Jazzercise!



Reminder: All information for The Messenger is due to Tracy Hoffman at tracy@westminsterlincoln.org by the 18th of each month. All announcements for The eVine are due to Joanne Gabriel at joanne@westminsterlincoln.org by 5 pm on Monday of each week.



My name is Allie Heins and I have been a PreK teacher at Westminster for 7 years (and in early childhood for 20). I have a husband, Justin, who works for FedEx and 3 children Avery (14), Breckin (12), and Harlow (9). Outside of school I love to run and be outside and spend time with family and friends! Spiders and creepy bugs freak me out! The kids keep us busy by playing endless games of soccer, running cross country, and participating in dance class! I absolutely love teaching PreK and being there with the children, along side them... as they learn, grow, and discover! Everyday at PreK puts a smile on my face!

Mary Richardson is an extended care teacher in the preschool classroom. Mary grew up the youngest of five children, with two sisters and two brothers. When she was 8 years old, her family moved from Omaha to Lincoln. Mary was homeschooled from kindergarten through high school before she attended Southeast Community College, twice, and earned two Associate Degree's, one in Art and the other in Early Childhood Education. Mary also has her Bachelor's Degree in Library Science from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She started working at Westminster Preschool in 2013 and has been with us ever since.



Ann Gieseemann is a teacher in the preschool classroom.

Welcome to Westminster, Ann!



Lindsay Reger is a teacher in our preschool classroom. Lindsay was born and raised in Lincoln. She married her husband, Jason, in August 2015, and between them they are blessed with four children, Jayden, Brinley, Brenton and Lanae. Lindsay has a bachelor's degree in elementary education with an endorsement to teach elementary art. Lindsay has worked with children for 19+ years, with approximately 13 years both as a teacher and program director. Lindsay has taught preschoolers since 2008. Lindsay is really excited to have the opportunity to join Westminster, work with your family and teach your child.



Jen Burkey is a teacher in the Pre-K classroom. We're glad to have you with us, Jen!



Sarah Dankenbring is a teacher in the preschool classroom. Welcome back to school, Sarah!



Hi, Miss Judy here AKA Judy Nyhof. I have been teaching at Westminster since 2001, now a substitute in the preschool and Pre-K classrooms. Before teaching preschool I taught elementary school. I received my Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Grand Valley State College in Allendale Michigan. I've taken grad classes at UNL and Doane.

In June my husband, Ed, and I will celebrate 49 years of wedded bliss. We have 3 children 2 daughters and 1 son. They have blessed us with 11 grandchildren. I have had 10 of them in my preschool classes. The youngest lives in Texas and is not attending preschool. We also have 2 great grandchildren. Ed and I enjoy traveling together.

We have visited many thrilling and exciting places, I also enjoy reading. Scrap booking is my stress reliever. I spend a number of weekends at crops. I love watching sports. You can hear me cheering on the University of Michigan Wolverines. GO BLUE!

My greatest joy comes from watching our children and grandchildren participate in their many activities. It doesn't matter if it is a sporting event, instrumental or vocal concert, or school play. We have attended many. I am looking forward to another school year and getting to meet and know your child. May God bless you all.

Betty Dickey is our Art Teacher at Westminster. Welcome to Westminster, Betty! The children will be excited to create their art projects with you.





My name is Christy Altman and I am one of the teachers in the Pre-K classroom. This is my fourth year of teaching at Westminster Preschool. One of my favorite things about being a preschool teacher is that every day is different. I also love to watch the children grow emotionally and academically throughout the year. I have been a Nebraska girl most of my life, growing up in McCook, NE and coming to UNL for college. I graduated with a bachelor's degree in Human Development and the Family. I met my husband, Mike, at UNL. We have been married over 25 years and have 3 college-aged children.

When I'm not at preschool I love to travel and see new things. I also like to read, scrapbook and keep up with family events and activities.



Angie Smith is a substitute teacher for both the preschool and Pre-K. I was born and raised here in Lincoln. Growing up in the Bethany area, I attended Bethany Elementary School, now known as Bethany Retirement Center, Charles Culler Middle School, in my day known as Junior High, graduated from Lincoln East High School and graduated from a one year program at Southeast Community College as a Surgical Technician receiving my certification as well.

I was blessed with two daughters who have also blessed me with 2 son in laws and 6 grandchildren, three each.

I have recently retired from Lincoln Public schools working as a Para for 30 years. I worked the first nine of those as a Special Ed Para at Hawthorne Elementary School and the last 21 working in the OT/PT department traveling to various schools working with children helping them to improve their fine and/or

gross motor skills. I couldn't have been more blessed with a fun and fulfilling occupation with the most loving children. It was an incredible learning experience for me as well. Having lost my husband of 24 years, working here at the preschool has been an added highlight to my life!

Food Pantry Update

Westminster Members
are the BEST!!!

Thanks to everyone that responded to our last request for monetary donations to keep our food pantry funded. Since the church is closed and members cannot bring food donations we are in need of \$\$\$ again to help feed Lincoln's hungry. If you are able to help send checks to the church marked Food Pantry.



Green@Heart An Invitation from Green@Heart & Spring Creek Prairie

Part of Westminster's commitment as a PC(USA) congregation is to use sustainable practices as we care for our building and grounds. That's why there are new native plants in our parking lot, around the library, now taking root in their new home. Another part of



our commitment is for members to use sustainable practices at home, too. And that's why we're collaborating with Spring Creek Prairie—just on time for fall planting—to bring you...

Plants for Birds: Change your Yard, Community, and Climate with Native Plants

Spring Creek Prairie invites you to join us via Zoom on Tuesday, August 25 from 6:30-8:00 pm to learn about native plants, birds, and a promising, new faith coalition. This event is kindly hosted by the Green Sanctuary Committee at Unitarian Church of Lincoln and the Green@Heart team from Westminster Presbyterian. The program will feature the Audubon Nebraska "Plants for Birds" team, Cacey Wilken and Jason "the Birdnerd" St. Sauver, followed by time for questions and discussion.

Topics will include information about the Plants for Birds program, native plantings in the urban and suburban landscape, advocating for native plant use at the city and state levels, and a growing vision for a faith and climate coalition. Our hope is to foster discussion and excitement around collective and individual action in support of creation care in Lincoln's faith community and beyond.

To register and receive Zoom link, please email your name, email, and PLANTS FOR BIRDS scp@audubon.org.

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE MINISTRY

The Per Capita Connection

Westminster Friends,

Per Capita. It's a strange term. But if you look beyond the awkward wording, you'll see its more accurate meaning...Presbyterian Connection. Every year our church contributes, for lack of a better term, per capita "dues" to support the operations of our regional presbytery as well as operations of the national PC(USA) church office and general assembly. The per capita is the "*tie that binds*" to connect our Lincoln church congregation with the Presbyterian Church at large. Our giving to this fund brings Westminster together with over 9,000 other churches to:

- Partner with ecumenical bodies worldwide to promote Christian unity
- Witness on behalf of the church on social issues
- Provide funding to bring commissioners to General Assembly and other events
- Administer the Church Leadership Connection system for calling pastors
- Publish and distribute the *Book of Order* and the *Book of Confessions*
- Address issues of inclusion and representation across the church
- Support a portion of the Presbyterian Mission Agency and mid-council ministries
- Plan and host the biennial General Assembly

For 2020, Westminster is required to contribute \$45.10 in per capita dues times the total number of our active members as determined by Homestead Presbytery for the prior year. That adds up to a commitment of approximately \$29,000 we will need to fulfill soon.

On behalf of the Session and the Financial Leadership Council, I ask each of you to consider a gift to support the per capita for each church member in your family. And in these challenging times, when we can't be together, I ask that you also consider making an additional gift toward the per capita... for one or more others in our congregation who may be facing financial challenges due to furlough, job loss, or other COVID-related challenge that prevents them from giving to the Per Capita at this time. Together we get through this, right?

Gifts can be made by check or online via your Realm account where I just did... fast and easy. Also, so that we know to direct and recognize your generosity, please be sure to indicate "Per Capita" with your gift. Thank you!

Allen Wachter

Elder and Co-Moderator, Stewardship & Finance Ministry



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

Continued from page 11.

Mail Per Capita Checks to:

Westminster Presbyterian Church
2110 Sheridan Blvd.
Lincoln, NE 68502



2020 Presbyterian Connection PER CAPITA Fund Commitment

Please record our family's gifts to the Presbyterian Connection Per Capita fund as follows:

_____ Gift(s) x \$45.10 for the church members in my family \$_____

_____ Gift(s) x \$45.10 as additional gifts to help another family's giving \$_____

Name: _____ **Total:** \$_____