

October
2020

**PEACE & GLOBAL
WITNESS SPECIAL
OFFERINGS**

**Peacemaking and
Reconciliation**
September 6-October 4



**WORSHIP ONLINE
WITH US**
SUNDAYS AT 9:30 AM

**BECOME A
MEMBER**
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**FOR MEMBERSHIP
DETAILS**
CALL 402-475-6702

THE MESSENGER



“World
Communion
Sunday was first
celebrated at
Shadyside
Presbyterian
Church in
Pittsburgh, PA,
in 1933.”

World Communion Sunday

IN OUR WORSHIP AND OUR CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

As I experience the Westminster family and Lincoln community more and more, I am overjoyed for God's call to serve with you in ministry! Lauren and I have been thoroughly blessed in our first weeks here, which have been filled with grace, hospitality, humor, and hope. Throughout October and the months to come, I look forward to building relationships with our church family through our connection groups, phone calls, Zoom meetings, and safe in-person points of contact.

Along with cooler weather and pumpkin spice flavored foods overload, October brings with it one of my

favorite days of the year. And, while I do hold a coveted “Best Costume” award for my 4-year-old train conductor costume (see pictured), I am not talking about Halloween! On Sunday, October 4th we will celebrate World Communion Sunday in our worship and our celebration of the Lord’s Supper. World Communion Sunday serves two distinct purposes in our church calendar at Westminster and in the PCUSA.

First, World Communion Sunday* is a time for us to recognize and value our “one-ness” with Christians around the globe. Our one-ness is lived out in myriad ways, but one tangible form is in our celebration of the Lord’s Supper. On World Communion Sunday, we recognize and celebrate that Christ’s table is open to people from all nations. We also recognize and celebrate that we are united in this sacrament by the mysterious power of the Holy Spirit - a power that unites us beyond language differences, borders or boundaries, and denominational affiliations. In Christ we are one, and at Christ’s table we are united in practice and in hope with believers, seekers, and wonderers around God’s world.

Second, as Gary Haller shared with us in a recent Minute for Mission, World Communion Sunday is also when we receive the Presbyterian Peace and Global Witness Offering. This denominational offering, “encourages the church to cast off anxiety and fear, discord and division, and embrace our God’s mission of reconciliation to those around the corner and around the world.” Our collected funds will be distributed locally (25% through Westminster), regionally (25% through Homestead Presbytery and the Synod of Lakes and Prairies), and nationally/ globally (50% through the Presbyterian Mission Agency). This is one meaningful way we can support and empower neighbors around the world as we follow the call, “to seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God” (Micah 6:8). See page 8 for information on how to contribute to the Peace Offering.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Chris Peters, Head of Staff

*Did you know? World Communion Sunday was first celebrated at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA, in 1933. Shadyside’s pastor at the time, Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr, was inspired to recognize a day of unity for Christians due to his time serving as Moderator of the General Assembly of the PC(US). The PC(US) is one of the two denominations that came together to form the PCUSA in 1983. For more, see: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/special-days-and-emphases/world-communion-sunday/>



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

Your support of the
Peace and Global Witness
Offering is valued and
appreciated!

Green@Heart

COMMITMENT TO EARTH CARE

The Nebraska Environmental Trust exists to conserve, enhance and restore the natural environments of Nebraska. Listening sessions are held every five years to help set priorities for the next round of grants. People of faith with a commitment to earth care are strongly encouraged to comment, either online or with written comments (and preferably both!). Listening sessions will be held online September 29 and October 6 and 14, and registration is required. This is another way for Westminster to engage in outreach regarding care of creation. Goggle “Nebraska Environmental Trust” for a range of perspectives on the grant making process and see the Trust website for instructions on how make your comments: <https://environmentaltrust.nebraska.gov/publications/2020%20Category%20Roundtable%20Meetings.html>



We Planted Several Native Species This Year

Take a moment, if you are out, to drive by the church and reflect on God’s remarkable artistry and the result of generous volunteer service. WPC partnered with the South Branch Library, applied for a grant, and received 420 4” native prairie type plants on May 28 from Nebraska Statewide Arboretum. The main plantings are directly south of the library. It’s a bit like the parable in Luke, some died out, some are struggling, but many are in good soil and will serve pollinators, birds and all of the rest of us for many years. It took weeding and soil preparation, planting, watering, mulching, watering, weeding, watering and of course watering to make the project a huge success.



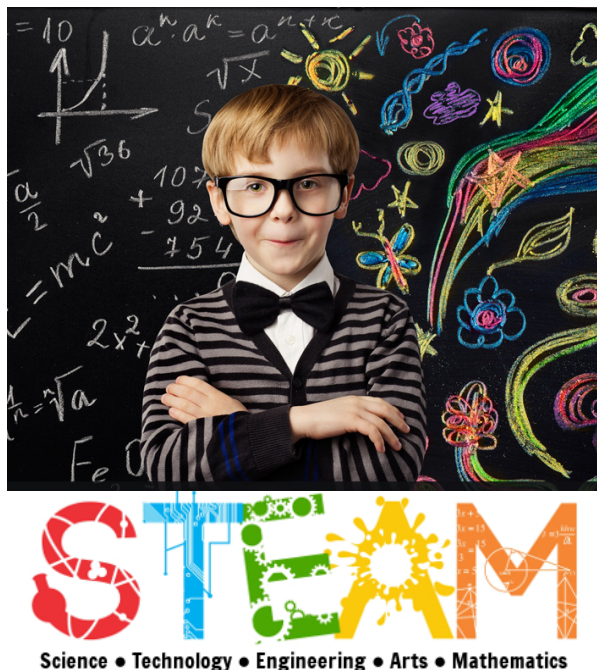
Photos: Some of the new plants in our gardens. Side Oats Grama, Senna, Iron Weed with Painted Lady, and the last one is a photo of the Senna taken in August.

Births, Baptisms, Wedding and Death Announcements:

Sympathetic prayers go out to the family of Jason Tomlinson, who recently passed away of COVID-19 in Atchinson, Kansas. Jason is the son of Marge Tomlinson.

Westminster Preschool

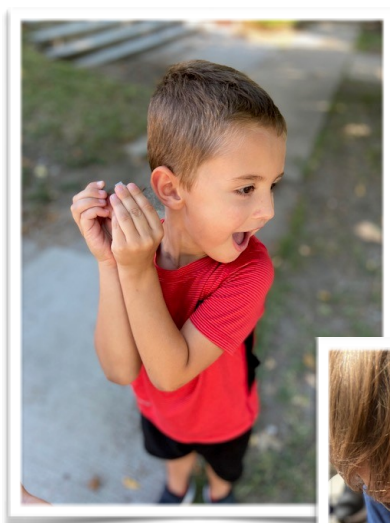
STEAM CLASS OFFERED TO STUDENTS



Beginning with the 20-21 school year, Westminster Preschool made the addition of a STEAM specific class to our daily schedule. Similar to our Art class, our STEAM class is offered to students within their small groups for 30 minutes per day.

So, what exactly is STEAM anyway? While this small group class may be new to our preschool, STEAM is anything but. STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics. In each classroom, each play center is set up to encourage the explorations of each of these disciplines through play, as well as being fully incorporated to our curriculum. Our class allows us the opportunity to fully explore specific topics using a hands on approach with the facilitation of a teacher.

Alright, so why is this important? The disciplines of STEAM go hand in hand and involve more than one focus of learning. Everyday activities are used to promote problem solving and creative and analytical thinking. We know children learn best through play and using their hands and senses to explore and discover. As we introduce different concepts to young children, their curiosity grows. As their curiosity grows, the desire to learn more grows as well and their learning is enriched by exploration. As a concept, STEAM learning involves exploration, questioning, research, discovery, the opportunity to build and create using their own design and creativity, and the opportunity to report on their observations, discoveries and inventions.



STEAM CLASS CONTINUED:

For example, imagine two of our students on our playground seeing a steady drip of water falling from an eave after the morning rain. They want to water the cucumber plant on the other end of the playground. They identify the problem: How can they transport the water from the drip across the playground to the waiting plant? Now, they begin to imagine solutions and select a design to model and test. Given time and the opportunity to create (and the reminder that “failures” are just a step closer to finding a solution) there is no limit to what their inquisitive minds can come up with! And

no need for fancy contraptions, with the abundance of everyday supplies, innovation happens very organically! After returning to the classroom, they are encouraged to share their findings with their classmates, in the way that communication is most comfortable for them, whether that is by drawing, verbalizing or sharing pictures.

We are so excited for the opportunity to further allow brilliance to blossom!

Leadership Appreciation

The congregation, Session and staff of Westminster Church expresses our deep appreciation for the administrative leadership of Gwen Thorpe from April until September. This “bridge” period from the end of Pastor Val’s interim ministry until the arrival of Rev. Chris Peters was longer than anticipated. It was fraught with challenges unanticipated: bats, mice, leaks and developing plans for functioning with the pandemic. Through it all, Gwen’s stalwart leadership was a great asset. Thank you, Gwen!

JOIN US IN CELEBRATION OF JOSH WHITFIELD’S 40th BIRTHDAY



Come, Sit & Stay as we celebrate Josh’s birthday, Sun., Oct. 11, 1 pm to 4 pm at Domesti-PUPS, 141 Harwood Court, Lincoln, NE.

All canine friends and their humans are welcome! RSVP by Sept. 30 by text or call to Kathy at 402-202-9889. In lieu of gifts . . . donations can be made to Domesti-PUPS or ARC of Lincoln. If the Directed Health Measures warrant a change, the party will adjust to a birthday parade of cars through Domesti-PUPS parking lot.

PHOTOS FROM OUR MEET & GREET

Enjoy these photos from the Meet & Greet of Pastor Chris Peters and his wife, Lauren at Antelope Park from Sunday, September 20. It was a beautiful day! Please join our “Lincoln Westminster Presbyterian Church” FB Group to stay in contact with everyone.







The movers and shakers on our planet aren't the billionaires and generals, they are the incredible numbers of people around the world filled with LOVE FOR NEIGHBOR and FOR THE EARTH who are resisting, remaking, restoring, renewing and revitalizing.

– Bill McKibben



Join us online* for the **Fifth Elders for the Earth!*

This two day event, **October 12 and 13**, is designed for those 50 years and older to address our **climate emergency**.

October 12, 1 pm to 8:30 pm

October 13, 1 pm to 6:30 pm

Engage in the whole event or drop in and out as you need!



Celebrate **Indigenous People's Day**, learn about the **Lincoln's Climate Action Plan** with **Mayor Leiron Gaylor Baird** and enjoy a bit of whimsy at our Eco Fashion Show.

Check out the whole schedule and how to register at **elders4theearth.com**

NeighborLNK

COVID 19 RESOURCES



NeighborLNK currently has a great group of volunteers interested in connecting with and supporting those who may need a little extra help during these unprecedented times of social isolation. The City of Lincoln Human Resources Department has conducted thorough background checks on all volunteers. In many cases regular communication check ins by telephone or email are the most beneficial part of the program.

If you know of someone who could benefit from this type of support, please encourage them to apply or call Aging Partners NeighborLNK at 402-441-7575 to make a referral and we will follow up with them. More detailed information is available at: <https://www.lincoln.ne.gov>

Email Scammers

THE NEWEST FRAUD TACTIC

The new tactic by scammers is not only to use staff fake email to solicit, but also making them look like they are coming from congregation members too. Please delete any and all suspicious email and do not reply!

Their process typically goes like this: An email is received, appearing to be from a trustworthy source, such as one of our Pastors, church personnel, and now church members.

The message is frantic, requesting that you send back personal information or even banking account details, or purchasing eBay gift cards to help out a fictional need. Because the spammer did their research and included information like church member's names or a frequently visited locations, the receiver will believe the message is from a trusted individual. If all goes to plan, the message directs the victim to a falsified website crawling with malware. The attacker is in and now has access to sensitive data.

Please **DO NOT RESPOND TO ANY OF THOSE EMAILS**. These are fraud attempts and may infect your computer, or worse.

This would be a good time to reset your passwords.

Westminster East Doors

COVID 19 SAFETY MEASURES

With a mindfulness for the safety of staff and our preschool children and staff, we are currently locking the "East" doors by the parking lot during the day. We welcome members to come by the church for needs, such as checking out hymnals, and to meet Pastor Chris. We do ask that you reach out to office staff in advance so that we can be anticipating times we may unlock and greet you with a welcoming smile! We will continue to update the Westminster church family on changes to this procedure.

Amazon Now “SMILES” On Westminster. Will You?

As the financial leaders of Westminster, we will always encourage our church and our fellow members to shop and buy locally. But in these COVID times of safe distancing and in those times when you can't find what you are looking for in town, and you decide to shop on Amazon, we can now encourage you to shop via their AmazonSmile program. When you do, and at no extra cost to you, Amazon will make a 0.5% cash donation of your purchase of eligible items directly to Westminster. Additionally, the Session has directed that any dollars generated by AmazonSmile be given to support the Mission & Outreach ministry at Westminster. You shop. Amazon gives. Those in need in our community win. It's just that simple.

When you are ready, here are a few helpful FAQs to guide your enrollment and giving:

How do I shop at AmazonSmile?

Simply go to smile.amazon.com on your web browser or activate AmazonSmile on your Amazon Shopping app on your iOS or Android phone (found under settings on your app). On your browser, you may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile. When you're using the app, always check for the “AmazonSmile” logo to ensure you're activated for AmazonSmile. Once you are there, click the GET STARTED icon and follow the on-screen instructions.

How do I designate Westminster as my charitable organization on AmazonSmile?

On your first visit to smile.amazon.com, you need to select Westminster to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. During the enrollment use the search function and type in “Westminster Presbyterian Church”. You will see multiple pages of Westminster's listed. Scroll down to find ours in Lincoln, NE. When you find ours, click the SELECT button. Amazon then remembers your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make through AmazonSmile will result in a donation. AmazonSmile will occasionally notify you of their donation amounts disbursed to your chosen charity or about the program.

Which products on AmazonSmile are eligible for charitable donations?

Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked “Eligible for AmazonSmile donation” on their product detail pages. Recurring Subscribe-and-Save purchases and subscription renewals are not currently eligible.

Additional information and FAQs can be found at smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/about

The needs of those less fortunate in our community, our nation, and around the world are almost always greater than the dollars available to meet the need. By simply shopping with Westminster as your Smiles beneficiary, you help empower the ministry of Westminster to make an even bigger difference in our world.

Westminster Stewardship & Finance Ministry

Cranes and Planes:

WESTMINSTER'S ROOFS

Get A Closer Look

This has been the season for leaky roofs at Westminster. Age and weather conditions have conspired to create some challenges for the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

It is difficult getting close enough to the roofs to find the leaks. Last month, a manlift was commissioned so that roofing experts could look at the East side of the Chapel where two leaks are causing interior damage. The culprit is the Chapel's east gutter which is separating from the building. This leaves an opening for water to enter (and we think maybe some bats!).

To reach the roof over the Sanctuary, special technology was required. In this case, a drone with a camera mount was used. And, of course, the work could not be done without the supervision of serious onlookers from the Westminster Preschool.

The drone was able to provide a birds-eye closeup of the Sanctuary Roof which indicated that, while there are some minor issues, the roof and gutters are largely intact and functioning as expected.

In the days ahead, the Buildings and Grounds Committee will be commissioning a vendor to repair the Chapel gutters and extensively caulk the building's exterior. A vendor will also be sought to restore the interior areas where the water damage has occurred.

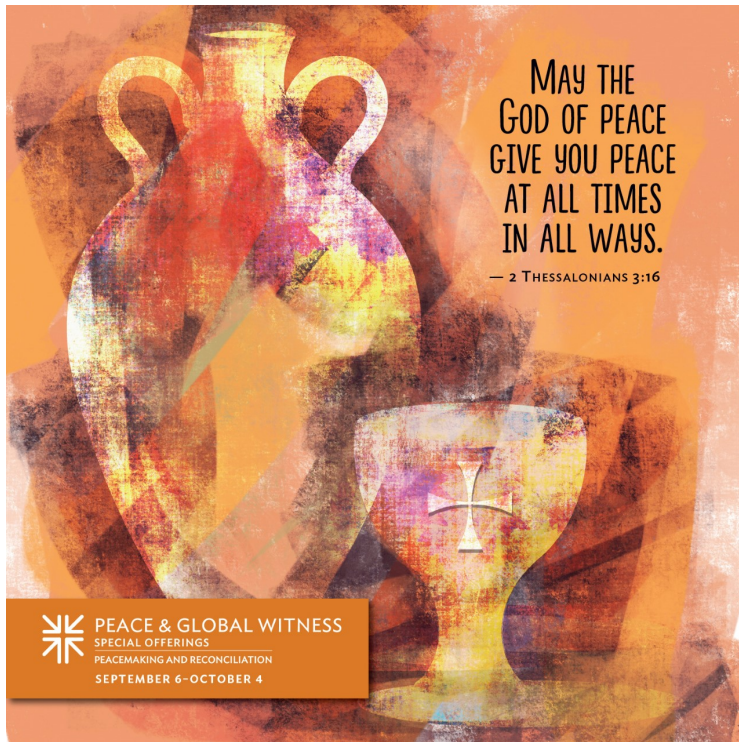




Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd

Lincoln, NE 68502



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS Special Offerings

Continued from page 2

Usually there are envelopes in the pews, but of course that doesn't work this year. If you would like to contribute to the Peace Offering, you can mail a check or put it in the drop box near the Business Office.

Make the check out to Westminster and be sure to indicate PEACE OFFERING in the memo line. Special envelopes are available at the front desk if you prefer to use one.