

November  
2020

REV. CHRIS PETERS  
INSTALLATION  
SERVICE

November 1 | 3 PM  
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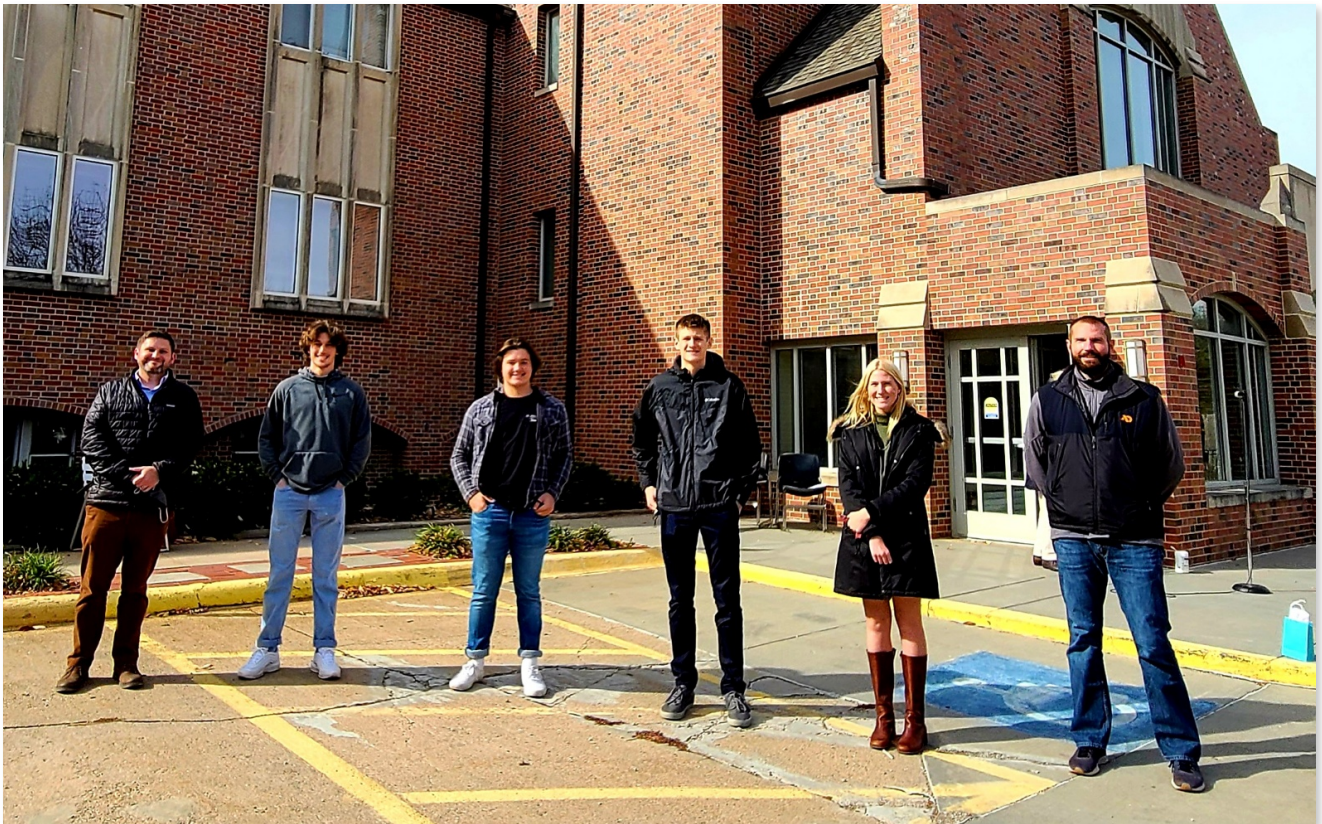


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# THE MESSENGER



## WESTMINSTER WELCOMES OUR NEWEST MEMBERS CONGRATULATIONS CONFIRMANDS

Westminster excitedly welcomed our 2020 Confirmands during an outdoor worship service on October 18 in the Westminster Parking Lot! Phoebe Ford, Charlie Kirkland, Daniel Schafer, and Carter Sup affirmed the faith their parents and our church committed at their baptisms, and joined the church. We look forward to welcoming Toby Lammers soon, as well!

## Westminster Family,

Numbers. I can probably guess what comes to mind when you see the word “numbers” beginning a pastoral letter for November. Since I’m guessing “money” or “The Power of 10” comes to mind for many of you, let me say I have a different number in mind to start. **One**. As we start our 2020 “Power of 10” Stewardship campaign, the first number I want you to focus on is, yes, **one**.

In quite a few conversations – meetings, masked chats in the parking lot, Get-to-Know Westminster gatherings – I have heard members share stories of receiving an infamous phone call in years past. The call from one of our beloved Westminster “pillars” would start out, “I know you’re busy. I know you have much going on, but I’d like to ask you to do **one** little thing...”

As we journey through this season of reflection on how we are called to be good stewards of the gifts God has given us, my hope for our Westminster family is that we first consider, “what is **one** little thing I can do in this new season of our congregational life together.” Ponder that question. Discuss it with your families, your Circle, your WPC Dads text group, your friends, your church family. Then, I hope you will *act* on that one little thing.

This month’s conversation starts with **one** little thing because stewardship is not solely about dollars and cents or pledging, though those are very important factors. Stewardship really isn’t even one season in the life of a church. Stewardship is how we respond to the affirmation that, “The Earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world and those who live in it,” in Psalm 24. Stewardship is an idea that invites us to consider how we respond holistically to God’s grace. That may be in how we use our time, what we purchase at Target, how we use our physical and mental gifts in the church, and yes – how we give financially in response to God’s grace.

Our 2020 Stewardship Campaign focus will ask us to consider “The Power of 10” once again, and I hope that you will consider how you are called to give to Westminster’s annual operating budget. As Head of Staff I will be encouraging a culture of transparency and hopefulness around our church finances. Here are a few items I want to highlight for you this month...

We have begun spotlighting ways we are using budgeted funds in a moment of thankfulness in our worship services. Our committees have been invited to dream how they may educate, serve, and nurture in 2021 as they budget. Our financial challenges of recent years have been resolved through careful auditing and by instituting new systems of accountability. And, even despite the problems of the COVID-19 pandemic, our giving remains consistent and our 2020 financial picture looks to end on a strong note.

As I navigate the early stages of my call to Westminster, I am grateful for our giving, our hope, for our church family, and for our future. As we consider “The Power of 10” don’t forget to start with one little thing!

With gratitude,

Rev. Chris Peters

# THE POWER OF TEN

We are excited to continue moving ahead toward a bright, new future for Westminster. Pastor Chris Peters has arrived, and with him now on board as our leader, the Session is preparing to vision and “Dream Big” about where we go as a church and a congregation. These are exciting times!

It is also the time for us to express our financial commitment to making dreams and visions turn into reality and do God’s good work within our church, our community, and across the globe.

Your generosity so far in 2020 has been nothing short of amazing. In spite of the pandemic and not being able to gather weekly for in-person worship, Westminster is in solid financial shape. Pledge giving remains strong, the work done over the last year to “right size” expenses has paid off, and we expect and hope that giving continues to finish 2020 with a small surplus.

So now, as we look ahead to 2021, it is time for us to faithfully pledge to empower our potential by once again embracing the **The Power of Ten**.

In addition to being the percent of the tithe... giving 10% of your household income to God through the ministry and mission of Westminster... TEN serves as an inspirational number in so many ways. As we learned last year, the number ten appears an amazing 242 times in the Bible.

Now we are asking everyone to once again embrace the Power of Ten in their giving commitment plans for the coming year. As you give generously, we ask you to affirm your giving plans and perhaps consider increasing your 2021 giving in one of the following ways:

**Increase your Giving by 10% for the Year**  
**Increase your Giving by \$10 a Week or \$10 a Month**

Generosity inspires generosity. If we each increase our giving for 2021, we unleash the true potential of Westminster, the vision that Pastor Chris and the session provide us, the call of our next education leader for our children, the expansion of our ministry programs and our ability to provide mission assistance to our neighbors near and far, and the ability to grow in new ways not yet realized.

In scripture, 2 Corinthians 9:8 reminds us “God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly.”

That’s the essence. God has already blessed us and now calls us to give back generously for the blessings we have already received. How will you respond? How will you step up your giving commitment and embrace the Power of Ten in your giving plans?

Please watch your mail for your pledge card to arrive and return it to the church office or submit it online by November 15. Watch for news to come about how you can participate in Commitment Sunday.

**Allen Wachter, Co-Moderator**  
**Bill Walstad, Co-Moderator**

**Dan Wherry**  
**Gwen Thorpe**



## Commitment Sunday is Sunday, November 15

This year we will host a Parking Lot Commitment Service for our dedication of 2021 tithes and offerings at Westminster at **9:30am**. You are invited to bring your commitment card with you that morning, and we will have a safely-distanced time of turning in our cards. Worship will be available as a 'Drive-In-and-Park' option with FM transmission, and weather permitting, we will have outside seating in the parking area closest to the church.



## Westminster Preschool

### EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION IS REALLY ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS

The essence of Early Childhood Education is really all about relationships; relationships between teachers and students, between students and their peers, between teachers and families, the wonderful relationships that develop among families, the bonds formed among the teaching staff, and the relationship between the church and the preschool. It is our joy to follow the pyramid model of positive behavior support nurturing the children within our program. It is no surprise that the base of the pyramid is an effective workforce, followed directly above it by nurturing relationships.

While COVID-19 has issued a challenge in the ability to stay connected and nurture those relationships as we have in the past, we have found it more important than ever to actively pursue opportunities to connect. While masks create a bit of a barrier to some facial expression, they also invite the opportunity for emotional language growth in using words to express ourselves. We have enjoyed celebrating some of our regular activities; just with a few modifications to keep everyone safe and healthy.

Our Art Show was held with a virtual singing performance during the September 27 service and our families enjoying the incredible creativity of our little artists in small groups during the following week.

One of the highlights of each year is our embryology study through the UNL extension. While the wonderful educator from the extension was unable to visit our campus this year, we were allowed an even more hands on approach to discovery and hatched (whew!!) 15 chicks!! Families were also able to virtually enjoy the progress through pictures and videos on our facebook page.



Our parent teacher conferences were a refreshing opportunity to safely see parents face to face and enjoy discussion on our favorite topic...their children. We have discovered that by simply allotting a little more time for cleaning, utilizing just a bit more of the incredible space we have and simply wearing masks, we are still able to connect...just a little more purposely.

Finally, we all met outdoors at the pumpkin patch in family groups for our annual fall field trip. Smiling eyes and laughter were plentiful, and we were blessed with a gorgeous fall day!

We look forward to the second quarter of the year and the opportunity to continue to grow in creative ways! Please feel free to connect with us on our facebook page; Westminster Preschool, Lincoln, NE.



## PEOPLE'S CITY MISSION ANNUAL DONATION FROM WPC'S KNIT & SIT GROUP

Members of the Knit & Sit group at WPC knitted ALL YEAR to bring this incredible donation of over 200 beautiful handmade stocking hats, scarves and teddy bears to The People's City Mission for people in need. Thank you for your commitment and service to God and neighbors! Francy Scheele & Kathy Hersberger recently delivered the items, just in time for the colder weather.







## BAPTISM ANNOUNCEMENT

On Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> our Westminster family celebrated the baptism of Quinlee Rae Ellen Lindstedt. As we promise to nurture and educate her as a church family, we are invited to remember our call to care for our children and youth of all ages. We look forward to supporting Tyler and Rachel on their parenting journey with Quinlee and Hudson.

## Learn the basics of climate change science, the spiritual imperative to act, and how to advocate for change | Thursday, November 5 | Zoom | 7 PM

The Climate Action Team at First Plymouth Church is offering anyone interested a chance to learn why climate change is a spiritual imperative, the basics of climate change science, and how to take action.

Learn the basics of advocacy. By the end of the hour you'll know what to say to an elected official, how to offer testimony for a hearing, and how to write a letter to the editor and otherwise engage the community. Panelists will be former state Senator Ken Haar, UNL Student and Field Advisor for Our Climate Kat Woerner, and Lucas Sabalka, a member of the Lincoln Electric System Board of Directors and a climate advocate. Sessions are free and are Zoom only. One registration covers both sessions.

**Register to attend:** <https://catclimatechange.eventbrite.com>

## Lincoln's Interfaith Thanksgiving Virtual Service | Sunday, November 22

Lincoln's Interfaith Thanksgiving Service this year will be a virtual event on Sunday afternoon, November 22. The featured speaker will be Dr. Courtney Bruntz, Associate Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Doane College. The Interfaith Service has for years gathered people of many faiths on the Sunday before Thanksgiving to share hymns and prayers of gratitude. It's an uplifting experience and a chance to worship with friends and neighbors of other faith traditions—needed this year more than ever. All are welcome, and a registration link will be provided in the eVine the week before the service.

## The Heritage League Holiday of Trees

The 48<sup>th</sup> annual Holiday of Trees, sponsored by The Heritage League Woman's Club will not be held at Westminster this year. Instead, it will be a virtual event and a year to remember! Our club made the decision due to the public safety concerns brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. You will be able to view many beautiful and uniquely decorated Christmas trees at your leisure from your own home for three weeks! And you may view them more than one time! The trees will be displayed on the website: [TheHeritageLeagueofLincoln.org](http://TheHeritageLeagueofLincoln.org) beginning December 9 through December 30. You can view and like them on Facebook: "The Heritage League".

## All Saints' Day 2020

**For all the saints, who from their labors rest . . .**

**Ginny Hand**, Died on Dec. 16, 2019

**Charlie Swingle**, Died on Dec. 20, 2019

**Maxine Gottula**, Died on Jan. 8, 2020

**Bob Krejci**, Died on Jan. 20, 2020

**Mildred DeVere**, Died on Jan. 23, 2020

**Daryl Bahm**, Died on Feb. 1, 2020

**Larry Shafer**, Died on Mar. 1, 2020

**Marjorie Brockman**, Died on Mar. 5, 2020

**Joan Wentz**, Died on Mar. 11, 2020

**Marlene Hancock**, Died on Mar. 22, 2020

**Scott Colborn**, Died on Mar. 30, 2020

**Georgia Duling**, Died on Mar. 30, 2020

**Carolyn Maller**, Died on Apr. 14, 2020

**Marge Young**, Died on May 16, 2020

**Van Duling**, Died on June 15, 2020

**Jane Allman**, Died on Aug. 21, 2020

**Barbara Solomon**, Died on Sept. 20, 2020

**Jason Tomlinson**, Died on Sept. 22, 2020

**Hope Ludwick**, Died on Sept. 27, 2020

**Bob Hayes**, Died on Oct. 11, 2020

## The Annual Meeting of the Corporation and the Congregation

**Sunday, November 22, 2020 | On Zoom at 10:30 am**

The purpose of the meeting will be to elect officers for 2021 and to hear the report of the corporation. A Zoom link will be shared in the e-Vine and congregational communications the week of the meeting.

## CONTEMPLATION, COMMUNITY AND SCRIPTURE

We are excited to announce a special event via Zoom with author, pastor, and retreat leader Dr. Peter Traben Haas. This workshop explores the dance between contemplation, community, and scripture. It's for anyone interested in Christian contemplative prayer, its practice & possibilities in the Church and community, and the formative dance between contemplation & scripture. Participants will receive via mail an instruction guide to Centering Prayer and a copy of Dr. Haas' books "*The Contemplative Church: How Meditative Prayer and Monastic Practices Help Congregations Flourish*" and "*Centering Prayers: A One-Year Daily Companion for Going Deeper into the Love of God*" and resources to continue the journey. Books may not arrive prior to the event.

Open Registration Until November 12: \$59 Register at : <https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/2539220>

**November 13** | Compline and Eucharist with Dr. Peter Haas | 7-8:30 PM

**November 14** | The Contemplative Church: Contemplation and Community | 9-10:30 PM

The Contemplative Gospel: Contemplation and Scripture | 10:45-12:30 PM



Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd

Lincoln, NE 68502



## **REV. CHRIS PETERS INSTALLATION SERVICE**

**Westminster Parking Lot Sunday,  
November 1 | 3 PM**

You are invited to celebrate the Installation of Rev. Christopher Peters (or “Pastor Chris”) in the Westminster Parking Lot on Sunday, November 1st at 3:00pm. Rev. Lauren Peters will be giving the sermon. There will be an outdoor worship service and a time of physically-distanced fellowship afterwards. Please wear masks. You may bring a chair to sit in or plan to “drive-up” and worship in your car via our FM transmitter.