

April
2021



Guidelines will be posted online soon. Watch the website calendar for updates.



WORSHIP ONLINE
WITH US
ON SUNDAYS



VIRTUAL EASTER
COMMUNION
SUNDAY, APRIL 4

THE MESSENGER



Photo: Youth of WPC gather to help clean up the Prayer Garden

Westminster Friends,

In each gospel, and throughout scripture, there is a repeated call to love. In Confirmation this year, our entire course has pointed back to Christ's call to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind," and, "love your neighbor as you love yourself." (Matthew 22:37-38, Common English Bible). The Greek word used for this kind of love comes from the root *agapeo*.

Why does this Greek lesson matter for Westminster today?

For one, Christ's call to "agape" love is one that is rooted in the interest of the other (our neighbor). As the Apostle Paul reflected on the living out of such love, "Instead of each person watching out for their own good, watch out for what is better for others." (Phillipians 2:4, CEB). Even today, as Bishop Michael Curry of the Episcopal Church teaches, "the opposite of love is not hate, it is selfishness."

The call to love should ring loudly for us in the first quarter of 2021. As our gifted Worship Task Force (Rob Baltensperger, Kelly Braswell, Cyndy Maddux, Deb Schorr, Diana Wild) continues to work toward a return to in-person/indoor worship, we Christians are called to agape love. We are challenged to look out for the interests of others. In the days and months ahead and all the good that is to come, I believe we are called to continue to deeply consider and value the interests and needs of those around us while seeking to be self-aware of the motivations for our individual emotions, words, and actions. Our youth have been great examples of this call in March 2021: gathering safely to make commitments to Earth Care, helping clean up the Westminster Prayer Garden, and collecting Food Pantry items through our Confirmation class. Looking toward these first days of April, we will vividly see the sacrificial "agape" love of God lived out in Holy Week.

I hope you will join us for the following Holy Week services, which will be rooted in exploring such love...

Maundy Thursday. Thursday, April 1st (Virtual): "Washed" – Exploring the call to serve other as exemplified by Jesus.

Good Friday. Friday, April 2nd. (Virtual): "Words" – Walking through a reading of Christ's passion as we remember the agony and death of Jesus.

Easter. Sunday, April 4th. (Virtual. 9:00am Outdoors @ Antelope Park Bandshell – bring a chair or blanket.) – "Announced" – Hear the good news of Christ's resurrection as it was "announced" by the women who first encountered the resurrected Jesus!

After Easter, we'll keep focusing on outward-focused love as we embark on a six-week series of "Stewardship Outside Stewardship Season." First, I hope you'll join us for our annual Creation Celebration in April 11th Virtual service. We have an excellent guest preacher, my friend and mentor Rev. Dr. Ellen Skidmore (Head of Staff, Forest Lake Presbyterian Church, Columbia, SC). FLPC has been a leader in what it can look like to be a PC(USA) Earth Care congregation in a diverse church. From there, we'll explore what it means to be caretakers of the good gifts of creation, time, finances, community, and the future. As we look ahead with hope, let us do so with a perspective of love that cares for the interests of others.

With Gratitude,
Pastor Chris

CREATION CELEBRATION VII



“Ellen Fowler Skidmore has served as the pastor of Forest Lake Presbyterian Church since 2006. When she arrived, Chris Peters was the youth director! She is married to Eric Skidmore, a Presbyterian pastor and chaplain for all of the SC Statewide Police Agencies, and they are the proud parents of three grown daughters. Ellen attended Union Theological Seminary where she received a D.Min in 1987 and a Th.M. in Biblical Studies in 1988.”

Adult Education, April 11 – May 9, via Zoom on Sunday Mornings at 10:30 am

From Pastor Chris: As we asked the question, “Who would be an ideal speaker for our 2021 Creation Celebration,” the first name that came to my mind was my friend and mentor, Dr. Ellen Fowler Skidmore. In addition to what she shared in her bio, Dr. Skidmore has pastored a PCUSA Earth Care congregation that has been awarded by our denomination, individually and as a church, for their Earth Care work. Dr. Skidmore can help us to think about how we can be good stewards of God’s creation at Westminster, even if you haven’t thought much personally about Earth Care as part of your own calling to discipleship. Dr. Skidmore is an excellent and relatable preacher and teacher who I feel our church family will love having with us. And yes, I was the Youth and Young Adult Director at FLPC when Ellen was called, and I am grateful for our five years serving together before I started seminary!

April 11 | Lincoln’s Climate Action Plan and Why Christians are Called to Eco-justice

Rev. Kim Morrow, Ordained minister and climate scientist
<http://verdisgroup.com/team/kim-morrow/>

April 18 | Practicing Earth Care as a Congregation

Rev Dr. Ellen Skidmore, Senior Pastor at Forest Lake Presbyterian Church, <https://flpc.org/ministries/environmental-stewardship/>

April 25 | LES Plans for Reliable and Sustainable Power

Scott Benson, LES Manager of Resource and Transmission,
<https://www.les.com/sustainability>

May 2 | Sustainable, Responsible, and Impact (SRI)

Investing Tyler Mainquist, Certified Financial Planner and active layman, <https://www.cfslincoln.com/team/tyler-mainquist>

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89778163631?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89778163631?pwd=eWx0SE5YS2xJakZQVWhlTWxkaS9Xdz09)
 pwd=eWx0SE5YS2xJakZQVWhlTWxkaS9Xdz09

Meeting ID: 897 7816 3631

CREATION CELEBRATION VII ACTIVITIES

Tree of Life In both Ezekiel and Revelation scripture refers to a Tree of Life whose leaves are for healing. These references serve as the inspiration for Westminster's Tree of Life. Watch a bare tree in our sanctuary "leaf out" as members of the Westminster Family add leaves with their intentions to heal and care for all creation. See the mailing from your deacon with enough leaves for everyone in the family.

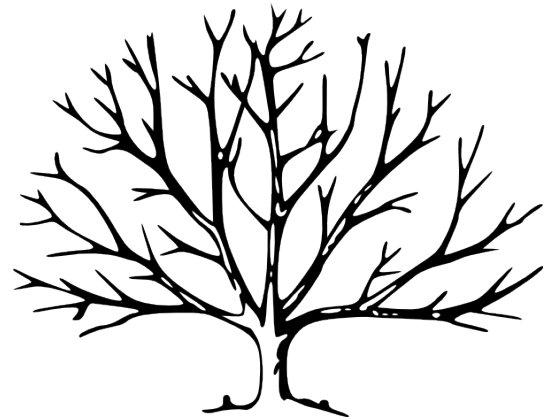
Worship services featuring special messages by Dr. Skidmore and Pastor Chris, special music including a visit from Westminster Preschool, and Children's Conversations by Karen Hoffman, Emily Killham, Cory McCune, Laurel Van Ham, and Colonel Compost.

Children's ministry gift bags focused on the Genesis creation story and including everything you need to grow something tall and good to eat—just add water!

ADULT EDUCATION BIBLE STUDY LUKE SERIES

Our Study of Luke will resume on Zoom, on Wednesdays starting April 7, with Luke chapter 22.

Contact Tom Pappas to enroll and get the Zoom link. tpappas@windstream.net



Westminster March Baptisms

March 7 – Kasiah Wayne Blyden and Miles Owen Ediger

March 21 – Theodore James Ellenwood

March 28 – Leo Robert Zulkoski

Photo: The baptism of Theodore Ellenwood, child of Evan and Jayne.



Westminster Presbyterian Church is Certified as a PC(USA) Earth Care Congregation

Westminster Presbyterian Church was certified as an Earth Care Congregation by Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Presbyterian Hunger Program through February 2022. This honor speaks to the great commitment that Westminster Presbyterian Church has made to care for God's earth.

To become an Earth Care Congregation, this congregation affirmed an Earth Care Pledge to integrate environmental practices and thinking into their worship, education, facilities, and outreach.

The Earth Care Congregation certification is designed to recognize churches that make the commitment to take seriously God's charge to "till and keep" the garden.

Started in 2010 by the PC(USA), the goal of this program is to inspire churches to care for God's earth in a holistic way, through integrating earth care into all aspects of their church life.

The Earth Care Congregation certification honors churches that make that commitment and encourages others to follow their example.

"It is exciting that Westminster Presbyterian Church is one of the 276 churches that chose to dedicate themselves to intentional care of God's earth this year. Particularly in a time of much uncertainty and worry about the future, this congregation's activities and commitment even in the midst of navigating limitations brought about by COVID-19 brings hope to their community. We believe that Westminster Presbyterian Church will inspire others to respond intentionally to God's call to care for the earth," says Jessica Maudlin, Associate for Sustainable Living and Earth Care Concerns for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). For more information on the Earth Care Congregations program visit www.pcusa.org/earthcarecongregations.



*Hostamania: A Westminster Tradition
of sharing plants*



As Westminster uses this month to focus on the gifts of God's beautiful creation, it is a perfect time for the preschool to do the same!

Just as it is our goal to foster educational, social, physical and spiritual growth of the children in our program, we also are given the privilege of encouraging good stewardship of God's creation.

Our curriculum has one study devoted specifically to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. The children are challenged to learn more about the earth and the many materials that bring pleasure and purpose from this part of God's creation. We also learn about how best to use these resources responsibly and the effects of pollution on our planet. As an early childhood program, our goal is to facilitate the thought process of coming up with solutions and it is a joy to watch the children accept the responsibility of caring for all the gifts we've been given.

Our classrooms allow for the children to recycle independently by helping understand what items are recyclable and providing a container always accessible to them. Our art areas are filled to the brim with old plastic tops waiting to become airplanes, cardboard tubes waiting to become an incredible instrument and many scraps of paper waiting to become the world's next magnificent mosaic!

During the spring and summer our classes delve deep into the world of seeds, plants and dirt as they plant their own container garden and nurture the plants until everyone is able to have a little sample of their hard work at harvest!

It is a wonderful opportunity to experience first hand where some of our food comes from!

Year round, you'll spy us outdoors as often as possible enjoying the beautiful landscape of our little corner of Lincoln. As we enter spring, we'll often take many experiences into the wonderful classroom of the great outdoors!





Westminster Zoom

Social Hour

Sunday, April 18 | 7 PM

You are in the Hot Seat! With 5 seconds on the timer, can you name 3 famous bald people? “Just spit it out!”

Join us for a game of “5 Second Rule” on zoom. Great fun for kids and adults. As always, there are prizes!!!!!!

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88003724099?>

[pwd=QTVGMVh5M3VMaDdUc1RZNXcy9ndz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88003724099?pwd=QTVGMVh5M3VMaDdUc1RZNXcy9ndz09)



It's time to register for camp!

Calvin Crest Camp near Fremont, Nebraska is taking registrations for summer camp. Go to their website <https://www.calvincrest.camp/> to see what they are offering, beginning with Explorer Camp for grade 1 and 2 with a parent or guardian, all the way to students finishing grade 12. They also have Family Camp for the whole family. Watch the camp video at <https://youtu.be/SXZLoOaw5AA> and you might see a familiar face or two. To encourage you to attend, Westminster offers a \$50 scholarship to anyone who registers. Contact the church office and tell us, “I’m going to camp!”

Messenger Articles Reminder:

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



Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd

Lincoln, NE 68502



Maundy Thursday Virtual Worship | Thursday, April 1 | Premiering at 7:00pm on our YouTube Channel | “Washed” Rev. Chris Peters Preaching

Good Friday Virtual Worship | Friday, April 2 | Premiering at 7:00pm on our YouTube Channel | “Words” Members Reading Passion Narrative

Easter Virtual Worship | Sunday, April 4 | “Announced” Rev. Chris Peters Preaching

Easter Outdoor Service at Antelope Park Bandshell | Sunday, April 4, 9:00am
“Announced” Rev. Chris Peters Preaching