

August
2021

Welcome!

Come learn about us!
Sunday, August 1 at
10:40 in the Lounge.

worship
WITH US

WORSHIP WITH US
IN THE SANCTUARY
OR ONLINE
ON SUNDAYS



VIRTUAL &
SANCTUARY
COMMUNION
SUNDAY, AUGUST 1

THE MESSENGER



Westminster Church Family,

Sometimes I wonder if those of you reading my monthly letter wonder, “Why does Pastor Chris always start with calling us a family? The only Westminster people I’m related to are in my household!” Here are a few reasons why...

Most of August we will be in a preaching series on the book of Ephesians, “Ephesians: Encouragement for Today and Tomorrow.” As we’re finding, Ephesians teaches that we are adopted into the family of faith and the importance of being “knit together” as the Body of Christ.

Another great reason is that our Westminster Mission statement names that we are, “An inclusive faith family,” noting our desire to be connected as a church. In August there are a number of wonderful ways we will be the welcoming, inclusive, and faithful Westminster Church Family...

- On August 1 we will resume nursery and (optional) dismissal of children to Faith Village. Thank you to our volunteers who will help in those areas, as well as to Trish Souliere for her good work in moving us forward!
- On August 8th we will formally welcome new members to our “Faith Family.” We also welcome all who might be interested learning more about our church to join us for a “Westminster Welcome” session on Sunday, August 1st in the Lounge and to consider joining on the 8th.



- On the 15th, 22nd, and 29th after church (10:40-11:30am) I’ll host a class and exploration of Christian Spiritual Practices that we can do as Christians at church or day-to-day, “Inward, Outward and Together.” We’ll meet in Cole Hall and have a balance of instruction and time to actually engage in the practices!
- Cornhole Tournament on August 15th! While out of practice, I have had some pretty solid Cornhole games in my day and look forward to some good friendly competition! Lauren will help hold me to the friendly part (I’m kidding)!

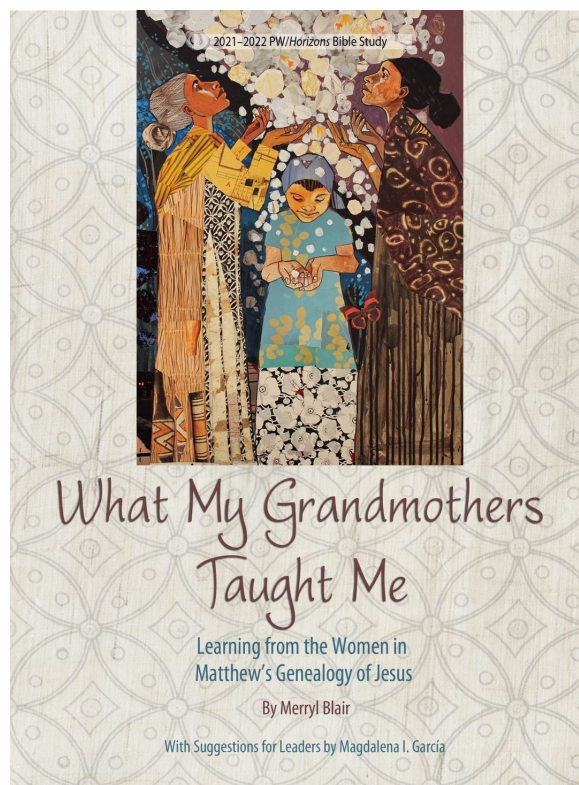
As we seek to be a strong and faithful Westminster family for years to come, I hope you’ll join us to experience the Westminster difference of connection and welcome in August!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Chris

Presbyterian Women Fall Study

The PW Study starting this Fall is "*What My Grandmothers Taught Me*" learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus. The study was written by Merryl Blair. All women are invited to join in.

Westminster has four Presbyterian Women groups, meeting on different days and different times. Please come to the PW Fall Kick-off which will be August 21 at 10:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. YOU are invited to come and find out about this study and about the four groups who will be hosting it. If you have questions about PW or the Bible study, call or email Glenna Haller. Glenna Haller 817-757-2885 or glenna0952@att.net.



You're invited to join the Westminster Usher Team

For those who haven't heard, after listening to member input, the Worship and Music Committee is going a new direction with ushers starting in September. People no longer need to make a one to three year commitment to be an usher. We're now asking members to sign up to usher as frequently (or infrequently) as you like on the Sundays you know you will be available. This will allow members who have Sunday morning commitments during part of the calendar year or people who travel often to help play a vital role in welcoming others to Westminster. Look for the large sign-up poster for the next four months in the Garden Room. Thank you in advance for helping!

Church Life Committee Life Group Surveys

Recently the Church Life Committee distributed the Westminster Life Group Interest Survey. Your efforts in filling out and returning this survey go a long way towards helping Westminster make a difference in our church family and in our community.

Over 10 interest groups were identified. This is a terrific snapshot of our wide spectrum of interests and talents. Some of the ideas listed are established groups and some will be new.

We feel these groups will give our church family the opportunity for personal and spiritual growth, enriched fellowship with others, and outreach to our community and beyond—plus lots of fun.

Your Church Life Committee anticipates there to be growth and changes as these groups come together and evolve. We invite you to watch for more details in the coming weeks and months.

New Maintenance Protocols

At the June 28 meeting, Westminster's Session approved a maintenance management contract with NAI FMA, a local property management company.

FMA has current contracts and experience working with churches. One part of our decision-making process was to be in contact with one of these congregations, and we learned they were very satisfied.

Westminster will have an assigned Maintenance Manager who will perform weekly walk-throughs of our facilities and perform routine maintenance, so you may be seeing a new face around the building soon. If you come across a maintenance issue in our facilities, please let a staff person know. Staff will have access to a 24/7 phone line for reporting issues. Thanks to our Personnel, Buildings & Grounds, and Finance committees for their work in securing these services.

Thank you, Steve!

On behalf of our staff and our members, I want to share a public thank you to Steve Larson for the incredible work and significant time he has shared with our Westminster church family working on maintenance and buildings/grounds issues over the past two years! Steve has kept our building running and improved many areas of need, including unexpected issues that came up during 2020-21 during the pandemic when our building was at a much lower regular occupancy. From rain leaks to record snows to surprise mice in a pandemic, Steve has seen it all and led us through it all! Thank you, Steve, for your care, time, and incredible efforts! With Gratitude, Pastor Chris

Green@Heart Recommends:

Tour the Wild Side - Using Native Plants in Your Landscape

Saturday, August 21 and Sunday, August 22, 10:00-3:00 p.m. both days

Native plants support birds and pollinators by providing habitat and food and, in return, benefit from the birds and insects spreading seeds and pollen. Native plants also provide for the health and wellness of those living in sub/urban areas alongside the birds, bugs, and other creatures.

The Tour's goal is to introduce people to more "wild" and native yards and public spaces and learn how to create these important spaces. Several residential landscapes throughout the Lincoln area will be open on Saturday, and on Sunday you will be able to visit with local nurseries and see up-close public spaces where native plants are growing. Plant, bird, and insect experts will join the owners to help answer your questions and to explain why native plants, birds, and insects depend on each other.

Updates and more details will also be available on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=wachiska> and <https://www.facebook.com/springcreekprairie/>

Adult Education Bible Study of Ephesians

Join us via Zoom for Bible Study on Wednesdays. Contact Tom Pappas to enroll and get the Zoom link.
tpappas@windstream.net

Knit-N-Sit | Wednesdays | Church Library | 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

We are a small group of people who like to knit, crochet or do other hand work.

We have donated yarn to share. We make hats, scarves and other warm items to give to the City Mission.

Lunch Bunch | Tuesday, August 3 | 11:30 a.m.

Lunch Bunch will be held at Buffalo Wings and Rings, 6822 O Street. All are invited to attend.
For questions, call Larry Wieskamp at 402-802-6883.

Prairie Readers | Wednesday, August 18 | Fellowship Hall | 1:00 p.m.

Book: *"The Night Watchman"* by Louise Erdrich.

Facilitator: Linda Burchard. All are welcome.

Ladies Night Out | Toast | Tuesday, August 31 | 5:00 – 7:00 PM

Our next in-person Ladies' Night Out gathering will be at **Toast Restaurant** located at 570 Fallbrook Blvd #105 in Lincoln. You are welcome to drop-in anytime at your leisure. For the remainder of the year, we plan to rotate Monday, Tuesday and Thursday gathering dates. We will meet at Billy's every other month (July, September, November) and a variety of Lincoln restaurants (August, October, December). Please feel free to bring a friend, sister, aunt, daughter or mother to all our gatherings.

Faith and Cancer Support Group

Cancer is simply a six letter word associated with many emotions wrapped up within. In our support group at Westminster we can share those thoughts and feelings with others who are experiencing similar concerns. We will resume our support meetings in the library on September 21 at 7 PM and then monthly on the 3rd Tuesday of each month thereafter.

All are welcome. Contact Janice Rohwedder 402 730-5568.

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.

There's A Lot of Activities Going On! Join Us on Sunday, August 15.

Westminster Team Corn Hole Tournament Parking Lot at WPC

August 15 | 4:00 PM

The first ever Westminster Team Corn Hole Tournament to be held on the WPC parking lot or in Fellowship Hall, if raining. This is for all ages! Teams of 2 people will be drawn, and the games begin! Bring a chair, and something to drink (non-alcoholic). We will provide a hot dog meal. Enjoy an evening of Corn Hole! As always, there are prizes!



Wanted!! Looking for people to share their corn hole game that evening. Would like them to be at the church Sunday, Aug. 15 in the morning. Please mark with your name, address and phone #. We will make sure they get back to the correct people. Any questions...contact Kathy Rohwedder at kathrohw@yahoo.com or (402) 202-9889.

Christian Life: Inward, Outward, Together

**Sundays August 15, 22, 29
10:40-11:30 a.m. Cole Hall**

Pastor Chris will lead a three-week series exploring Spiritual Disciplines that Christians practice Inwardly, Outwardly, and Together as God's people (using the distinctions modeled by Richard Foster in Celebration of Discipline). Each session will balance teaching time with exploration of at least one spiritual discipline that you can also "take home." All are welcome. This class has been modeled for adults and youth high school-and-up.

Westminster Used Book Sale Aug. 8- 15 | Fellowship Hall

Donations of used books will be accepted until Wed., Aug. 4. Bring them to Fellowship Hall. The East door of the church is usually unlocked from 10 am to 2 pm during the week, except 9 am to 1 pm on Tuesdays. Hours for the book sale: Sun., 9 am to 2 pm, Mon.-Fri., 10 am to 4 pm. Proceeds go to support the Westminster Library.

Many Thanks to Our Worship Guides

Many thanks to these dedicated Westminster members who stepped up to serve as Worship Guides assisting the congregation as we returned to sanctuary worship.

They truly "guided" us through the past 4 months as federal and local health directives changed and we all adapted. It's a blessing to see a smiling face of a Worship Guide welcoming us back to Westminster's sanctuary. We are grateful for their hospitality and servant leadership.

Rob Baltensperger, Jim Bishop, Carol Bishop, Kelly Braswell-Burbach, Amy Clare, Lisa DeBuse, Chip DeBuse, Joyce Douglas, Tim Gergen, Kent Hemmerling, Jaime Hemmerling, Karen Hoffman, Emily Killham, Brian Lammers, Ashley Lammers, Steve Larson, Sandi Larson, Cyndy Maddux, Bob Michaud, Scott Nelson, Loy Olson, Julie Olson, Rob Otte, Joan Roberts, Mark Schorr, Deb Schorr, Sue Shamblin, Carol Shelbourn, GwenThorpe, Diana Wild and Walker Zulkoski

Kick-Off Sunday

Fall activities resume at Westminster at Kick-Off Sunday on September 12, so plan on staying after church to see all the exciting events we have coming up! Various Life Groups will provide a sneak preview of their upcoming activities, families can take tours of Faith Village and have a chance to meet Small Group Leaders, and kids will be able to play in the bounce house and get their faces painted. In addition, people of all ages will be able to play cornhole and ladder golf, decorate our sidewalks with chalk, or make a fun new craft.

But wait, that's not all! We will also have live music from The Rising, food provided by Pepe's and Kona Ice, and even an opportunity to dunk Pastor Chris into a tank of water!

Kick-Off Sunday will have something for everyone, so be sure to mark your calendar for September 12 and plan on staying to celebrate the start of the new season with your Westminster family.

Calling All Creative Kids!



We are renaming our Wednesday night program and we need your help! Wednesday nights at Westminster this fall will be all about kids and we need you to help us find a name to reflect that. Send your best ideas to Trish at trish@westminsterlincoln.org. If the Children and Youth Committee selects your name, you will win a fabulous prize!

Don't know what happens on Wednesdays? Here is the schedule:

If you are in kindergarten-5th grade, you will meet your friends at 5 to talk, hang out, and play, then head off to dinner at 5:30, and finally get together in Faith Village at 6 to talk about God and have fun. If you are in middle or high school, you will meet for fellowship, eat dinner, and head back to the youth room to engage in youth group activities.



Children and Youth Committee Activities

Blessing of the Backpacks | August 15

No need to panic yet – there is still a lot of summer left. But we do want to be sure you are there for the Blessing of the Backpacks so we are asking you to make plans to come to church on August 15. If you are a student or educator of any kind, come receive your blessing for the coming year. Students of all ages are encouraged to bring their backpacks to receive blessings to begin the school year with the positive energy of prayers for their safety, health, happiness, and continued growth.



Calvin Crest Fun Day | August 21 | 9-5 pm

Calvin Crest is having a party and you are invited! Come join the all-day event and spend the day relaxing in the sun. Activities include sand volleyball, human foosball, music, games, food and more. Check out the details here <https://calvincrest.org/funday/> and plan to get away for the day.



Wednesday Nights | September 15

Wednesday activities will begin again on September 15 from 5:00-7:00 PM. Kids from nursery age through high school are invited to join us for dinner, fellowship, discussion, and fun. Coffee and fellowship opportunities for parents will be available as well.

Kick-off Sunday | Sunday, September 12 at 10:30 a.m.

Look for games, balloon animals, the bouncy house, face painting, food, and more fun. In addition to all the fun stuff, committees will be showcasing upcoming activities and families can get their kids signed up for Faith Village as well as meet our dedicated Small Group Leaders. You can register your children for Faith Village in advance by completing the online form <https://forms.gle/>

Are You Being Called?

As we worked our way through the books of 1 and 2 Samuel last month, I couldn't help but consider how these stories relate to the challenges of kids ministry and how hard it can be for us to serve as God calls us to. The Israelites had prophets like Samuel to directly relay His word, but even they somehow managed to fail to do the things that God asked. What hope do we have, then, of living up to the standard that God has set for us? How are we supposed to even know where to serve or how to get started in the first place? Well, while we may not have any prophets to tell us exactly what to do, God does still speak to us in other ways. We can hear God's calling in the people around us, through the inspiration we find in the bible, and sometimes even from within our own hearts. But no matter where we manage to hear God in our lives, we are each called to service in one form or another.

From the scripture:

1 Peter 2:9 "All people that have a relationship with God are called to serve God."

Romans 12:3-8 "We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your[a] faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead,[b] do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully."

1 Corinthians 12:4-6 "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work."

So if each of us is called to serve and if each of us has been endowed with unique gifts to share with the world, then have you found the place that God is calling you to serve?

If not, we are looking to build our kid's ministry team and want you to get involved. And if you have already found your calling within the church, we would still love for you to share an aspect of your unique talents with our kids.

Now as we know from the Israelites, it can be challenging to answer a call to service, even when we know exactly what we're supposed to do. There are all kinds of reasons not to volunteer or not to serve since everyone is so incredibly busy. We may not think we have the time, or the resources, or the skills, or we might be held back by one of the following misconceptions about volunteering in kids ministry.

It's already under control.

Alright, everything technically *is* under control (that is my job, after all), but merely being 'in control' is hardly where we should aspire as a church. In spite of the fact that it may look like our kids ministry is full of volunteers who are great at what they do, we can always use more help. Having more people allows us to provide more personal attention to each kid and create stronger relationships. It also allows some of those other great volunteers to take a break every once in a while.

I've never taught kids before.

Teaching, for any age range and for any type of student, is a skill. And just like any other kind of skill, it is something that can be developed through training and practice. As a kids ministry volunteer at Westminster, we will provide you with all the resources and training you'll need to be successful, from essential supplies to a carefully selected curriculum that can help convey God's word in a fun and approachable way. If you are willing to take a chance, you might find this is a hidden talent you never even knew you had!

Are You Being Called? Continued...

Kids make me uncomfortable.

That is completely okay. Many people feel awkward around kids and don't always know what to do or say, but that is all the more reason to get involved with kids ministry. We all too often forget that children are not simply future members in-training, they are a part of our church family *right now*. And just as we have a duty to welcome and support the adult members of our church (even the ones who are different from us in ways that might make us uncomfortable), so too do we have a duty to our children as well. But this is not just an obligation or a chore, it is an opportunity to build relationships with kids who see the word of God with fresh eyes and open hearts.

No one has asked me.

Then consider this your official invitation.

I don't have kids.

Being a parent is not a prerequisite for working with kids. In fact, you may be able to offer new energy and insight while providing a blessing for tired parents. There is genuine joy to be found in connecting with the youngest members of our congregation, and since we were all kids once, you'll automatically have something in common!

I have kids.

If you have kids then you probably do need a break, and volunteering for kids ministry means that you'll have to miss the in-person service sometimes. But the chance to share the church experience with your kids is an incredibly special, and limited, opportunity. By spending Sunday mornings with your kids and talking about God, you will simultaneously deepen your faith while building a stronger connection to your children. In the end, you can always watch the service later online, but you won't always have the chance to share church with your family.

In my reflections on the book of Samuel and how it relates to the challenges of kids ministry, I'm not certain I came to any firm conclusions. The Israelites frequently missed the mark in spite of the fact that they had clear directions, but the kids ministry volunteers that I work with -- guided by little more than a sense of calling -- never seem to let me down. So while answering the call to serve in kids ministry can be hard, simply trying and being yourself is almost always more than enough. Because, in so doing, you bring with you the full array of talents that God has given you to prepare you for this task.

Author Os Guinness once said that "God did not direct His call to Isaiah— Isaiah overheard God saying, "... who will go for Us?" The call of God is not just for a select few but for everyone. Whether I hear God's call or not depends on the condition of my ears, and exactly what I hear depends upon my spiritual attitude." So how is God calling you to serve?

Ready to join us? Sign up online <https://forms.gle/HviVwFdoi3G8LUNp6>.

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 makes a per capita, or "per member", contribution 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 2021, Westminster is required to contribute \$46.10 in per capita dues times the total number of our active members as determined by Homestead Presbytery for the prior year. 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.

The past year has taught us that our world is a whole lot more interconnected than we might have thought about just a couple of years ago. Your gift to the Per Capita allows us to protect pledge dollars for other activities while also helping empower our Connection to the broader church and make a difference in the world.

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



2021 Presbyterian Connection PER CAPITA Fund Commitment

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

_____ Gift(s) x \$46.10 for the church members in my family \$_____

_____ Gift(s) x \$46.10 as additional gifts to help another family's giving \$_____

Name: _____

Total \$_____



Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd

Lincoln, NE 68502



All Church Pool Party | Free will offering Friday, August 6 | 7:30-9:00 PM

Westminster has reserved Star City Shores on Friday, August 6 from 7:30-9:00 PM. If you have not been to Star City Shores, you are in for a treat. There are pools and play areas, interactive water features, and water slides. Bring your friends and come cool off with us! Bring your friends and come cool off with us! Free will offering.

Westminster Welcome Session and New Member Recognition Sunday, August 1 | 10:40 am in the Lounge

Westminster Welcome session for those who wish to learn more about Westminster and the PC(USA) and/or who would like to join Westminster as a new member. This will be followed by a New Member Recognition for those who wish to join on Sunday, August 8th during our 9:30am worship service. If you cannot make the August 1st session but still wish to join, please contact Joanne Gabriel (joanne@westminsterlincoln.org) and a Church Life Committee or Westminster staff member will be in touch about scheduling another conversation time. To get to the Lounge classroom, walk up the East / Parking Lot entry stairs and enter the doors on your left at the landing. The classroom is the first room on the left, down the hall past the front desk.