



# THE MESSENGER

February 2022 | 2021 Annual Report Issue





## Westminster Family,

Each February the Messenger includes annual reports from our committees, which serve as a “state of the church” annual update for our membership. At Westminster, our church leadership (session, deacons, and staff) is emphasizing a culture of transparency and reporting so that all engaged members feel informed about the work we are doing in the name of Jesus. For example, each month you can find a session “bullet points” report in the eVine and/or Messenger. The state of Westminster in early 2022 is strong, thanks to you, our members, and a staff that works well together.

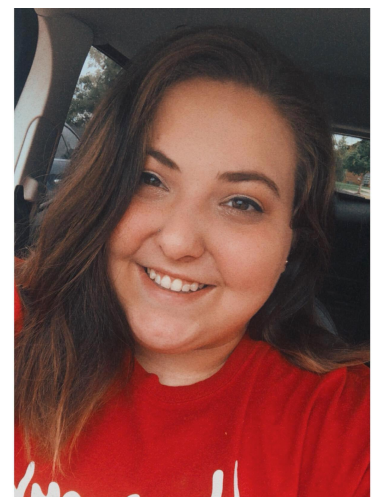
In 2021 we celebrated returning to in-person activities and worship, new hires to support Children and Youth (C/Y Program Director, Trish Souliere, and Youth Director, Bailey Jex), new mission/outreach initiatives (partnering with our local Habitat Faith Build financially and hands-on), and improvements to our historic buildings and spaces (stained glass window repairs, Garden Room re-fresh, Prayer Garden re-model, and a new maintenance agreement). In 2022, we will have even more to celebrate as we roll out our 2026 Vision in the first quarter of the year and see increases to budget areas, such as Children/Youth, that live into this new vision to be a spiritual home that can “expand our lives in faith, connect people deeply, and make a difference through service,” while continuing to emphasize our mission of being an “inclusive faith family.”

There’s a lot to celebrate looking back, and there’s a lot of celebrating to come in 2022. I’m glad that you’re a part of our church family, and I look forward to our work together.

With Gratitude,

Pastor Chris

2021 Church Staff  
New Hires:  
Children and Youth  
Program Director,  
Trish Souliere, and  
Youth Director,  
Bailey Jex.



## Souper Bowl of Caring

What if everyone watching the biggest football game of the year were to give just one dollar to a local food charity? What impact would that have on food insecurity in our country?

On the weekend of February 13, millions of Americans will watch the Super Bowl football game. There will be parties with abundant food, friendship, and fellowship, but at the same time, there will be other people worried about staying warm and finding their next meal. The Westminster Lincoln Youth Group invites you to join with others around the country in demonstrating God's love by loving our neighbors through the Souper Bowl of Caring.

In 2021, 6,140 organizations participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring. Together, these organizations collected \$5,328,520 and distributed 100% of the money collected to 4,564 charities.

Our youth will join the drive this year, collecting money on February 13 for Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach in Lincoln. Matt Talbot has served the homeless and near homeless for nearly 27 years, with feeding the hungry as the core of their mission.

We ask you to join this important movement, sharing God's love with those in need. Please give generously on Super Bowl Sunday -- look for youth group representatives holding soup pots by the sanctuary exits. Every dollar donated creates over \$20 for food charities, which means that a gift in any amount is greatly appreciated and truly makes a difference.



*Does your team support the Souper Bowl? NFL Advocates supporting the mission of the Souper Bowl of Caring include the Cardinals, the Panthers, the Jaguars, the Cowboys, the Texans, the Colts, the Chiefs, the Rams, and the Giants.*

## Administration and Planning Committee 2021 Annual Report

**Committee members:** Moderator Tim Gergen, Marybell Avery, Joyce Douglas, Margaret Sprude, Allen Wachter, Emily Killham, Staff representative Pastor Chris Peters.

This year has been another unique year with our committee meetings being held over zoom video conference. We learned how to connect with each other remotely and make decisions based on interesting circumstances. Despite meeting virtually, we were able to conduct business and plan and/or implement the following initiatives:

- Re-examine the procedure for donations to the Organ Task Force
- Branding Task Force initiated
- Renovation of Pastor's Office was postponed and put into the Building and Grounds committee
- Discussed the need for boundary training; boundary training was given to certain staff
- Financial Audit
- New Director of Children and Youth
- Return of outside groups meeting at church with previously approved guidelines for covid
- Giving Calendar
- On-going work and discussion of the Virtual Worship
- Installed consolidated committee meeting times for better communication between committees and staff participation
- On-going discussion of a creation of an external communication entity
- Discussed updating the building usage fee
- Revised the requirement of 10 people on the committee to a minimum of 4 people and up to 9 people
- Elder Session Retreat
- Draft a script for moderators to start planning for committee members for next year.
- Consideration of procedures for groups meeting outside of staff normal hours
- Revision to by-laws to change the number of elders to no fewer than 18 to reflect the membership of the congregation at large

## **Building and Grounds 2021 Annual Report**

2021 was a productive year for building repairs and maintenance of the church. A building that is as large and old as Westminster is in constant need of repairs and maintenance. We are grateful to have a church that is committed to funding the needed projects that maintain our beautiful house of worship. Building and grounds would also like to thank Steve Larson for his service as building manager/handyman. Steve devoted countless hours to the maintenance and upkeep of the building and stepped down from this volunteer role in July. FMA Realty Maintenance now manages the upkeep and maintenance of the building.

**Below is a list of some of the projects that took place this past year.**

- Roofs above the narthex and west entry were repaired
- Roof Drainage system by the narthex was pumped out and cleared of debris
- Unsafe light fixtures in the 1st and 2nd floor office areas were replaced by new LED fixtures
- HVAC repairs and maintenance
- Bat removal by the belfry
- Fire sprinkler inspection and repairs
- Technology for the livestream service

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Baltensperger Co-Moderator

# STEWARDSHIP

## Giving with Gratitude

### STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE COMMITTEE 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

**Committee Members:** Allen Wachter (co-moderator, stewardship), Ray Stevens  
Gwen Thorpe (co-moderator, finance), Walker Zulkoski  
Pastor Chris Peters (staff representative)

#### Overview

2021 brought us back into the sanctuary for worship and education. We were pleased that the generosity of our members allowed us to add staff members to restart programs as we returned. We are charged with bringing a balanced budget to Session for approval. The giving across all segments allowed for that balance budget to be approved and enacted. Giving, coupled with some reduced costs, allowed us to conduct a mid-year budget review and augment some Session committee budgets upward.

Pandemic funding we were able to obtain allowed us to finish 2020 with a surplus of funds and allowed some investments internally and within the community. Those initiatives are detailed further below.

We expect to complete 2021 with a surplus, when coupled with Foundation support and management of expenses. That surplus will allow us to use those funds to take the place of some pandemic funding that we will lose in 2022 and maintain our budget levels going forward. We intend to conduct another mid-year budget review as well in 2022.

The 2022 year is starting off with a continuation of the uncertainty in the Covid reality we are in now. We are hopeful that we can continue to inspire giving, see church membership grow, and to help make investments in the five year vision to come for our Westminster we all love.

## Key Initiatives & Achievements

- Recommended and saw approval by Session for a 2021 church budget of \$801,500.
- Continued using an accounting management model that combines the skills of Dennis Rohren as our church bookkeeper with the professional accounting of the firm HBE.
- Sought and were approved for Employee Retention Tax Credits in the amount of \$58,706 for both the church and preschool staff. Those funds will be received in 2022.
- Continued to work to improve coordination of the grant process with the Westminster Foundation, to better define the grant process and to begin to build a multi-year prioritization of upcoming projects for the church.
- Utilized some of our surplus funds to conduct a “reverse offering” that allowed members to give funds out into the Lincoln community as they saw fit.
- Approved increases in budgets to allow for investment in the new livestream video system in the sanctuary and to give addition funds for mission & outreach projects in the community.
- Approved special giving campaigns for the garden room and prayer garden renovations.
- Conducted the 2021 Per Capita Campaign.
- Conducted the 2022 Stewardship Campaign. To date, 146 church families have made \$473,883 in pledge commitments toward the general budget and \$8,566 in pledges toward the 2022 per capita dues that Westminster pays to the regional and national PC(USA) offices.
- Drafted a preliminary operating budget scenarios of \$825,000 and \$850,000 for 2022 for consideration by the elders at the 2022 Session retreat to be held in late January 2022. Once approved by Session, that budget will be presented to the congregation at a meeting in February.

## **Worship and Music Committee Year-end Report 2021**

*Committee members: Diana Wild, moderator, Cyndy Maddux, co-moderator, David Anderson, Sharon Cape, April Douglas, Michael and Freda Gregg, Jim and Rita Kinkennon, Kim Kubick, Mike and Mary Tomlinson.*

*Staff: Pastor Chris Peters, John and Laura Ross.*

One of the early tasks of the committee was to develop a job description regarding the responsibilities of the committee. This document was shared with the WPC session. A new Wedding policy was prepared and provided to the Session.

The committee devoted much time to recruit ushers ready to serve beginning after September 5.

Much time was devoted to addressing the challenges of presenting both a virtual and an in-person worship service. By late fall equipment had been purchased and installed to allow for live-streaming of the 9:30 service.

The challenges of providing music to the in-person service were discussed and John and Laura Ross were asked to provide detailed plans for music that supported the sermon themes provided by Pastor Chris and Pastor Jimmy.

Communion is served the first Sunday of the month, using single use containers of the elements. This practice will continue until it becomes safe to serve by intinction.

The chancel guild continues its work to keep the pews in good order, refilling items as needed.

Throughout the year Pastor Chris kept the committee informed about various sermon themes, including a series based on half-truths. Many members of the congregation read the book and participated in groups as the book was discussed.

Congregational singing continues to be an area of concern. There will be congregational singing when the Lincoln/Lancaster risk dial is in the Yellow area. Hearing technology has been clarified and those with blue-tooth enabled devices can connect with the sound technology already in place.

New Christmas decorations were purchased and others were re-furbished. Youth members participated in the Hanging of the Greens. We look forward to continuing this multi-generational event.

This report is a snap-shot of the variety of programming responsibilities that the Worship and Music committee joyfully participates in throughout the year.



## **Presbyterian Woman**

### **Westminster Presbyterian Church Yearly Report 2021**

*Coordinating team members: Glenna Haller and Linda Burchard Co-moderators. Susie Hughes treasurer. Rev. Ellen Davis Women's Ministry Mentor. Linda Miller, Kathy Anderson, Pat Hackley, and Jane Hines Circle leaders.*

Pledges were received for Faith Mission, Thank Offering, and the Birthday Offering. Collection was on-going for Fellowship of the Least Coin.

Gifts of Women Sunday was celebrated in March. Glenna Haller and Susie Hughes were honored with the Life Time Membership award.

PW held a Birthday Offering celebration in Fellowship Hall with many attending. Voices of Hope provided the program and attendees brought items needed for Voices of Hope ministry.

All circles met via ZOOM in the Spring of 2021. Some went back to in-person in the fall.

The PW Fall Kick-off was held in August with a review of the history of Presbyterian Women at Westminster. The 2021-2022 Bible study is "What My Grandmother Taught Me", based on Matthew's genealogy of Jesus. An excellent overview was given by the Rev. Lauren Peters.

The Coordinating team created a new circle - Honorary Circle 1, to honor women no longer able to attend circle but who have been active and contributed in the past. The charter members of this Honor Circle are Ginny Rohrbaugh and Eliza Sams.

## **Church Life**

### **Westminster Presbyterian Church Yearly Report 2021**

Pam Oliver started 2021 as Moderator. Pam moved to Texas so Kathy Rohwedder became Moderator. Kathy took the lead position for the Nominating Committee so Glenna Haller stepped in as Moderator. Despite all the changes in leadership, and due to the resourceful members on this committee: Church Life can claim many successes for 2021.

Church Life is in charge of: Cook'N Carry, Bereavement hospitality, Prayer Chain, Sunday Greeters, Visitors contacts, New Member care and Small Groups (Life Groups).

Each sub committee has been extremely busy while trying to maintain safety during the COVID19 pandemic.

Small groups sent out surveys to each household of Westminster. The surveys were counted and actions were taken to revive activities of most interest.

Church Life tried to be present at each new member class. We also started reporting all new members to Deacons so a representative could be assigned to the new member immediately.

In September this committee helped with Kick-Off Sunday.

## Westminster Children and Families Committee 2021 Annual Report

Westminster was blessed to have Trish Souliere join us as the Children and Youth director starting in June. With her leadership, Children and Youth have been actively engaged in the following activities:

### SUMMER

- **Family Movie Night-** June
- **Youth Group Disc Golf-** July
- **August- Star City Shores:** Rented Star City Shores for families and friends summer event.

### FALL/WINTER

- **Blessing of the Backpacks- Sunday August 15th**
  - Keychain & Poem given to the students. Backpacks blessed the sermon
- **Kickoff Sunday "Welcome Home to Westminster (football theme) – Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup> 10:30am-12:30pm**
  - Food Trucks: Pepe's & Kona Ice
  - Games/Crafts including bounce house, tie dye, face painting, Marshmallow catapults, cornhole/beanbag toss, ladder golf, Music (Rising Band)
  - Event took place in the parking lot after church.
- **Faith Village- Sundays for Youth K-5**
  - Children listen to the Childrens' chat and follow volunteers to Faith village for activities and lessons.
- **Wednesday Night Programming**
  - Program for 1st- Middle School
  - Zanders Family graciously volunteered to cook the meals this year!
  - Faith Village participated "Experiments in Faith" and explored the bible through experiments. They created the red sea, walked on eggs shells ( literally) and participated in games such as bible baseball.
- **Sunday Youth Programing**
  - Sermon Set-up for middle schoolers
  - Sunday Night Youth Group for Highschoolers and Middle Schools

- **Spooktacular –"Trunk or Treat"**
  - Moved inside due to rain. Great Success! We had multiple "trunks, photo booth, crafts including "gratitude pumpkin, bounce house, and Valentino's Pizza
- **Advent Workshop (Formerly "C" is for Christmas)**  
**Held on the Second Sunday of Advent**
  - Cookie contest for all in the congregation who wanted to participate
  - Hot chocolate and coffee bar for multigenerational fun.
  - Multiple crafts including, "Jesus in nutshell", blessing jars, and angels.
  - Decorate your own cookie "3 Sons Baking Company"
  - Reverse Advent Calendar- Food Drive
- **Youth Group Lock- In**
  - 8pm-8am. Bless the volunteers who survived this event!
- **Reverse Advent Calendar**
  - Congregation participated in this during December Food Drive.

## **Annual Calendar of Events Review**

August 15 | Blessing of the Backpacks

August 21 | Calvin Crest Fun Day

September 12 | Kick-Off Sunday

October 10 | Parent/Small Group Leader Breakfast

October 27 | Spooktacular

November 28 | C is for Christmas

January 17 | Crescent Hills Church Ski Trip

February 13 | Parent/Small Group Leader Breakfast

March 14-18 | Drama Camp

April 3 | Adopt an Egg

April 10 | Walk Through Holy Week/Youth Group Easter Service

April 17 | Eggstravaganza

May 25 | End of Year Party

June | High School Mission Trip

June 20-24 | VBS

July 18-22 | Middle School Mission Trip

## Mission & Outreach

### Annual Report 2021

Because of social distancing we have been somewhat limited as to what we have been able to physically go out and do, but we have been able to continue to serve meals at Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach and at the Gathering Place. We worked together with Contemplate Lincoln to gather and distribute food to people in quarantine. And we have a great team of people that gather food and pack boxes from our Food Pantry that get taken to the Lincoln City Mission for distribution.

We have been able to reach out monetarily in a greater way this year. One of these is a \$10K donation to Lincoln's Habitat for Humanity. We were one of several congregations that partnered to support the 2021 Faith Build project. A home is being built in the 40th and Y Street area for a lovely and deserving family.

We have also continued supporting local organizations such as the ones I mentioned earlier, Matt Talbot, Gathering Place, City Mission, and Contemplate Lincoln, as well as the Center for People in need.

Reaching beyond Lincoln we have been able to help victims of flood, fire, hurricanes, and earthquakes not only in the US but in places like Haiti through a donation to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

We have been able to help people that don't have a steady supply of food by donating to the Presbyterian Hunger Program. And we have been able to provide additional support to Jim McGill, a PCUSA missionary that we have an ongoing relationship with as he helps to provide water wells and improve sanitation and hygiene in Africa.

All things considered, it has been a good year for Mission & Outreach. We hope to continue to build momentum on increasing our focus on mission in the upcoming year.

I want to thank the members of the committee: Gary and Glenna Haller, Marilyn Smith, Jennifer Smith, Carolyn Harp, Dalyce Ronnau, Tom Welstead, and our staff representative Jimmy Shelborn for all of the work that they have done this year. There are many volunteers to thank. So many, in fact, to list individually. Thanks to the teams that pack boxes for the Food Pantry, the volunteers that serve at Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach and the Gathering Place, the volunteers that help with the landscaping and cleanup days at the church, and all of the volunteers that come out when there is an outreach opportunity that comes up throughout the year. These are the people that make Mission work.

## Adult Ed Annual Report 2021

Compared to other years, Adult Education was a bare bones operation during the 2021 year dominated by COVID. The ZOOM Bible Project continued. It started in 2019 and has worked through Genesis, Exodus, Luke, Ephesians, and currently Acts.

In March a Lenten devotional prepared by our denomination was offered on ZOOM and led by Tom Pappas, Pastor Jimmy, Brenda Wristen, and Sarah Baltensperger.

The seventh Creation Celebration program occurred in April and May and covered Lincoln's Climate Action Plan (Rev. Kim Morrow), Practicing Earth Care as a Congregation (Rev. Ellen Skidmore), LES Plans for Reliable and Sustainable Power (Scott Benson - LES), Sustainable, Responsible, and Impact (SRI) investing (Tyler Mainquist - CFP), and Choosing Effective Ways to Respond to Climate Change (Christian Nielsen - GIS specialist).

Beginning in September, nearly 75 Westminsterites participated in a congregational book study of the book *Half Truths* by Adam Hamilton. Adult Ed purchased the books so parishoners could participate at no cost. Discussion groups were led by Ellen Davis, Pastor Jimmy, Pastor Chris, Jim and Judy White, Brenda Wristen, Marijane England and Jamie Hemmerling.

In December Pastor Chris offered a two-week Sunday morning class "Advent in Plain Sight". And we put together a Taize-type devotional for three Wednesdays.

Thanks to those who served on Adult Ed! Dal Ronnau, Stanley Rediger, Kathy Phillip, Brenda Wristen, Sandi Larson, Pastor Jimmy Shelbourn. Submitted by Tom Pappas.



### Adult Education: The 1563 Heidelberg Catechism

Two years ago, Westminster Adult Education began a series about the 1563 Heidelberg Catechism. One lesson into the 6 week series and COVID hit; the class was suspended.

We plan to return to that series, beginning again with Lesson 1, on February 13 at 10:40 a.m. (after worship). It is based on the book *Body and Sou; Reclaiming the Heidelberg Catechism* by M. Craig Barnes, President of Princeton Theological Seminary. The catechism is a deeply personal statement of faith with surprisingly contemporary guidance for Christians today. Pastor Jimmy will lead the class.





## Preschool 2021 Annual Report

2021 was a year of many opportunities for growth and persistence for Westminster Preschool

- We served over 100 families during our school year and summer session programs
- We added two new staff members to the Westminster teaching team; Miss Heather and Miss Sam
- We remained engaged with families, but had to utilize creative strategies to make them happen; Our students used their math skills to create muffin mixes to take home to create their own muffins with grandparents, our Mother's Day Tea became an outdoor Lemonade party, we celebrated our First Annual End of the Year Marathon and Family Picnic, Dads and Donuts was ON, just with some social distancing, we celebrated the Art show in an Open House environment, we discovered a wonderful NEW fall field trip to the Picnic Hill Apple Orchard and we welcomed our Gingerbread House Workshop back to end the year!
- We utilized our week of closure before the start of school and the two weeks during Christmas break to make some BIG changes to our space: All new flooring in all common areas and the preschool classroom, new lockers for both classes, new paint in the classrooms and hallways, a new kitchen in the upstairs classroom, a preschool room DISHWASHER (yay!), new toilets, new touchless faucets, air purifiers built into the HVAC systems in the classrooms and a teacher workroom. Whew!
- With the wonderful help of several amazing preschool dads, we did a quick facelift on the playground in the spring
- As part of our commitment to partner with the Green@Heart committee, we have actively worked to drastically reduce waste created by our program. A major step to reduce our paper consumption occurred as we switched over to a new Preschool software this spring called Brightwheel. By taking this step, we have created a better tool for communication with families, but also have eliminated paper billing statements, enrollment and registration forms, newsletters, notices and reminders, and even portfolios. All of our special invitations are also done via an online tool, once again eliminating paper waste AND saving on postage. Our new sensor driven faucets will eliminate a high touch surface, but ultimately save an incredible amount of water. Best practice for hand washing is to wet hands, apply soap, scrub 20 seconds, rinse, dry, THEN turn off the water. We wash our hands, on low average, 8-10 times per day.

Getting the water only when it is needed, rather than flushing so much down the drain will be SO much better. Finally, after 2 years on the waitlist, Westminster Preschool has been accepted as a Terracycle partner to recycle GoGo squeeze containers! If you have a child or grandchild, you have definitely seen these squeeze containers for applesauce, etc. There are probably at least 30 of these containers that come to the preschool in lunches each day. What a blessing to finally have the opportunity to recycle them! We will also provide a collection container for the church, if you'd like to do the same!

- Finally, the staff and students spent an entire year in masks, learning and adjusting and persisting. We were incredibly blessed to not have one day of scheduled learning time removed because of a closure due to COVID. That is a testament to our staff, our families, our janitors and our little friends who have worked so hard to keep each other safe and healthy.



## Recycle All Flexible Plastic Snack Pouches and Caps Here



**GoGo  
SQUEEZ**



Any brand of flexible plastic snack pouches and caps is accepted!

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## VBS 2022: To Mars and Beyond

June 6-9, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

One small step for your kids...one giant leap for God's Kingdom! Get ready to blast off this summer when we go To Mars and Beyond! Kids will embark on a mission to discover the wonders of God's universe as Voyagers on a journey through space. We will assemble at an outpost on Mars before lifting off to travel to distant planets on special missions to collect power sources.



Along the way, they'll learn how God walked with heroes of the Bible, and that God is always with them, too. Add to the adventure with out-of-this-world fun, learning, and timeless Bible stories that inspire kids!

Registration is \$15/child (\$45 max/family) before May 15. Register this month at <https://vbsmate.com/westminsterlincoln>.

Adults and youth are also invited to explore God's wonders along with the kids. Whatever your interest or gift is, we have a place for you! You can build sets, create science/craft projects before VBS, work directly with the kids, provide materials, serve snacks, perform skits, or something else entirely.

Sign-up at <https://vbsmate.com/westminsterlincoln> or contact Trish Souliere at [trish@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto:trish@westminsterlincoln.org) or at 402-475-6702 to explore **the options**.

## Sundays in Faith Village

In Faith Village, we will be investigating some of the parables Jesus shared with his disciples. We will look at the parable of the mustard seed, the parable of the leaven, the parable of the treasure in the field, and the parable of the pearl.

Jesus often taught in parables, using a seemingly simple story with a twist or surprise to reveal a deeper meaning in a memorable way. Often, parables use hyperbole or exaggeration to emphasize the point and make it memorable. For example, the Kingdom's seed was "the smallest," the pearl was the "greatest."

By their nature, parables invite the hearer to question what they mean. Jesus used parables to challenge conventional thinking, and help people grasp new insights, and as we turn them around in our minds and discussions, they reveal new rays of light.

The parables we will be discussing all explore certain aspects of God's kingdom. We will use drama, science, games and more in our investigations.

*If you have not done so already, Please be sure to register your villager. It is important for us to know if your child has allergies and how we can contact you in the event of an emergency. The registration form is here: <https://forms.gle/6bc1PSDmRBipe336A>.*

## Whatchamacallit Wednesdays

Wednesday nights are a great opportunity for kids to get together with their friends and have fun learning about God. Due to the elevated risk of covid transmission, we are temporarily suspending in person meals. Kids from nursery age through middle school meet from 5:30-7:00 PM.

This month we will be exploring the stories of the New Testament through science. We will learn about the hospitality of Mary and Martha through a lava lamp, how Jesus healed a man possessed by demons with an exploding bag, see how the impossible becomes possible with hex nuts, and learn how even simple objects can possess great power with a potato.

Our Wednesday Youth Group will continue to discuss friends and peer pressure. We will discuss how taking risks to serve one another deepens our friendships and how gossip damages relationships and can ruin friendships.

## Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday, February 13

In 1990, a Super Bowl Sunday prayer inspired a group of people to do something more than celebrate a football game. They created the Souper Bowl of Caring and have mobilized others across the country to raise more than \$143 million since its inception for people in need. Join churches across the country on February 13 in collecting money for the hungry and homeless in our community. We will be collecting money to support Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach in Lincoln.

Please give generously -- look for youth group representatives holding soup pots by the sanctuary exits. Every dollar donated creates over \$20 for food charities, which means that a gift in any amount is greatly appreciated and truly makes a difference.



## Sunday Youth Group

The Sunday Youth group will continue with the faith in an anxious world series. We will learn that anxiety can be too much for any one of us to handle on our own, regardless of age. God designed us to be in relationships, in circles of care, and sometimes, we benefit by expanding our circle to include professional help.

Reaching out to God and sharing honestly with others can keep us from facing anxiety alone. Throughout this series, we are learning to practice seeing where God has been at work in our lives, even in the midst of our anxiety. We also will discover that Jesus does not ask for perfection from his disciples or from us.

Instead, he asks for us to listen and trust as he works both in us and through us to help others. To experience God's hope and share that hope with others, we can reflect on the reality that we are made in God's image, we can re-center ourselves by spending time with God, and we can reconnect with our circle and our faith community.

All Youth Group members are welcome to attend either Wednesday evenings, 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM. or Sunday evenings, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM.

## Sermon Set-up

Youth are invited to take part in a sermon set-up discussion on Sunday mornings at 9:15, a session designed to deepen the worship experience. We enjoy donuts and juice while discussing the theme of the upcoming sermon and identifying how it applies to our lives today. Youth are invited to attend service with their families or together in the balcony.

## Faith to Forest in February

**Give!** February 6th marks the completion of Westminster's campaign to raise money for planting trees.

**Mark your choice (I'd give anything not to . . .)** on the pledge form in your bulletin, or cut out and mail the one printed on the back of this month's Messenger.

Make out your check to Westminster and write "Tree Planting" in the memo. Our donations will plant the right trees in the right places, locally through the Lincoln Parks Foundation and in the tropics through One Tree Planted.

**Look!** The Lincoln Camera Club favors us with a new exhibition, this time with their favorite photos of trees in all their glory displayed on the walls of Memory Lane coming soon.

**Listen!** The Westminster Preschool will offer us a little tree-logy in song, accompanied by Pastor Jimmy, during worship on February 6.



**Engage!** Pat Leach moderates a panel with Miki Esposito, Senior Policy Advisor to the Mayor, and Lynn Johnson, Director of Lincoln Parks and Recreation, and responds to your questions about what *The Future We Choose* says to Lincoln. The book is available for purchase at Francie and Finch, Barnes and Noble and the Public Library. Live at Gere Library at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 5—watch the Faith to Forest website for any covid-related changes.



**Learn!** The Faith to Forest Zoom Series finishes on a high note at 7:00 on Thursday, February 3rd. Westminster's own Pat Leach and Nebraska State Climatologist, Martha Shulski, team up to review *The Future We Choose-The Stubborn Optimist's Guide to the Climate Crisis*. You don't have to read it first, but this short (163 pages) and inexpensive (\$16) book is available at most local booksellers and the Public Library.



## Life Group Gatherings

### Adult Education Bible Study of Acts of the Apostles

Join us via Zoom for Bible Study on Wednesdays. Contact Tom Pappas to enroll and get the Zoom Meeting information. This group is open to all who wish to attend and learn about scripture book by book.

### Hearts & Hands | Church Library

**Wednesdays from 1:30 -3:00 PM until February 9, then the additional meeting time of 6:30 - 8:00 PM will be starting back up on February 16.**

Feel free to bring anything you'd like to work on. Some creative things you can enjoy doing with your hands are coloring, rock painting, embroidery, knitting, and stitching. Men and women and ALL craft projects welcome! Questions: Call Franci Scheele at (402) 310-4212.

### Faith and Cancer Support Group | Parlor | Tuesday, February 15 | 7 p.m.

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

### Ladies Night Out | Tavern 180 | Tuesday, February 15 | 5:00 – 7:00 PM

We are meeting at Tavern 180, 8600 South 30th Street <http://www.tavern180.com/> **\*\*Please note, this is a location change from an earlier invite sent.** As always, feel free to bring a friend, sister, aunt, daughter or mother to all our gatherings.

### Prairie Readers via Zoom | Wednesday, February 16 | 1:00 p.m.

Prairie Readers will meet via Zoom. Interested persons who are not regular attenders may call Faye Moulton for the zoom site. Book: *Beloved* by Toni Morrison. Discussion Leader: Margaret Sprude.

### Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch gatherings will be on hold until a new volunteer to take over coordinating for the group is found.

### Messenger Articles & eVine Reminder:

All information for The Messenger is due to Tracy Hoffman at [tracy@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto: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](mailto:joanne@westminsterlincoln.org) by 5 pm on Monday of each week.



Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd

Lincoln, NE 68502

### Faith to Forest Fund—Pledge Card

Trees are badly needed—in Lincoln, to replace the 1000 that are lost every year—and even more in the tropics, where deforestation increasingly contributes to climate change. Contributions to Westminster's Faith to Forest Fund will be distributed locally to the Lincoln Parks Foundation (25%) and globally to One Tree Planted tropical locations (75%).

**Use this form to indicate the level of your pledge. Would you give:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 not to hear Jimmy's bagpipes outside my home at 5 am?
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 85 not to dog sit for Chris and Lauren Peters' pups?
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 75 not to host a Westminster Preschool playdate?
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 50 not to have Tom Pappas raid my yard for Hostamania?
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 35 not to do the Children's Chat or sing a solo in church?
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 25 not to change the sanctuary chandelier bulbs?
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 10 not to entertain Green@Heart for dinner?



Please make your check payable to Westminster and write "Tree Planting" on the memo line. Pledges are due by the week of February 6.

**Mail your check and this form to:**

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Attn: Dennis  
2110 Sheridan Boulevard, Lincoln, NE 68502

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Donor's names (but not pledge amounts) will be included in a future Messenger article. Please indicate here how you would like your name to appear.

Donor name/s \_\_\_\_\_