



THE MESSENGER

April 2022



During worship on Sunday, March 20, we recognized the Pastor Nominating Committee that called Rev. Chris Peters to Westminster Presbyterian Church, Lincoln, NE. Towards the end of our worship service, Rev. Ellen Davis was awarded with a Lifetime Presbyterian Women's Award.

Thank you all for your service to Westminster.

A LETTER TO THE CONGREGATION FROM PASTOR CHRIS PETERS

Throughout Lent we've been looking at places where God moves.

I recently experienced God moving through a game of bingo. Yes, bingo! This wasn't your ordinary game of bingo, but a game of "People Bingo" at our 2022 Session Dinner. People Bingo is unique as it involves finding people who match certain characteristics in the corresponding bingo squares. For example, I was often sought out to fill out the "Has Been on a Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Mission Trip" square.

God was moving in People Bingo as our elders moved around the room – interacting, laughing, finding new places of connection with one another. God moved in a game of bingo, because God moves in our connecting with one another. For Westminster's Session (council of elders), it's important to deepen our connections so that we can better empathize with and support one another as we make decisions that impact our church and our world.

God moves in many ways – far beyond a People Bingo card. Throughout Lent, we've seen God moving in our worship service themes and scriptures, pushing us to turn back toward God as we care for our neighbors more deeply and authentically. We've seen God move our spirits in our return to hymn-singing. We've seen God move in our conversations over coffee and donut holes. We've seen God move in other places as well – in deepened connections and new initiatives with Habitat for Humanity, in an energized and engaged Westminster Youth Group, and in our looking to the future God has in store for our church family.

God moves... This is the hope of our faith. As we move through these last weeks of Lent, we will find that God-in-Christ moves into Jerusalem, to an intimate meal with the disciples, to the depths of a prison cell, to the pain of the cross, and to the ultimate hope of the empty tomb.

Where have you seen God move in recent weeks? I'd love to hear your own stories this month! If you're hoping to find such spaces, join us at Westminster for worship, fellowship, or a service opportunity in April. As we gather in authentic Christian community, we'll find God on the move right here in Lincoln. And, I'm willing to bet my bingo card that God will move you, too.

With Gratitude,
Pastor Chris



WESTMINSTER WELCOME OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, April 3, 10:35am: Meet an Elder at Coffee and Conversation, look for the balloon!

Wednesday, April 6, 5:30-6:30pm: Westminster Welcome Zoom Session
with Members and Pastor Chris.

Sunday, April 10, 8:50-9:10am: Those who wish to join, meet with Elders.

Sunday, April 10, 9:30am: Worship New Members recognized in worship.

Questions? Call or Text Donna Wyatt at 603-714-0670.



Congratulations Rev. Ellen Davis

The Honorary Life Membership (HLM) program was established in the Presbyterian Church to honor faithful service to the women's organization and to the church.

On Sunday, March 20, 2022, during "Gifts of Women Sunday," Rev. Ellen Davis received this honor.

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. 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 and at 6:30 - 8:00 PM

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 Francy Scheele at (402) 310-4212.

Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will be at Toast on **April 5 at 11:00 am**. Toast is located at 570 Fallbrook Blvd #105. RSRP Jim at jimkinkennon@gmail.com or 402-290-5888. (The RSVP is very important.)

Faith and Cancer Support Group | Parlor | Tuesday, April 19 | 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.

Prairie Readers | Wednesday, April 20 | 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Book: *"Flight Behavior"* by Barbara Kingsolver's story about the migration of Monarch butterflies.
Discussion Leader: Faye Moulton.



Ladies Night Out

Thursday, April 28 | 5:00 – 7:00 PM

LNO is gathering at Tico's this month. Tico's is located at 317 S 17th Street. As always, feel free to bring a friend, sister, aunt, daughter or mother to all our gatherings.

Messenger Articles & eVine 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.



Marathon Support Race day is coming up! Sunday, May 1

The Westminister Youth Group will extend our hospitality by hosting a welcome table to distribute donut holes, water, orange slices, and bananas.

Westminister Welcome Table Volunteers 2021

Whatchamacallit Wednesdays

Wednesday nights are a great opportunity for kids to get together with their friends and have fun learning about God. Kids from nursery age through high school meet from 5:30-7:30 PM.

"The Lord gives me strength and makes me secure. He has saved me." ~Psalm 118:14 (NirV)

This month we turn our attention to some of the heroic women of the Bible. We begin with the story of Ruth, then move on to Hannah, Deborah, Rehab, Abigail, and finally Lydia. Through the stories of these women, we will learn what they can teach us about being superheroes for God.

Our Wednesday Youth Group will explore the story of Lazarus and investigate reasons for the events of Holy Week, the resurrection of Jesus, and the beginning of the disciples' ministry.

Sunday Youth Group

The Sunday Youth Group meeting will focus on fellowship. Join your church friends to talk, play games, do homework together, or just hang out.

The Youth Group is going to go to Urban Air in April and will be doing Chopped on April 3rd, watch the eVine for more details.

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

Carol Joy Holling Youth Group Event Saturday, July 9

The Youth Group will meet at the church on Saturday, July 9 to head up to Carol Joy Holling for a day of high and low ropes course fun.

Announcing Creation Celebration '22

"The Birds and the Bees, and People and Trees!"

We will focus on our role as a part of the natural world.

Begins on Sunday, April 24:

9:30 **Earth Sunday Worship Service**
Celebrating the gift of creation

10:30 **An Intergenerational Lorax Party**
Enjoy brunch while watching the original Lorax film,
then explore a variety of nature-related activities

Watch for details about these special events:

April 20 | Prairie Readers discuss "*Flight Behavior*"

May 1, 15, 22 | Special speakers at Adult Ed!

May 8 | Pie Buffet—with tree-sourced fillings!

May 21 | Nature walk and picnic lunch at Prairie Pines.

And a Special Photography Exhibit by
The Lincoln Camera Club and more!

You're Invited!

FAITH TO FOREST LORAX PARTY

APRIL 24, 10:30 AM-11:30 AM
FELLOWSHIP HALL

As a part of our celebration of creation, the Children and Youth Committee and the Green at Heart Committee are hosting an intergenerational Lorax Party immediately following worship. Our theme will be celebrating trees and exploring all the wonderful gifts they give to us. We will enjoy brunch, decorate cookies, learn what comes from a tree, and more. Plan to take some time on April 24 to appreciate this beautiful world God created.

"Forests are the lifeline of our world. Without them, we lose extraordinary and essential functions for life on Earth." Meg Lowman, director of the Tree Foundation.

A promotional poster for an Easter event. The background is a warm, yellow bokeh. On the left, a close-up of a brown rabbit's ears is visible. The text is in a brown, serif font. The title 'Easter Eggstravaganza!!' is at the top. Below it, the date and time are given. The event details are listed in a smaller font. The bottom right has decorative orange starburst graphics.

Easter Eggstravaganza!!

Join us Wednesday, April 13 for an evening of fun!

Preschool to 5th grade
Bring your own basket for the egg hunt.
Come just for the hunt,
or stay for the evening activities.

5:30 - 6 p.m. Egg Hunt/Games
6 - 6:30 p.m. Dinner: Eggs & Pancakes
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Story/Craft
Questions? Contact Trish

Come just for the hunt or stay for the rest of the evening activities.

Questions? Contact Trish at trish@westminsterlincoln.org or (402) 570-0163.

Seeking Nature-Minded Helpers

Do you have a special interest in nature? And/or children? We could use your help to staff one of the activity stations at our upcoming Lorax Party, immediately following worship on Sunday, April 24. The activities and materials will be provided. What we need from you is a desire to share the wonder of the natural world with the next generation. Please contact Trish Souliere for more information.

A poster for Good Friday worship. The background is a dark, dramatic sky with a sunset or sunrise over a rocky landscape. Three crosses are visible on the horizon. The text is in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The title 'GOOD FRIDAY' is at the top. Below it, the time and date are given. The church name is at the bottom.

GOOD FRIDAY

WORSHIP AT 7 P.M.
04.15.22
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



CALENDAR OF HOLY WEEK EVENTS

Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 10

9:15am | Narthex – Kids Gather in Narthex for Palm Instructions

9:30am | Sanctuary – Palm Sunday Worship

Holy Week Devotionals

Monday, April 11 – Friday, April 15

10:00am | Chapel – Holy Week Devotionals led by various Westminster members

Maundy Thursday Worship with Communion

Thursday, April 4 | 7:00pm | Sanctuary

Good Friday Worship

Friday, April 15 | 7:00pm | Sanctuary

Partnering in leadership with Southern Heights Presbyterian

Easter Sunday

8:00am | Sanctuary – Easter Worship

9:15-9:45 | Garden Room – Coffee and Conversation

10:00am | Sanctuary – Easter Worship

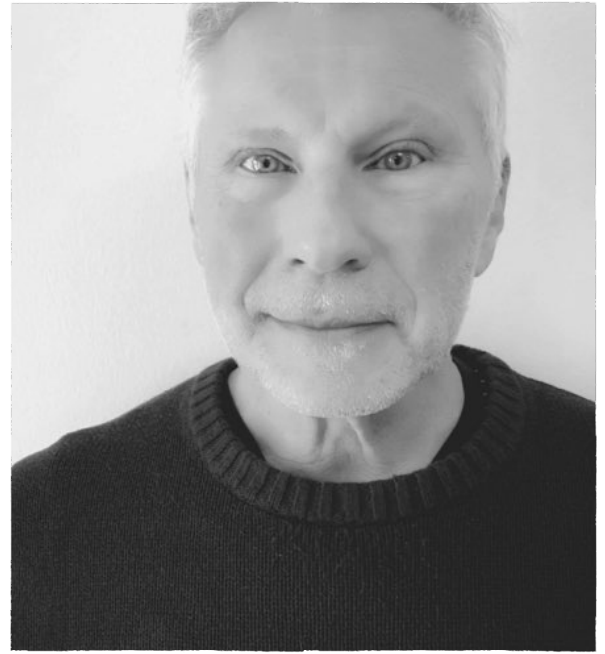
WESTMINSTER STAFF SPOTLIGHT: DENNIS ROHREN

Dennis Rohren is our Bookkeeper at Westminster and he has worked here for us for 2 years. His hometown is Seward, NE and he has lived in Lincoln for 45 years.

He enjoys working out at the YMCA, walking, bowling, painting and yard work during his free time. He has a new rescue cat named Martini Olive. (How fun is that?!!)

We asked him what he would you for members/visitors to know about his role here at WPC and he said, "My job is to make deposits, and to coordinate payments and payroll with our third party accounting firm, HBE. My door is always open and I try to be as helpful as possible. I am in the office Monday and Wednesday 9-3 and Tuesday and Friday from 9-1".

Dennis attended Seward High and Wayne State College. You can usually find him at Red Robin on Friday nights eating a grilled chicken salad.



HOSTAMANIA

It looks like Hostamania will be in person and at the church this year. The Mothers' Day plant sale is a good fund raiser for the Lohmen partnership, a way to thin landscapes that need it, and pick up additions for gardens that need new additions.

Call Tom Pappas at 402-20-4454, if you need help or advice on what to donate. Be sure to make a stop at the Hostamania sale on May 8.

Crafty? Creative? Artistic?

We need your help to decorate the chancel for this year's Creation Celebration. What would you do with the theme of: "The Birds, the Bees, and People and Trees?" Contact Laurel Van Ham to share your ideas and/or skills.



VBS 2022: To Mars and Beyond

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



Join us on an exciting trip through outer space June 6-9 as we explore how to serve God and discover God's mission for our lives. Registration is \$15 per child/maximum \$45. Register your child or sign up to volunteer here

<https://vbsmate.com/events/westminsterlincoln/21116>.

Sundays in Faith Village

Sundays, 9:30-10:30

During April in Faith Village, we will study stories about Jesus and the time after the resurrection, such as Mary anointing Jesus, the journey to the cross, and the story of Mary Magdalene and Thomas.

Family Movie Night

June 17 | 9:00 PM-11:00 PM

We will host a family movie night at Westminster in the parking lot on June 17 at 9:00 pm. We will supply the popcorn and water, you bring your friends, family, and lawn chairs. Let Trish know what movie you would like to see on a beautiful summer evening.

Youth Group Summer Mission Trip

Friday, July 29 - Monday, August 1

The Youth Group is taking a trip this summer to engage in mission work, build community, and have fun.

We start in Branson, where we will attend a performance at the Sight and Sound Theater in Branson, Missouri. From the bustling streets of Jerusalem to the raging Sea of Galilee, Jesus: Live Onstage is an action-packed musical stage adventure. This production features the greatest rescue story of all time as it comes to life on stage with massive sets, special effects, and live animals.

After the show, we will head to Ferncliff, near Little Rock, Arkansas. Ferncliff's Mission Team Program offers a variety of outreach experiences at their 1200 acre camp, which is known for its commitment to mission, sustainability and creative programming. Ferncliff is home to the 10,000 sq. ft. Disaster Assistance Center, the PC(USA) National Volunteer Call Center, and Solar School where people can learn how to install solar energy systems in low income communities. On the way home, we will stop for a day of recreation at World of Fun in Kansas City, Missouri.

Registration is \$450, scholarships available. Please register here to join the fun <https://forms.gle/eNtfWLT2EGRYGS5c6>.

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 on the balcony.

Westminster Preschool April 2022

Although it seems the school year has only just begun, we are quickly approaching the finish line to yet another fantastic year of learning!

April brings the joy of celebrating the great love of God that led to great suffering and the celebration of Christ's resurrection! Our students will be learning that "God so loved the world, that He sent His only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life!" (John 3:16) Our month will kick off with egg hunts and the joy of listening to children's laughter and enthusiasm.

April also brings Earth Day. We end our school year with our Reduce, Reuse, Recycle study as we learn about being good stewards of the amazing planet we have been given. Our school has made big strides over the last two years to reduce our waste. Nearly all of our communications are digital, reducing the cost of paper and the excessive use of SO much paper. In the last year, we were able to introduce an online tool that allows all of our registration and enrollment paperwork to be completed and stored online. Imagine the amount of paper used for approximately 60 students with a minimum of 10 forms twice a year! What a blessing to have the technology to accomplish these savings! Over Christmas break we changed five of our most frequently used faucets with automatic faucets, greatly reducing our water waste. Rather than having a constant stream of water running as all of our students follow the correct method for handwashing multiple times per day, the water only runs briefly as needed. Finally, we have been on the waiting list for TerraCycle for a year and a half to recycle snack packaging containers (like Go-Go Squeeze). These are items found daily in our students' lunches, so the ability to keep these packages out of the landfill is a huge blessing! Please feel free to participate with us and bring your empty containers in a bag and we will happily add them to our packages that get sent for recycling!

The heavens are the LORD's heavens, but the earth he has given to the children of man. Psalm 115:16



RECYCLE GOGO SQUEEZ® POUCHES!

Every year, countless healthy, squeezable pouches end up in dumpsters and landfills across America. We are working with TerraCycle® to put an end to this enormous loss of resources.

The GoGo squeezeZ Recycling Program allows us to recycle these pouches and prevent them from ending up in landfills.

And not only are you helping the environment, but the pouches you recycle with us have the potential to earn funding for our school or organization.



Drop off your waste at...



Your collection leader is...

(name)

(contact information)



The more you recycle, the more we'll earn!

Learn more at www.terracycle.com.

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