

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE



March 5, 2023

Second Sunday in Lent

Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday

Prelude

"Air" from *Suite No. 1* by Florence Price

Welcome

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.
Rachel Hoffman

***Call to Worship** (adapted from the Presbyterian Women's Litany of Celebration, 2023) Pat Leach

One: For the grace of God, which calls women and men – all people – to ministries of leadership and the ministry of sharing one's gifts in the church and world...

All: We worship and give thanks to God!

One: For the call of women who work toward a more just world, one free of biases, discrimination, food insecurity and poverty...

All: We worship and give thanks to God!

One: For congregations, faith-based organizations and women's rights organizations advocating for and empowering women and girls around the world...

All: We worship and give thanks to God!

One: For the challenge of our faith to turn back to God in this season of Lent, and to worship God with hope...

All: We worship and give thanks to God! Let us worship the God of all Creation with hope and with singing!

***Hymn #761**

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

***Call to Confession**

***Time of Silent Confession**

***Unison Prayer of Confession**

Creator God, have mercy on us. Your love has found and redeemed us, yet we stray from your ways. We confess, we don't always recognize or show your

mercy. We confess, we take your love for granted. We are misled by our prejudices, fear and pride. We cling to power and wealth for our own benefit. Forgive us, that we may recognize your mercies, and in turn, practice mercy. Help us to love as you have loved us, and to find strength in courage, humility, and service. We ask all this in the name of Christ, Amen.

***Response to the Confession**

#649, v. 1 & 3

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come.
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

...Believe and share the good news!
In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!

***Response of Praise**

#435

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven.
There is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgment given.

***Passing of the Peace**

Rachel Hoffman

Please share a sign of welcome and inclusion that is mutually comfortable (high five, handshake, fist/elbow bump) with your neighbors.

May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Children's Chat

Jamie Hemmerling

(Children in Grades 1 – 5 are invited to come to Faith Village following the Children's Chat or to find and sit with their parents. Parents can pick up their children in Faith Village following the service.)

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

New Testament

John 3:1-17

N.T. pg. 93

The Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

Sermon

Kathleen Keefer

*Hymn (see insert)

For Everyone Born

Affirmation of Faith (PCUSA Brief Statement of Faith) Bailey Jex

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

Special Music

"O Sacred, Wondrous Love" by Heather Sorenson

Adella Dutra, *cello*; Brenda Wristen, *piano*; Sanda Mašić, *conductor*

Westminster Choir Women

The Lord's Supper

Invitation

Rev. Lauren Peters

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.



*“I am the vine,
you are the branches . . .”*

The week of March 5, 2023

*Westminster Presbyterian Church is an inclusive faith family,
inspired by Jesus Christ, to call, nurture, and empower disciples.*

Gifts of Women Sunday

Kathleen Keefer is our Guest Speaker for Worship Today

Westminster welcomes Kathleen Keefer of Clarinda, Iowa, who serves as present national Co-Moderator of Presbyterian Women.

At the Synod level her hats include chair of the Justice and Peace Committee, “Sower” editor, and representative of Missouri River Valley Presbyterian Women.

Her professional career focused on working with families who were overburdened and at risk. She investigated child abuse and neglect, supervised Child Protective Service workers who did investigations and was Program Manager of a Healthy Families America program. She has passion for social justice and for encouraging others to work with her in dismantling racism, ending systemic poverty and creating peace.

Adult Education Series: "Why Do I Serve? Let Me Tell You My Story." Sundays at 10:45 AM | Lounge

March 5 - Kathy Keefer

March 12 - Kathy Rohwedder

March 19 - Allen Wachter

March 26 -TBA

Youth Group Bowling Sun Valley Lanes

Middle and high school youth are invited to come bowling today at Sun Valley Lanes! Meet there at 4:15 PM to get set up and grab a pair of shoes. Please bring \$5 per person, max \$15 per family. Scholarships are available.

Bag Lunch Book Discussion with Pastor Chris

Growing Young: 6 Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church

What are our core commitments as a congregation, and how do they compare to churches that are vital and vibrant in this “post-Christian” world? Pack a lunch and come explore these and similar questions with Pastor Chris during our first series of “Bag Lunch Book Discussions” focusing on Study, Discussion, and Table Fellowship.

Growing Young is a book published by the Fuller Seminar Youth Institute that will be read by Westminster’s Session over the next three months. From the first chapter, “The news for the church is not all gloom and doom... All around the country, hundreds of “bright spot” congregations are effectively loving and serving young people. We call these churches that grow young because:

1. They are engaging young people ages 15 to 29; and
2. They are growing – spiritually, emotionally, missionally, and sometimes also numerically.

This book describes what we found. It spells out the *core commitments* of churches that are... growing young.”

A few copies of the book are still available on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact Joanne (joanne@westminsterlincoln.org) for a copy!

Growing Young Bag Lunch Reading Schedule at Noon

March 21: Chapters 1-3 (Growing Young; Unlock Keychain Leadership; Empathize with Today’s Young People)

April 18: Chapters 4-6 (Take Jesus’ Message Seriously; Fuel a Warm Community; Prioritize Young People (and Families) Everywhere)

May 16: Chapters 7-8 + Appendix (Be the Best Neighbors; Growing Young in Your Context; Research Methods + Procedures)

History Buffs

We are resuming History Buffs on Sat., March 18 at 9 AM in the Lounge. Dr. Ken Govaerts, Civil Engineer, History Buff and Storyteller, will be speaking on *Historical Accomplishments of Abraham Lincoln and other Famous Civil Rights Leaders*. Mark your calendars.

Westminster Foundation

What questions do you have about the Westminster Foundation? Your Foundation trustees have set a goal to communicate regularly with the congregation throughout the church year. Please share your questions with a foundation trustee. We want to be sure we're addressing your questions and look forward to hearing from you. Westminster Foundation trustees include Joyce Douglas, Mark Schorr, Pat Leach, Allen Wachter, David Anderson, Erika Schafer, Steve Hughes, Sandi Larson, and Jim White.

Casual Membership Discussion

When: Sunday, March 12, immediately following worship.

Where: In the Garden Room. Look for the table with a balloon.

“I feel included and welcomed here. Westminster is a warm place.”

“The worship and music help me reset for the week.”

“Because it’s my church family.”

These are a few of the many reasons Westminster members have identified when asked *why* they are members of Westminster. At Westminster, all are welcome and we hope all who enter our community and our spaces feel a sense of belonging. One way of strengthening that connection is to become a member of Westminster. Joining as a member provides a more formal and public step of commitment to making this particular church and people the community in which you wish to worship and follow Jesus. Membership also opens even more doors of involvement in ministry and mission, while giving you a voice and vote in congregational meetings.

Wanting to learn more about WPC? This time is for you! You’ll be able to spend about 15 minutes connecting with members, including church elders, to ask questions and hear about a more detailed membership class session meeting soon.

Already planning to join WPC? This time is also for you! In addition to asking questions, you’ll have the opportunity to find a Sunday to join in the very near future (maybe even the following Sunday!), and we’ll have New Member Information Forms for you to fill out.

Call for Eggstravaganza Donations

Our annual Eggstravaganza is coming up on April 5 and we can use your help. We are seeking donation bags of candy and/or any other small handouts for the children. Collection buckets are at the East entrance.

