

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE



May 7, 2023

Creation Celebration, 5th Sunday of Eastertide

Prelude

Welcome

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

Flash Lesson on Being an Earth Care Congregation #4

Tom Pappas

***Call to Worship (Psalm 31:1,3,5 Common English Bible)**

Skyler Bennett

One: I take refuge in you, O Lord.

All: Please never let me be put to shame.

One: You definitely are my rock and fortress.

All: Guide me and lead me for the sake of your good name.

One: I entrust my spirit into your hands.

All: You, Lord, God of faithfulness – you have saved me.

One: Let us worship God with joy and in song!

***Hymn #475**

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

***Call to Confession**

Skyler Bennett

***Time of Silent Confession**

***Unison Prayer of Confession**

Almighty God, your word offers us hope, but we confess that we have not obeyed your word. We have harbored malice toward our enemies; we have been deceitful in our relationships; we have been insincere in our commitments; through gossip we have slandered our neighbors. Forgive our sins, O Lord. Help us grow into the joy of your gift of new life so

**that we might proclaim your mighty acts of love.
With hope in our risen Lord, Jesus Christ, we pray,
Amen.**

***Response to the Confession**
***Bless the Lord, my soul,
and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul,
who leads me into life.***

#544 (x2)

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

***Response of Praise** **#581 Gloria Patri**
***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the
Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and
ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.***

***Passing of the Peace**
*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 Sarah Baltensperger
*(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.)*

Sacrament of Baptism Wilder Bates Peters

Apostles' Creed (Modern Version)
***I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of
heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's
only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy
Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under
Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose
again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the
right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge
the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit,***

***the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.***

Question of the Congregation

Elder: Do you, the members of Westminster, promise to love and nurture Wilder, to provide for his Christian Education, and to set an example of faithfulness, to the end that he comes to confess Jesus Christ as Lord?

All: We do. Wilder, we welcome you with joy and hope, energy and enthusiasm, laughter and communion, nurture and faith, love and acceptance.

Hymn #486, v.1 & 4

***Child of blessing, child of promise,
baptized with the Spirit's sign,
with this water God has sealed you
unto love and grace divine.***

***Child of God, your loving Parent,
learn to listen for God's call.***

***Grow to laugh and sing and worship;
trust and love God more than all.***

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Epistle Lesson

1 Peter 2:1-10

N.T. pg. 233

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

Sermon

“Now You Are God’s People”

Rev. Chris Peters

Special Music

"I Am He!" by Rose Aspinall and Mary McDonald
Westminster Choir

The Lord’s Supper

Invitation

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.

Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread and Communion of the People Prayer after Communion

***Hymn #716** **God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending**

***Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Chris Peters

Postlude

*Please rise in body or spirit for these parts of worship.

Parts of today's words for worship come from or are adapted from resources from Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1 (Editor: Kimberly Bracken Long), the PC(USA) Book of Common Worship, Rev. Chris Peters, and a Variation on the French Reformed Church Baptismal Liturgy from the PC(USA) Office of Theology and Worship.

The **flowers** are given in memory and honor of our mothers, Caroline Avery and Charlotte Campbell by Marybell Avery and Stan Campbell.

Westminster welcomes and values children in worship. If a parent feels a break is needed for their child during the service, our **Infant Room** is available. This is located off the entry foyer through the Sheridan Blvd./West-end sanctuary doors. When you enter the foyer, turn to your right, where the door will be open.

Giving to Westminster's Mission and Ministry

At Church: An offering to support Westminster may be placed in our red Giving Baskets following the service. These are located by the Sheridan Blvd. doors in the narthex and near the top of the stairs in the sanctuary on the Garden Room / South side. Look for the red baskets and signs that read "Giving Basket." Ushers monitor the baskets and collect the offerings following the service. **For online giving**, scan the QR code.

Ministers: The whole congregation

Pastors: Rev. Chris Peters & Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

Liturgist: Skyler Bennett

Music Director: Ronnie Zanella **Organist:** John Ross

Director of Children & Youth: Trish Souliere

Ushers: Carol Boehler, Kim Kubick, Diana Wild

Greeters: Katie & Leo Zulkoski

Communion Servers: Diana Wild, Katie Zulkoski, Marybell Avery, Sebit Deng, Joyce Douglas





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

The week of May 7, 2023

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

Creation Celebration Speaker Series

Heat pumps, EV's, solar panels—what makes sense as we try to conserve energy in our own homes? And how do we sort out the various rebates, deductions, and tax credits that make those changes more affordable? Thanks to Sandi and Steve Larson's forward thinking in the remodeling of our Lounge, we are able to “Zoom in” our own conservation consultant all the way from Pittsburgh! Dr. Lucyna de Barbaro is enthusiastic, well-informed, and eager to help Presbyterians live out their commitments to earth care. Today, at 10:40 AM, bring your coffee to the Lounge where Lucy will share her passion for the environment and sustainable buildings and provide some why's and how's about next steps.

Creation Celebration

**Sunday, May 14 – Hostamania, Senior Recognition, End of
Creation Celebration Series**

Message: *In Whom We Live and Move and Have Our Being*

Creation Celebration Hits the Books

Westminster's wonderful library is spilling into the Garden Room for a few weeks to make it even easier for you to pick up some good reading about the wonders of creation and our care of the earth. New releases and old classics, serious science and light reading, long stories and picture books—there's something for everyone. Stop and take a look—or take a book!

End of Year Worship Service/Party

Join us on Wed., May 17, 5:30 PM, at Antelope Park Shelter #2 for our LiNK Wed. end-of-year party for food, fellowship, and fun!

We begin the evening with a worship service, developed and led by the Youth Group, and then enjoy hot dogs and hamburgers prepared by the amazing Zanders. You may bring a side or dessert to share, a blanket or lawn chairs, and something to drink. At 6:30, the youth will assemble for a game of volleyball or kickball while the children check out the playground. If you plan on attending, please RSVP to Trish at trish@westminsterlincoln.org so we can be sure to have enough food. This mid-week worship and picnic opportunity is open to everyone. Come celebrate God's great creation outdoors with our Westminster family.

Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering Celebration & Dedication

The Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering is one of two special offerings and is received in the spring each year. This offering gives women a tangible way to celebrate the blessings in their lives. The 2023 Birthday Offering will fund \$150,000 for the Making Miracles Group Home in Tallahassee Florida and \$99,400 for construction of a Kindergarten school in Demi Dollo, Ethiopia. All are welcome to contribute to this fund. Please note to Dennis, our church bookkeeper, it is for the PW Birthday offering.

There will be a celebration and dedication of these funds at a gathering on Saturday, May 20, at 10 AM in Fellowship Hall. RSVP to your Circle leader by May 15. If you are not a Circle member and wish to attend, RSVP to Susie at 402-440-9165.

Faith Village Summer Schedule

To allow families time to worship together, the last Sunday children will be dismissed for Faith Village this semester will be May 21. Children's worship bags are available every week that include supplies to help them engage in the weekly lectionary scripture.



You are invited to watch our preschool athletes run a marathon around the church grounds! Please come cheer on the children as they race into summer! Race days are Wednesday, May 24 and Thursday, May 25.

Meet in the church parking lot by 10:45 AM to claim your cheering section. The marathon is followed by a family picnic. Feel free to bring a lunch and join us!

Swanson Scholarship Winner

The Westminster Foundation is very pleased to announce that Phoebe Ford is the winner of the 2023 Swanson Scholarship. Phoebe will be attending the University of Nebraska--Lincoln beginning this fall. She has been an active member at Westminster over the years, participating in preschool, Sunday school, Camp Calvin Crest, confirmation, and a member of the session. The Swanson Scholarship is generously given by Libby and Steve Jacobs in honor of Libby's late parents, Mary and Bill Swanson who were long-time members of Westminster Church. Congratulations, Phoebe!

Staff Schedules

- Pastor Chris will be taking some time with family who have traveled to be here for Wilder's baptism today. Chris will be out of the office May 8 – 10. Pastor Chris will also be out of the office for continuing education beginning May 17. He will be back on May 24.
- Joanne will be out of the office from May 8 through May 12.
- Pastor Jimmy has been asked to preach at Hickman Presbyterian Church on May 14 while their pastor is away.

Youth Group

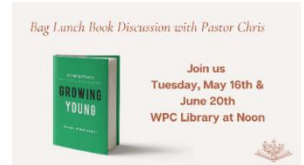
We will be planning the end of year worship service at our next Wednesday meeting. Please plan on coming to Youth Group on Wednesday, May 10, to help us prepare.

Bag Lunch Book Discussion with Pastor Chris

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

May 16, Noon: Chapters 5-6

June 20, Noon: Chapters 7-8 + Appendix



Prairie Readers | May 17 | 1 PM in the Lounge

The book for May is "Black Cake," by Charmaine Wilkerson.

Discussion Leader: Weston Crawford

Week Beginning May 7

Sun. (7)

7 AM Marathon Greeters
9:30 AM Sanctuary Worship/
Communion/Baptism
9:40 AM Faith Village
10:40 AM Adult Ed., Lounge
12 Noon Sudanese Worship
6:30 PM Youth Group

Mon. (8)

11 AM Explorers Bible Study,
Reading the Bible in a Year,
Library
5 PM Church Life, Library
5:30 PM Worship & Music, Lounge
6 PM Mission & Outreach, FH
6 PM WCY Children & Youth, Zoom
6:30 PM Scouts Den/Pack Meeting,
Cole Hall

Tues. (9)

10 AM Circle 5, Lounge
5 PM Personnel, Zoom
6 PM A & P Meeting, Zoom
6 PM Adult Ed, Lounge

Wed. (10)

1:30 PM Hearts & Hands, Library
5:30 PM Westminster LiNK, Cole
Hall
6:30 PM Bible in a Year, Lounge
6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal,
Sanctuary

Sun. (14)

Hostamania
9:30 AM Sanctuary Worship/
Graduates
9:40 AM Faith Village
12 Noon Sudanese Worship
6:30 PM Youth Group

Worship services are available on-line at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/@WestminsterLincoln/streams>