



THE MESSENGER

July 2023



VBS: Make Waves

Thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who made Vacation Bible School amazing last month. It was a great week! Thanks also to all the kids who joined us in having fun and learning about God.



We welcome you to Worship in the Sanctuary with us on Sundays at 9:30 am and/or worship virtually with us on our YouTube channel at <https://westminsterlincoln.org/youtube-videos>.

Westminster Family,

I'm grateful to be bumped to page two in favor of the fun and joyful pictures from Vacation Bible School 2023! VBS was a blast, as we partnered with our friends at Good Shepherd Presbyterian (PCUSA) to "Make Waves" for God!

Speaking of pictures... I recently shared my Senior yearbook photo during our Senior Sunday service at Westminster. One memory I have of school yearbooks is the gap we all knew would occur over summer – some friends we'll see often and some we won't see again until the following school year. My hope for the life of faith is not my hope for a group of friends signing yearbooks on the last day of class. It may be summer and we may have less week-to-week "programs" at church, but my encouragement is for us to view the life of faith as always in season!

If you're here, come to worship! Our July sermon series, "Rethinking Redemption" on Romans 7-8 takes some added inspiration from the Beatles and Taylor Swift! In this month's Messenger, you'll see we have some wonderful worship plans in July and August – including, to my knowledge, our first service project worship service on 8/6 in the WPC gym!

If you're traveling and have the time, find a church to worship with wherever you are! I'd love to hear about the churches you visit in other places this summer.

This Summer is a great time to connect with God and one another with a little lighter "program" schedule. Hope to see you at church soon!

With Gratitude,
Pastor Chris



July 9
I'm the Problem, It's Me
(Romans 7:5-25a)

July 16
Sin's the Problem in Us
(Romans 8:1-11)

July 23
Finding Answers to the Problem
(Romans 8:12-25)

July 30
Christ's Love is Always the Answer
(Romans 8:26-39)

Westminster Presbyterian Church (USA)
2110 Sheridan Blvd., Lincoln, NE
westminsterlincoln.org

*This Summer,
"Let's Dig
into Discipleship
because Worship
is Always
in Season!"*

Save the Date! YOU are Invited to Participate!

Saturday, August 26th Westminster will be hosting Covenant Conversation: Nebraska. Churches and Presbyteries across Nebraska have invited to gather right here for a time of learning, sharing, and discovering what it means a church that welcomes all. Watch for more details on our Facebook page and the Vine and E-vine. From the Welcoming Task Force.





Hearts & Hands | Church Library | Wednesdays at 1:30 - 3:00 PM

Hearts & Hands is a fun-loving group that meets every Wed. from 1:30 – 3 PM, in the church library. Our mission is to knit and crochet items for the People's City Mission—hats, scarves, baby items, toys, etc. We donate finished items in November before the holidays. All needle work folks are welcome to come visit and see what you're missing! Laughter is free. All yarn donations are welcome! Questions: Call Francy Scheele at (402) 310-4212.

Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will be taking a holiday break over the Fourth of July week and return in August.

Faith and Cancer Support Group | Library | Tuesday, July 18 | 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 Bruce Sheffield at 402-783-0394 or Janice Rohwedder at 402-730-5568.

Prairie Readers

Prairie Readers will meet Wednesday, July 19 at 1 PM in the lounge. The book to be discussed is "Harlem Shuffle" by Colson Whitehead. Linda Burchard will facilitate. Harlem Shuffle's ingenious story plays out in a beautifully recreated New York City of the early 1960s. It's a family saga masquerading as a crime novel, a hilarious morality play, a social novel about race and power, and ultimately a love letter to Harlem.

Ladies' Night Out

Our July Ladies' Night Out will be Monday, July 31 from 5-7 PM at El Potrero South
3930 Village Drive (in front of the 40th Hy-Vee) <https://elpotrerorestaurant.com/>

As always, feel free to bring a friend! This is a very fluid group – we are happy to see you whenever it works into your schedule. We do ask that you RSVP your attendance so we will have a seat at the table for you. RSVP to Robyn Uebele at robynu2@hotmail.com. Text or call Robyn 937-935-6858.

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With Excitement, You are Invited to Join Us for a Unique Worship Service on Sunday, August 6th!



That day Westminster will team up with Heartland Kids Against Hunger (heartlandkah.org) to pack 12,500 meal kits during our worship! Here's a Q&A as you prepare for this fun and joyful Sunday together:



Where will we worship? Worship will take place in the Westminster Gym (with entry on the preschool hallway across from Faith Village).

What will our worship look like? Worship will include a Call to Worship, Special Music piece, scripture, brief message and time for our project. Communion may move to the following Sunday, pending Session approval.

What ages can come? All ages! Families are encouraged to participate. Nursery and a kids option will be available for our youngest disciples.

What should I wear? This will be a "casual Sunday," so please wear clothes that are comfortable for a service project. Closed-toe shoes are recommended, and all participants will be asked to wear a hair net for the packing time for food safety considerations. Look out for Pastor Chris in shorts that Sunday!

Will we livestream? We will not livestream our full Sunday service, but Pastor Chris will pre-record a 30min service for our YouTube worshippers.

What if I have other questions? Reach out to Pastor Chris (chris@westminsterlincoln.org) or Mission/Outreach Chair Glenna Haller!



Westminster Extends a Warm Welcome to Our Newest Members!

Welcome to the Westminster Presbyterian church family, Amanda & Robb Edge and Alex Souliere. They joined on June 25. We are glad you are here!

YOUR HOMESTEAD PRESBYTERY MEETING | May 18, 2023

- The meeting was held at First Presbyterian Church of Beatrice.
- Steve Piper was Moderator, and Rev. Brian Johnson led the worship service.
- The offering was dedicated for Presbyterian Peace Fellowship and the Guns to Gardens Program.
- The New Strategy Plan was approved, and the Implementation Team was introduced.
- The leadership of HP and Calvin Crest are proposing the transfer of the Calvin Crest property, owned by HP, to Calvin Crest Camp, Conference and Retreat Center. Calvin Crest is an established entity with a Board of Directors, and HP will still have representation on it. The price is \$15,000, the estimated cost of legal and other expenses HP will incur. There are fall-back provisions in the sale agreement that would revert the camp to HP under certain circumstances (i.e., buyer cannot sell the property). Camp Calvin Crest will continue to serve HP churches as it has in the past. This transaction will be voted on at the August 12, 2023, HP meeting. HP's financial support for Calvin Crest will be reduced over time.
- We extended the contracts of Erica Nelson, Stated Clerk, for three years. This was done to keep continuity during the implementation of the New Strategy Plan.
- Amendments to the PC(USA) Book of Order were approved. Thirty were approved with no discussion. Three were presented to vote on separately and discuss. The amendments include a rewrite of the former Rules of Discipline, now called the New Church Discipline. These amendments are proposed by General Assembly. Now the presbyteries vote to ratify.
- Elders Kathy Rohwedder and Margaret Sprude attended as commissioners from Westminster.

Open House Reception Honoring Steve and Susie Hughes 50 Years of Marriage

Come help us celebrate with cake and the Museum will be open for you to enjoy the various cars and antique displays!

Place: Museum of American Speed,
located at 599 Oakcreek Drive, Lincoln

When: Friday July 7, 2023 |

Time: 2:00pm to 5:00pm



All information for The Messenger is due to Tracy Hoffman at tracy@westminsterlincoln.org by the 18th of each month. All announcements for The eVine/Vine are due to Tracy and Joanne Gabriel at joanne@westminsterlincoln.org by 5 pm on Monday of each week.

Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women invites all women of Westminster to attend our Annual Fall Kick-off on Saturday, August 19, 2023 at 10:30 a.m.

We will meet for coffee, fellowship, and introduce the PW 2023-2024 Bible study called "Sacred Encounters: the Power and Presence of Jesus in Luke-Acts". Study books will be available for purchase. Watch for more information in the Vine & eVine, our Facebook page and the August issue of the Messenger.

Faith Village

While we are taking a break from dismissing to Faith Village this Summer, we have started emailing our Faith Village families a guide to help them dig into the Bible with their children. Each week we send scriptures for them to read together, questions to help generate discussion, and activities to help reinforce the lesson. In July, we will be covering the stories of Lydia, Daniel and the Lions, the 23rd Psalm, Queen Esther, and Solomon building the temple. If you would like to be added to the list to receive these weekly lessons, please email me at trish@westminsterlincoln.org.

Youth Group Water Fun With Good Shepherd | July 16, 11:30 AM-1:30 PM, 8300 E. Pointe Road

We will be getting together with the Youth Group from Good Shepherd on July 16 for lunch and water games. We plan to start with Kiddie Pool Kickball and see what else evolves. Bring your friends and join us for the afternoon.

Synod School | July 23-28

Westminster Pool Party | August 10, 6:30 PM-8:00 PM

We will wrap up the summer with an all-church Pool Party at Star City Shores. Bring your family and friends to play in the pool from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Blessing of the Backpacks & Sunday Sundae Bar | August 13, 9:30 AM

School starts back in the week following the Blessing of the Backpacks. To kick off the year right, we will be offering build your own ice cream sundaes after the service!

LiNK Wednesday Resumes | September 6, 5:30 PM-7:30 PM

Wednesday activities begin on September 6 from 5:30-7:30 PM. Kids from nursery age through high school are invited to join us for dinner, fellowship, discussion, and fun.

Wednesday Youth Group Resumes | September 5, 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Kick-Off Sunday – Faith Village Resumes | September 10, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Sunday Youth Group Resumes | September 17, 6:00 PM-7:30 PM

The Sunday Youth Group meetings are all about fellowship. Join your church friends to talk, play games, do homework together, or just hang out.

All Youth Group members are invited to attend both Wednesday evenings, 5:30 PM-7:30 PM. and Sunday evenings, 6:00 PM-7:30 PM.

To be a Volunteer at Church Means Different Things to Different People

It could be a way to build community. Perhaps it's a rewarding experience that helps you feel more connected to God. For some, it can serve as a calling or as a foundation point to help the greater good.

Volunteering “puts feet on your faith.” Jesus did not tolerate hypocrisy, and neither do most of us. To go out and serve individuals and communities who are vulnerable is to do what Jesus did. People came to know Jesus first by His radical service toward them, and then through serving others in His name.

At the Last Supper, Jesus gave His friends instructions for how to live after His death and Resurrection — He washed their feet and said, “If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another’s feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do” ([Jn 13:14-15](#)).

In serving others, we not only model Jesus, but also meet Jesus in those we serve. We see Jesus in the joy of children we are mentoring. We are surprised by Jesus in the generosity of the poor. We are inspired by Jesus in the perseverance and beauty of a person with disabilities. We encounter Jesus’ love as we share our lives with those we set out to serve. Volunteering is a way to make God’s love real in your life and in the lives of others.*

We see how our volunteers make God’s love real in all they do. We see how they live out the message Jesus came to give us and how they strive to be God’s hands, God’s feet, and God’s voice. And we deeply appreciate all that our volunteers bring to us here, in our small corner of the world. We appreciate their skills, advice, experience, friendship, vision, leadership, inspiration and much more. But of all the gifts our volunteers bring, the most precious and the most important gift we value is the gift of their time. We want to thank each of our amazing volunteers for the precious gift of their time and their love, as well as their talents and experience.

Thank you for all you do to shine God’s light into the world!

**Excerpts from Grotto Network*



It's Time for Our Annual Used Book Sale

It's official! This year's Book Sale will be held in Fellowship Hall August 13-20. Start checking your shelves for items to donate—books (of course!), puzzles, games, CDs and DVDs —and bring them to the church library NO LATER THAN AUG 9. This is the sole source of funds for library materials, and we always have lots to choose from, so donate and then buy!



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Josh Whitfield on “Inclusive Economy”

One of our very own will be “spotlighted” on the tv program “Inclusive Economy”. Josh Whitfield and his company, PooPatrol, LLC were asked to be a part of this program. As an advocate for himself and other people with disabilities, Josh gladly agreed to be a part of this project showing that people with intellectual or developmental disabilities are great workers, and can even be business owners.

This is a program produced with the help from Nebraska Council of Developmental Disabilities, Nebraska Association of Specialized Providers and Nebraska Public Media and others.

Nebraska Public Media will be televising the program , July 5th at 7pm, July 9th at noon, July 19 at 7pm, and July 23rd at noon. Watch and learn more how you may contribute to an inclusive economy.

