



The October 2023 Issue

THE MESSENGER



One God, One-in-Christ, One Westminster – all in gratitude!

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>.

A Message to the Congregation from Pastor Chris Peters

Westminster Family,

“Accept each other with love, and make an effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit with the peace that ties you together. You are one body and one spirit, just as God also called you in one hope. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of all, who is over all, through all, and in all.”
Ephesians 4:2b-6 (CEB)

Birth and baptism, growth and confirmation, marriages and friendships, celebrations and losses, and yes, the transition to life eternal – our faith is deeply connected to the milestone moments in our lives. Our faith can also be connected to the day-to-day moments – when a child asks, “where does God live,” when the car starts to begin the trip home after a stressful day at work, when we are thankful for a good test result, and when we pray for a friend at the end of the day. We trust and believe God is with us in each of these spaces, from milestones to our everyday moments.

As a church family, we bring our experiences of life to the familiar rhythms of weekly worship, and we seek to support one another along this life’s one journey in community. We worship, connect, and serve with gratitude for our faith – *One God, One-in-Christ, and One*

Westminster. This October we will journey together through 2024 Annual Campaign, the season of Stewardship at Westminster. This will be a season to celebrate milestones: the month is book-ended by Presbyterians in the Park and Heritage Sunday, with a baptism in-between, and it will be a season to celebrate our everyday joys – helping others by walking at Crop Walk, the fun of Halloween when we put on costumes and decorate car trunks for Spooktacular, sharing conversation after church over donuts and coffee. Giving thanks to God for the gifts of our faith, our relationships, and our ability to give back, we celebrate as *One Westminster*.

In mid-October, you will receive a Stewardship Packet in the mail. If you haven’t pledged to our work and ministry in a while, I hope you will consider a gift. If you have and can increase your gift, I hope you will consider doing so. A full “season” of stewardship gives us the space for joyful reflection on how God is calling us to give.

When I was young, my parents served as youth volunteers at my home church. I was the little tike along for the journey. We were a family of modest means, and it wasn’t until later that I learned my parents saw the time they gave as a part of their tithe and giving to the church. That stands as a reminder to myself, and my example to our church, that we give where and how we can all to the glory of God.

Our Stewardship team will share more about how to give back in October along with some hopes for our worship and service in 2024. Join us this month as we prepare the way to be the church God is calling us to be in 2024 – *One God, One-in-Christ, One Westminster – all in gratitude!*

With Gratitude,
 Pastor Chris

CROP Walk

Sunday, October 8, 2023 1:00 PM

“Food is national security. Food is economy. It is employment, energy, history. Food is everything.”

~ Chef Jose Andres, founder of World Central Kitchen

The Children and Youth and Missions Committees invite Westminster to support this year’s CROP Walk to combat hunger. Join the team or donate to a Team Westminster walker online at: <https://tinyurl.com/27rt5m2c>. All walkers will receive a Team Westminster t-shirt. Please join us in supporting this important cause by walking and donating your time and/or money at the CROP Hunger Walk. Together we can end hunger, one step at a time.

Donations to the CROP Hunger Walk will benefit the global hunger fighting ministry of Church World Services. The Lincoln CROP Hunger Walk will start at Bethany Christian Church, 1645 Aylesworth Ave on Sunday October 8 at 1:00 PM.

October is Reformation Month!

Pastor Jimmy will be teaching Adult Ed on Sundays at 10:50 a.m. in the Lounge. We will look at “other” reformations in the faith community, other than that of Luther and Calvin. Join us on Sundays for how these historical moments inform our faith today!

October 8 | The Reforms of King Josiah in Judah, 7th century BCE

October 15 | The Reforms under Ezra and Nehemiah, Jerusalem 5th century BCE

October 22 | The Wesleyan Reforms in England 1700s

October 29 | The Great Awakening in the United States



Interim Music Director Welcome Mary Daugherty!

Mary is a pianist, singer, and conductor from Rochester, NY. She holds a BA in Piano Performance, an MA in Choral Conducting, and is completing DMA in Choral Conducting at UNL. When Mary is not teaching or performing, she enjoys cooking, hiking, traveling, and researching Native American Music.

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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. 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 Franci Scheele at (402) 310-4212.

Lunch Bunch will meet at Granite City, 6200 O St., Tuesday, October 3 at 11:30 A.M.

As always, no agenda, no program, just fun. Please R.S.V.P. to Jim at jimkinkennon@gmail.com.

Faith and Cancer Support Group | Tuesday, October 17 | Library at 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. This Life Group meets every third Tuesday of the month from 7-8 PM in the church library.

All are welcome. Contact Bruce Sheffield at 402-783-0394 or Janice Rohwedder at 402-730-5568.

Prairie Readers | Wednesday, October 18 | Lounge at 1 PM

We are so pleased to have Pat Leach as our October guest speaker. Pat will discuss several titles from the American Library Association 's notable books list. Feel free to bring a guest!

Ladies' Night Out | Wednesday, October 18th from 5:00-7:00 pm.

You are invited to join us this month in the historic Noble Dawes home, located at 13th & H Streets. RSVP to Robyn Uebele at robynu2@hotmail.com. Text or call Robyn 937-935-6858.

HISTORY BUFFS RETURNS! Prairie Pines Nature Preserve - Its Backstory

Saturday, October 28, 9 a.m., Meet at the site - 112th and Adams St., or carpool from WPC leaving at 8:30 am.

Sue Kohles, a member of the preserve's Board of Directors, will share how a Christmas tree farm begun by a University horticulturist became a northeast Lincoln treasure. Until a new site was negotiated, Prairie Pines almost found itself neighbors with the proposed new Nebraska prison. The program will begin with a presentation in the Welcome Center and end with an optional guided hike.

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.

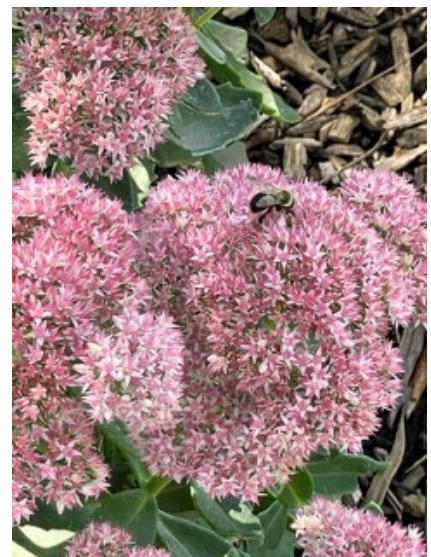
Westminster Pollinator Garden Project Update

Back in June on a 86 degree day, a group of about 15 Westminster members and friends gathered in the park at the corner of Normal Boulevard and South Street with trowels and gardening gloves in hand. Their mission: to set out some 250 seedlings—periwinkle, goldenrod, “Autumn Joy” sedum, and more, all chosen for their appeal to pollinators such as honey bees, bumblebees, and butterflies.

As explained by Westminster’s Green@Heart team, “Over 80% of the crops that feed America depend on the work of pollinators, but their populations are declining as biodiversity loss accelerates. Climate change and habitat destruction are major contributors to biodiversity loss, and we were trying to mitigate those factors.” So the volunteers planted and mulched and later came back to pull weeds. And the Parks Department irrigation system watered the plants through a dry summer. But the rest of the process was all up to nature.

So by late summer, folks were asking. Did it work? Did the plants grow? Did the pollinators come? Did the Westminster volunteers make a difference? It took a late September visit to find out.

From a yard away it was hard to tell, but just a few steps closer and the answers were wonderfully clear. Yes, yes, yes, and yes! Check out the pictures: Westminster’s pollinator garden is hosting many, many honeybees and bumblebees, and they are having a glorious time at their pollinator buffet, hardly knowing which flower to sample first. There’s parking in the golf course lot if you’d like to see for yourself. And no worry; the bees won’t bother you. They’re much too busy enjoying the feast!



Spooktacular

October 25, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Believe it or not, Spooktacular is coming soon! On Wednesday, October 25 at 5:30, put on your best costume and come to Westminster to play games, trick or treat, and have a frightfully fun evening.

Here are a few of the activities you can look forward to:

- Trick-or-treating
- Bounce House
- Photo Booth
- Food Trucks
- Giant Games (Connect 4, Jenga)

And More!



You can help us make this event possible in a couple of ways:

1. Please consider donation bags of candy, packaged snacks, pencils, and/or any small handouts for the children. Look for collection buckets at the top of the steps by the East entrance.
2. Wear a costume and decorate your car trunk or table inside with a fun theme then pass out treats to the children.
3. Volunteer to staff a game or craft table.

Vehicles need to arrive by 4 pm to find a spot and put the finishing touches on your decorations. Contact Sarah Baltensperger sarah.baltensperger@gmail.com or Stacy Graham babyruth19@hotmail.com with any questions. Sign up online here <https://forms.gle/zywWi4NeFDnpRmTMA>, in the Garden Room, or call the church at 402-475-6702.



Shampoo and Soap = DIGNITY, Shaving Cream and Toothpaste = SELF-ESTEEM Won't you be? Please, won't you be? Won't you be a neighbor?

Jesus said to his disciples and us, "Feed my sheep" and "Tend my lambs". Did you know that the government-issued SNAP cards and the Lincoln food pantries only provide food assistance? Personal care products must be bought by those already financially challenged. Presbyterian Women at Westminster are inviting you to fill the gap by filling the barrel with needed items. These basic hygiene products will be given to the **LINCOLN HYGIENE NETWORK** for distribution to over 20 non-profit groups in Lincoln and Lancaster County.

Find the list of needed items and the colorful barrel at the east end of the Garden Room at the top of stairs from the parking lot. We have already filled the barrel once with over 350 items. Can we do it again? YES! Financial donations are accepted online: lincolnhygienenetwork.org or can be mailed to Lincoln Hygiene Network / 21635 S. 68th Street / Hickman, NE 68372.

Is there any interest in starting a Single & Age 55 plus Social Group?

Church Life was asked if there would be enough interest to start a group. A leader would be necessary to get it going. If you are interested in leading & organizing this group or being a member, please contact Marilyn Hood (member of Church Life) at mhood0529@gmail.com.

Wednesday Nights

Wednesday activities continue from 5:30-7:30 PM. Kids from nursery age through high school are invited to join us for dinner, community, discussion, and fun.

Youth Group

All youth are invited to meet on Sunday evenings, 6:30 PM-8:00 PM. Join us to talk, hang out, do your homework, have fun, and more!

Coffee & Conversations -- High School Bible Study

Sunday, October 1, 1:00 PM

This fall we would like to invite all high school students to join us for a monthly Bible Study. Our first meeting will be October 1 at 1:00 PM at The Mill, 2021 Transformation Drive. At that time, we will discuss future logistics to determine the where, when, and what of our time together. If you have any questions, please contact Trish at trish@westminsterlincoln.org or (402) 570-0163.

Acolytes

We are looking for children and youth of all ages to serve during worship as an acolyte.

What is an acolyte? An acolyte is the person responsible for the lighting and extinguishing of the candles on the communion table. The light, or fire, represents the light of Christ. The word acolyte is from an ancient Greek word that means attendant, or "follower." Light and fire remind us that God is here with us, and lit candles remind us that Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

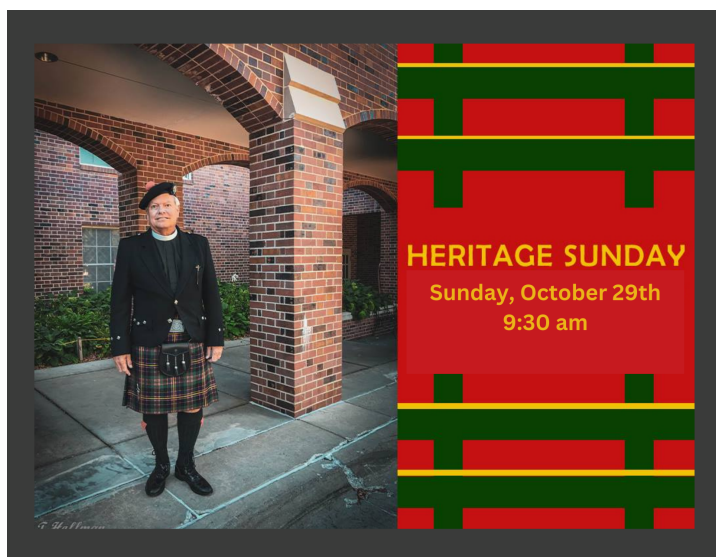
Please add your name to the schedule here <https://shorturl.at/jlOX7>. If you have any questions, please contact Trish, trish@westminsterlincoln.org or 402-570-0163.



Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd

Lincoln, NE 68502



**Heritage &
Commitment Sunday
Sunday, October 29 at 9:30 am
Westminster (Sanctuary)**

Celebrate our Scottish history and heritage as Presbyterians in worship! We'll be community together with a Caramel Apple Bar following worship.