



The November 2023 Issue

# THE MESSENGER

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



**“Events such as Spooktacular and other Children & Youth Community Events**

are heavily supported by Westminster’s Operating Budget. Your pledge for 2024 will support the continuation and growth of such fun and meaningful events! **Don’t forget, Commitment Sunday is**

**November 5th!** Our packet may be found online here:

<https://westminsterlincoln.org/special-programs-events/>

## **The Westminster Foundation provides assistance to the Church by providing funds to assist with building maintenance and repairs as well as education and Mission projects. This year has been especially active:**

- Pastor Chris brought the idea of Kids Against Hunger service project. The Foundation paid for the 10,000 meals that were packed by 130 people on August 6<sup>th</sup>.
- The Trustees voted to provide \$11,440 for church maintenance and repair costs. The Facilities Endowment, Weesner Landscape Endowment and Henderson Fund provided funds for roof leak repairs, gutter cleaning, landscaping and bat remediation.
- The Trustees also voted to provide funds to upgrade WPC's security system. Total cost is to be no more than \$30,000 but member donations have been mentioned for half that cost.
- The Church also received \$17,000 from the Foundation for operating expenses.
- We sold one cemetery lot in Lincoln Memorial. This leaves six lots available for purchase at a reduced amount.
- Pastor Chris thanked the Foundation for financial support for the National Stewardship Kaleidoscope Conference that he and Allen Wachter attended in September.
- We are also so pleased the elevator to the sanctuary is now functioning. The total cost was \$140,394.50. Of that total \$84,485.11 was provided by the insurance claim with the balance paid by the Foundation using the Facilities Endowment and the Henderson Fund.
- Foundation funds and private donations have paid for the stained-glass window restoration projects. We also have dedicated funds in the Foundation designated for the restoration of the large window above the balcony.
- At the October meeting, the Trustees voted to provide up to \$89,000 for concrete repair for the parking lot. Of that total, \$45,000 was authorized for 2023 priority repairs. The Building and Grounds Committee anticipates there will be private donations available that will offset the costs to the Foundation's Endowment Funds.

Please know that donations to the Foundation are always appreciated to support the many needs of the Church. If you have a special place in your heart to support a project, please talk to a Foundation Trustee or to Pastor Chris.

## **November Call for Baked Goods for Advent Workshop**

The season of expectation and giving is coming soon, bringing with it opportunities to spread good cheer with unexpected gifts. The Youth Group will be sponsoring a baked goods auction at the Advent Workshop again this year to support various mission initiatives throughout the year, including the annual Angel Tree gifts. We are calling for our talented and creative bakers to donate something special to the cause.

Cakes, pies, brownies, bars, breads, or anything you would like to make is welcome. Contact Trish at

[trish@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto:trish@westminsterlincoln.org) or complete this form <https://forms.gle/GU9y4Vinjoimb3v9>. Please indicate ingredients if possible. Master creations can be delivered between 10-2 on Friday or on Sunday morning before the service.

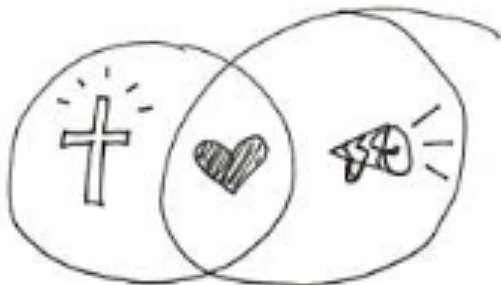


## **Advocacy Workshop, Saturday, November 4th 9:30-11:00 a.m.**

Do you get discouraged or feel overwhelmed by problems like hunger, climate change, and poverty? Not sure how to do anything? Learn how you can make a difference at a free advocacy workshop! You'll learn the basics of advocacy, hear a brief overview of the hunger and environmental aspects of the Farm Bill, and practice active hope by expressing your concerns to policy makers about whatever matters to you. Coffee and a snack provided, no registration required, First Plymouth Church Pilgrim Hall (use west door, then go upstairs).

Speakers include former Nebraska State Senator Patty Pansing Brooks; Eric Gerrard, American Communications Group, Inc; Michaella Kumke, President and CEO, Food Bank of Lincoln; and John Hansen, President of Nebraska Farmers Union.

Organized by the First-Plymouth Climate Action Team and Bread for the World Team, and Nebraska Interfaith Power & Light. Co-sponsored by Green@Heart at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Bethany Christian Church Green Chalice, Saint Paul United Methodist Church Climate Justice Team, Green Sanctuary Committee of the Unitarian Church of Lincoln, and First Presbyterian Church.



## **Mission/Outreach is pleased to bring Equal Exchange Coffee to Westminster friends.**

Available the first Sunday of the month.

When we give the opportunity to purchase Equal Exchange coffee during Fellowship Hour after services or for the holidays, we're making a strong statement about our values as a community. We're proclaiming that our congregation believes that it's vital to keep small farmers on the land providing food for their families and having some economic control over their lives; that it's important to work with indigenous producers and women; that sustainable agricultural methods are a vital way to address climate change.

In 1986 when Equal Exchange launched its organization, it helped to join a network of coffee farmers who were organized into cooperative, trying to assist poor people to overcome poverty. By working directly with small farmer cooperatives and offering fair prices and pre-harvest financing, Equal Exchange saw that it could be part of improving small producers' access to worldwide markets so that they could survive and thrive.

Equal Exchange started with coffee from Nicaragua. Today, it partners with 24 farmer groups in 11 countries which produce high-quality organic coffees. EE purchases about 5.5 million pounds of green coffee beans each year from its partners to roast and sell to U.S. coffee drinkers. Equal Exchange buys exclusively from small-scale farmer cooperatives and associations. The farmers who produce Equal Exchange organic beans are committed to providing U.S. consumers with the highest quality coffee experience.

Our congregation is proud to offer a brew that is both delicious and reflects our values of social justice. By choosing this fairly traded coffee, you are supporting a whole separate ethical supply chain—not huge corporations. Enjoy it! Buy some to bring home, and share it with friends.

**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 Francy Scheele at (402) 310-4212.

**Lunch Bunch will meet at Toast in Fallbrook  
Tuesday, November 7, at 11:30 A.M.**

As always, no agenda, no program, just fun. Please R.S.V.P. to Jim at [jimkinkennon@gmail.com](mailto:jimkinkennon@gmail.com).

**World on a Plate | Thursday, November 9th at 5:30 p.m.**

World on a Plate will be exploring the culinary delights of India! Tom and Laurel will be hosting at Winsome Manor. 4150 South Street. RSVP - text (402) 202-9889 with how many will attend and the dish you will bring.

**Faith and Cancer Support Group | Tuesday, November 21 | 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, November 15 | Lounge at 1 p.m.**

We will create our reading list for 2024 so come prepared to introduce us to your nomination for next year's reading pleasure.

**Ladies' Night Out | Wednesday, November 29 from 5:00-7:00 p.m.**

You are invited to join us this month at LILA MAE'S SOUTHERN KITCHEN AND LOUNGE! Their address is 2110 Winthrop Rd. Join us and bring a friend. RSVP to Robyn Uebele at [robynu2@hotmail.com](mailto:robynu2@hotmail.com), by Sunday November 26.

## LiNKWednesday Nights

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.

## Sunday Morning Faith Village

Children from kindergarten to 5th grade are invited to join us in Faith Village after the Children's Chat for an in-depth look at a story from the Bible. We play games, make crafts, cook, perform science experiments and more. All children are welcome! If you have not registered your child(ren), please do so here: <https://forms.gle/6bc1PSDmRBipe336A>.

## Sunday Evening Youth Group

All youth are invited to meet on Sunday evenings, 6:00 PM-7:30 PM. Join us to talk, hang out, do your homework, have fun, and more!

## Youth Group: Laser Tag November 12, 2023

The Westminster Youth Group and Good Shepherd Youth Group will be headed to Sun Valley on November 12 for pizza, games, and laser tag. The plan is to meet at Sun Valley around 1:00 PM, pending confirmation. Please bring \$5 per person, max of \$15 for admission. Please let Trish know if you plan to attend by text 402-570-0163 or email [trish@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto:trish@westminsterlincoln.org)

## Youth Group: Hanging of the Greens on December 2, 2023

The Youth Group will meet at 11:00 AM on December 2 to assist the Worship and Music Committee get the church dressed for Christmas.

## Pie and Fellowship on November 16, 2023 5:45 PM

Treat your taste buds and kick off the holidays with this culinary cornucopia. We will start by sharing a special meal of delectable soups before moving on to dessert. We invite you to bring your favorite pie to share and sample the wonderful desserts brought by other families! We will provide whipped topping.

If possible, please RSVP to Trish at [trish@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto:trish@westminsterlincoln.org) or 402-570-0163, ext. 107 to give our chefs an idea of how much food to make.

## Would You Like to Give Our Warming Planet A Break by Purchasing Carbon Offsets?

Will you be among the 55 million people flying for the Christmas holidays? Or for a vacation next year? Here's to a wonderful trip! But give this a thought, too. One passenger's round trip flight from Nebraska to Denver or Chicago will generate about 20 metric tons of carbon dioxide. East or west coast, 50-60 metric tons. And multiply that by the number of travelers.

You might want to give our warming planet a break by purchasing carbon offsets. A fair price of about \$10 per 50 metric tons will counteract that CO<sub>2</sub>, for instance by planting trees. It's easy to calculate the carbon footprint of your trip at <https://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx> Then make your donation. There are many carbon credit programs online, and some are guilty of greenwashing. But a couple we know are good are One Tree Planted <https://onetreepanted.org/products/plant-trees> and the Presbyterian Tree Fund <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/eco-journey/presbyterian-carbon-tree-fund/>.

If you choose to do this, would you let the church know (anonymously)? It would be fun to tabulate the difference we make. Just write down two numbers—your trip's metric ton total and the amount you decided to donate—and put your slip in the box on the front desk. We'll announce the total in January.

## Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

**Held at The Unitarian Church of Lincoln, 6300 A St,  
Lincoln on Sunday, November 19, 3:00 p.m.**

The annual Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will be held Sunday, November 19, 3:00 p.m., at The Unitarian Church of Lincoln, 6300 A St, Lincoln. This service of gratitude is open to everyone, and all faiths are welcome and encouraged to attend. In a world that serves up daily reminders of what divides us, this service brings together people of all faiths, and reminds us of what binds us together in our shared expressions of gratitude and thanksgiving.

Clergy from many different faiths will participate, with this year's featured speaker being Erik Servellon, Vice President of Operations and Development at the Tri-Faith Initiative in Omaha. The Tri-Faith Initiative brings together in permanent residency a synagogue, church, mosque, and interfaith center on one 38-acre campus in America's heartland. From this intentionally diverse space in Omaha, they bridge divides among three faith communities, neighbors throughout our larger local community, and, increasingly, people across the U.S. and around the world.

Following the service, a reception will be provided, allowing people of all faiths the opportunity to mingle and get to know one another. You are invited to bring a dessert to share if you would like. You may also bring a donation of non-perishable food items for the Food Bank of Lincoln. For more information on the service, contact Brian Pfofner at First Presbyterian Church, 402-477-6037 or email [musicdir@fpclincoln.org](mailto:musicdir@fpclincoln.org)



## Thank You for Being A Neighbor!

**Presbyterian Women of Westminster** are grateful for the generous donations of personal care products in September and October. The **Lincoln Hygiene Network** will distribute them to many of our local nonprofit groups. You have helped bring dignity and self-worth to adults of all ages, teens, and children in our community. Although our project has reached a stopping point, the need continues. Lincoln Hygiene Network will continue to accept financial support.

[lincolnhygienenetwork.org](http://lincolnhygienenetwork.org)

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All information for The Messenger is due to [tracy@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto:tracy@westminsterlincoln.org) by the 18th of each month. All announcements for The eVine/Vine are due to Tracy and [joanne@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto:joanne@westminsterlincoln.org) by 5 pm on Monday of each week.

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## All Saints' Day

**Wednesday, November 1, 2023**

**For all the saints, who from their labors rest . . .**

We remember the following people who have died since All Saints' Day 2022:

Willie Shafer, Don Hamann, Ellen Gibson, Lee Sonderegger, Shirley Grauer, Brian Wagner, Jean Patoka, Joan Tomlinson White, Clifford Bomberger, Jo Daniels, George Hancock, and Barbara Youngscap.

## Holiday of Trees

The Heritage League is holding their annual Holiday of Trees on Wed., Nov. 29 and Thurs., Nov. 30 at Westminster. The hours are 10 AM to 7 PM. The admission is a donation at the door. Proceeds will go to the Lincoln Public Schools Foundation to purchase athletic shoes for children who would not be able to participate without this help. Come and see the beautiful trees and enjoy some coffee and treats!



## The 10th Annual Good Life Halfsy

The Good Life Halfsy is on Sunday, November 5, 2023. The race, begins at Lincoln Seacrest Field at 8:30 a.m. and ends at the Railyard by the Pinnacle Bank Arena approximately 4.5 hours later. They are expecting about 5,000 race day participants.

Please follow the link below to find course maps, runner timelines, road closures and detour routes for our congregation so you can adjust travel plans as needed to travel to services that morning.

Google or click on this link if you are reading online:

<https://www.goodlifehalfsy.com/community/>



Westminster Presbyterian Church  
2110 Sheridan Blvd  
Lincoln, NE 68502

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## Advent Workshop December 3, 2023 at 10:30 AM

Advent, the beautiful season of candlelight, reflection and expectation, is just around the corner. Advent, which means “coming” or “arrival”, is a time of joyful anticipation while we wait for the birth of Jesus. We invite you to dive into the holiday season with your Westminster family at the Advent Workshop.



We will gather on the first Sunday of Advent, immediately after church to renew friendships and enjoy cookies, chili, friends, and crafts. The fierce competition for the coveted Silver Ladle continues, along with the Youth Mission Baked Goods Auction, sponsored by the Westminster Youth Group.

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>.