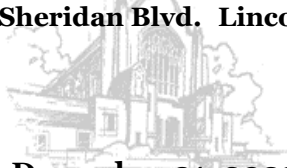


Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE



December 31, 2023
The Seventh Day of Christmastide

Prelude "Twas in the Moon of Wintertime" by Mark Sedio

Welcome Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

***Invitation to Worship (from Isaiah 49)** Deacon April Kaul

One: Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth!

All: Break forth, O mountains, into singing!

One: For the Lord has comforted his people!

All: And God has compassion on the suffering ones!

***Hymn #146** "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

***Call to Confession** Deacon April Kaul

***Time of Silent Confession**

***Unison Prayer of Confession**

Eternal God: you make all things new, and forgive old wrongs we can't seem to forget. We confess we have spent time without loving fully and years with loss of purpose. The calendar seems to condemn us. Forgive what is in our past; do not let regret cripple us or shame us. Lead us into the future, free from sin, free to love, and ready to work for Christ the Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

***Response to the Confession** #90 (refrain only x2)

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Deacon April Kaul

We pour water into the baptismal font at this time as a sign of our renewal in baptism and in confession. It is a visual reminder of the Nicene Creed's affirmation, "I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins," and Romans 5:5 that promises, "God's love is being poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit."

...Believe and share the good news!

In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!

*Response of Praise

#581

***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

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

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.***

Special Music

"Gentle Mary"

Michael Jha, soloist

Lyrics:

*Gentle Mary, tender Mary in a humble stable bed.
Gentle Mary, lovely Mary come and rest your weary head. All
is calm, all is bright; sing a lullaby tonight
Gentle Mary tender Mary God has given you a son.
Gentle Mary, lovely Mary Jesus Christ the blessed one.
Sleep in peace little child, infant holy meek and mild
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Hebrew Scriptures

Genesis 1:1-15, 1:26-2:3

O.T. pg. 1

Gospel Reading

John 1:1-5, 14

N.T. pg. 91

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

Sermon

"The Eighth Day of Creation"

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

Affirmation of Faith

--from "A Declaration of Faith" 1977, PCUS ch. 6

***Jesus Christ is the living Word of God.
The Word which was with God from the beginning
was embodied in Jesus Christ. We hold that what
God says to us and does for us
centers in Jesus Christ our living Lord
as he is remembered, known, and expected.
In Christ, God's Word of acceptance takes flesh:
by grace through faith we are set right with God,
adopted as children of God,
not because of anything we have done,
but because of what Christ has done.***

***Hymn #149**

"All Hail to God's Anointed"

Moment of Gratitude

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayers of the People

Deacon April Kaul

Lord's Prayer

***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy
name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors,
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from
evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the
glory forever. Amen.***

***Hymn #159**

"O Sing a Song of Bethlehem"

***Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

Postlude

"Postlude on MENDELSSOHN" by David Willcocks

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

The Prayer of Confession was composed by Rev. David Buttrick for the 1970
Worshipbook.

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 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: Deacon April Kaul

Interim Music Director: Mary Young

Organist: John Ross

Director of Children & Youth: Trish Souliere

Greeters: Kathy Phillip & Valery Wachter

Ushers: Diana Wild, Joan Roberts, Suzanne Bartlett, April Douglas

Dishwashers: Sue Shamblin & Maureen Hergert



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

The week of Dec. 31, 2023

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

You're welcome to take home a poinsettia after the service today.

Westminster Community Conversations 2024

Good Neighbors:

Understanding and Responding to Housing Concerns in Lincoln

The Christian scriptures, particularly the parables of Jesus, emphasize the call for people of faith to be good neighbors. This January, join Westminster Presbyterian as we seek to better understand housing concerns and the landscape of affordable housing in Lincoln. From learning, we move to questions of service as we welcome representatives from partner organizations that seek to aid those facing critical housing concerns. Each session will take place at 10:45 AM in the Lounge.

January 7: Our Local Setting – Affordable Housing and City Support in Lincoln, Wynn Hjermsstad (Community Development Manager), City of Lincoln.

January 14: Habitat for Humanity: Empowering and Building Anew, Rose Opbroek (Special Projects Manager) and Theresa Gerlach (Program Services Director), Habitat for Humanity of Lincoln.

January 21: Neighborworks: Expanding Affordable Housing and Strengthening Neighborhoods, Wayne Mortensen, (Chief Executive Officer), Neighborworks Lincoln.

January 28: People's City Mission: Ministry of Service and Providing Space, Tom Barber (Chief Executive Officer), People's City Mission.

January Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will meet on Tuesday, January 2, 11:30 AM, at The Mettle Grill, 5500 South 56th Street. All are welcome. Please RSVP to Jim

Kinkennon at 402-290-5888 or jimkinkennon@gmail.com so we have an accurate count.

Youth Group Lock-In

We will not meet for Youth Group today or on Jan. 3. On Jan. 5, we will have our annual winter lock-in. Plan to play games, eat pizza, and hang out with friends all night at church. We start at 8 PM on Jan. 5 and finish at 8 AM on Sat., Jan. 6. All youth who plan on attending must register here <https://forms.gle/HW114pPN9Je7NueS7>.

History Buffs: COLUMBUS MEETS THE NATIVES, Sat., Jan. 13

Title: "Momma don't make me learn that awful history." A short lesson in the history of America's indigenous people, presented by Dr. Ken Govaerts. Meet in the Lounge at 9 AM.

Recycling Styrofoam

Once again Green@Heart will be helping you responsibly dispose of foam packaging from holiday purchases. There is a receptacle by the east door to collect foam. (Food containers and packing peanuts not accepted.) Failed light strings will also be collected. So you know, we take the foam to its source in Omaha, Plastilite. They make the original foam packaging and also reuse the old to make new. So, it's possible that we've sent foam back and forth to them five times.

The Gathering Place offers a nightly dinner seven days a week to anyone who needs a meal, no questions asked. This holiday season, the Gathering Place stayed open on Christmas Eve offering individuals and families a welcoming and warm environment to share a holiday meal. You can be a part of this blessing by donating. Gifts to Community Action's Gathering Place will be matched \$1 for \$1 until December 31. Please consider sending a check to Community Action, 210 O Street, Lincoln, NE 68508. -Your Mission and Outreach Team

Prairie Readers January Meeting

Prairie Readers will meet January 17 at 1 PM in the Lounge. We will have the privilege of hearing author Joy Castro discuss her 2023 novel *One Brilliant Flame*. All are welcome!

Volunteers Wanted: Cooks and Servers

The Mission and Outreach committee supports meals at the Gathering Place and Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach monthly. We would like to grow our number of servers especially at Matt Talbot and we also would like to have a helper for Chef Susie in preparing the monthly meal. Would YOU like to help???

Westminster is responsible for the evening meal on the first Sunday of odd numbered months and the first Friday evening meal of the even numbered months. If interested in learning more about being a prep cook, contact Susie Hughes at 402-440-9165 or skh@eskays.com and if interested in learning more about serving at the Friday evening meal contact Gary Haller at 817-757-2980 or garyhaller70@att.net.

Give our warming planet a break!

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 CO₂, 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.

Fruit Pizza after Church

After the service on Sunday, January 14, the Children and Youth and Church Life Committees invite you to enjoy a piece of fruit pizza with your after-service coffee. We start with a sugar cookie “crust,” add cream cheese frosting for the sauce, and finish that special creation with a choice of fresh fruit toppings.

World on a Plate—USA, Fri., Jan. 26

World on a Plate is returning to the United States!

Our January dinner will be a potluck of our U.S. favorites... From the East to West, North to South... there are so many choices to prepare. Ellen Davis will be hosting World on a Plate on Friday, January 26 at 5:30 PM in her home at 3630 Pawnee Street.

RSVP: Email kathrohw@yahoo.com or text (402) 202-9889.

Week Beginning December 31

<p><u>Sun. (Dec. 31)</u> 9:30 AM Worship 9:40 AM Faith Village PJ & Pancake Party 12 Noon Sudanese Worship</p> <p><u>Mon. (Jan. 1) New Year's Day</u> Office Closed</p> <p><u>Tues (Jan. 2)</u> 9:45 AM Staff Meeting 11 AM Explorers Bible Study, Library 7 PM PW Circle #4</p> <p><u>Wed. (Jan. 3)</u> 10 AM PW Circle #3, Lounge 1:30 AM Hearts & Hands, Library</p>	<p><u>Thurs. (Jan. 4)</u> 12 PM Stewardship & Finance, Library 6:30 PM Scouts, Pack Committee Meetings, Youth Café</p> <p><u>Fri. & Sat. (Jan. 5 & 6)</u> 8 PM Youth Lock-In, ends Sat. at 8 AM</p> <p><u>Sun. (Jan. 7)</u> 9:30 AM Worship/Faith Village/Communion 10:45 AM Adult Ed., <i>Affordable Housing in Lincoln</i>, Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship 6 PM Youth Group</p>
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Worship services are available on-line at this link:

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

Televised Worship

Thurs. at 12:30 pm/Sat. at 1 pm.

Channel 1302/Spectrum & Channel 13/Windstream.