

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

January 14, 2024

Second Sunday after the Epiphany
Habitat Sunday / Seeking Shelter II

Prelude

Welcome

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

*Call to Worship

One: We come to worship God, who knows us better than we know ourselves.

Many: We come to worship God, who can understand our thoughts, who knows when we sit down and when we get up and go.

One: O God, you know us well, in all the ways. Before we say a word, you know what is coming.

Many: Wherever we go, you are there. It's hard to believe, but it's the truth.

One: Let us worship God, who knows our hearts and our lives.

*Hymn #645

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

*Call to Confession

*Time of Silent Confession

*Unison Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, you know us better than we know ourselves. We confess that even when we have heard your call, we have not followed your hopes for our lives. You have called us to care for the hurting among us, yet we have attended to our own comfort. You have told us to mirror the unlikely Samaritan in showing mercy, yet we have passed by the weary. You have showed us how to share wealth rather than hoard it, yet we cling tightly to our means. Help us to find our spiritual shelter in you, that we might hear and do, meet Jesus and go to share Christ's grace. Guide us, O Lord. Amen.

***Response to the Confession**

Hear the Good News of Salvation

#441 (verse 2)

(From the Glory to God hymnal notes: “this text, was written by John B. Renville, the first Native American Dakota to be ordained to the Presbyterian ministry and was published in the Dakota hymnal.”)

**All the sins I have committed,
to my Savior now I bring.
I bow down with tears of anguish;
Christ forgives and so I sing:
Jesus Christ, how much I love you!
Jesus Christ, you save from sin!
How I love you! Look upon me.
Love me still and cleanse within.**

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

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**

Glory to God #583

(From the Taize Community of France)

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!
Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!**

***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.***

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Hebrew Scriptures

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

O.T. pg. 577

Gospel Reading

John 1:43-51

N.T. pg. 92

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

Sermon “Seeking Shelter: Jesus Knows Us”

Rev. Chris Peters

***Hymn #722**

Lord Speak to Me That I May Speak

***Litany Affirmation of Faith** (Confession of 1967 Inclusive

Language Text)

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals divine life in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful people. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love.

Prayers of the People

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 #69 *I, the Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I Am, Lord)

***Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Chris Peters

Postlude

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

Today's words for worship are adapted from liturgy by Rev. Dr. Teri McDowell Ott, Editor of the Presbyterian Outlook, as published in The Presbyterian Outlook: Order of Worship for January 14, 2024. Our Call to Worship is by Rev. Martha Spong and inspired by Psalm 139.

Ministers: The whole congregation

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

Interim Music Director: Mary Young **Organist:** John Ross

Director of Children & Youth: Trish Souliere



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

The week of Jan. 14, 2024

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

January Sermon Series, “Seeking Shelter”

As we consider the Christian’s calling to work for just solutions to housing concerns in our Community Conversations series, we will be exploring passages of spiritual calling and invitation in worship. Our series, “Seeking Shelter: Invitation, calling, and belonging in the early ministry of Jesus” will engage lectionary texts that encourage us to consider our sense of direction for our own spiritual journeys.

This Sunday, January 14th, we’ll find that what we find in Jesus is even greater than our hopes could imagine. We will also celebrate our partnership with Lincoln Habitat for Humanity as part of our worship service.

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 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.

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!

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.

Fruit Pizza after Church | January 21

After the service on Sunday, January 21, the Children and Youth and Church Life Committees invite you to remember summer with a slice of fruit pizza. We start with a sugar cookie "crust," add cream cheese frosting as sauce, and finish with a selection of fresh fruit toppings.

Faith and Cancer Support Group will not meet in January, due to the predicted weather conditions.

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.

Long-Time Pantry Packers

Our Westminster Pantry is one of our Mission projects of the church. Thanks to many volunteers it is very successful. Some of the volunteers are packers who box up the food every week for six families and it is sent to the People City Mission. Because we are so blessed to have many volunteers it is necessary to only pack once every three months. However, it is a commitment, and we have three couples that are retiring after many years of service. Larry Peach and his grandson,

William McConnell, have packed many years for us, as has Marcia Hollestelle and Jane Lacey. Deb Schorr and Nancy Hlava also worked many years and Deb has packed for over 30 years. That is amazing and we are so very thankful for all the hours that all of you have spent boxing up food for the hungry.

We are so thankful for all our packers, and I know many of you have packed in the past. Thank you so much for all your hours of service and dedication to our Westminster Food Pantry.

Ladies' Night Out | Tuesday, January 30 from 5 - 7 PM. You are invited to join us this month at Mi Tierra South. Their address is 5500 Old Cheney Rd. #4. Join us and bring a friend as we celebrate the New Year together. Please RSVP by Sat., Jan. 27 to robynu2@hotmail.com.

Scam Email / Text Reminder

Westminster pastors (and staff) will not contact members for gift cards or other requests. If you receive an email from an address that does not end in @westminster.org, please do not respond and reach out to the staff person to verify directly using their work email. If you receive a text or other communication on behalf of a WPC staff person and have any uncertainty about the sender, please contact the church office.

Acolytes

We are looking for children and youth of all ages to serve as acolytes during our worship service. Please add your name to the schedule here <https://shorturl.at/jjOX7>. If you have any questions, please contact Trish, trish@westminsterlincoln.org or 402-570-0163.

Staff Schedule

Joanne, Office Manager, will be out of the office on January 18, 19 and 22.

Committee Annual Reports for the February Messenger are due to Tracy (tracy@westminsterlincoln.org) and Joanne (joanne@westminsterlincoln.org) by January 15.

Week Beginning January 14

<p><u>Sun. (Jan. 14)</u> 9:30 AM Worship, on-line and Zoom 12 Noon Sudanese Worship</p> <p><u>Mon. (Jan. 15)</u> Building closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day Annual Reports Due to Tracy and Joanne for Feb. Messenger 11 AM Explorers Bible Study, Pastor Ellen's Home</p> <p><u>Tues (Jan. 16)</u> 9:45 AM Staff Meeting 3 PM Steering the Ship, Lounge</p> <p><u>Wed. (Jan. 17)</u> 1 PM Prairie Readers, Lounge 1:30 AM Hearts & Hands, Library 5:30 PM WestminsterLiNK 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p>	<p><u>Thurs. (Jan.18)</u> 9 AM Friendship Home, FH</p> <p><u>Fri. (Jan. 19)</u> 5:30 PM Session Retreat, Meal at The Venue</p> <p><u>Sat. (Jan. 20)</u> 8:30 AM Session Training, Fellowship Hall</p> <p><u>Sun. (Jan. 21)</u> 9:30 AM Worship/Faith Village 10:40 AM Fruit Pizza, Garden Room 10:45 AM Community Conversations, Lounge 10:45 AM Confirmation Class, FH 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.

joanne@westminsterlincoln.org

402-475-6702