

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd., Lincoln, NE

February 18, 2024

First Sunday in Lent

Wandering Heart

A Lenten Series



'River of Grace' by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity
Acrylic painting on canvas with digital drawing.

Prelude

"My Shepherd Will Supply My Need" by David Evan Thomas

Welcome

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

Waypoints on the Journey: A Fish

Dan, Erika, Ben and Sara Schafer

***Invitation to Worship** (Poem by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org)

Dan, Erika, Ben and Sara Schafer

One: I put my headphones in. I walk quickly. I look toward the ground.

All: I create one million barriers of independence, but still God seeks after me.

One: God leans a rainbow over the sky. God sends sun after the rain. God blankets the earth with wildflowers.

All: God allows music to carry and laughter to rise, all so that I might notice.

One: And when I do notice, the unfurling that begins in my soul is slow and holy and burning.

All: I am not alone. God has been chasing after me all this time.

***Hymn #166**

Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days

***Call to Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

***Time of Silent Confession**

***Unison Prayer of Confession**

Loving God, you call us by name. You join us in the deep waters of life. You invite us to drop our nets and follow you. Still, more often than we'd like to admit, we are like Peter. Over and over again, we stand slack-jawed and surprised to find you in our midst. Forgive us for drowning out your voice with our own. Forgive us for assuming that we can tackle deep waters by ourselves. Forgive us for forgetting that you will never stop climbing into our boat. Turn our hearts, our minds, and our spirits toward you, for you are the Lord our God, and it is in your name that we pray. Amen.

***Response to the Confession #437**

You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy!

You are the Lord, giver of mercy!

You are the Christ, giver of mercy!

You are the Lord, giver of mercy!

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

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 #475 (verse 1) Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing**
Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I’m fixed upon it, mount of God’s unchanging love!

***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.***

Children’s Chat

Karen Hoffman

(Children in Grades 1 – 5 are invited to come to Faith Village following the Children’s Chat or to find and sit with their parents. Parents can pick up their children in Faith Village following the service.)

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Hebrew Scriptures

Psalm 25:1-10

O.T. pg. 502

Gospel Lesson

Luke 5 :1-11

N.T. pg. 62

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

Sermon

“Jesus Sought Me”

Rev. Chris Peters

***Hymn #726**

Will You Come and Follow Me (verses 1-2, 4-5)

***Affirmation of Faith** (The Apostles’ Creed - modern version)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Moment of Gratitude

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Special Music

“O Wondrous Love” David Von Kampen
Westminster Choir

Prayers of the People

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

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 #819

Be Still, My Soul

*Charge & Benediction

Rev. Chris Peters

Postlude

Improvisation

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

Today's liturgy, or words for worship are adapted from "Wandering Heart Words for Worship: First Sunday in Lent" by A Sanctified Art LLC (sanctifiedart.org).

The **flowers** were given by Art and Earlene Knox in celebration of their 69th wedding anniversary.

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 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

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

Director of Children & Youth: Trish Souliere

Waypoints on the Journey: Dan, Erika, Ben and Sara Schafer

Greeters: Stephanie & Scott Rogers

Ushers: Leslie Miner, Robyn Uebele, Cynthia Olson, Barb Andersen

Dishwashers: Beth and Kris Anderzhon





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

The week of Feb. 18, 2024

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

Lent 2024

Wandering Heart: Join the Journey!

We want you to “Join the Journey” of Lent 2024 with Westminster, Lincoln, NE! This year we will figure out faith with the disciple Peter using the Wandering Heart theme and focus by A Sanctified Art (sanctifiedart.org). This Lenten journey will encompass Sunday worship, Faith Village, and Adult Education *and* educational programming for all ages on Wednesday nights!



To ‘join the journey’, pick up a Lent Passport, which will guide you through the theme each week. Passport stamps may be earned by either attending worship on Sunday or by visiting our Wandering Heart Spirituality Stations in Fellowship Hall. A new station will be added each week. By stamping six of seven stops, you will be able to enter a drawing for either a prime parking spot at the 8:00 or 10:00am Easter service, or for a faithful fun family Easter basket with activities, candy, and more surprises!

This Lent, our Westminster family is challenged to Join the Journey in a meaningful way. This is the season to re-tune our hearts on God in faith. We hope you will ‘Join the Journey’ of Lent 2024!

The **Annual Stated Meeting of the Congregation** will be held today following the worship service in the sanctuary. The agenda includes proposed bylaws changes, the presentation of the 2023 annual reports, the presentation of the 2024 budget, election of Nominating Committee members and the approval of the pastor’s terms of call for 2024.

Adult Ed | Sundays at 10:45 AM | Lounge

During the season of Lent, Adult Education will feature discussions based on themes in the hymn “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing.” The sessions will be following the format of scripture reading and group discussion: to facilitate discussion, chairs will be in concentric circles. Join us each Sunday in Lent from 10:45 to 11:30 AM. Pastor Jimmy will be leading the discussions beginning today.

Adult Ed | Wed. at 5:40 PM | Lounge or on Zoom

This Lent Pastor Chris will host a second Adult Education opportunity, **“Wandering Hearts and Seeking Souls: A Spirituality Experience for Busy People.”** The class will meet on Wed. nights from 5:40pm-6:25pm beginning Wed., Feb. 21. This will be a hybrid class: you may meet in-person in the Lounge Classroom at WPC or on Zoom! This experience will focus on personal and community growth as disciples, looking at the scripture for the following Sun. in our Wandering Heart series through the lens of art, music, real-world events, and our own stories as companions on the journey. If you have questions, please reach out to Rev. Chris Peters (chris@westminsterlincoln.org). Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87321343956?pwd=TUvpQmRvTDRZUkxZMmVNRTUrK0M3Zz09>

Bulletin Art Artist Statement

***River of Grace* by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity**

In this image, the bursting nets transform into a river of grace meandering through the composition of Peter’s life. The river pours into Peter’s hands, but he can’t quite grasp the fullness of this gift and calling quite yet, and so most of it rushes right by. The river represents how his journey with Christ begins and ends: with an abundant catch of fish. He is forever tethered to the overflowing love of God. The river is a symbol of Peter’s gifts, as God uses what Peter knows how to do well (being a fisher of fish) and invites him to apply his skills to a new calling (being a fisher of people). It’s a visible reminder of the ways God’s grace bends and turns and rushes to find each of our wandering hearts.

Westminster’s office will be closed Monday, February 19th for the President’s Day holiday.

Welcome Baby Donations

To celebrate new babies in the Westminster family, the Children and Youth Committee is seeking donations of useful baby items to stock a Welcome Baby Closet. Items from the closet will be used to create baskets for new parents. We are looking for donations of: diapers, baby shampoo, baby wash, bottles, pacifiers, baby toys, baby clothes (newborn-6 mos), knit/crochet/quilted blankets, gift card for restaurant or retail store, any baby item you might have found useful with your own children. Please drop off any donations in the tote behind the reception desk. If you have any questions, contact Trish at trish@westminsterlincoln.org.

Used Sneaker/Sock Collection

Green at Heart has discovered two separate programs which collect used sneakers and used socks to keep these out of landfills. The sneaker program re-sells. The sock program recycles. There will be a collection box for these beginning the first Sunday in Lent, Feb. 18 in the east entry, north alcove where Styrofoam was collected the past few months. Check your closets and bring them in!

Faith and Cancer Support Group

Tuesday, February 20 | Library at 7 PM

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 | Wed., Feb. 21

Prairie Readers will meet February 21 at 1 PM in the Lounge. Diana Wild will lead the discussion of "Foster" by Claire Keegan. This book is one of The Times (UK) Top 50 Novels published in the 21st Century.

Ladies' Night Out | Thurs., Feb. 29, LEAP YEAR, 5-7 PM

You are invited to join us this month at **BILLY'S!** Their address is 301 H Street. This year our prearranged price for family-style heavy appetizers will be \$17.00/per person, cost of drink and tip additional. Please RSVP by Saturday, February 26th to robynu2@hotmail.com.

Lent Family Activity Bags

The Children and Youth Committee have been working on delivering Lent activity bags to all our families with children or youth. The bags include supplies to help your family experience a meaningful Lent. Bags should all be distributed by Friday. If you would like a bag and have not received one by Friday, please contact Trish at trish@westminsterlincoln.org.

Souper-Bowl of Caring

Many thanks to the congregation for your generous donations! Westminster collected \$771.65 for Matt Talbot and the Gathering Place.

Week Beginning February 18

<p><u>Sun. (Feb. 18)</u> 9:30 AM Worship/Faith Village 10:30 AM Annual Congregational Meeting, Sanctuary 10:45 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship 6 PM Youth Group</p> <p><u>Mon. (Feb. 19)</u> Church bldg. closed for the holiday 11 AM Explorers Bible Study, Ellen's House</p> <p><u>Tues (Feb. 20)</u> 9:45 AM Staff Meeting, Conference Room 10:30 AM Homestead Presbytery Committee, Lounge</p> <p><u>Wed. (Feb. 21)</u> 1 PM Prairie Readers, Lounge 1:30 PM Hearts & Hands, Library</p>	<p>1:45 PM Staff Calendar Meeting, Conference Room 4:30 PM Foundation Finance, FH 4:30 PM Foundation Marketing, Library 5 PM Foundation Board Meeting, FH 5:30 PM WestminsterLiNK 5:40 PM Wandering Hearts and Seeking Souls, Lounge/Zoom 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p> <p><u>Thurs. (Feb. 22)</u> 6:30 PM Scouts Pack Meeting</p> <p><u>Sun. (Feb. 25)</u> 9:30 AM Worship/Faith Village 10:45 AM Adult Ed., 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>

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