

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

April 14, 2024

Creation Celebration I
Third Sunday of Easter



Earth Care Pledge

Our **worship** and discipleship will celebrate God's grace and glory in creation.

Our **education** will encourage and support each other in keeping and healing the creation.

Our **facilities** will be managed, maintained, and upgraded to respect and cherish all creation.

Our **outreach** will encourage community involvement and public policy to protect and restore the earth.

Prelude

Amazing Grace

Welcome

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

*Call to Worship (Psalm 65 excerpts)

Deacon Claire Titus

One: Praise is due to you, O God. You visit the earth and water it; you greatly enrich it.

All: What mighty praise belongs to You, O God!

One: The river of God is full of water; you provide the people grain, for so you have prepared it.

All: What mighty praise belongs to You, O God!

One: You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with goodness.

All: What mighty praise belongs to You, O God!

One: The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy.

All: What mighty praise belongs to You, O God!

One: The meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.

All: What mighty praise belongs to You, O God!

*Hymn #242

Day of Delight and Beauty Unbounded

*Call to Confession

Deacon Claire Titus

*Time of Silent Confession

*Unison Prayer of Confession

Gracious and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sins.

Although Christ is risen from the grave and has shattered the power of death, we are still held captive by fear and doubt. We have neglected the poor and the hungry and ignored the cries of the oppressed. We pursue profits and pleasures that harm the land and pollute the waters, leaving this world depleted and damaged for future generations. Have mercy on us, O Lord. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we and all your creatures may know the joy of life abundant, given through Christ Jesus, the risen Lord. Amen.

*Response to Confession #90

Wait for the Lord

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

Deacon Claire Titus

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 #35 (verse 1)**

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!

All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near;

join me in glad adoration!

***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

Trish Souliere

(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 Scripture

Ruth 1:22-2:13

O.T. pg. 242

Gospel Lesson

Luke 14:1, 12-14

N.T. pg. 77

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

Sermon

"Food Justice and Earth Justice"

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

***Hymn #769**

For Everyone Born

***Affirmation of Faith (from PCUSA "Earth Care Pledge")**

Deacon Claire Titus

Peace and justice is God's plan for all creation. The earth and all creation are God's. God calls us to be careful, humble stewards of this earth, and to protect and restore it for its own sake, and for the future use and enjoyment of the human family. As God offers all people the special gift of peace through Jesus Christ, and through Christ reconciles all to God, we are called to deal justly with one another and the earth.

Anthem

“Come Find His Rest” arranged by Dan Forrest

Congregation sing when directed:

*I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast.”
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.*

Prayers of the People

Deacon Claire Titus

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 #766**

The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound

***Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

Postlude

Flute Quartet No. 5 in F Major - Allegro by Bartomeo Campagnoli

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

The arrangement is given by **Martha Kingsbury** in memory of her husband, **Charles**.

Today’s liturgy, or words for worship, are adapted from Creation Justice Ministries Earth Sunday Resources. Learn more at www.creationjustice.org.

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 **Liturgist:** Deacon Claire Titus

Greeters: Carol & Jim Bishop **Dishwashers:** Lisa & Steve McConnell

Ushers: Joan Roberts, Kathy Anderson, Joyce Douglas, Marybell Avery



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

The week of Apr. 14, 2024

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

Today for *Earth Sunday Worship I*, Pastor Jimmy will relate the Old Testament story of Ruth to Luke 14 and today’s issue of global food insecurity.

Our **“Food for Thought” speaker series** begins today at 10:45 AM in the Lounge. Dr. Mike Hayes of the National Drought Mitigation Center will follow up on Pastor Jimmy’s sermon, describing how climate change is affecting food security, leading to consequences such as social unrest and migration, particularly for those Jesus called “the least.”

Upcoming topics include:

April 24 - Lincoln’s Local Food Plan

April 28 - Healthy Menu; Healthy Planet

May 5 - Why Might I Want a Heat Pump?

Save the date for **Westminster at the Movies**, Wed. evening, April 24 at 6:30 PM. Meet in the Lounge for a special showing of *Common Ground*. <https://commongroundfilm.org/>. Learn about a hopeful and uplifting movement of farmers and scientists promoting “regenerative agriculture.” Suitable for high school and adult audiences. Bring your own beverage—popcorn and M&Ms provided!

While you’re sipping your coffee, enjoy TWO! creation-centered art shows. Westminster Preschool will be decorating the Garden Room windows with their interpretation of “Things that Grow.” And in the South Hall Gallery, photographer Patrick Grewe’s exhibition, “Intimate Views of Nature” shows the beauty of the natural world through the lens of Patrick’s camera.

Also available now through May 12, our Westminster Library has a wonderful selection of creation-centered literature for book-lovers of all ages. Pick up a good read in the Garden Room!

Prairie Readers

Prairie Readers will meet at 1 PM in the Lounge on April 17. Kathy Anderson will lead the discussion of *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins.

Lincoln Children's Museum

From treetops to airplane runways, to lunar landscapes, there is no destination too high or too far that can't be reached through the power of play! The Lincoln Children's Museum provides limitless possibilities to create, explore, and learn to children of all ages. The Westminster Children and Youth Committee and the Westminster Preschool invite you to join your friends for a night of fun at the Lincoln Children's Museum on April 25, 5:30 PM -7:30 PM; we will have the whole facility reserved just for us. We have reached our initial attendance limit BUT you can still join us on the 25th. We are opening space for an additional 50 people at \$5 per person. If you would like to come, please sign-up here <https://tinyurl.com/7juymb6c>

VBS 2024: Hero Hotline

Called together to serve God

June 3-7, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Ages 4 years to Grade 5

It is time to register for VBS! Sign your children up to enjoy an interactive, energizing, Bible-based good time as they are called together to serve God. They will become Heroes and discover that answering God's call together means striving for the things that bring peace and the things that build each other up!



We will be collaborating with Good Shepherd Presbyterian again this year, but sessions will take place at Westminster, 2110 Sheridan Boulevard. Registration is \$10/child (\$30 max/family) before May 31. Register now at <https://westminster-goodshepherd.mycokesburyvbs.com/>

VBS Supply Wish List

If you are interested in donating supplies, we have a list of the supplies on an Amazon wish list here <https://tinyurl.com/vbswish>. You are welcome to either buy something from the list or donate anything similar you might have at home. If you have any questions, please contact Trish at trish@westminsterlincoln.org or 402-570-0163.

VBS 2024 Volunteers

Westminster and Good Shepherd had a wonderful, co-hosted Vacation Bible School last year with volunteers from both churches working together to create a fabulous faith-filled week. We are combining forces again for 2024 and are in need of volunteers to step up. We would like to invite you to consider sharing your faith in Jesus at VBS by volunteering to work with children and guiding them on their faith path.

There are many rewarding ways to be a part of this opportunity to share your faith with children. Whatever your interest or gift is, we have a place for you! Sign up to volunteer here by <https://westminster-goodshepherd.mycokesburyvbs.com/> If you have any questions, please contact Trish Souliere at trish@westminsterlincoln.org or Dee Hughes gspcyouthne@gmail.com to explore the options.

Used Sneaker/Sock Collection Continues Through April

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 is a collection box for both of these in the east entry, north alcove. Check your closets and bring them in!

Pastor Chris Continuing Education

Pastor Chris will return to the office Monday, April 15 after a few days of continuing education. If there is a pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor Jimmy or the church office.

Faith and Cancer Support Group

Finding Comfort and Peace after the diagnosis of cancer is often very difficult to say the least. However, sharing that uneasy feeling with others who have been on that journey can be a surprising and helpful new dimension. Here at Westminster Presbyterian Church our support group is based on three specific features: sharing laughter, sharing burdens, and sharing blessings. We meet in the library at 7 PM on the third Tuesday of each month. All are welcome. Contact Bruce Sheffield at (402) 783-0394.

Thank you to the UNL strings group, conducted by DMA student, Ramon Araujo, for participating in our service this morning. Ramon is earning his doctorate in orchestral conducting.

Week Beginning April 14

<p><u>Sun. (Apr. 14)</u> 9:30 AM Worship/Faith Village 10:45 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 10:45 AM Confirmation, FH 12 Noon Sudanese Worship 6 PM Youth Group</p> <p><u>Mon. (Apr. 15)</u> 11 AM Explorers Bible Study, Library 6:30 PM Scouts—Monthly Pack Meeting, Cole Hall 7:30 PM UNL Trombone Ensemble Concert, Scott Anderson, Sanctuary</p> <p><u>Tues (Apr. 16)</u> 9:45 AM Staff Meeting, Conference Room 10:45 AM Stewardship & Finance, Library 3 PM Steering the Ship, Lounge 7 PM Faith & Cancer Support Group, Library</p>	<p><u>Wed. (Apr. 17)</u> 9 AM Friendship Home, Fellowship Hall 1 PM Prairie Readers, Lounge 1:30 PM Hearts & Hands, Library 5:30 PM WestminsterLink, Cole Hall 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p> <p><u>Thurs. (Apr. 18)</u> 9 AM Friendship Home, Fellowship Hall 7 PM Camera Club, Lounge</p> <p><u>Sun. (Apr. 21)</u> 9:30 AM Worship/Baptism/Faith Village 10:45 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 10:45 AM Confirmation 11 AM Elder Training, 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