

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

April 21, 2024

Creation Celebration II
Fourth 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

"Thy Holy Wings" by John Ferguson

Welcome

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

Special Announcement: Hostamania

Tom Pappas

Choral Introit

"God of Heaven" (Heather Sorenson)

***Call to Worship (Psalm 148 excerpts)**

Deacon Marijane England

One: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from heaven! Praise God on the heights!

All: Sun and moon, praise God! All you bright stars, praise God!

One: Let all of these praise the Lord's name, because God gave the command and they were created!

All: Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all you ocean depths!

One: Do the same, fire and hail, snow and smoke, stormy wind that does what God says!

All: Do the same, you mountains, every single hill, fruit trees, and every single cedar!

One: Do the same, you kings of the earth and every single person, you princes and every single ruler on earth!

All: Do the same, you young men – young women too! – you who are old together and you who are young. Let all of these praise the Lord's name!

***Hymn**

This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine! (x3) Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm gonna let it shine! (x3) Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine! (x3) Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine! Repeat v. 1

***Call to Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

***Time of Silent Confession**

***Unison Prayer of Confession**

Gracious God, we have taken the fruits of your creation and your merciful abundance for granted. We have uttered prayers of thanksgiving without true gratitude. Meanwhile, we have failed to recognize the suffering of the earth and of the people who have produced our food. Ignoring our connection to the rest of your creation, we move further away from your vision of your beloved community. Forgive us, O God, and transform us. Help us to give thanks not just for our food but for all those who have brought it before us. Encourage us to work for justice for all, so that all may give you thanks and be fed. In Christ Jesus we pray, amen.

***Response to Confession #90**
Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!

Wait for the Lord

***Assurance of Forgiveness**
Believe and share the good news!
In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

***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
Share a sign of welcome and inclusion (high five, handshake, fist/elbow bump) with your neighbors.
May the peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Children's Chat Elder Sarah Baltensperger
(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.)

Sacrament of Baptism Sterling Evert Sipp

Apostle's 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.

Question of the Congregation
Elder: Do you, the members of Westminster, promise to love and nurture Sterling, to provide for his Christian Education, and to set an example of faithfulness, to the end that he comes to confess Jesus Christ as Lord?
All: We do. Sterling, we welcome you with joy and hope, energy and enthusiasm, laughter and communion, nurture and faith, love and acceptance.

***Hymn #486 (vv. 1 & 4)**

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

*Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign,
with this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.*

*Child of God, your loving Parent, learn to listen for God's call.
Grow to laugh and sing and worship; trust and love God more than all.*

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Hebrew Scripture

Psalm 104:1-4, 14-24

O.T. pg. 554

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

Sermon

“Our Unsettling of Creation”

Rev. Chris Peters

***Hymn #22**

God of the Sparrow

Prayers of the People

Deacon Marijane England

The Lord's Prayer

***Hymn #250**

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

***Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Chris Peters

Postlude

"Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain" by Robert Buckley Farlee

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

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 Marijane England

Greeters: David & Kathy Anderson **Dishwashers:** Sarah Baltensperger

Ushers: Leslie Miner, Robyn Uebele, Cynthia Olson



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

The week of Apr. 21, 2024

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

Our **“Food for Thought” Speaker Series** continues today. (Note the speakers’ change of dates.) Fill your coffee cup and gather in the Lounge by 10:45 AM.

Today: **Certified Master Chef Nazim Kahn** will demonstrate preparation of a tasty and nutritious entree as another step in our exploration of food and climate. How can our menus be healthy for both our families and our planet?

April 28: **Kim Morrow**, Lincoln’s Chief Sustainability Officer, and **Tim Rinne**, founder of Hawley’s Hamlet bring the topic home with Lincoln’s own Local Food Plan.

May 5: **Marc Sckolnick**, LES Manager of Energy Services and **Rick and Dr. Mark Shortridge**, father and son partners at Harley’s HVAC discuss the benefits of eco-friendly home comfort systems and incentives available to make affordable choices.

Creation Series is for Children and Youth, too!

Westminster Youth have created paintings about how creation fills them with awe. Faith Village is learning about the Parable of the Sower and planting some seeds of their own. Stop by Faith Village to check out progress on their evolving mural!

Coming Soon to a “Theater” Near You!

It’s Westminster Movie Night | Wed., April 24, 6:30 PM

Common Ground is an award-winning documentary featuring Woody Harrelson. Get a close-up look at a hopeful and uplifting collaboration of farmers and scientists promoting “regenerative agriculture.” Suitable for high school and adult audiences. Bring your own beverage—popcorn and M&Ms provided.

Keep those Used Sneakers and Socks Out of the Landfill!

Collection continues through May 12th. Socks will be shredded to make new fabric. Sneakers/athletic shoes will be distributed to resale shops or disassembled for reuse of materials. Note that the sneaker collection is SNEAKERS ONLY (no flip-flops, dress shoes, boots, etc.)—and please wash the socks!

Treat Yourself to a Good Read

Westminster's Library is what some folks call a hidden gem. Right now some of those books are meeting you halfway in the Garden Room. Take a look—there's something for everyone.

Sunday Pretzel Bar Social Today at 10:45 AM

Do you know how pretzels connect to Christianity? You may have heard that the humble pretzel is very old, has a German background, and was "invented" by monks. Join us Sunday after the worship service to learn more and to enjoy pretzels and a variety of dips with your Westminster friends.

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>

Sunday Youth Group

There will be no Youth Group this Sunday evening, but we invite you to get your aprons and mixing bowls ready! Chopped: The Feeding of the Five-ish Judges Part 3 is almost here! Brush up on your kitchen skills and get ready to whip up a masterpiece out of an array of secret ingredients on Sunday, April 28 at 5:00 PM.

VBS 2024 Wish List/Prayer Calendar/Volunteers

VBS is coming soon and we could use your help! If you are interested in donating supplies, we now have a list of the supplies we will need on an Amazon wish list here <https://rb.gy/eybgil>. 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. In addition to the items on the wish list, we could use snack and drink donations for our volunteers.

You can also help out by praying for our children and volunteers. We have created a 31-day calendar with daily scriptures and ideas of what to pray for. You can find that calendar here <https://shorturl.at/cmrDV>.

If you are looking for a more hands-on way of helping and are able to arrange your schedule to free up your mornings for the week of June 3-7, we have all kinds of rewarding ways to be a part of this opportunity to share your faith with children. If you do not feel qualified, we promise you will not be alone in your assignment. You are welcome to invite a friend to volunteer with you or we will pair you with other volunteers. If you remember how much fun VBS was when you were child, it's even more fun as a volunteer.

Please sign up here by <https://westminster-goodshepherd.mycokesburyvbs.com/> and if you have any questions, please contact Trish Souliere at trish@westminsterlincoln.org or Dee Hughes gspcyouthne@gmail.com to explore the options.

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/>



Week Beginning April 21

<p><u>Sun. (Apr. 21)</u> 9:30 AM Worship/Baptism/Faith Village 10:45 AM Pretzel Bar 10:45 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 10:45 AM Confirmation 11 AM Elder Training, FH 12 Noon Sudanese Worship</p> <p><u>Mon. (Apr. 22)</u> 11 AM Explorers Bible Study, Library 6 PM Session, Lounge 6:30 PM Scouts—Den Meetings, Cole Hall, Youth Areas</p> <p><u>Tues (Apr. 23)</u> 9:45 AM Staff Meeting, Conference Room 5:30 PM Deacons, Lounge</p>	<p><u>Wed. (Apr. 24)</u> 11 AM Preschool Grandparent's Day 1:30 PM Hearts & Hands, Library 5:30 PM WestminsterLink, Cole Hall 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary 6:30 PM <i>Common Ground</i>, Movie Night, FH</p> <p><u>Thurs. (Apr. 25)</u> 11 AM Preschool Grandparent's Day 5:30 PM Lincoln Children's Museum</p> <p><u>Sun. (Apr. 28)</u> 9:30 AM Worship/Confirmation Sunday/Faith Village 10:45 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship 6 PM Chopped, 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