

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

April 28, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Confirmation Sunday



Confirmands meet with WPC Elders after worship last Sunday, April 21.

During their time together, Confirmands and Elders participated in a mixer activity to find commonalities. They then gathered in small groups of 2-3 youth and 2-3 Elders to discuss faith and the Confirmation class experience.

Prelude

“Earth and All Stars” by Keith Kollander

Welcome

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

Special Announcement: Vacation Bible School

Trish Souliere

Choral Introit

“Come, Let us Worship” (Palestrina)

***Call to Worship (Psalm 22:25-26, 30-31; Common English Bible)**

Brody Jex and Porter Woita

One: I offer praise in the congregation because of you!

All: I will fulfill my promises in the presence of those who honor God.

One: Let all those who are suffering eat and be full!

All: Let those who seek the Lord praise God!

One: Indeed, all the earth’s powerful will worship God; my being also lives for God.

All: Future descendants will serve God, generations will be told about my Lord.

One: They will proclaim God’s righteousness to those not yet born, telling them what God has done. Let us worship God with hope and joy!

***Hymn #134**

Joy to the World

***Call to Confession**

Lauren Hellbusch

***Time of Silent Confession**

***Unison Prayer of Confession**

Gracious God, our hearts are restless until they find their home in you. Forgive our pursuit of things that separate us from you and from our neighbors. We pursue success, realizing it will never be enough. We desire more possessions, knowing they are empty. We turn toward the world and hope we will find peace, knowing the world cannot provide it. Forgive us, we pray, and may our wandering hearts find their rest in you alone. 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**

Colton Graham

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
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.***

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

New Testament Reading Acts 8:26-40 N.T. pg. 127
The Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

Sermon “Faith Unfolding” Rev. Chris Peters

***Hymn #701** **Lord Prepare Me**

Sacrament of Baptism Brody Alexander Jex

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.

Question of the Congregation

Elder: Do you, the members of Westminster, promise to be a friend to Brody, to provide for his Christian Education, to set an example of faithfulness, and to welcome and include him in the life of worship and service?

All: We do. Brody, we welcome you with joy and hope, energy and enthusiasm, laughter and communion, nurture and faith, love and acceptance.

Confirmation Recognition

Anthem

Agnus Dei/How Great Thou Art -arr. Joel Raney
Kent Hemmerling, percussion

Prayers of the People

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

The 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

“Festival Toccata” by Percy Fletcher

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

Today's Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession are adapted by Pastor Chris using the Presbyterian Outlook: Order of Worship for April 28, 2024 by Rev. Dr. Tara Bulger, Senior Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Huntsville, AL

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: Confirmands

Greeters: Scott & Stephanie Rogers

Dishwashers: Barb & Dave Arunski

Ushers: Suzanne Bartlett, Martha Kingsbury, April Douglas





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

The week of Apr. 28, 2024

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

Confirmation Sunday

The following students will be confirmed today: Evan Adkins, Easton Frana, Colton Graham, Lauren Hellbusch, Aspen Hemmerling, Brody Jex and Porter Woita.

Food for Thought Speaker Series continues today in the Lounge at 10:45 AM. Is local food relevant when our growing season lasts only half the year? What’s the big deal about food waste? Why does Lincoln even need a Food Plan? How will it affect me and my community?

Kim Morrow, Lincoln’s Chief Sustainability Officer, and Tim Rinne, founder of Hawley’s Hamlet, explain what a food plan is and Lincoln’s goal to ensure access to healthy food for all.

Next Sunday come learn about heat pumps. Used for heating, air conditioning, and hot water, these devices wind up saving you money while reducing carbon emissions. Our guests Rick and Matt Shortridge, HVAC pros, and Marc Sckolnick, LES Manager of Energy Services will fill you in on all the hows and whys—and the incentives that make them more affordable.

Celebrating Human Creativity—through May 12

In the Chancel: *6th Day*—nature hanging, originally created by Mark and Vicky Davis for Creation Celebration 2022.

In the Chancel: *Filled with Awe*—paintings by Westminster Youth about what they love in the natural world.

In the Garden Room: *Things that Grow*—growing vegetables and their own faces decorated with flowers by Westminster Preschool students.

In the South Hall Gallery: *Intimate Views of Nature*—close up photography of flowers, birds, and butterflies by Patrick Grewe.

Eating is a moral act. Food is the place where each of us intersects daily with God's gifts of sun, water, soil and microbial magic.

"Enslaving poverty in a world of abundance is an intolerable violation of God's good creation."

PC(USA) Book of Confessions, 9.46

Pastor Val Preaching at WPC

On May 12, we will welcome Pastor Val Putnam as our guest preacher. Many of you remember Val and her spouse, Wes, from the time she served as our interim pastor from 2018 – 2020. There will be a reception in Fellowship Hall after the worship service. Stop by to say hello and enjoy a piece of cake.

Open House for Pastor Val

In honor of Pastor Val Putnam's service in 2018-2020 as our interim Pastor, an Open House Reception will be held on Monday, May 13 in Fellowship Hall at Westminster from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Appetizers will be served.

Supporting the Marathon Runners | May 5

Have you been training for the upcoming marathon? Race week is coming soon, and we are excited to cheer the runners on! If you are not running, we invite you to join us as runner support to help serve donut holes, bananas, Capri Sun and lots of cheers as athletes run by the church. We will be setting up tables at 7:00 AM and will have supplies available for spectators to make custom signs.

As a bonus, the Bean Box Coffee Trailer will be onsite to help everyone wake up for the event. We plan to start cleaning up about 8:30 AM, so don't worry – you will be done in plenty of time to savor a special cup of coffee and still get to the service.

Reuse/Recycle Sneakers and Socks

When your sneakers and socks retire do their last steps lead to the landfill? Give them a new career! Sneakers will be distributed to resale stores or recycled for materials. Socks will be shredded for new yarn. Collection continues just inside the east door through May 12.

Creation Shows Up in Westminster's Library

God's Amazing Creation? Read all about it!

Solutions to Climate Change? Read all about it!

Why it Matters? Read all about it! Stop at the book cart by the east stairway to take a look and take a book.

Lunch Bunch at Mr. Hui's

Lunch Bunch will meet at Mr. Hui's 2, 4131 Pioneer Woods Drive, on Tuesday, May 7, at 11:30 A.M. This is at 70th and Pioneers Blvd close to Venue. R.S.V.P. to 402-290-5888 or jimkinkennon@gmail.com.

Godspell: The Sources and the Scriptures

Community Players, Beatrice invites you to "Godspell: The Sources and the Scriptures" with the Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn and musical selections by the cast of Community Players' upcoming presentation of "Godspell." The entertaining and educational program will be held Friday, May 10 at 7 pm at the theatre at 412 Ella Street, Beatrice and is free to the public. All are welcome! "Godspell" will be presented at Community Players beginning June 7 and will run for two weekends. More information is available at beatricecommunityplayers.com/godspell.

(Pastor Jimmy will reprise the lecture and discussion portions of the program for Westminster Adult Ed on June 23 & 30.)

Lights Out! Green@Heart 2024 Campaign

Seems every family has one (usually mom or dad)—the person who reminds everyone else to “Turn out the lights!” when leaving a room. But that person doesn’t live in our church building. When lights are left burning in empty rooms at Westminster they are quite literally “burning” the fossil fuels that contribute to global warming. They are also adding to the “Utilities” line item in our budget instead of items like “Children’s Ministry” or “Associate Pastor.”

So, Westminster is starting a “Lights Out” campaign. Please—if you or your group members are finishing up in a classroom, meeting room, office—turn off the lights as you leave. Same for the lights in hallways if you’re leaving a part of the building that no one else is using. It may take a little while to learn where the light switches are, but we can do this!

Prairie Readers Meet in May

Spring has come! Prairie Readers will meet on May 15. We will read ANY book by Louise Penny. Marijane England will lead the discussion of Penny's book *Still Life*.

Week Beginning April 28

<p><u>Sun. (Apr. 28)</u> 8:30 AM Breakfast for Confirmands and Families 9:30 AM Worship/Confirmation Sunday/Faith Village 10:45 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship 6 PM Chopped, Youth Group</p> <p><u>Mon. (Apr. 29)</u> 11 AM Explorers Bible Study, Library 1:30 PM UNL Chorale Soundcheck, Sanctuary</p> <p><u>Tues (Apr. 30)</u> 9:45 AM Staff Meeting, Conference Room 5 PM Ladies' Night Out, Billy's</p> <p><u>Wed. (May 1)</u> 10 AM PW Circle #3, Lounge 1:30 PM Hearts & Hands, Library 3 PM UNL Varsity Men's Chorus Soundcheck, Sanctuary 5:30 PM WestminsterLink, Cole Hall</p>	<p>6:30 PM Destination Imagination Fundraiser, FH 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p> <p><u>Thurs. (May 2)</u> 6 PM UNL Choral Concert, Sanctuary 6:30 PM Scouts—Pack Committee Meeting, Youth Cafe</p> <p><u>Fri. (May 3)</u> 5:30 PM Wedding Rehearsal</p> <p><u>Sat. (May 4)</u> 2:30 PM Olive Paz/Ryan Earl Wedding</p> <p><u>Sun. (May 5)</u> 7 AM Support Marathon Runners 9:30 AM Worship/Communion/ Faith Village, Sanctuary 10:45 AM Adult Ed., 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.

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