

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

June 9, 2024

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Welcome

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

*Call to Worship (Psalm 130)

One: Out of the depths, I cry to you, O Lord.

All: Holy One, hear my voice.

One: I wait for the Lord, my soul waits.

All: In God's word, I hope.

One: My soul waits for the Lord, more than those who watch for the morning.

All: For with the Lord there is steadfast love and great power to redeem.

*Hymn #188

Jesus Loves Me!

*Call to Confession

Helena Kessler

*Time of Silent Confession

*Unison Prayer of Confession

God of perfect love, you bring forth life, changing sadness to joy. We are weak, but you are strong. Our ways are flawed, but your ways are true. When we are not right, help us remember you are never wrong. Forgive us, save us, and change us. Take away the wrongs we do and have done. Restore us to the people you hope we will be, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

***Response to Confession #649 (verse 3)**

Amazing Grace

***Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come.***

***'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.***

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

Helena Kessler

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 #582 (verse 1)**

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

***Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.***

***As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.
Amen.***

***Passing of the Peace**

Louisa McConnell

Share a sign of welcome and inclusion (high five, handshake, fist/elbow bump) with your neighbors. We pass Christ's peace to one another and to those viewing on live stream.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Hebrew Scriptures Psalm 138:1-8 O.T. pg. 577

Epistle Reading 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1 N.T. pg. 181

An "epistle" is a letter. In the New Testament there are 27 books total and 21 of those are letters/epistles by different authors to different communities.

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

Sermon

“Grace Grows”

Rev. Chris Peters

***Hymn #267**

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

**Affirmation of Faith (The Study Catechism:
Confirmation Version, Questions 1 and 4)**

Question 1. What is God's purpose for your life?

God wills that I should live by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, for the love of God, and in the communion of the Holy Spirit.

Question 4. How do you live in the communion of the Holy Spirit?

By the Holy Spirit, I am made one with the Lord Jesus Christ. I am baptized into Christ's body, the church. As a member of this community, I trust in God's Word, share in the Lord's Supper, and turn to God in prayer. As I grow in grace and knowledge, I am led to do the good works that God intends for my life.

New Member Recognition

Elder: As a congregation we welcome you, saying...

All: We welcome you to the Westminster church family, and pledge to support you in worship, faith, and service together. With you we are more the church Christ is calling us to be.

Special Music

“Here I Am, Lord,” arr. Lloyd Larson
Reagan Hinze and Mary Young

Moment of Gratitude

Prayers of the People

Rev. Chris Peters

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 #317**

In Christ There Is No East or West

(vv. 1,3 & 4)

***Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Chris Peters

Postlude

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

Today's Call to Worship and Prayer of Confession are adapted from the Presbyterian Outlook Weekly Liturgy for June 9, 2024 by Rev. Dr. John Wurster, Pastor St. Philip Presbyterian Church, Houston, Tx. Pastor Chris wrote our Invitation to Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness.

Flowers are given in celebration of the 65th wedding anniversary of Ernie & Jane Hines, on June 14.

Westminster welcomes and values children in worship. All kids and their families are welcome to pick up a blue Children's Worship Bag in the narthex (Sheridan Blvd. foyer). If a parent feels a break is needed for their child during the service, our **Infant Room** is available. This is at the north end of the Narthex.

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

Liturgists: Helena Kessler & Louisa McConnell

Interim Music Director: Dr. Mary Young

Organist: John Ross

Director of Children & Youth: Trish Souliere

Greeters: Scott & Stephanie Rogers

Dishwashers: Lisa & Steve McConnell

Ushers: Marybell Avery, Joan Roberts, Marilyn Hood, Barbara Wright-Chollet



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

The week of June 9, 2024

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

Many Sundays Pastor Chris stands before the church and says, “In the Presbyterian Church we believe our response to God’s grace is gratitude...” and we then celebrate something positive in the life of Westminster as our Moment of Gratitude. But what does the Bible have to say about God’s grace in Jesus Christ – this “thing” for which we’re supposed to be grateful? Grace is a central topic in the New Testament letter of Second Corinthians. Join us in June and early July for a series exploring The Nature of Grace and how it is given, grows, transforms, drives, inspires, and is sufficient in and for our lives!

Adult Education in June

June 9 – Vicki Wood

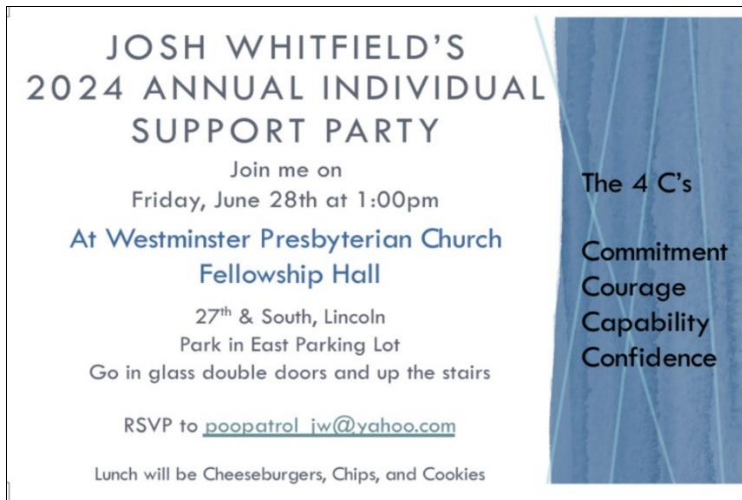
Today’s Adult Education will be provided by Vicki Wood who will speak on censorship in public and school libraries. She is a retired librarian and a current member of the Advocacy Committee of the Nebraska Library Association, with a special interest in intellectual freedom. Vicki served as the Coordinator of Youth Services for Lincoln City Libraries.

June 16 – Administration and Planning Committee will present a “town hall” regarding emerging issues with WPC security

June 23 and 30 - “Godspell: the Sources and the Scriptures” led by Pastor Jimmy Shelbourn

Prairie Readers Date Change for June

Prairie Readers will meet Wed., June 26, at 1 PM in the Lounge. This is a week after our usual meeting on the third Wed. of the month, because the church will be closed that day as we celebrate Juneteenth. Dale Minter will lead the discussion of *Memphis* by Tara M. Stringfellow.



Individual Support Party Invite from Josh Whitfield

Belonging is a sense of fitting in or feeling like you are an important member of a group. You are important to me.

As part of the Welcoming Task Force and the upcoming conversations on Disability Awareness, I want to invite WPC members to stop by my Annual Individual Support Party and participate in my party. Lunch of Cheeseburgers, and more will be provided. **Please RSVP to poopatrol_jw@yahoo.com.**

What is an Individual Support Plan (Party)?

It is a framework that helps people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) plan how they want to live their lives. ISPs are unique to each person and may include information such as:

- What matters most to them
- Who is important to them
- Their culture, dreams, goals, and interests
- How they communicate
- What their good life is and things they want to avoid
- What they want to focus on this year
- A personalized statement of their expectations for the future
- Who will be responsible for providing the supports and services to reach those goals
- Natural supports and connections for people with other citizens of the community.

Youth Group: Kansas City/Branson Trip in July

The Youth Group will be taking a trip this summer! We will drive to Branson, Missouri to see the production of Esther at the Sight and Sound Theater, take a day to have fun at Worlds of Fun, and engage in a service project in Kansas City. The trip will run from Thursday night to Sunday night, July 11-13. Please register here

<https://forms.gle/63tH9HTG6WKGW3Vx5>.

Note: all youth must have a signed permission form to attend.

<https://shorturl.at/DPsrM>.

Update Regarding Our Annual Book Sale

After thoughtful consideration, we have decided that there will not be a Book Sale this year. Consequently, we will also not be accepting any book donations at this time. Our plans for the future are uncertain, so please watch for further announcements. Thank you for the unwavering support you have shown us over the years!

Faith Village

To allow families to worship together over the summer, we are taking a break from Faith Village. We will continue to email weekly guides that include scriptures to read, questions to help generate discussion, and activities to help reinforce the lectionary lesson for the week. If you are interested in delving into a particular topic further, please let Trish know at trish@westminsterlincoln.org.

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!

Staff Schedules

Pastor Jimmy will be out of the office on vacation through June 15. He and Carol are (again) in Scotland. Joanne will be out of the office beginning on June 13. She will return June 24.

Week Beginning June 9

<p><u>Sun. (June 9)</u> 9:30 AM Worship/New Members 10:45 AM Adult Ed, Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship 2 – 4 PM Visitation for Allen Wachter, Ropers South</p> <p><u>Mon. (June 10)</u> 11 AM Service of Witness to the Resurrection, Allen Wachter, Sanctuary 12 Noon Reception in FH 5:30 PM Nominating Committee, Lounge</p> <p><u>Tues. (June 11)</u> 9:45 AM Staff Meeting 10:30 AM Lincoln City Library Summer Event, Fellowship Hall 11 AM Service of Witness to the Resurrection, Wayne Beams, Sanctuary 4 PM Stewardship & Finance, Library 5 PM Building and Grounds, Lounge 5 PM Personnel, Zoom 5:30 PM Worship & Music, FH-C</p>	<p>6 PM Mission & Outreach, Lounge 6 PM A&P, Conference Room 6 PM Welcoming Task Force, Library</p> <p><u>Wed. (June 12)</u> 9 AM Friendship Home, FH 1:30 PM Hearts & Hands, Library 4:30 PM Foundation Marketing, Library 4:30 PM Foundation Finance, Lounge 5 PM Foundation Board Meeting, Lounge 6:30 PM Children & Youth, Youth Rooms</p> <p><u>Thurs. (June 13)</u> 6:30 PM Summer Star City Sound Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p> <p><u>Sun. (June 16)</u> 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Adult Ed, Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship, Chapel</p>
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Worship services are available on-line at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/@WestminsterLincoln/streams>