

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

June 16, 2024

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude Clarinet Sonata Opus 167 mvmt I: Allegretto
(Nate Meyer and Tyler Nielson)

Welcome Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

***Call to Worship (based on Ezekiel 17:22-24)**

Deacon Megan Woita

One: God takes a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar, and plants it on a high mountain

All: in order that it may bear fruit and become a noble cedar.

One: Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind.

All: God welcomes. God loves. God provides.

***Hymn #401**

Here in This Place

***Call to Confession**

Deacon Megan Woita

***Time of Silent Confession**

***Unison Prayer of Confession**

Gracious God, we humbly confess that we have fallen short of who you call us to be. We seek peace and comfort in our lives, ignoring the needs of those around us. We live in ways that bring chaos and calamity to our neighbors.

Renew us, O Lord. Show us your steadfast love again, so that in turning to you, we may seek unity and peace for all of creation. 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**

Deacon Megan Woita

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**

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 Ezekiel 17:22-24 O.T. pg. 784
Epistle Reading 2 Cor. 5:6-10 (11-13) 14-17 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 Transforms”

Rev. Chris Peters

***Hymn #817**

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

***Affirmation of Faith (PCUSA Book of Order,
Foundations: The Holiness of the Church, F-1.0302b)**

Deacon Megan Woita

In gratitude for Christ’s work of redemption, we rely upon the work of God’s Spirit through Scripture and the means of grace to form every believer and every community for this holy living. We confess the persistence of sin in our corporate and individual lives. At the same time, we also confess that we are forgiven by Christ and called again and yet again, to strive for the purity, righteousness, and truth revealed to us in Jesus Christ and promised to all people in God’s new creation.

Moment of Gratitude

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Special Music

“The Lord’s Prayer” arr. Carl Deis
(Catherine Bobst/Mary Young)

Prayers of the People

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 #339**

Lift Every Voice and Sing

***Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Chris Peters

Postlude Clarinet Sonata Opus 167 mvmt II: Allegro Animato
(Nate Meyer and Tyler Neilson)

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

Nate Meyer (Clarinetist) is a senior clarinet performance major at UNL. He recently won the 2024 John Shildneck Young Artist Competition, and will be a featured performer with the Lincoln Municipal Band on July 7 at 7 pm in the John Shildneck Memorial Bandshell!

Tyler Neilson (Pianist) is a graduate piano performance student at UNL. He has won multiple competitions, the most recent being second prize in the Charleston Music Competition.

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

Liturgist: Deacon Megan Woita

Interim Music Director: Dr. Mary Young

Organist: John Ross

Director of Children & Youth: Trish Souliere

Greeters: David & Kathy Anderson

Dishwashers: Beth and Kris Anderzhon

Ushers: Leslie Miner, Cynthia Olson, Barb Andersen



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

The week of June 16, 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 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.

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!

Landscaping Needs at Westminster

This is a list of things that need to be done to beautify our church grounds. Could you pick an item to complete? Let Tom Pappas know.

Parking strip #1

- clip off dead peony blossom heads, go down to the shape of the plant - several inches. (Hand clippers and bucket.)
- The ash tree by the steps has suckers coming up from the base. With a hand clipper clip off suckers as low to the ground as possible.
- Shovel and sweep materials out of curb and back into planting area.

Rose beds

- All blooms are spent, even the best ones. Clip off every stem just above the first big leaf.
- Hand clippers and gloves.

Daisies

- There are spent daisies in several beds. Cut the blooms down to the crown.

Lower level by youth room

- In the lower bed there is mainly vinca and hostas - and tall prickly lettuce. Pull out the prickly lettuce and any other weeds.

Burning bush north of playground

- There's a dead spot facing north that needs to be cut out with a looper.

Weeds in seams

- A string trimmer is a good way to take care of it without poison.

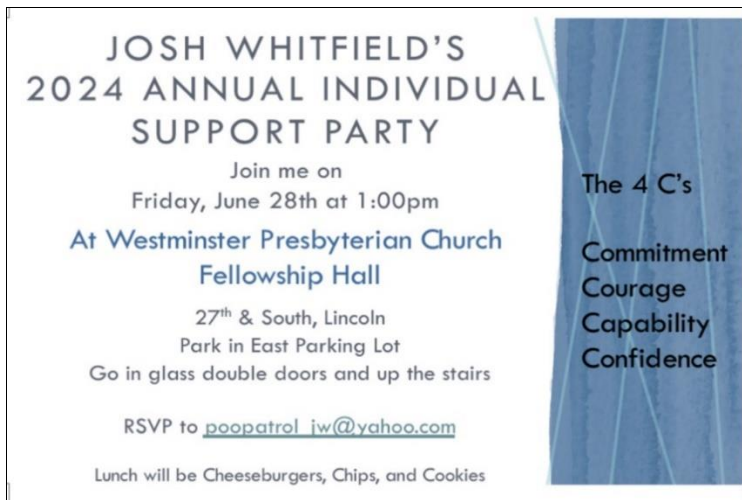
Youth Group: Kansas City/Branson Trip in July

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/DPrM>.



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.

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.

Staff Schedules

Joanne will be out of the office until June 24.

Week Beginning June 16

<p><u>Sun. (June 16)</u> 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Adult Ed, Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship</p>	<p><u>Thurs. (June 20)</u> 6:30 PM Summer Star City Sound Rehearsal, Sanctuary 7 PM Camera Club, Lounge</p>
<p><u>Tues. (June 18)</u> 10:30 AM Lincoln City Library Summer Event, Fellowship Hall 7 PM Faith and Cancer Support Group, Library</p>	<p><u>Fri. (June 21)</u> 5:30 PM Wedding Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p>
<p><u>Wed. (June 19)</u> Juneteenth Holiday The church building will be closed for the holiday.</p>	<p><u>Sat. (June 22)</u> 4 PM Schorr/Schuerman Wedding, Sanctuary</p>
	<p><u>Sun. (June 23)</u> 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Adult Ed, Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship</p>

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