

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

August 25, 2024

Disability Inclusion Sunday

Prelude "Prelude & Fugue in B-flat, BWV560" attrib. J.S. Bach

Welcome Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

Minute for Mission: PCUSA Disability Inclusion Work and Consultation Rev. Dr. Karen Moritz

***Call to Worship** (Adapted from Psalm 130:5-7, Common English Bible)
Josh Whitfield

Leader: Make a joyful noise to God! Sing glory to the One who made all things!

People: How awesome are the deeds of the Great Creator! We are all God's children. We all have unique gifts and graces.

Leader: On this Disability Inclusion Sunday, we especially give thanks for the gifts and graces for the disability community. May we learn from one another.

People: Holy Spirit, please enter our hearts and our time of worship. Help us to be a truly inclusive and welcoming place for all God's children. Let all the earth worship the Lord in love and unity!

***Hymn #300** **We Are One in the Spirit**

***Call to Confession** Josh Swanson

***Time of Silent Confession**

***Unison Prayer of Confession**

O God, we confess that we have sinned. We have all made mistakes. We have all fallen short. There have been times in all of our lives when we have forgotten to give thanks for the blessing of salvation. Wash us, O God, and make us clean.

People: We confess that we are tempted to judge the nine people with leprosy who did not return and give thanks for their healing. But we are more like them

than we would like to admit. Have mercy on us, Lord Jesus.

Leader: O God, help us to turn back toward You. May we fall at the feet of Christ and give thanks for Your mercy, compassion, and grace.

People: Forgive us for the times we have judged others because they were different from us. Have mercy on us for the times we have been quick to judge others based on their appearance, ability level, age, gender, or skin color. Help us to welcome all of those who society views as “different” into the family of God. Amen.

***Response to Confession #471**

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

O Lord, hear my prayer.

O Lord, hear my prayer.

When I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer.

O Lord, hear my prayer.

Come and listen to me.

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

Josh Swanson

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 #399 (x2)**

God Welcomes All

God welcomes all, strangers and friends;

God's love is strong and it never ends.

***Passing of the Peace**

Rev. Chris Peters

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.

Children's Chat

Rev. Dr. Karen Moritz

(Children in Grades 1 – 5 are invited to either come to Faith Village for a Bible lesson, friendship, and fun 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. Faith Village is located through the door to the right of the East entry steps.)

Prayer for Illumination

Chris Patten

Scripture Readings

Chris Patten

See Insert for responsive litany reading of scripture.

Old Testament Reading Psalm 139:13-16

O.T. pg. 578

Gospel Reading John 9:1-7

N.T. pg. 102

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

Sermon “The Disciples' Question and Ours”

Rev. Dr. Karen Moritz

***Hymn**

Christ You made the Blind Man See

(See Bulletin Insert)

Moment of Gratitude

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Anthem

“Draw the Circle Wide” (Mark Miller)

Westminster Choir

Draw the circle wide.

Draw it wider still.

Let this be our song: No one stands alone!

Standing side by side, draw the circle wide.

Prayers of the People Chris Patten, Josh Swanson, Josh Whitfield

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 #745**

Now Go in Joy

*Charge & Benediction

Rev. Dr. Karen Moritz

Postlude

“Fugue in C, BuxWV174” by Dietrich Buxtehude

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

Today’s words for worship are gathered and adapted by church members, Rev. Moritz, and Pastor Chris from PC(USA) Disability Inclusion Resources.

Thank you to **Mallory Witt** for serving as our acolyte, lighting the Christ candles today.

Flowers are given by Jim and Judy White in celebration of their 64th wedding anniversary.

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: Josh Whitfield, Josh Swanson, Chris Patten

Interim Music Director: Dr. Mary Young

Organist: John Ross

Director of Children & Youth: Trish Souliere

Greeters: Stephanie & Scott Rogers

Ushers: Sarah Baltensperger, Martha Kingsbury, April Douglas

Dishwasher: Paul Korslund

Sanctuary Audio and Livestream: Dale Minter

Responsive Litany

Psalm 139: 13-16

“For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works; that I know well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.”

Creator God, you formed us all in the depths of the earth, seeing and knowing our unformed selves, and knitting us together in love. Holy Maker, on this day we praise you for all our neighbors that this world would consider disabled. We praise you that we too are fearfully and wonderfully made in the Image of God. And we praise you even when others fail to embrace our belovedness.

John 9:1-3

As (Jesus) was walking along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “***Rabbi who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?***” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned: ***he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him.***”

Incarnate God, we praise you for all the people in our midst. We thank you that through you, we come to know our disabled neighbors. When the disciples sought to place blame for his disability, you reminded them that blame is not important. You pointed them to the deeper truth, that this man and his blindness are also vessels of your redeeming and boundless love. You called him beloved, even when the powers that be did not.

I praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Hymn After Sermon

Christ, You Made the Blind Man See

Christ, you made the blind man see;
with some mud you healed his eyes.
So you acted lovingly,
bringing health and changing lives.
Yet it was a Sabbath Day;
rules were all that some folks saw;
They were quick to scorn the way
you put love before the Law.

Christ, you came to judge the earth,
bringing truth and life and light,
Showing humble ones their worth,
giving vision, bold and bright.
Those who proudly think they see
are the ones who often find
Though they act quite boastfully,
they, in fact, are really blind.

God, we pray that we will be
people filled with light and grace.
Show us what we need to see
in this culture, time and place:
We are called to be your light,
telling how you've changed us here.
Love can make the darkness bright;
faith in you makes all things clear.

Biblical Reference: John 9:1-41

Tune: Joseph Parry, 1879 ("Jesus, Lover of My Soul"; "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night")

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

The week of Aug. 25, 2024

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

Disability Inclusion Sunday, August 25

Within Westminster, we all have a vital role to play in extending welcome. We work hard to welcome children, to welcome newcomers and visitors, and to welcome people from diverse backgrounds. As we work to embrace the fullness of God’s amazing creation, we also get to embrace the work of welcoming people with disabilities into our communities. People with disabilities are often creative problem-solvers who know how to advocate, find solutions, and get things done. All of us are learning the value and strength of diverse faith communities. Disability inclusion is a part of what it means to build the diverse church that answers the invitation of being a Matthew 25 Church that is equitable and just.

As a Welcoming Church, Westminster will affirm, support and advocate for the gifts, the rights and the responsibilities of persons with disabilities in the total life of the church...from Inclusion to Belonging.

“Belonging is rooted in relationships. Having people in our lives who know us, like us, accept us, need us, miss us, and love us is at the heart of well-being.” Eric W. Carter

We welcome today’s Guest Preacher, The Rev. Dr. Karen Moritz, PCUSA Disability Concerns Consultant

As a woman who’s been blind since birth, Moritz is sensitive to the issues that people with conditions that affect their vision face in church and community settings. “It’s kind of a thing close to my heart because I think the church still struggles to know how to include people with disabilities,” said Moritz, a former mission co-Worker and retired Nebraska pastor. “I know all of us want to be there to help make that process easier and less frightening for people.”

“The PCUSA’s Disability Concerns Consultants help people overcome barriers to full participation in church.” Presbyterian Mission Article

Sweets 'n Smiles by Emma

Join us in the Garden Room after worship for a cookie made by Emma of *Sweets 'n Smiles*. She takes a hands-on approach, personally painting each cookie, stamping the back with her trademark smile, and using screen printing to embed an uplifting message. They taste good, too!

Adult Education | 10:45 AM | Lounge

TODAY: "Global Kinship: Religions cooperating around the World" by Rev. Lauren Van Ham, Climate Action Coordinator for United Religions Initiative.

Raised in the Midwest, (including WPC) Lauren Van Ham's professional life began as a performing artist in NYC before attending interfaith seminary in California. After ordination (1999), Lauren served as chaplain in both healthcare and corporate settings, and seminary Dean at The Chaplaincy Institute. Her passion for spirituality, art and Earth's teachings construct her focus in eco-ministry, grief & loss, and sacred activism. She is a guest writer for "[Progressing Spirit](#)," an online publication exploring theology, spirituality and public events. She holds degrees from Carnegie Mellon University and Naropa University. Lauren is a spiritual director and serves as guest faculty for several schools in the Bay Area.

We've returned.....with Grateful Hearts

Glenna Haller and Linda Burchard returned from the national Presbyterian Women's Churchwide Gathering held in St. Louis. PW and Westminster members sent \$650 worth of gift cards with us. Two deserving nonprofits in Missouri received over \$17,000 in gift cards from the event. PW is known for its generosity for mission and Glenna and Linda were honored to carry your gifts of love.

Kick-Off Sunday: Building Faith, Brick by Brick

Join us Sunday, September 15 to help us kick-off our fall activities!

- Committees and Life Groups will provide a snapshot of their upcoming activities.
- Porkcentric will have lunch available for purchase
- We will treat you to Kona Ice!
- Kids can play in the bounce house
- Games, LEGOS, and activities will be available
- Fall photos by Jim Kinkennon

Kick-Off Sunday is not just for kids! Mark your calendar for Sept.15 and come to celebrate the start of the new season with your Westminster family.

Video Link to Christine Pappas's Presentation on Aug. 11

For those who missed Adult Ed last Sunday, August 11, "The Competitive Advantage of Tribal Governments" by Christine Pappas, this is the link to the YouTube Video: <https://youtu.be/KlAgfvoaRr0> .

We're Seeking: A/V Volunteers to Share Our Worship with the World!

Each week, Westminster's worship service is streamed live on YouTube, engaging a view audience anywhere between 50 and 100, on average. This is an important calling in our church, as we know folks watch our services from Lincoln to Florida to France! We are currently looking for 2-4 additional volunteers to help us have a more robust rotation for A/V, with the goal of having two people in our booth each Sunday. This task does include monitoring our sound board for in-house and online levels. **We are offering a "come and see" session after worship today.** If you are interested, please join Dale Minter in the balcony.

Exchange Coffee

Don't forget to check your coffee supply before next Sunday, when you'll have a chance to purchase Equal Exchange coffee in the Garden Room after the worship service.

Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will meet at Art & Soul, 5740 Hidcote Drive (56th and Pine Lake area), on Tuesday, Sept. 3, at 11:30 AM. RSVP to jimkinkennon@gmail.com or text to 402-290-5888.

Children and Youth Worship Leader Form

Please use the link below to indicate your interest to Pastor Chris about being a children / youth liturgist. This includes the option of writing and/or reading a part of worship for the second Sunday of the month this Fall. Instructions are included in the linked Google Form. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Chris at chris@westminsterlincoln.org <https://forms.gle/AzeLQrsnmLeNeib76>

joanne@westminsterlincoln.org

402-475-6702

Game Night

Mark your calendars! September 20 is Game Night at Westminster for all ages! Bring your favorite game and snacks to share, join in the fun, and fellowship.

Prairie Readers

Prairie Readers will meet at 1 PM in the lounge on Wed., Sept. 18. Susie Hughes will lead the discussion of *The Art Thief* by Michael Finkel.

Ladies' Night Out

Join us this month at Billy's. As always, it promises to be a fun time of catching up. Feel free to bring a friend!

- Our next Ladies' Night Out is Thursday, August 29 at Billy's, 5-7 PM; located at 1301 H Street.
- Our prearranged price for family-style heavy appetizers will be \$17.00/per person, cost of drink and tip additional.
- We want to have a seat at our table for you. Please RSVP by Sunday, August 25th to Robyn Uebele at robynu2@hotmail.com (937) 935-6858.

Week Beginning Aug. 25

<p><u>Sun. (Aug. 25)</u> Disability Inclusion Sunday Rev. Dr. Karen Moritz 9:30 AM Worship, Faith Village 10:45 AM Adult Ed, Lounge 10:45 AM Come and See A/V Volunteer Session, Balcony 12 Noon Sudanese Worship 12 Noon Youth Group: Lunch & Kiddie Pool Kickball, meet at Good Shepherd</p> <p><u>Mon. (Aug. 26)</u> 10 AM Memorial Service for Jim Nissen followed by Luncheon 6 PM Session, Lounge</p>	<p><u>Tues. (Aug. 27)</u> 5:30 PM Deacons, Lounge</p> <p><u>Wed. (Aug. 28)</u> 1:30 PM Hearts and Hands 4:30 PM Financial Future Meeting, Lounge 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal</p> <p><u>Thurs. (Aug. 29)</u> 5 PM Ladies' Night Out—Billy's</p> <p><u>Sun. (Sept. 1)</u> 9:30 AM Worship with Communion, Faith Village 10:45 AM Adult Ed, Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship</p>
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Worship services are available on-line at this link:

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