

# Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

**September 1, 2024**

**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Prelude** “Come, Labor On” by Michael Burkhardt

**Welcome** Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

**Choral Introit:** “Lead Me, Lord” (arr. Carol Cymbala)  
Lead me Lord; I will follow. Lead me Lord; I will go.  
You have called me; I will answer. Lead me Lord; I will go.

**\*Call to Worship** (James 1:17-18, 21b-22a Common English Bible adapted)  
Rev. Chris Peters

One: Every good gift, every perfect gift, comes from above.

***Many: These gifts come down from the Creator of the heavenly lights,***

One: God chose to give us birth by the true word, and here is the result:

***Many: we are like the first crop from the harvest of everything God created.***

One: With all humility, welcome the word planted inside you.

***Many: Let us be doers of the word, and not only hearers!***

**\*Hymn #14** *For the Beauty of the Earth*

**\*Call to Confession** Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

**\*Time of Silent Confession**

**\*Unison Prayer of Confession**

***Merciful God, we confess that our words and actions do not always line up. We are quick to confess our faith, but slow to live it. We sing praise to your name, but we pass by orphans and widows on the other side of the street. Change us, O God. By your grace, transform us. Root out the selfishness that hardens our hearts, and replace it with compassion and generosity. Empower us by your Spirit that we might be doers of your word and not hearers only. All this we pray in the name of Jesus the Christ, Amen.***

**\*Response to Confession #466**

**Come and Fill Our Hearts**

*Come and fill our hearts with your peace.  
You alone, O Lord, are holy.  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace.  
Alleluia!*

**\*Assurance of Forgiveness**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

*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**

**You Make Beautiful Things (Chorus x2)**

*You make beautiful things,  
You make beautiful things out of the dust.  
You make beautiful things,  
You make beautiful things out of us.*

**\*Passing of the Peace**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

*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**

Rev. Chris Peters

**Scripture Readings**

Hebrew Scriptures

Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9

O.T. pg. 516

Epistle Reading

James 1:17-27

N.T. pg. 229

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

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

**Sermon**

"Faith Acts"

Rev. Chris Peters

**\*Hymn #822**

***When We are Living***

## **Affirmation of Faith (Confession of Belhar)**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

Scriptures cited in this section are: Isaiah 42:1–7, Luke 7:22, Psalm 146, James 1:27, Micah 6:8, Amos 5:14–15, 23–24

### ***We believe***

- ***that God has revealed God's self as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;***
- ***that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind;***
- ***that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly;***
- ***that for God pure and undefiled religion is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering;***
- ***that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right;***
- ***that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream;***

### **The Lord's Supper**

#### **Invitation**

#### **Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you. ***And also with you.***

Lift up your hearts. ***We lift them to the Lord.***

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

### **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.***

# Blessing and Sharing of the Elements

## Prayer after Communion

**\*Hymn #39**

***Great is Thy Faithfulness***

**\*Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Chris Peters

**Postlude**

“How Firm a Foundation”  
Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn, bagpipes

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

Today’s words for worship are gathered and adapted by Pastor Chris from the following resources: The lectionary text from James 1 for our Call to Worship; Presbyterian Outlook Order of Worship by Rev. Ginna Bairby (Pastor, First Presbyterian, Taos, New Mexico) for our Prayer of Confession, and Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year B Vol 2 (Rev. Dr. Kimberly Bracken Long, Editor).

**Flowers are given by Mark and Vicky Davis in celebration of their 40<sup>th</sup> 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

**Interim Music Director:** Dr. Mary Young

**Organist:** John Ross

**Director of Children & Youth:** Trish Souliere

**Greeters:** Stephan Biheng & Paul Korslund

**Ushers:** David Anderson, Debra Schleining, Carol Shelbourn, Marybell Avery

**Dishwasher:** Paul Korslund

**Sanctuary Audio and Livestream:** Dale Minter

**Communion Servers:** Sarah Baltensperger, Stephan Biheng, Sebit Deng, Dave Arunski and Ray Stevens



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

**The week of Sept. 1, 2024**

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

**Everyday Faith**  
Practical lessons on living as followers of  
Jesus from the letter of James.

<b>9/1</b> <b>Faith Acts</b> <small>(James 1:17-27)</small>	<b>9/8</b> <b>Faith Responds</b> <small>(James 2:1-10, 14-17)</small>	<b>9/15</b> <b>Faith Filters</b> <small>(James 3:1-12) BLOCK PARTY AFTER CHURCH</small>	<b>9/22</b> <b>Faith Yields</b> <small>(James 3:13-4:3, 7-8)</small>	<b>9/29</b> <b>Faith Prays</b> <small>(James 5:13-20)</small>
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### **September Sermon Series**

This September join us in worship for “Everyday Faith,” a series exploring the practical side of our faith from the New Testament letter of James. Over the month we’ll be encouraged to be doers of God’s word, value people of all classes, speak well of our neighbor, and to pray thoughtfully. As we navigate community in an election season, our consideration of James will invite us to live well with others and to do justice as followers of Jesus. – Pastor Chris

**Mission/Outreach is pleased to bring Equal Exchange Coffee and Equal Exchange Organic Chocolate to Westminster friends. The coffee you enjoy during the fellowship hour is also Equal Exchange.**

By choosing the Equal Exchange brand, we are making a strong statement about our values as a community.

**Available for Purchase:** We give the opportunity to purchase Equal Exchange products during Fellowship Hour after services on the first Sunday of each month. Thank you for supporting our ongoing commitment to making these products available.

### **The PW Barrel is Back!**

Presbyterian Women at Westminster will partner again with the Lincoln Hygiene Network to collect hygiene products for over 20 nonprofit groups in the Lincoln area.

We're not just distributing products; we're restoring health, hope, and well-being one bar of soap, one toothbrush, one deodorant at a time. Please help us fill the colorful barrel at the east entrance steps at Westminster with NEW products. Pick up a list of needed items and return them during September and October. Monetary donations are welcome at [lincolnhygienenetwork.org](http://lincolnhygienenetwork.org).



*Do Everything in Love by helping our neighbors.*

### **Lunch Bunch**

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

### **Building Faith, Brick by Brick**

#### **A morning for all ages to learn, have fun, and connect!**

Join us Sunday, September 15 to participate in these fun 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

Building Faith, Brick by Brick 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.

**The church building is closed** on Monday, Sept. 2 for the Labor Day holiday.

### **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. If you are interested, please contact Dale Minter. You will find him in the balcony on most Sunday mornings.

### **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](mailto:chris@westminsterlincoln.org)  
<https://forms.gle/AzeLQrsnmLeNeib76>

### **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.

### **Game Night**

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

### **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.

**WPC Finance Update\* as of 7/31/24**

Pledged Total for 2024: 520,000.00  
 Pledges Received: 338,453.04 (65% of total)  
**Pledges Yet-to-be-Received: 181,546.96**  
 Total Expenses To-Date: 511,879.14  
 Total Income\*\*: 427,063.03  
 Foundation Support To-Date: 52,000.00  
**Surplus or Deficit as of 7/31: -32,816.11**  
 Total Annual Budget: 887,500.00

\*excludes special projects (stained glass windows, etc.)

\*\* does not include Foundation Support

**Week Beginning Sept. 1**

<p><b><u>Sun. (Sept. 1)</u></b>          9:30 AM Worship with          Communion, Faith Village          12 Noon Sudanese Worship</p> <p><b><u>Mon. (Sept. 2)</u></b>          Church building closed for the          Labor Day Holiday.</p> <p><b><u>Tues. (Sept. 3)</u></b>          Preschool closed          9:45 AM Staff Meeting,          Conference Room          11:30 AM Lunch Bunch</p>	<p>5 PM Adult Ed, Conference Room          6:30 PM PW Circle 4, Lounge</p> <p><b><u>Wed. (Sept. 4)</u></b>          10 AM PW Circle 3, Lounge          1:30 PM Hearts and Hands,          Library          6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal,          Sanctuary</p> <p><b><u>Sun. (Sept. 8)</u></b>          9:30 AM Worship, 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>

**Televised Worship**

Thurs. at 12:30 pm/Sat. at 1 pm.

Channel 1302/Spectrum & Channel 13/Windstream.

[joanne@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto:joanne@westminsterlincoln.org)

402-475-6702