



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2025

VOLUME 95 ISSUE 2

The Messenger

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Sunday Service

We welcome you to Worship in the Sanctuary with us on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. and/or worship virtually with us on our YouTube channel at <https://westminsterlincoln.org/youtube-videos>



(402) 475-6702



2110 Sheridan Blvd, Lincoln, NE 68502

A message to the congregation

Westminster Friends,

The King James version of Proverbs 29:18a says, “Without vision, the people perish...”

The NRSV (your “pew Bible” at church) reads, “Where there is no prophecy, the people cast off restraint...”

And the Common English Bible declares, “When there’s no vision, the people get out of control...”

In my own words, I might paraphrase it to say “without a sense of where God is calling, communities go awry.”

I became familiar with that proverb through an old youth ministry book by Dr. Rodger Nishioka, now Head of Staff at Village Presbyterian in Kansas City.

Dr. Nishioka’s use of this translation was to remind church leaders, even church youth leaders, that we must have vision and purpose to move forward.

In our sermon series, “The Spirit of Epiphany,” ending Sunday, February 2nd, we’ve been engaging themes of vision, revelation*, and purpose in light of the epiphany shared with the Magi that the Messiah was born in Bethlehem.

For the bulk of that series, we’re engaging the words of 1st Corinthians chapters 12 – 13, where the Apostle Paul affirms that we have gifts activated by God through the Spirit and that those gifts are to be used for the common good. That’s a pretty good summary of the vision I see for Westminster in 2025 – you have gifts, let’s identify them, let’s share them, and let’s live them out to the purposes of love.

The word vision in Hebrew can also be translated as revelation, prophecy, or a divine understanding that comes in an ecstatic or dream state. Wow. Let me know if you have any ecstatic revelations!

More seriously, the breadth of those translations points us to a centering truth: God has something to say to us. “Will we listen for God,” is the real question. When we listen, solo or in harmony with others, true vision and purpose are revealed.

As we seek to know and use our gifts for good together, I hope you’ll explore and engage ways to grow, connect, and serve this month and throughout the year.

Whether it’s our California on a Plate dinner to raise awareness and funds for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance wildfire relief, our Confirmands gathering for a retreat, or by joining us in worship for more “epiphany” or “vision sharing” through the Psalms, February should be a wonderful month at Westminster!

In this Messenger, you’ll find annual reports from many of our committees, and those reports summarize work done in 2024. The ways we’ve served God this past year are remarkable, and I believe they set us up for further growth and inspiration in the year ahead.

As always, my prayers are with you and our church family.

If I can ever be of support to you, please reach out! If you want to share your own vision for Westminster with me, let’s get together soon!

With Gratitude,
Pastor Chris



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*The Faith & Cancer Support Group monthly meetings are moving to the third Tuesday at 10 AM.
The first meeting will be on Feb. 18 in the Library.*

Hearts & Hands | Church Library | Wednesdays at 1:30 – 3:00 PM

Hearts & Hands is a fun-loving group that meets every Wednesday in the church library. All needle work folks are welcome to come visit and see what you're missing! Laughter is free. All yarn donations are welcome! Questions? Call Francy Scheele, 402-310-4212.

Lunch Bunch | Toast | Tuesday, February 4, 11:30 AM

Lunch Bunch will meet at Toast, 570 Fallbrook Blvd, Tuesday, February 4, 11:30 A.M.
Please R.S.V.P. to Jim Kinkennon at 402-290-5888 or jimkinkennon@gmail.com.

Faith & Cancer Support Group | Church Library | Tuesday, February 18th at 10:00 AM

Ladies Night Out | Billy's Restaurant | Thursday, February 27, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

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

Nader and team serve a variety of heavy appetizers family style. Our cost is \$17/per person.
Additional cost of your drink, tax, and tip.

Please RSVP by Monday, February 24th to Robyn Uebele at robynu2@hotmail.com (937) 935-6858.
We want to have plenty of seating for all. We hope you can join us!

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Westminster Preschool



February 2025



PRESCHOOL NEWS

January brought some sickness and cold to the Preschool. We're hoping to have a healthier February and maybe even some snow!

This month we are learning about Pets, Health and Fitness. We're excited for our family event at Cheer Express to jump on the trampolines and find ways to move our bodies!



UPCOMING DATES

February 7th

Family event at Cheer Express

Feb. 13th

Fall Enrollment begins!

Feb. 14th

Valentine's Day party

Feb. 17th-18th

NO SCHOOL





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Environmental Justice

Concerned about Climate Change? Speak Up!

Increasingly frequent and severe climate disasters have become impossible to ignore. The vast majority of U.S. citizens fear harm to future generations and support funding for renewable energy and regulation of CO2 pollution. Collective action should be surging, but only a third of us ever talk about this urgent need. As the author of this year’s Presbyterian Women’s Bible study observes, our faithful individual actions “can resemble bailing the Titanic with thimbles. . . . But (together) faith communities have built-in potential to promote justice, hope, and regard for the future.” Existential problems demand large scale action, and we can call for that by speaking up. It’s not too late for our collective voices to make a difference. Who needs to hear from us? Will you speak up?



Styrofoam Update and Thanks

The collection site for styrofoam will stay in place through Sunday, February 9. We are on our fourth giant bag and expect to fill a fifth bag by then.

Kudos Westminsterites! Plastilite can only receive clean EPS. Eight years ago it took extra time to sort and remove egg cartons, bags of packing peanuts, and food containers. Lots of the foam had tape and stickers. Not this time. You all are getting it right. Green@Heart applauds a job well done!



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Important Dates

Presbyterian Women

Justice & Peace Calendar for February

All Month:

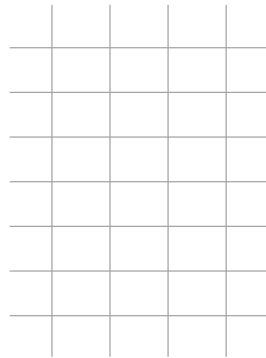
- Black History Month; blackhistorymonth.gov
- One Billion Rising for Justice, onebillionrising.org
- National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month, teendvmonth.org

Feb. 1 National Freedom Day, state.gov/national-freedom-day-deepening-our-resolve-to-fight-human-trafficking

Feb. 1-7 World Interfaith Harmony Week, worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com

Feb. 9 Souper Bowl of Caring, tacklehunger.org

Feb. 12 International Day against the Use of Child Soldiers, redhandday.org



Souper Bowl of Caring | February 9

If a \$1 donation creates 3 meals, what if everyone watching the biggest football game of the year were to give a dollar to ensure no one goes without soup in their bowls? What impact would that have on food insecurity in our country?

On the weekend of February 9th, 150 million Americans will watch the Super Bowl football game. There will be parties with food, friendship, and fellowship, but at the same time, there will be other people worried about staying warm and finding their next meal. In fact, 47% of families are looking for their next meal. The annual Souper Bowl of Caring will create 15 millions meals for those in need just this year and our youth will be joining the drive again by collecting money for the Gathering Place in Lincoln. Founded in 1982, the Gathering Place is a soup kitchen that provides over 27,000 hot, nourishing evening meals to those who are homeless, near-homeless, or otherwise food-insecure in Lincoln each year.

We ask you to join this important movement, sharing God's love with those in need. Please give generously on Super Bowl Sunday -- look for youth group representatives holding soup pots by the sanctuary exits. A gift in any amount is greatly appreciated and makes a life sustaining difference. Join us as we help #TackleHunger through @souperbowl. 100% of all donations benefit the Gathering Place.

Youth News

Souper Bowl of Caring February 9 10:30 AM

On February 9th, not only will we be watching the big game, we will also join churches across the country in collecting money for the hungry and homeless in our community. This year our donations will support the Gathering Place in Lincoln. Please give generously -- look for youth group representatives holding soup pots by the sanctuary exits. Every dollar donated creates over \$20 for food charities, which means that a gift in any amount is greatly appreciated and truly makes a difference.

W3 (Welcome to Westminster on Wednesdays) | 6:00 PM-8:00 PM

Wednesday nights are a great opportunity for kids to get together with their friends and have fun learning about God. Kids from kindergarten through high school meet from 6:00-8:00 PM. Open gym and free time begins at 5:30 PM and dinner is at 6.

Youth Group: Murder Mystery February 23 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

The Youth Group will meet on Sunday, February 23 from 5-8 for a murder mystery party. Contact Trish for character options at trish@westminsterlincoln.org.

Shrove Sunday Pancake Breakfast March 2 10:45 AM

After the service on Sunday, March 2, the Children and Youth Committee invite you to enjoy an early Shrove Tuesday breakfast of pancakes and sausage in Fellowship Hall.

Spring Break

There will be no activities on Wednesday, March 12 due to Spring Break.

Youth Group: Chopped, The Feeding of the Five(ish) Judges IV | Sunday March 23

Everybody's favorite event Chopped: The Feeding of the Five Judges is back! This event is modeled after the cooking competition show that challenges each chef's skill, speed and ingenuity. Our youth group teams will compete before a panel of expert judges, turning baskets of mystery ingredients into extraordinary dishes with only seconds to plan and 30 minutes to cook from baskets of mystery ingredients. Once they've completed their dishes, our celebrity judges will taste each offering and decide which team will be crowned as the best chef.

Palm Sunday | April 13 9:30 AM

Youth Group: Urban Air April 13 3:00 PM-5:00 PM

Join us at Urban Air from 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM on Sunday, April 13. Please bring \$10 per person for admission, maximum of \$30 per family. Assistance is available. If you plan to join us, be sure to complete a waiver in advance.

Eggstravaganza | April 16 5:30 PM-7:30 PM

Our annual Easter egg hunt will take place on Wednesday, April 16. Children from preschool to 5th grade are invited to come for an evening of fun. The evening begins with dinner at 5:45 PM, followed by the hunt and games at 6:15 PM.

Cinnamon Roll Breakfast April 20 9:15 AM

Join us on Easter between the worship services to enjoy fresh cinnamon rolls.



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Church News

Session Work Summary - January 2025

Your Westminster Session would like to share the following highlights of the annual retreat for elders and deacons. The Administration & Planning committee assisted Pastor Chris and Pastor Jimmy in planning and leading the weekend activities. The meetings were designed for continuing elders and deacons to welcome newly elected elders and deacons and meet the requirements of the Book of Order for a “period of study and preparation” prior to assuming office.

Friday, January 24th - Session met at the Venue restaurant for team building activities and dinner funded by the Westminster Foundation.

Saturday, January 25th - Deacons and elders met together in Fellowship Hall at 9:00 am. The group of approximately 60 participated in activities designed to learn a little about each other. Pastor Chris and Pastor Jimmy conducted a joint leadership session that included Presbyterian traditions and theology in addition to principles of polity or governance. The Book of Confessions was presented as a small group activity. Following lunch the deacons and elders met separately to learn more about their specific roles and responsibilities. The elders also held a called meeting of Session for the purposes of approving the 2025 Communion and Session meeting schedules and examining and approving the new elders to be ordained.

Sunday, January 26th - During worship the service of ordination and installation of elders and deacons was held.

Glenna Haller Represents PW at the United Nations

Westminster member, Glenna Haller, will have the opportunity and privilege to represent Presbyterian Women (PW) as a delegate to the 69th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) March 10-21 in New York City. In 2018, Presbyterian Women received accreditation to the CSW with voice and vote thus strengthening the partnership between PW and the PC(USA) and enhancing Presbyterian visibility at the UN. During the Commission’s annual two-week session, representatives will gather to discuss the progress and gaps in the implementation of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the key global policy document on gender equality created 30 years ago, as well as learn about emerging issues that affect gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. The outcomes and concrete recommendations for action will then be forwarded to the UN Economic and Social Council. Many side events bring global women together to provide additional opportunities for advocacy, information exchange, and networking. Westminster members can support Glenna with prayer and by attending her commissioning in the worship service on March 2.



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Communication and Outreach Committee

IT IS TIME TO BUILD WPC'S TEAM OF EXPERTS!

WPC is excited to announce a newly formed committee....

Communication and Outreach Committee!

Why do we need this new committee, you ask?

- Ensures clear, consistent messaging across all platforms.
- Helps build and keep your church's identity with cohesive branding.
- Keep members engaged and informed throughout the week.
- Prevents last-minute scrambles by planning and delivering key messages on time.
- Supports outreach and community growth with strategic communication and/or marketing.

Do you have gifts and/or a passion in the following areas?

- Communication and marketing strategy
- Design
- Social media management
- Writing
- Project management
- Videography/ photography
- Web development

Communications and Outreach Committee exist to support WPC's mission:

“Welcome, Equip, and Encourage Discipleship”

Take this opportunity to serve WPC and our community by saying “YES” to serving on the committee.

Contact Elder Kathy Rohwedder to ask questions or even better to say “YES!” at kathrohwa@yahoo.com or call (402) 202-9889.

Adult Education Committee - 2024 Annual Report

Members: David Arunski, Kathy Phillip, Tom Pappas, Martha Brown, and the Rev. Jimmy Shelbourn

The Adult Education Committee works to provide Sunday morning programs that nurture Christian spiritual growth and knowledge and reflect the vision of Westminster Presbyterian Church. Our mission focuses on the Bible, theology, and living the faith. We have continued our tradition of seeking programs that share our Christian hopes and responsibilities and address serious issues facing our community and world.

January began with our annual Community Conversations, “Understanding and Responding to Housing Concerns in Lincoln.” Speakers included:

- Wynn Hjermsstad, Community Development Manager, City of Lincoln: “Affordable Housing and City Support.”
- Wayne Mortensen, CEO of Neighborworks Lincoln: “Expanding Affordable Housing and Strengthening Neighborhoods.”
- Tom Barber, CEO of People’s City Mission: “Ministry of Service and Providing Space.”
- Rose Oproek, Special Project Manager for Habitat for Humanity: “Building Homes and Hope” (presented in March due to weather)

February started with a “Hard Topic,”

- Current events in Gaza and Israel with discussion led by Peter Levitov, Professor Emeritus of International Affairs.

Continuing through March Rev. Jimmy Shelbourn led Lenten scripture readings and group discussions with themes from “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing.”

April and May once again brought us to “Earth Care and Creation Celebration,” this year with a focus on food.

- Dr. Mike Hayes, Professor of Applied Climatology in UNL’s School of Natural Resources and the National Drought Mitigation Center: “Drought, floods, extreme heat—how is climate change affecting global food security?”
- Nazim Khan, Bryan Hospital System Executive Chef, gave a talk and tasty cooking demonstration on healthy plant based meals.
- Kim Morrow, Lincoln’s Chief Sustainability Officer, and Tim Rinne, former State Coordinator of Nebraskans for Peace and Founder of Lincoln’s Hawley’s Hamlet: “Why does Lincoln have a Local Food Plan? And what does it say?”
- Rick and Matt Shortage of Harley’s HVAC and Jessica Kniefel, LES Sustainable Energy Program Administrator: “What’s So Hot About Heat Pumps?” How they work, advantages, choice of types, and incentives.

In June,

- Pastor Chris Peters led “Westminster Welcome,” Q&A for potential members as well as a call for reflection for our current members and discussion of the meaning and action of membership.

- Librarian Vicki Wood spoke on censorship and intellectual freedom, with an informative question and answer period.
- Pastor Jimmy Shelbourn: “Godspell: the Sources and the Scriptures” 2 parts with group discussion.

In July WPC members provided their uplifting Faith Stories and reflections on “Why Do I Serve.”

- Marijane England
- Karen Hoffman
- Claire Titus

August had a multicultural theme, including religious practices and music.

- Dr. Mary Young: ”Preserving Cultural Art of Native Americans.”
- Christine Pappas: “The Competitive Advantage of Tribal Governments.
- A&P Committee presented their postponed “Town Hall” regarding new processes for WPC security
- August 25: Rev. Lauren Van Ham, Climate Action Coordinator for United Religions Initiative "Global Kinship: Religions cooperating around the World.”

September programs:

- Kathy Rohwedder: “Belonging: Psalm 67,” an interactive session on inclusion of those with cognitive, developmental disabilities, with Erik Carter, PhD video.
- “Westminster Welcome” for visitors by Pastor Chris.
- Lincoln Lutheran Family Services, “Our Mission.”

October brought us

- Rachel Gibson, Vice President of Action for the Nebraska League of Women Voters explained the upcoming Nebraska ballot initiatives.
- Elder Sebit Deng told his immigration story as a journey of faith.
- Rev. Jimmy Shelbourne: “Cathedrals, Abbeys, and Kirks,” stories of the Reformation in Britain.

November

- Rev. Lauren Peters spoke about her vocational journey and work with ministers and ministry clients.
- Bruce Reyes-Chow, former Moderator of the PCUSA: “Faith Montages and Everyday Conversations,” continuing reflections from his “Everything Good about God Is True
- Marijane England led sharing of reflections on the Bruce Reyes-Chow experience at WP
- Dale Minter spoke about the journey, meaning, and the process of his photo art.

In December Advent led us to reflect on Joseph as a foster parent

- Monica DeMent of Better Living will gave a presentation on the Nebraska Foster system.
- Rev. Jimmy Shelbourn: “An exploration – starting with the response of Joseph of Nazareth to a dream – to find how hope can emerge from despair when we take the risk of faith

Respectfully submitted,
David Arunski, Moderator

Presbyterian Women at Westminster 2024 Annual Report

Do Everything in Love

These were the Biblical words that guided Presbyterian Women nationally and at Westminster in 2024.

LOVE is Connecting

- * 3 Circles met monthly for the Horizons Bible Study and fellowship.
- * The Homestead Presbytery PW Spring Gathering was at Fremont Presbyterian Church and the Fall Gathering was at First Presbyterian in Lincoln.
- * The national Churchwide Gathering (a triennium) was held in August in St. Louis with Glenna Haller and Linda Burchard attending. Both women were commissioned for the event by Pastor Chris Peters and then presented highlights of their experience to Session.
- * The PW Fall Kick Off in August gathered Circle members and guests for food, fellowship, and focus on the Horizons Bible Study for 2024-2025, our mission project, and sharing of memories from the Churchwide Gathering. The Rev. Ellen Davis gave an overview of the Bible Study, "Let Justice Roll down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation." For the first time, Westminster PW and Green@Heart united to find meaningful ways to connect the study with suggestions for action by the congregation.

LOVE is Giving

Presbyterian Women were generous beyond their giving to Westminster and PC (USA).

- * Our giving to the annual Faith Pledge, Birthday Offering, Thank Offering, and Least Coin supported medical, education, and social justice concerns across the globe.
- * The Mother's Day service featured leadership by women. PW honored all women who attended with a carnation. Carnations were delivered to Honor Circle 1.
- * Our mission focus was a congregational effort that collected over 2,500 hygiene products during September and October for the Lincoln Hygiene Network. PW assisted in packing 1,000 travel hygiene kits for the Service for Service on October 20.
- * PW's participated in the Advent Chili Cook Off.

LOVE is Gratitude

- * For the leaders of our Circles: Linda Miller, Pat Hackley, and Susie Hughes
- * For Rev. Ellen Davis for her Bible study lesson support and communication
- * For support by Westminster's clergy, staff, and members
- * For the direction provided by the Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team: Pat Hackley, Susie Hughes, Ellen Davis, Glenna Haller, Jane Hines, Linda Miller, Becky Bockrath, and Linda Burchard.
- * Finally, for the opportunity to **Do Everything in Love.**

Westminster Children, Youth and Families Committee - 2024 Annual Report

Committee Members: Sarah Baltensperger, moderator, Kelly Braswell, Stacy Graham, Brooke Larson, Stephanie Laux, Laurie Lofquist.

Staff Members: Trish Souliere, Bailey Beckman.

2024 was a great year, and we are so appreciative of our staff and volunteers, who make programming and our events possible! A special thank you to Fred & Susan Zander for the delicious meals they prepare for our youth and members on Wednesday nights, and to Ron Souliere who donates his time to our youth on Wednesdays and Sundays. Alex Souliere joined our staff this year as a part-time Middle & High School Youth Director.

We hosted events and activities each month in 2024, not only for our children and youth, but also for our congregation. Some of the events include:

- After-Service Intergenerational Socials (i.e. Pretzel Bar, Ice Cream Social)
- Youth Group Lock-In
- Westminster at the Children's Museum
- Souper Bowl Sunday
- Youth Group "Chopped" Competition
- Lent Outreach Bags delivered to families at Westminster
- Eggstravaganza
- Marathon Welcome
- Confirmation Breakfast
- Senior Recognition
- Vacation Bible School (in collaboration with Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church)
- Youth Group "Mission and Fun" Trip to Kansas City & Branson
- Westminster Summer Pool Party Splash at Star City Shores
- Blessing of the Backpacks
- Youth Group Kiddie Pool Kickball

- Building Faith Brick by Brick – Kickoff Sunday
- Youth Group Mini Golf Event
- Youth Group Roca Scary Farm
- Spooktacular
- Advent Outreach Bags delivered to children at Westminster
- Hanging of the Greens (Youth Group w/Worship & Music)
- Advent Workshop & Chili Cook-off
- Youth Group Angel Tree Shopping

Youth Group Mission Trip:

The Youth at Westminster took a "Mission and Fun" trip to Kansas City and Branson in July. Their trip included mission work at Crosslines in Kansas City, where they stocked shelves and checked out customers. They attended "Esther" at the Sight and Sound Theater in Branson, which was an incredible experience. They also visited Worlds of Fun, spent time swimming and playing games, and enjoyed the bonding time together.

Youth Room Refresh:

We were honored to receive funding through the Nissen Fund (Westminster Foundation) to renovate our Youth Room! This included new flooring and paint, as well as some needed updates to refresh the space for our youth. Thank you to our members for helping to supply items on our wish list, and have a few items left to help us decorate the newly updated space. (If you are interested in contributing, please access our list here: <https://shorturl.at/3LHqL>) A huge thank you to Matt and Brooke Larson from Change House Design & Construction for their guidance throughout the project.



Church Life Committee Ministry - 2024 Annual Report

Moderator: Kathy Rohwedder

Committee Members: Janice Rohwedder, Linda Burchard, Cathy Hershberger, Glenna Haller, Dorrie Gage, Marilyn Hood, Stanley Rediger

Staff Member: Pastor Jimmy Shelbourn

A&P Liaison: Joyce Douglas

Ministry Oversight:

- Cook-N-Carry
- Life Groups
- Visitors
- New Members
- Bereavement
- Greeters
- Prayer Chain Ministry

2024 Overview:

It has been a year full of activity for the Church Life Committee, with many key areas of ministry being served and supported by our dedicated volunteers and members. Below is an overview of our work in 2024:

1. Bereavement Ministry (Led by Kathy Rohwedder)

In 2024, the Church Life Committee provided support to families experiencing loss with 6 bereavement receptions. Volunteers served lunches and refreshments, including sandwiches, cookies, coffee, tea, and water, during gatherings following funerals. A heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers who contributed to these events.

2. Cook-N-Carry Ministry (Led by Dorrie Gage)

The Cook-N-Carry team delivered 21 meals in 2024, providing much-needed support to families during difficult times or times of celebration.

3. Visitors & New Members (Led by Linda Burchard)

Linda Burchard reached out to 42 new visitors

through email, phone, or personal letters, ensuring they felt welcomed. The committee continued to provide "visitor bags" for first-time guests, helping them feel connected. Additionally, 11 new members joined Westminster in 2024, with 7 of those coming from the Confirmation Class.

4. Prayer Chain Ministry

The Prayer Chain Ministry received and prayed over 74 prayer requests and praises throughout the year. With 128 prayer warriors, including Deacons, Elders, and the congregation, this ministry continues to be a powerful source of support and intercession for those in need.

5. Greeters Ministry (Led by Janice Rohwedder)

Janice Rohwedder expresses her appreciation to the 14 greeters and 2 backup greeters who faithfully served on Sunday mornings and during special services in 2024. Their hospitality created a warm and welcoming atmosphere for our congregation.

6. Life Groups

The Church Life Committee continued to oversee various Life Groups, which fostered fellowship and growth within the church. The groups included:

- History Buffs
- Ladies Night Out
- Lunch Bunch
- Hearts & Hands
- Faith & Cancer
- World on a Plate
- Prairie Readers

These groups remained vibrant throughout the year, providing opportunities for deeper connection and shared learning.

Church Life Committee Ministry 2024 Annual Report continued

7. Sunday Social Hour (Joint Venture with Children & Youth Committee)

In a collaborative effort with the Children & Youth Committee, Church Life helped organize intergenerational Sunday Social Hours, which included events such as Sunday Sundaes,

Special thanks to the Toppings Committee (Turner and Josh) for their dedication in planning and serving these treats.

8. Christmas Card Ministry (Led by Glenna Haller)

Glenna Haller coordinated the sending of Christmas cards to approximately 100 members who are 80 years or older or are shut-in. This gesture of love and appreciation was deeply meaningful for those who received them.

Conclusion:

The Church Life Committee continues to play a vital role in fostering community, providing support, and nurturing the spiritual life of Westminster Presbyterian Church. We are grateful for the commitment and hard work of all who contributed to these ministries in 2024. We look forward to continuing our efforts in 2025 and are excited about the new opportunities for connection, growth, and service in our church family.

Submitted by:

Kathy Rohwedder, Moderator
Church Life Committee

Worship, Music, and Fine Arts 2024 Annual Report

Our committee has added Fine Arts to our name beginning in 2025. We are working alongside A&P Committee to shepherd a presently unnamed subcommittee which will work to enhance the visual arts, using available gallery space in the building.

Our work throughout the year includes support of the music ministry, recruitment and training of ushers, setup of communion supplies, and coordinating flowers for the sanctuary. Twice each year we have major decorating of the church for the Easter and Christmas seasons. This year we lost a long-time, knowledgeable committee member and dear friend, Michael Gregg. His hard work, engineering skills, and good humor are greatly missed. At this time we especially welcome any who feel called to join our group and help fill the void.

Thanks to present members, David Anderson, April Douglas, Freda Gregg, Rita Kinkennon, Mike and Mary Tomlinson, and Diana Wild. Thanks to our staff musicians, director Dr. Mary Young and organist/accompanist John Ross. I wish to add thanks to Nancy Leavitt for believing that we could restart the handbell choir and making it happen. Thanks to those, young and older, who are not committee members but have stepped in to help as needed.

Jim Kinkennon, Moderator

Green@Heart 2024 Annual Report

Green@Heart is a sub-committee of Mission and Outreach. We meet at 6:30 PM on the third Monday of the month and visitors or new members are always welcome.

Heartfelt gratitude to committed team members Stephan Biheng, Bob Leavitt, Nancy Leavitt, Lisa McConnell, Steve McConnell, Tom Pappas, and Jimmy Shelbourn (Staff Liaison)

—Laurel Van Ham

As the sign on 27th Street brightly proclaims, Westminster is an Earth Care Congregation! Last year marked our 12th consecutive year of earning this PC(USA) certification. It is the aim of Green@Heart to engage the entire Westminster family in enjoying and caring for the gift of creation. Here are some ways that happened in 2024:

- We kept four humongous bags of Styrofoam out of the landfill and salvaged yards and yards of copper wiring from defunct string lights. We recycled the fabric of many pounds of socks and sent our unneeded sneakers off to a new career.
- We launched a Lights Out campaign for our building and with help from Joanne Gabriel and Westminster Youth, created reminder labels for light switches around the building.
- We participated in a denomination-wide survey about our congregation's carbon footprint.
- We expressed to the Homestead Presbytery commissioners our concerns about carbon emissions and encouraged their support of related General Assembly overtures.
- We celebrated creation and were charged to be good stewards in two special Earth Sunday worship services.
- We learned a lot about food as a climate justice issue concerning global food insecurity and the impact of our diet on carbon emissions. Along the way we sampled some very tasty plant-based recipes!
- We enjoyed nature-themed art work as created by Westminster Preschool students, our youth group, and photographer Patrick Grewe.
- We enjoyed nature in person with an inspiring visit to Prairie Pines Nature Preserve where we heard the story of how it became Nebraska's first Conservation Easement.
- We invited congregational participation in the Presbyterian Women's study of Environmental Justice by promoting a series of actions to complement each month's theme.
- We met with 16 other Lincoln faith communities to explore ways we can work together to care for our environment.

Now we look forward to collaborating with each of you in 2025 as we find joy in our call to be stewards of creation.

Because of YOU, *Westminster* is **green@heart**

Building and Grounds Committee 2024 Annual Report

The committee acted on many maintenance and operation issues of the building and grounds that included ongoing projects, new improvements and several unexpected repairs. The biggest issue was the announcement that we lost our insurance coverage. We were able to take out a policy but premium cost more than doubled. Covering this unexpected expense would not have been possible without the financial assistance of the Foundation. We faced two significant, unexpected repairs of the H/VAC system. One required a replacement of a compressor and the other a heat pump repair in the preschool area. The repair work was done with a contributions from the preschool budget and the Foundation. The list of significant accomplishments below would not be possible without the continued financial support of the congregation and the uncounted hours by volunteers from and outside of the committee who responded to requests for help. Again, special recognition of gratitude go out to Jim White for diligent coordination of ongoing stained glass window repair, and Fred Zander and family for replacing light bulbs in the sanctuary. Committee members in 2024 include: Rob Baltensperger, Gary Haller, Steve Hughes, Steve Larson, Bob Leavitt, Tom Pappas, Ron Souliere, Bill Roberts and moderator Tom Welstead.

Projects from 2023:

- Replacement of H/VAC compressor
- Repair heat pump system to pre-school
- Installation of wall, safety glass and security door in kindergarten/nursery room
- Landscape trimming, planting, clean-up
- Continued repair of stained glass windows (coordinated by Jim White)
- Repair roof leaks
- Continued conversion of lights to LED
- Address water drainage and basement leaking issues on west sanctuary walls
- Improve church security: additional cameras, renovate burgular alarms, remote door locks
- Repair parking lot pavement and walks
- Painting parking lot stalls
- Adding additional van accessible handicap stalls
- Installation of Knox Box (key lock box) for Lincoln Fire and Rescue

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Welstead, Moderator
Building and Grounds Committee



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2025

VOLUME 95 ISSUE 2

Personnel Committee 2024 Annual Report

Moderator: Karen Hoffman

Members: Sarah Baltensperger, Emily Killham, Bob Michaud

Your personnel committee had a busy 2024 supporting the Westminster staff through some hellos and goodbyes, all with gratitude for their service to the church and the community we live within and beside. Here are highlights in a nutshell:

We celebrated Dr. Mary Daugherty's completion of her doctorate, and remain grateful for her weekly leadership and musical gifts as Interim Choir Director.

We thanked the many volunteers who have answered the church phone and provided a welcoming presence at the front desk. A new path was explored for these needs.

We thanked and said goodbye to Preschool Director, Sarah Dankenbring, and were grateful to Assistant Director, Lindsey Reger, for her stellar, interim leadership, ahead of the joyful welcoming new Director, Laurie McCubbin.

We wished Westminster's Communication and Website Coordinator, Tracy Hoffman, the very best as she transitioned into pursuing her photography business. This led to our utilizing the services of VMA (Virtual Ministries Assistant), to help with some of Westminster's virtual needs. Kudos to Pastor Chris and Joanne Gabriel for their work with VMA.

We welcomed Dylan Douglas into the newly created role of Communications and Administration Coordinator and are grateful for the gifts she brings to Westminster.

The words "thanked, celebrated, grateful, and welcomed" permeate this report and the year that just closed. Thank you for trusting your personnel committee with this good work.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Hoffman



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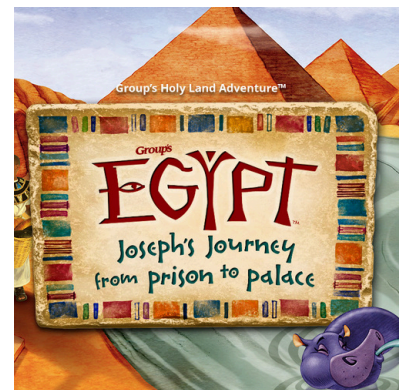
Westminster
Presbyterian Church
2110 Sheridan Blvd
Lincoln, NE 68502

VBS: Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace

June 2-6, 2025 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

8300 E Pointe Rd

Family drama.
Lies and subterfuge.
A faked death.
Palace intrigue.
Natural disaster.
A national hero.



These aren't plot elements in the latest binge-worthy show. These large-than-life events are just part of the amazing life of Joseph, son of Jacob. You can read about Joseph's journey from the prison to the palace in Genesis 37-50, or you can bring them to life at this year's Egypt: Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace VBS! At Egypt, everyone gets to explore first-hand the culture of Joseph's world. Alongside Joseph, kids will experience the heartbreaking trials, joyous victories, and tear-filled celebrations of this unique Bible hero.

Register now! <https://vbspro.events/p/gspcwpc25>