



# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2025

VOLUME 95 ISSUE 3



## 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

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## **A message to the congregation**

### Clear Perception for Coming Days: Lent 2025

Perception is the way we take in and “become aware”\* of things around us. Perception is one part of a bigger process of meaning-making, as we tie meaning and value to objects, people, places, and experiences. This Lent we will engage in a journey of faith that seeks awareness and daily perception of God’s grace and peace. In a world of sound bites, memes, deep fakes, and AI confusion, I believe we are being called to be people who perceive the world around us with wisdom, clarity, and truth that is centered on God’s word-to-us, our Lord Jesus Christ.

This Lent our emphasis on perception will be inspired by the book, *Lent in Plain Sight: A Devotion through Ten Objects* by Rev. Dr. Jill Duffield\*\*. Each week in worship, we’ll explore ties from objects in scripture to objects we might see and perceive in our own daily experience. Some worship themes will differ slightly from book themes due to the scripture of the day, but I invite and encourage you to seek out *Lent in Plain Sight* as your own devotional reading this Lenten season. As of February 24th, the book is on sale through the PCUSA online store\*\*\*, linked in the notes below.

If there was ever a time in our technological history as humans, or a time in our society’s modern history when clear perception was needed, I feel those days might be these days. Let us journey together as a church family, seeking hope, peace, justice, and truth this Lent.

*With Gratitude and Encouragement,*  
Pastor Chris

\*quoted wording is from the Oxford English Dictionary definition of perception.

\*\* Dr. Duffield currently serves as Senior Pastor at First Presbyterian, Greensboro, NC, a 2000+ member PCUSA congregation. “Plain Sight” was written while she was serving as Editor of the Presbyterian Outlook.

\*\*\*<https://www.pcusastore.com/Products/0664265464/lent-in-plain-sight.aspx>

THE MESSENGER (USPS 680-440) PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 2110 SHERIDAN BLVD., LINCOLN, NE 68502. PERIODICAL  
POSTAGE PAID AT LINCOLN NEBRASKA. \$2 SUBSCRIPTION PRICE, POSTMASTER SEND  
ADDRESS CHANGES TO WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 2110 SHERIDAN BLVD.,  
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## Session Work Summary - February 2025

Your Westminster Session would like to share the following summary of the February 11th called meeting. Pastor Chris began the meeting with the regular agenda item “Being Disciples, Being Leaders” in which he shared the story of Jack Edwards, a senator from Alabama first elected in 1965. Pastor Chris knew Edwards as a Presbyterian choir member in his 80’s who regretted some of his stances taken earlier in his political career. Edwards shared that senators during his tenure didn’t always vote together across the aisle but they would work together. They practiced civility and found real answers through compromise and cooperation. Edwards exhibited two outstanding traits: amicable leadership and openness to growth and new perspectives. Pastor Chris shared his hope that Session can also show these traits in our work, while having a faith that seeks understanding.

Elder Jaime Hemmerling, moderator of Stewardship & Finance, distributed copies of the proposed 2025 budget vs the approved and actual 2024 budget. A non-balanced budget will be presented at the Annual congregational meeting. No cost of living adjustments are being given to staff. Building & Grounds expenses are primarily due to the increased insurance cost. The Stewardship & Finance committee will be considering various cost cutting measures, but this will not affect the 2025 budget. Increased revenue is needed. Session voted to approve the proposed 2025 budget.

Two action items were approved by Session. The ministries of Mission & Social Witness, Communication & Outreach, Presbyterian Women, and the Matthew 25 Church representative recommend:

1. Reaffirmation of our covenant with Covenant Network of Presbyterians:

- To ENGAGE the church to invite all of God’s children into safe and welcoming congregational spaces of affirmation, healing, dignity and purpose.
- To EDUCATE the church to expand our welcome of LGBTQIA+ people, to affirm their gifts of ordained office, and uphold marriage equality for all.
- To EQUIP the church to bear witness to justice through advocacy and activism at the international, national and local church levels, speaking a prophetic word in anxious and divided times; and standing with others fighting hate and oppression against any of God’s children.

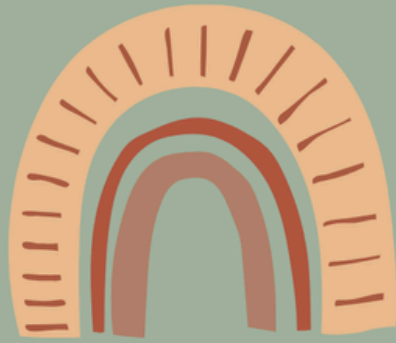
2. Session release the following statement due to current events in our nation:

“At Westminster Presbyterian Church Lincoln, we are dedicated to loving and welcoming all.

We support those in need and suffering to the best of our abilities, as Jesus Christ calls us to do in Matthew 25:35-36.

We advocate for justice, as inspired by Isaiah 1:17.”

The Future Missional Model subcommittee has identified three potential church consultants for guidance to focus our mission for the future while managing financial concerns and declining membership. The goal is to recommend one to Session at the March meeting.



# Westminster Preschool



March 2025



## PRESCHOOL NEWS

February brought all the love with Valentine's Day! As March roars in, we're focusing on Lent, Fairy Tales and Recycling. Ms. Lindsay has been busy in the Art Room with Art show prep!

Our Fall Enrollment has officially kicked off! Please contact the Preschool if you're interested in enrolling your child in 2025 school year.

## UPCOMING DATES

**March 10-14**

SPRING BREAK  
No School

**March 16-17**

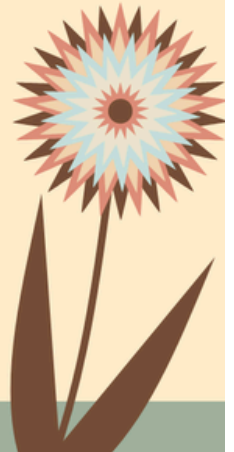
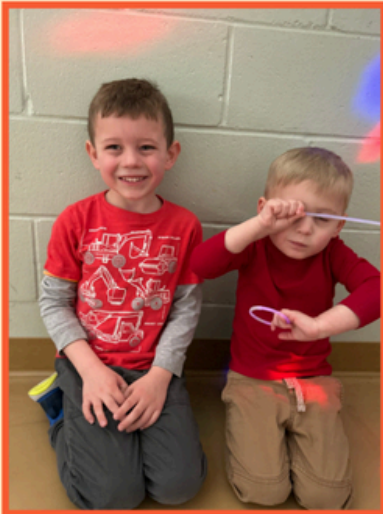
Art Show Open  
Fellowship Hall

**April 2-3**

Grandparent's Day

**April 7-11**

Week of the Young Child





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## Justice & Peace Calendar

### MARCH

- Women's History Month
- 05** Ash Wednesday
- 07** World Day of Prayer
- 08** International Women's Day
- 09** Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday
- 09** Self-Development of People Sunday
- 10-21** UN Commission on the Status of Women
- 18-24** National Agriculture Week
- 20** Mr. Rogers Day
- 22** World Water Day
- 24-30** National Farmworker Awareness Week

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## Prairie Readers

Join Prairie Readers Wednesday March 19 at 1 PM in the lounge to learn what secrets The Secret Keeper of Main Street is keeping. The author, Tricia Thomas, writes about a small but wealthy oil boom town in Oklahoma. Dale Minter will lead the discussion.

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## Advocacy Hour

Presbyterian Advocacy Hour  
Wednesday, March 26th at 11 a.m. in the Lounge  
Topic: Immigration

## Adult Education for Lent

### Jumping Off from Hebrew Scriptures into Lent

**LENT 1** - March 9 - Deuteronomy 26:1-11

An exploration of how this proto-creed in Deuteronomy is a precursor for kerygmatic proto-creeds in the New Testament (e.g. I Cor. 15:3-7)

**LENT 2** - March 16 - Genesis 12:1-9, 15:1-12

Exploring how a "broad" understanding of the Abrahamic covenant is reflected in both the O.T. and the N.T.

**LENT 3** - March 23 - Isaiah 55:1-9

The Abundant Life: What Truly Satisfies (John 4, Phil. 4:10-13)

**LENT 4** - March 30 - Psalm 32

A look at how freedom is engendered in the act of confession (I John 1:9)

**LENT 5** - April 6 - Isaiah 43:15-28

Are people to accuse God? (Micah 6:1-5)

**LENT 6** - April 13 (Palm Sunday) Isaiah 50:4-7, 53:1-7

Trying to understand how suffering can be redemptive

Sessions are in the Lounge Classroom and led by Pastor Jimmy Shelbourn.

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## Important Dates

Ash Wed., March 5	6 pm
Palm Sunday, April 13	9:30 am
Maundy Thursday, April 17	5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
Good Friday, April 18	6 pm
Easter Sunday, April 20	8 am & 10 am

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## Book Study

Marijane England will lead a study during Lent using the book, "Lent in Plain Sight" by Jill J. Duffield. The class will meet on Thursdays at noon in the Lounge, beginning on March 6, meeting weekly throughout Lent.

For a full list of upcoming events, please view our online calendar by going to <https://westminsterlincoln.org/events> or clicking the "calendar" tab on our website

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## Food Pantry Shopping List

16 rolls of toilet tissue  
6 bottles of pancake syrup - 24  
OZ  
9 bars of handsoap  
6 boxes of oatmeal  
6 bags of sugar - 1 lb / 2 lb.  
6 jars of peanut butter - 16 OZ  
14 cans of spaghettios - 16 OZ  
16 boxes of mac & cheese - 7.25  
OZ  
7 cans of chili or stew - 15 OZ  
37 cans of vegetables - 15 OZ  
15 cans of pork and beans - 16 OZ  
7 cans of spaghetti - 16 OZ  
13 boxes of jello - 3 OZ  
6 boxes of pancake mix - 32 OZ  
6 boxes of cereal  
6 bottles of cooking oil - 16 OZ  
6 boxes of soda crackers - 16 OZ  
7 packages of rice - 1 lb / 2 lb  
6 packages of noodles - 12 OZ / 1  
lb  
19 cans of tuna - 5 OZ  
28 cans of canned fruit - 15 OZ  
6 boxes of instant potatoes - 15  
OZ  
22 cans of soup - 15 OZ  
6 cans or jars of spaghetti sauce  
- 24 OZ

## Westminster Food Pantry News

In 1992, 33 years ago the Westminster Food Pantry was established. It has been a very successful mission of our church under the supervision of the Outreach Committee. So many of you have helped with the pantry and many have asked questions. Our pantry works with the People City Mission and they provide us with a list of approximately 270 items that are packed each week. Our members contribute to the project and bring donations to the church office and put in the large wooden box. However, this isn't nearly enough food to meet our needs so we shop and spend approximately \$1000 a month purchasing groceries. We are so thankful for the monetary gifts which enables us to buy the needed items. These groceries are brought to the church usually on a Sunday morning and we are thankful for people who have helped unload the car. Then the shelves are stocked and ready for the packers. We provide boxes of food for one family of four, two families of three and three families of two. On Monday morning, a man from the mission picks up our boxes and the mission distributes the food. We have thirteen teams of packers and they pack once every three months. These packers are Bob and Sheri Michaud, Marilyn Smith and Nora Hinrichs, Stacey and Colton Graham, Pat Ryan, Tom and Janelle Welstead, Kevin and Beth Anne Bryson and family, Fred and Susan Zander, Pat Hackley and Ben Kessler, Martha Kingsbury, Bruce and Margaret Sheffield, Bill and Gretchen Stelzer and family, David and Kathy Anderson and Jim and Carol Bishop. Marilyn Smith and Nora Hinrichs are the coordinators for the pantry. I know many others have helped in the past and we are so appreciative of the help. The pantry is located next to the nursery and you are always welcome to stop by and visit. For 33 years you have provided groceries, volunteered and financially supported this wonderful mission. If you are interested in helping with the pantry, please let the church know. Hopefully this mission can continue for many, many more years. Thank you.

## Volunteer Opportunity

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. (Matthew 25:35)

You are invited to join the Westminster Mission team as we live the gospel of Matthew. A team of volunteers cook, serve, and clean up for Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach the first Friday on even numbered months. We arrive around 5:00pm and ready to leave by 7:00pm. If you have questions or would like to be part of the team, please contact Gary Haller or the church office.

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## **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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## **Report of Westminster Foundation for Calendar Year 2024**

Westminster Foundation met in February, April, June, August, October, and December 2024. As of December 31, 2024, Westminster Foundation had assets totaling \$3,849,740.76 spread over 31 different endowed funds and other accounts. During the 2024 year, Foundation provided \$132,495.86 to Westminster Presbyterian Church from the following funds:

Anderson Music Fund, Bacon Music Endowment, Bukey Memorial Fund, Christian Education Fund, General Purpose Fund, Knox Family Endowment, Major Event Endowment, Mission Endowment, Youth Mission Endowment, Nissen Youth Ministry Endowment.

These funds provided general budgetary support as well as support for special projects like the Service of Service for Lincoln Hygiene Network, completion of the parking lot and sidewalk repairs, a November speaker series featuring Rev. Dr. Bruce Reyes-Chow, support for the Youth Mission Trip, and a remodel and refurbishment of the Youth Room Space.

The Foundation received \$13,549.30 in contributions from donors in 2024 to the following funds: Christian Education, Facilities, General Purpose, Great Commission, Mission, Organ Maintenance, Choir/Music/Radio/TV ministry endowment

The Foundation continues to faithfully financially support Westminster Presbyterian Church. Please reach out to any Trustee with questions about the Foundation and how you can support the Foundation in the coming year. Trustees for 2024, continuing to 2025 except where noted: David Anderson, Rob Baltensperger, Joyce Douglas (term ended 2024), Stacey Graham, Steve Hughes, Pat Leach, Erika Schafer, Gwen Thorpe, and Jim White.

New Trustees for 2025: Stan Campbell, Chip DeBuse, Deb Schorr.

Submitted by: Erika Schafer

2024 Vice-President and Secretary , 2025 President

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## Meet the Church Mice

Meet Calvin and Knox, the two clever mice who have called Westminster Presbyterian Church their home for as long as they can remember. With their soft fur and twitching whiskers, they've scurried through every nook and cranny of the church, from the grand sanctuary to the dusty corners of the basement. They've seen it all, quietly observing the history that's been made within these walls. Calvin, the older of the two, is wise and steady. His favorite spot is in the loft above the sanctuary where he watches the choir rehearse. He remembers the day the cornerstone of the church was laid, and he's seen the church grow and change through the years. Knox, on the other hand, is a bit of a rascal—quick, energetic, and always looking for an adventure. He's got a knack for finding hidden crumbs at church gatherings and is always in the middle of the action. While Calvin tends to reflect on the past, Knox is more interested in the present, observing the lively baptisms, confirmations, and weddings that take place. He especially loves the joyful noise of children running through the halls, their laughter filling the air. They've also witnessed the difficult times, like the empty pews during the COVID-19 pandemic, when the church felt quieter than usual. But through it all, they've been there, always steady, always ready to witness the next chapter in the life of Westminster.

In their own little way, Calvin and Knox are part of the story of Westminster Presbyterian Church. They've seen generations come and go, and yet the spirit of the place endures. Through every joyous baptism, every heartfelt wedding, and every shared meal, they've watched as the church has continued to be a place of comfort, faith, and community. Calvin and Knox may be small, but they've had front-row seats to the big moments of life, and in their hearts, they carry the church's history with them every day. You'll be hearing more from Calvin and Knox in the future.





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## Youth News

### **W3 Welcome to Westminster on Wednesdays**

5:30 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, dinner is at 6.

### **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 Continues | Sunday, March 23**

5:00 PM–7:30 PM

Everybody's favorite event Chopped: The Feeding of the Five Judges is back again! 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.

### **Eggstravaganza | Wednesday, April 16**

5:30 PM–7:30 PM

Our annual Easter egg hunt will take place on Wednesday, April. Children of all ages 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 | Sunday, April 20**

9:15 AM

Join us after the service on April 20 to enjoy fresh cinnamon rolls between the 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM services.

### **Youth Group: Service at Matt Talbot | Sunday, April 20**

On April 20, the WPC Youth Group and their families are invited to help serve at Matt Talbot. We need volunteers to assist with cooking, serving, and clean-up for dinner for 100-130 people. Cooks should arrive around 3:30 p.m., those who are serving arrive around 4:45 p.m. After dinner, volunteers clean the kitchen, wash dishes, and sweep the floor, usually finishing around 7 p.m. If you are willing to help with this service, please sign-up at <https://shorturl.at/Eo99R>.

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## **Marathon Support | Sunday, May 4 7:00 AM**

The Annual Lincoln Marathon course passes directly by Westminster, providing us the opportunity to be welcoming. All Westminster members are invited to extend our hospitality by staffing a welcome table to distribute donut holes, water, Gatorade, and bananas to runners and spectators.

## **W3 (Westminster on Wednesdays) Year End Worship | Wednesday, May 14**

6:00 PM-7:30 PM

W3 invites all WPC families and friends to a Year End Worship Service and Potluck at Antelope Park.

## **Youth Group: End of Year Party | Sunday, May 18**

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

The Youth Group will celebrate the end of the school year with an afternoon party on Sunday, May 18.

## **Youth Group Mission Trip | June 12-15**

Register now to join our summer trek to serve at Crosslines in Kansas City, see Daniel at the Sight and Sound Theater in Branson, and spend a day at a theme park. <https://shorturl.at/FlGnt>.

## **VBS: Joseph's Journey | July 14-18**

9:00 AM-12:00 PM

It is time to register for VBS! Sign your children up to enjoy an interactive, energizing, Bible-based good time as they are called together to serve God. In just a few weeks, we will take a journey back to ancient Egypt and find out what happened to Joseph as he went from Pharaoh's prison to the palace. Kids will see, hear, touch, and even taste what it was like to live in Pharaoh's empire while learning about how God was with Joseph in good times and bad.

Children and their families are invited to join us in worship on Sunday, July 20 at 9:30 for the children to share their week with a special musical performance.

Adults and youth are invited to join the kids on this epic journey. Whatever your interest or gift is, we have a place for you! Everyone can register at <https://vbspro.events/p/gspcwpc25>. Contact Trish Souliere by email, [trish@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto:trish@westminsterlincoln.org), or by text or phone, 402-570-0163 with any questions.

## **Synod School | July 19-25**

*Storm Lake, Iowa*

Synod School is a learning and personal enrichment experience for people of all ages in an environment of hospitality, healing, and hope. The week is designed for laity, clergy, individuals and families with classes and activities for adults, youth, and children.

## **Westminster Pool Party | August 7**

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## **Youth Group: Trienneum | July 28-31**

In July 2025, the Presbyterian Church (USA) will welcome thousands of its high school age youth and their adult youth workers to Louisville, Kentucky for four days of worship, recreation, bible study, outreach, and faith formation all around the theme of “As If We Were Dreaming”. The registration fee is \$199. If you are interested, contact Trish Souliere by email, [trish@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto:trish@westminsterlincoln.org), or by text or phone, 402-570-0163

## **VBS 2025 Egypt: Joseph’s Journey from Prison to Palace**

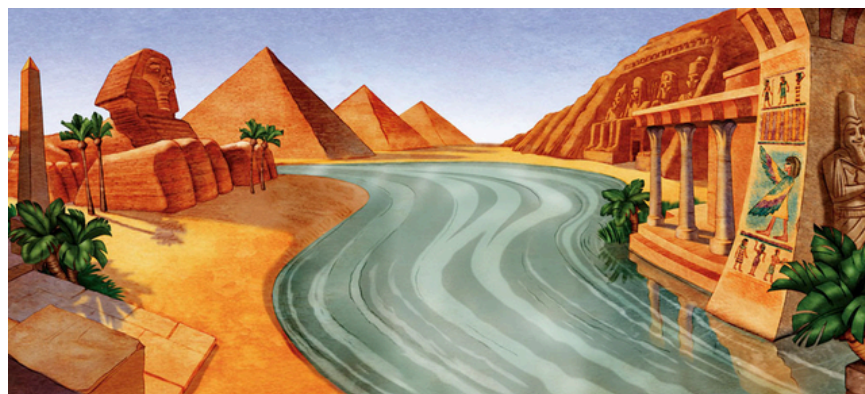
July 14-18, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

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.

Children and their families are invited to join us in worship on Sunday, July 20 at 9:30 for the children to share their week with a special musical performance.

Adults and youth are invited to join the kids on this epic journey. Whatever your interest or gift is, we have a place for you! You can build sets, create science/craft projects before VBS, work directly with the kids, provide materials, serve snacks, perform skits, or something else entirely.

Everyone can register at <https://vbspro.events/p/gspcwpc25> or contact Trish Souliere by email, [trish@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto:trish@westminsterlincoln.org), or by text or phone, 402-570-0163, to explore the options.



## **Call for Eggstravaganza Donations**

We need your help with the annual Eggstravaganza event, coming up on April 16. We are seeking donation bags of candy and/or any other small handouts that will fit into plastic eggs for the children. Look for a collection tote at the top of the steps by the East entrance. If you have any questions, please contact Trish at [trish@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto:trish@westminsterlincoln.org).



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Westminster  
Presbyterian Church  
2110 Sheridan Blvd  
Lincoln, NE 68502

## Economic Climate Justice

The Presbyterian Women’s Bible Study for 20224-2025 is on Environmental Justice. We continue to offer congregation-wide support with the study topic for March—Economic Climate Justice.

### Fun Facts?

👍 Yay for us! Between 2000 and 2023 the United States reduced its per person CO2 emissions by 32%!

👎 Boo for us. America’s per person CO2 emissions are still 285% of the global average.

“Studies show that the Global North is responsible for a whopping 92% of excess greenhouse gases.”

### Cause and Effect

🔥 Climate change is a threat multiplier for common weather patterns. Even wealthy and powerful countries suffer the effects—witness America’s extreme floods, droughts, wildfires, and hurricanes. But the damage is much worse where there are no funds for adaptation or where conditions make escape necessary—picture migration caused by famine or islands overcome by sea rise.

### What can we do about it?

💰 Here at home we can reduce our reliance on combustion by switching to solar energy, heat pumps, electric vehicles, and induction cooktops. But to make the kind of impact that’s needed we also need to support global efforts like the Paris Accord and the Green Climate Fund. So this month’s congregation-wide action is the same as February's: Our collective voices make a difference. Speak Up!

Because of YOU, *Westminster* is green@heart

