

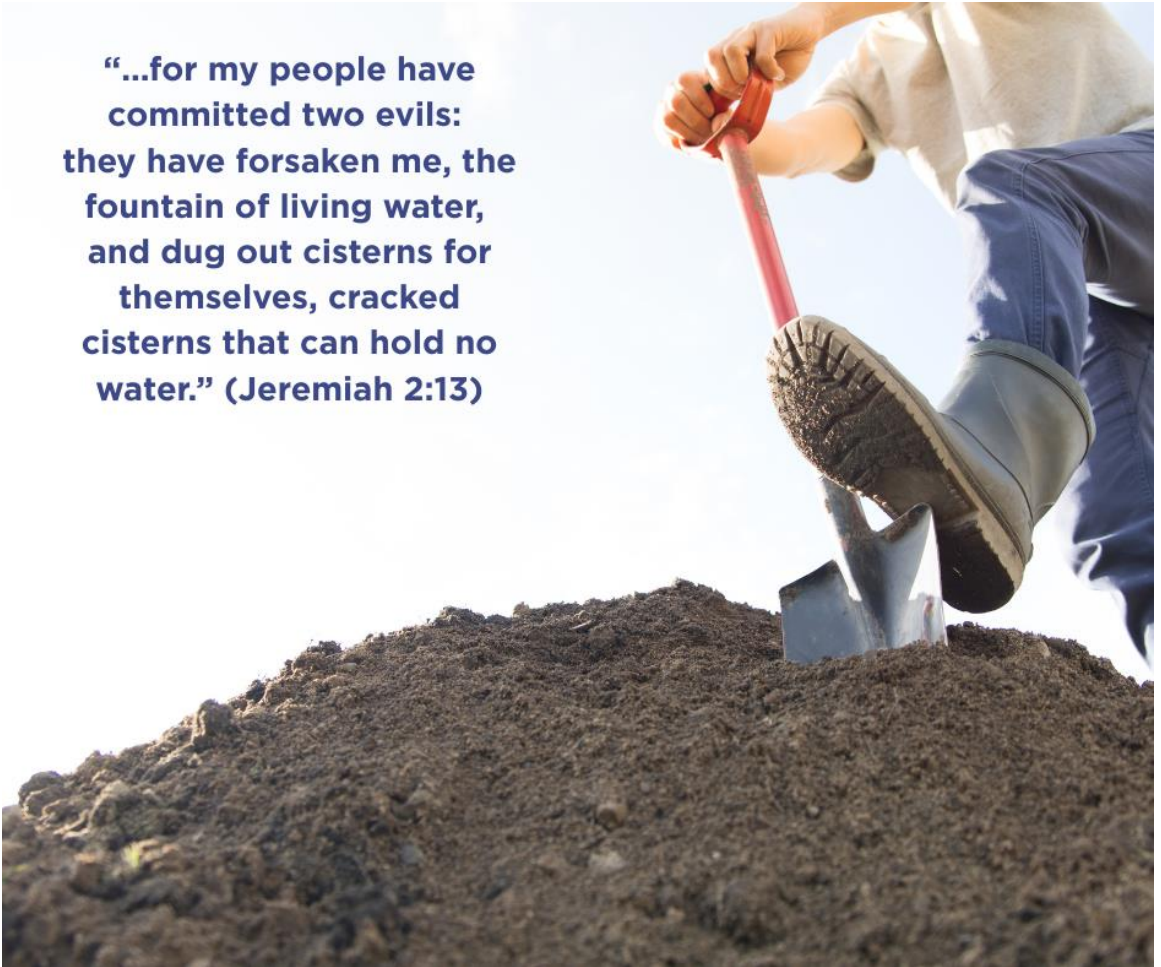
Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

August 31, 2025

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

“...for my people have
committed two evils:
they have forsaken me, the
fountain of living water,
and dug out cisterns for
themselves, cracked
cisterns that can hold no
water.” (Jeremiah 2:13)



Please rise in body or spirit for the parts of worship with an asterisk () before the title.
Parts of worship that are ***bolded and italicized*** are for all worshippers to read together aloud.

Prelude

“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian” arr. John Carter

Welcome

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

Session Update

Elder Jim Kinkennon

*Call to Worship (Inspired by Hebrews 13:1-2, 8)

Elder Marybell Avery

One: God calls us to service,

Many: rather than honor.

One: God call us to love the unknown,

Many: rather than the familiar.

One: We come to this time of worship,

Many: trusting in the grace of Jesus Christ,

One: who is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Let us worship God with hope!

*Hymn #39

Great is Thy Faithfulness

*Call to Confession

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

*Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, forgive us, for we pat ourselves on the back while mocking the humble. We choose to believe we are self-sufficient rather than trusting in your strength. Open us to your Spirit, that we might serve all people without regard to how others might think of such serving. Lord, renew us and help us devote ourselves to your honor alone. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Time of Silent Confession

Lord, hear our prayer. ***Amen.***

*Response to Confession #473

Shepherd Me, O God (Refrain x2)

Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,

Beyond my fears, from death into life.

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

... Believe and share the good news!

In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!

*Response of Praise #591

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah (Refrain)

Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

*Passing of the Peace

Rev. Chris Peters

Please share a sign of welcome and inclusion that is mutually comfortable (high five, handshake, fist/elbow bump) with your neighbors. At this time, children in K-5th Grade are invited to be dismissed to Faith Village, our children's education time. Children's Ministry volunteers will be located by the southeast corner of the sanctuary to guide children to Faith Village. Children may be picked up after the service in the children and youth area on the lower level, through the doors at the base of the east entrance stairs.

May the peace of Christ be with you. ***And also with you.***

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Hebrew Prophets

Jeremiah 2:4-13

O.T. pg. 699

Gospel Reading

Luke 14:1, 7-14

N.T. pg. 77

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

Sermon

"The People Crack"

Rev. Chris Peters

*Hymn

All Who Are Thirsty

(Brenton Brown & Glen Robertson)

Congregation Sing the Chorus



Come, Lord Je - sus, come.
Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

Come, Lord Je - sus, come.
Ho - ly, Spir - it, come.



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Come, Lord Je - sus, come.
Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

Prayers of the People / The Lord's Prayer

Elder Marybell Avery

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.

Invitation to the Offering

Offering & Special Music

“Come as You Are”
(Words and Music by David Crowder, Matt Maher, and Ben Glover)
John Ross and Wes Hansmeyer, duet

*Hymn #606

Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

*Hymn #453

Open Your Ears, O Faithful People

*Charge & Benediction

Rev. Chris Peters

Postlude

“Improvisation on ORA LABORA”

Today's words for worship, or liturgy, are adapted by Pastor Chris from the resource *Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion, Year C vol. 2*; Rev. Dr. Kimberly Bracken Long, Editor. Fun fact for the holiday weekend: Dr. Long was one of Pastor Chris's professors in seminary.

Westminster welcomes and values children in worship. All kids and their families are welcome to pick up a Children's Worship bag or blue Infant Bag in the Narthex (Sheridan Blvd. foyer). A nursery is available for kids under 5. 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: We have resumed giving through an offering in our worship service, leaning on the theology of offering as a response of gratitude to God's word in worship. Checks may be made out to Westminster Presbyterian. General donations go to support the annual budget of the church, which includes Children/Youth support, staffing, building use, worship, and mission. You may also place an offering in our Giving Baskets following the service. These are located near the exits. Look for the baskets and signs that read "Giving Basket." Ushers monitor the baskets and collect the offerings following the service. **For online giving,** scan the QR code.

Ministers: The whole congregation

Pastors: Rev. Chris Peters & Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

Liturgist: Elder Marybell Avery

Music Director: Wes Hansmeyer **Organist:** John Ross

Director of Children & Youth: Trish Souliere

Greeters: Stephanie & Scott Rogers

Ushers: Erika Schafer, Diana Wild, Greg Hershberger

Dishwashers: Lisa & Steve McConnell

Sanctuary Audio & Livestream: Stephan Biheng, Dale Minter





*"I am the vine,
you are the branches . . ."*

The week of August 31, 2025

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

On Sept. 7, the 10 AM worship service will begin in the sanctuary, and then move to Fellowship Hall. It's the beginning of the "Season of Creation," a multi-denomination season of valuing our world as a gift from God. A WPC Intergenerational Celebration Trivia game will take place after the service in Fellowship Hall. Adult Ed. will not meet, so all can participate in the trivia contest.

Adult Ed. in Sept., 11:15 AM

Sept. 14—You are invited by friends at First Presbyterian Church to share in a potluck and continue a relaxed conversation with Jeff Chu about the themes in his book, *Good Soil: The Education of an Accidental Farmhand*. What is the earth trying to tell us, if we'll only stop and listen? **Please RSVP "Good Soil" to lbvanham@gmail.com by Monday, September 8.**

Sept. 21--Edison McDonald returns to Adult Education to continue an exploration of regenerative agriculture as introduced during Climate Jeopardy last spring.

Sept. 28—Regina Sullivan, Executive Director of the Marvilee Non-Profit in Lincoln, Nebraska, is a passionate advocate for youth mental health and substance abuse prevention. Inspired by the loss of her son Marvin Lee Sullivan to an accidental overdose, Regina founded Marvilee to support families affected by addiction and mental health challenges. Under her leadership, Marvilee offers life skills training, mentorship, job opportunities, and community resource connections, while also working to reduce the stigma surrounding substance abuse. A key initiative includes the annual All-School Graduation Party, celebrating youth achievement and providing support. Regina also serves with organizations like the EducationQuest Foundation, the Malone Community Center, and the 1895 Project Board of Directors. A 2025 Inspire Award nominee, she champions Narcan awareness and access, aiming to build stronger, more supportive communities for young people.

Let's Celebrate Our Beloved Pets



Who has the cutest, funniest or best costume? Bring a photo (8x10 or smaller) of your entry in the contest with your name and the name of your pet written on the back to church to be displayed in the art gallery. Winners will be chosen by ballot. First, second and third place prizes will be awarded to Dogs, Cats and Others. All pets are eligible. Photos of pets who have crossed over the Rainbow Bridge are welcomed to be displayed but will not be in the contest. **Entries are accepted Sept 5 through Sept 25.** Place your photos in the Paw Box in the Garden Room. No frames, please. **Winners will be announced and prizes awarded on October 26** after the service in Fellowship Hall. Don't have a pet?

Join us at the awards ceremony for special human treats, anyway. You won't have to do a trick, roll over or beg.

Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will meet at Ollie & Hobbes on Tues., Sept. 2 at 11:30 AM. Join us for good food and lively conversation!

FILL 'ER UP....The Green Barrel is Back

Presbyterian Women at Westminster are partnering again with the Lincoln Hygiene Network to collect new and unopened essential hygiene products. These products are crucial for the dignity, well-being, and health of our Lincoln area neighbors. The barrel is located at the top of the stairs at the East Entrance during September and October.

The most needed items are body soap, deodorant, and period products. A full list of items is near the barrel. The items serve all ages across our city. Our GOAL: 3 Times Full. Please partner with us with kindness for our neighbors.



Westminster Choir has started Wednesday evening rehearsals from 6:30 to 8:00 PM in the sanctuary. Come and sing with us!

Private Prairie Tour | Saturday, September 6 | 10:00 AM.

You are Invited by Pat Leach and Bill Oberg to a private tour of their prairie. Explore their native Nebraska landscape and learn about why these special 75 acres have been designated a conservation easement. To sweeten our time together, Pat and her BFF Karen Hoffman are baking scones and cookies to enjoy along with a cup of coffee. RSVP "Prairie" to lbvanham@gmail.com by Monday, September 1. Their home is about 10 miles or 20 minutes from Westminster. Please indicate whether you are interested in carpooling and whether you would be willing to drive.

An Evening Conversation with author Jeff Chu and radio host Pat Leach Friday, September 12 | 7:00 PM.

As a gift to the community, First Presbyterian Church offers this discussion of the national best seller, *Good Soil: The Education of an Accidental Farmhand*. "Call it God, family, community . . . love is what this book is about." A reception will follow with an opportunity to meet the author and get your book signed! For more information and to save your seat, please register at FPCLINCOLN.ORG/JEFFCHU by Monday, September 8.

Faith and Cancer Support Group

Author and cancer survivor, Lynn Eib, describes the feeling of hearing the diagnosis of cancer like "driving down the road and hitting a patch of 'black ice.' I am out of control--scary!" The Westminster Cancer Support group is an informal place of safety from 'black ice' where we share laughter, burdens and blessings. We meet on the 3rd Tuesday each month at 10 AM in the Church Library. All are welcome. Bruce Sheffield 402-303-2363.

Presbyterian Women's Circles Begin

Just like kindergarten classes, PW's return, sit in Circles, and find friends, purpose, and learning. Any Presbyterian woman is welcome to join us.

This year's 2025-2026 Bible study is "Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ." Surely, we all need a bit of these qualities in our stressed and anxious lives! The author is Rhashell Hunter.

Circle 3: Wednesday, September 3 at 10:00 am, Lounge

Circle 4: Tuesday, September 2 at 6:30 pm (usually Mondays), Parlor

Circle 5: Tuesday, September 9 at 10:00 am, Lounge

(For information contact Linda Burchard at 402-477-5572)

Photography Collection by John Janovy

In keeping with Westminster's upcoming September Creation Celebration, the Westminster Art Gallery will be displaying photographs by one of its members, John Janovy, Jr. John's show will be a collection of photographs taken around Holmes Lake here in Lincoln. The show will be on display from September 4 - 28. Framed images are available for purchase.

Enjoy John's photographic perspective of Holmes Lake as you wander down the Westminster corridor.

If you have recently given a donation to the Church or Foundation through Fidelity Investments, would you please contact Dennis@Westminsterlincoln.org and let him know the purpose of your donation and the amount, so he can apply it to your giving statement. Fidelity does not supply the donor on the check.

Save the Date – Ministry Architects Listening Groups & Initial Report!

Monday, September 29 – Wednesday, October 1, 2025

Week Beginning August 31

<u>Sun. (Aug. 31)</u> 10 AM Worship, Sanctuary, Faith Village 12 Noon Sudanese Worship	6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
<u>Mon. (Sept. 1)</u> Labor Day, Church Offices Closed	<u>Thurs. (Sept. 4)</u> 6 PM Lincoln Continentals Rehearsal, Sanctuary
<u>Tues. (Sept. 2)</u> 9:45 AM Staff Meeting 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch 5 PM Adult Ed, Conference Room 6:30 PM Circle 4, Parlor	<u>Sat. (Sept. 6)</u> 10 AM Tour of the Prairie
<u>Wed. (Sept. 3)</u> 10 AM Circle 3, Lounge 1 PM Hearts & Hands, Library 5:30 PM W3 Wednesday Activities, Youth Areas	<u>Sun. (Sept. 7)</u> 10 AM Worship with Communion, Faith Village Equal Exchange Coffee/Chocolate 11:15 AM Intergenerational Celebration Trivia, Fellowship Hall 12 Noon Sudanese Worship

Worship services are available on-line at this link:

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