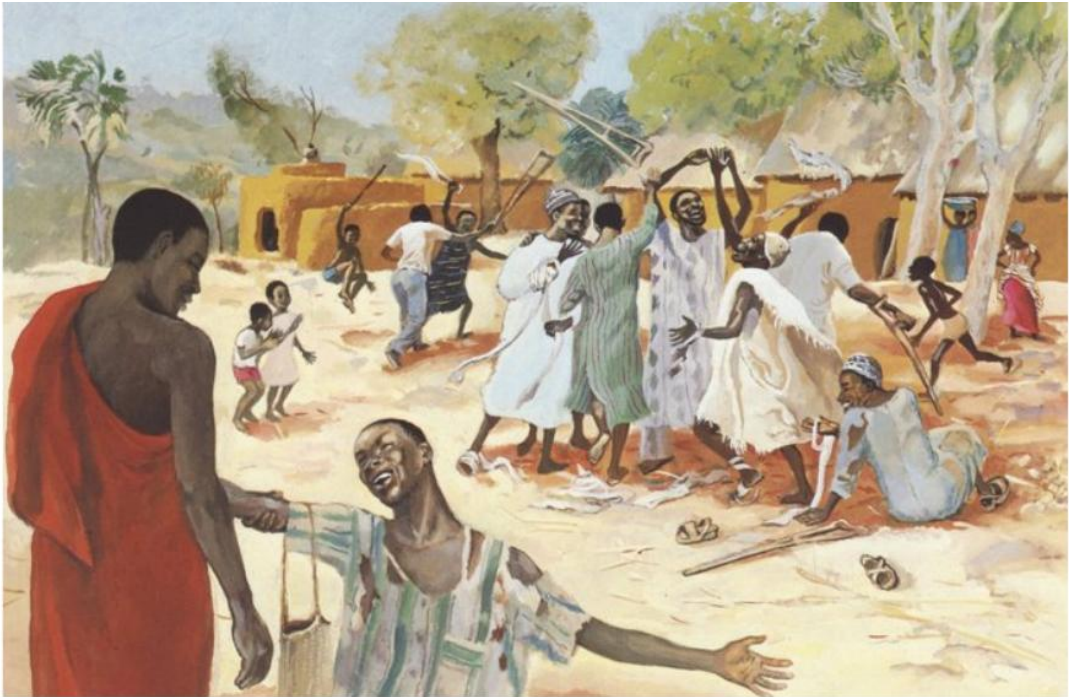


Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

October 12, 2025

18th Sunday after Pentecost



From the Vanderbilt Art Lectionary: “Jesus Mafa, Cameroon.

Each of the (scripture) readings was selected and adapted to dramatic interpretation by the community members. Photographs of their interpretations were made, and these were then transcribed to paintings.

This beautiful rendering of the healing of the ten lepers sets the tone as one of joyous celebration. Jesus has just restored the health of ten people and only one has returned in thanksgiving, but this fact from the story does not impact the painting negatively. The one has knelt before Jesus to offer his gratitude while the other nine rejoice in the background.”

(JESUS MAFA. Healing of the ten lepers, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. [From: Vanderbilt Art Lectionary Library](http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr). [retrieved October 9, 2025]. Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr> (contact page: <https://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr/contact>).

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

“O God Beyond All Praising” arr. Robert Buckley Farlee

Welcome

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

Stewardship Moment

Elder Sarah Baltensperger

***Call to Worship** (Psalm 66:1, 5-6, Adapted from The Message scripture paraphrase)

One: Altogether now – applause for God!

Many: Sing song to the tunes of God's glory. Set glory to the rhythms of God's praise!

One: Take a good look at God's wonders – they'll take your breath away.

Many: The Lord converted sea to dry land; travelers crossed the river on foot. Now isn't that cause for a song?

One: Let us worship our awesome God with joyful voices!

***Hymn #616**

Our God Is an Awesome God

***Call to Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, when we are in need, we cry out for your mercy and healing. Yet, we confess that too often, we are confident in our own strength. We take the blessings to which we feel entitled and continue on our way, rather than returning to you in worship and praise. Jesus, have mercy on us! Help us to grow in compassion for all people. Redirect our paths so that we return to you, offering our gratitude, now and always. Amen.

***Time of Silent Confession**

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

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

... Believe and share the good news!

In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!

***Response of Praise #437**

You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy!

You are the Lord, giver of mercy!

You are the Christ, giver of mercy!

You are the Lord, giver of mercy!

***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.

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

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Epistle Lesson

2 Timothy 2:8-15

N.T. pg. 212

Gospel Lesson

Luke 17:11-19

N.T. pg. 80

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

Sermon

“Those Who Are Grateful”

Rev. Chris Peters

Hymn #157

I Danced in the Morning

***Litany Affirmation of Faith** (from a Brief Statement of Faith of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.)

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

One: In whom do we trust?

All: We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

One: Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,

All: teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,

One: healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,

All: eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

One: In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,

All: we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

Prayers of the People / Lord's Prayer

Elder Sarah Baltensperger

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.

Hearts and Hands Blessing / Invitation to the Offering

Offering & Choral Anthem

“Sing to the Lord” – Mary McDonald

This uplifting anthem expresses joyful gratitude, calling us to celebrate God's goodness and faithfulness through vibrant song.

*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 #724

O Jesus, I Have Promised (verses 1,2 & 4)

*Charge & Benediction

Rev. Chris Peters

Postlude

“God Leads Us Along” arr. Larry Shackley

Liturgy Notes and Sources

Our Call to Worship is adapted from *The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language*, Eugene H. Peterson, 1993. *Did you know?* The Message is a beloved scriptural paraphrase by a PC(USA) Pastor! Other liturgy is adapted from, *The Presbyterian Outlook: Worship Liturgy for Sunday, October 12th, 2025* by Rev. Stephanie Sorge, Pastor, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Harrisonburg, Virginia. The Affirmation of Faith is from The PC(USA)’s *Brief Statement of Faith*, a confession of faith written for the time of reunification of the northern and southern main branches of Presbyterianism, which formed the PC(USA). It was adopted into the *Book of Confessions* in 1991.

Flowers are given by Valerie Wachter in remembrance of Ron and in celebration of their wedding anniversary.

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 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 Sarah Baltensperger

Music Director: Wes Hansmeyer

Organist: John Ross

Director of Children & Youth: Trish Souliere

Greeters: Kathy Phillip & Paul Korslund

Ushers: Barbara Wright-Chollet, Joyce Douglas, Joan Roberts, Kathy Anderson

Dishwashers: Lisa & Steve McConnell

Sanctuary Audio & Livestream: Dale Minter & Stephan Biheng





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

The week of Oct. 12, 2025

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

Church History Series for Westminster Adult Education

Sundays at 11:15 a.m., Lounge

October 12 "Joan of Arc: Her Life and Afterlife"

Presented by Dr. Carole Levin, UNL History Professor Emerita

Joan of Arc is one of the most famous people of the 15th century and one of the most famous women in history. A peasant girl who grew up in France during the 100 Years War with England, in 1429 she heard the voices of saints, who told her to ask the dauphin (the king's eldest son) for an army. In attempting to retake Paris, Joan was captured and tried by the English for witchcraft and sorcery. In 1431, she was burned at the stake, and in 1920 she was canonized. This talk discusses Joan's life and her image and reputation in the centuries after her death.

Hearts and Hands

We are grateful for the work of Hearts and Hands this past year to knit and crochet items to be donated to People's City Mission. The yearly count: Hats-158, Scarves-63, Hat/Scarf Sets-5, Knitted & Crocheted Animals-14 (small cats, bunnies, duck), Knitted Bears-46, Cotton Knitted Baby Bibs-4, Small Blanket-1, Headbands-6, Mufflers-7. Those participating include: Francy Scheele, Dorrie Gage, Jeanne Atkinson, Suzy Giannoble, Cathy Hershberger, Donna Wyatt, Marilyn Maude, Dorothy Smiley, Joyce Douglas, Carolyn McCall and Linnea Fredrickson. They are always eager to welcome new members to their group. They meet every Wed. at 1 pm in the church library.

Giving Continues to Fill the Barrel

Our contributions continue as we fill the second barrel for the Lincoln Hygiene Network. The project continues through October. Every bar of soap, toothbrush, razor, or deodorant stick helps someone in Lincoln find dignity.

Preschool / WPC Kids Pumpkin Patch Event

Westminster's Preschool invites WPC families to join them at Pearson's Pumpkin Place on October 19, 1-4 PM. There are lots of activities to enjoy, including a tire playground, jumping pillow, hamster wheels, corn box, hay fort and more. Preschool friends will be there from 1-4 PM on the 19th but families are welcome to come any time. Discounted tickets for the event are available from Pearson's here: <https://pearsonspumpkinplace.ticketspice.com/field-trips-at-pearsons-2025>.

Prairie Readers will meet on October 15 at 1 PM in the lounge. This is a special gathering since Pat Leach, the host of *All About Books* and former head of the Lincoln City Library system will be our guest. Pat will review selected fiction and nonfiction titles from the American Library Association Notable Books for Adults list. Everyone is welcome.

WPC Youth Group Service at Matt Talbot | October 19 | 3:30 PM-7 PM On October 19, the WPC Youth Group and their families are invited to help serve at Matt Talbot. We will need volunteers to assist with cooking, serving, and cleanup for dinner for 130-150 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. Please watch the eVine for more information on how to help.

Pet Picture Contest

Which pet is the cutest, funniest or has the best costume?

Photo entries in the pet contest are displayed on the walls. They are numbered to avoid favoritism. Vote for the the best dressed are available in the please! Drop it in 22, 2025. Treats for after the church service in Fellowship Hall. Photos can be picked up afterwards.



cat and dog and other Garden Room. Only the Paw Box in the Garden Room. Voting closes Wed., Oct. people and prizes for winners will be awarded on Oct. 26



of the art gallery. cutest, funniest and in the show. Ballots one ballot per person,

Spooktacular | October 29 | 5:30 PM-7:30 PM

We are moving Spooktacular inside! On Wednesday, October 29 from 5:30-7:00, put on your best costume and come to Fellowship Hall at WPC to play games, trick or treat, and have a frightfully fun evening. See the October Messenger for more information.

October tips from Presbyterians for Earth Care and Green@Heart:

Eco-friendly Celebrations and Traditions in a Season of Giving

We are a consumer-driven society and oftentimes, in our attempts to celebrate with decorations, parties, and gifts, we damage, even desecrate, creation. As we conscientiously

work to conserve natural resources by using eco-friendly products, sustainable and local foods, we use less water, impose less on our land, and use fewer minerals. Remember the three Rs, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle that contribute to treading more gently? The first of these is reduce, which is to make less, so we want to make less our impact on creation in all that we do, less in our consuming, especially throughout our upcoming holidays of Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

How can we start?

Ditch the plastic and beware of greenwashing, a deceptive marketing practice where companies misleadingly present their products, services, or overall operations as more environmentally friendly or sustainable than they actually are.

These pillars of creation care begin with making less, making less stuff, imposing fewer demands on the earth, spending less time buying things, while creating thoughtful, welcoming hospitality for friends and family. Let us know what you do to entertain while treading gently on the earth.



Presbyterian Advocacy Hour Join the monthly online gatherings each fourth Wed. of the month - hosted by the Presbyterian Church (USA)! We meet together in the lounge at 11am. The Presbyterian Advocacy Hour brings together committed people of faith each month to fill your batteries up with information and ways to act on the most pressing issues. Topic for October is LGBTQIA+. Each month we dive deeply into the areas of concern and help provide the knowledge and resources you need to take effective and focused action. We start each session with spiritual grounding and then move to in-depth analysis of key issues. There is an additional and optional 20 minutes for the WPC group to reflect and discuss networking, movement-building, and community building. Join us on October 22 in the Lounge from 11am to 12:20pm.

Week Beginning October 12

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| <u>Sun. (Oct. 12)</u> 10 AM Worship; Faith Village 11:15 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship 7 PM Youth, Roca Scary Farm | 5:30 PM Worship Music & Fine Arts, Fellowship Hall 6 PM Mission & Social Witness, Lounge 6:15 PM A & P, Conference Room |
| <u>Mon. (Oct. 13)</u> 11 AM Explorers Bible Study, Library 6:30 PM Children, Youth & Family, Zoom 7 PM Recovery Group | <u>Wed. (Oct. 15)</u> 1 PM Hearts & Hands, Library 1 PM Prairie Readers, Lounge 5:30 PM W3 Wednesday Activities, Youth Areas 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary |
| <u>Tues. (Oct. 14)</u> 9:45 AM Staff Meeting, Conference Room 10 AM Circle 5, Lounge 4 PM Stewardship/Finance, Fellowship Hall 5 PM Building & Grounds, Lounge 5 PM Personnel, Zoom 5 PM Church Life, Conference Rm | <u>Thurs. (Oct. 16)</u> 6 PM Lincoln Continentals Rehearsal, Sanctuary 7 PM Camera Club, Lounge <u>Sun. (Oct. 19)</u> 10 AM Worship; Faith Village 11:15 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship 3:30 PM Youth, Matt Talbot |

Worship services are available on-line at this link:

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