

# Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

March 8, 2026

Third Sunday in Lent

Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday



## PW Purpose

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves:

- to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,
- to support the mission of the church worldwide,
- to work for justice and peace, and
- to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

Anyone who supports the Purpose in any way is participating in Presbyterian Women.

\*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**

“Allegro”, Mvmt. 1 from *Sonata in D* by W.A. Mozart  
Brenda Wristen & John Ross, piano

**Welcome**

Please sign and pass the connection pad.

**Landscaping Update**

Tom Pappas and Gary Haller

**\*Call to Worship**

Elder Rachel Hoffman

One: We gather today, aware of our weariness. We are wanderers and seekers, longing for a place where we are home.

***All: We gather, moved by the stories of Ruth and Naomi and finding our own stories in their journeys of loss, diaspora and redemption.***

One: We gather before the God of creation, whose love defies all human borders, limitations and biases.

***All: We gather to worship in the promise of that redemption.***

One: Let us lift our voices to the one who lifts us from the margins, emboldening us to be ambassadors of hope in this world; to the one who prepares a home and place for us at the table.

**\*Hymn #401**

**Here in This Place**

**\*Call to Confession**

Deacon Claire Titus

**\*Prayer of Confession**

***Lord, notwithstanding your presence of hope in our lives, we acknowledge that we often ignore the cries of voices around us. We close our hearts and eyes to the pain of others. We feel exhausted and we disregard those who don't feel welcomed in our midst. Forgive us. Help us to be like Ruth, open to bonds beyond blood; to be like Naomi, determined and wise; to be like Boaz, compassionate and just. May we lean into our call to embrace the most vulnerable among us. We pray this in the name of the one whose life embodied this commitment, Jesus of Nazareth. 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 #544**  
***Bless the Lord, my soul,  
and bless God's holy name.  
Bless the Lord, my soul,  
who leads me into life.***

**Bless the Lord**

**\*Passing of the Peace**

*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-5<sup>th</sup> 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.***

Elder Rachel Hoffman

**Prayer for Illumination**

Rev. Lauren Peters

**Scripture**

Old Testament Reading Ruth 1:1-18  
The Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

O.T. pg. 241

**Sermon** "The Relationships We Weave"

Rev. Lauren Peters

**\*Hymn #183**

**Come to Me, O Weary Traveler**

**Prayers of the People / The Lord's Prayer**

Deacon Claire Titus

***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.***

**Presbyterian Women's Lifetime Membership Recognition**

Glenna Haller, Pat Hackley, Susie Hughes

**Invitation to the Offering**

Deacon Claire Titus

**Offering & Choir Anthem**

"And the Father Will Dance" by Mark Hayes

*This anthem reminds us that God rejoices over God's people with singing and joy. On this Women of the Faith Sunday, we celebrate the faithful women of our church whose leadership, service, prayer, and devotion reflect that same steadfast love. As we honor their vital role in the life of the Church, may we remember that God delights in every act of faithfulness and rejoices over God's daughters with great joy.*

**\*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**

Deacon Claire Titus

**\*Hymn #324**

**For All the Faithful Women**

**\*Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Lauren Peters

**Postlude**

“Allegro molto”, Mvmt. 3 from *Sonata in D* by W.A. Mozart

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Liturgy Notes and Sources

Today's liturgy is adapted from “Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday: *Creating Home and Places of Possibilities: Women of Determination and Faith*” by Rev. Ruth Faith Santana-Grace, Executive Presbytery of the Presbytery of Philadelphia and Co-Moderator of the 225<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the PC(USA) (2022).

**Flowers are given by the Presbyterian Women in celebration of the gifts of women in the church.**

**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:** Deacon Claire Titus

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

**Handbell Director:** Christopher Boilesen

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

**Greeters:** Valery Wachter & Josh Whitfield

**Ushers:** Kathy Anderson, Joan Roberts, Marilyn Hood, Marybell Avery

**Dishwasher:** Stephen Odenore

**Sanctuary Audio & Livestream:** Dale Minter





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

**The week of Mar. 8, 2026**

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



**WEDNESDAY,  
MARCH 18,  
6:00-9:00 PM**

**Facilitated by Ministry Architects  
Dinner & Childcare Provided**

For more information or to register  
RSVP by Realm or please contact:

Kathy Rohwedder at  
[kathrohwa@yahoo.com](mailto:kathrohwa@yahoo.com) or (402) 202-9889

**Come Help Shape the Future of Westminster**

This important evening, facilitated by Ministry Architects, is an opportunity for us to dream together, discern together, and help shape the future of our church. Your voice matters, and we hope you'll be part of the conversation. Please RSVP. Dinner and childcare will be provided. Let's gather, listen, and imagine what God is calling Westminster to become in the next season. We hope to see you there!

## Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday Today



Presbyterian Women at Westminster invite all women and men to gather and experience the joy of celebrating the special gifts of women in the church. The Rev. Lauren Peters is our guest preacher this morning with a special message during Westminster's Lenten series featuring women and faith.

## ADULT EDUCATION LENTEN SERIES

### "Encounters on the Way to Jerusalem"

A curriculum written by and taught by Pastor Jimmy Shelbourn  
Sundays at 11:15 a.m., Lounge near the Reception Desk

Mar 8	Lent 3	"An Argument Among Disciples" Mark 9:30-41, 50
Mar 15	Lent 4	"Blind Bartimaeus and Faith" Mark 10:46-52
Mar 22	Lent 5	"Sympathetic Pharisees" Luke 13:31-35
Mar 29	Palm Sun.	"The Last Scribe to Dare Ask a Question" Mark 12:28-34

## Clean Up Time!

Spring is almost here and our church grounds are in need of a good cleaning. **March 14 and 21 from 9 AM to Noon** have been chosen as the dates & times. Please consider helping on one or both of the dates. Although, anytime you can help is gratefully appreciated. We will have a short devotion and prayer before we start. In the event of bad weather, the dates will be moved to the next weekend. --Tom Pappas & Gary Haller

## Pretzel Bar | Sun., March 15

After the service on Sunday, March 15, you are invited explore the connections between Christianity and pretzels while enjoying a salty treat with an array of dipping sauces.

## Prairie Readers | March Meeting | March 18

Prairie Readers will meet Wednesday, March 18, at 1 PM in the Lounge. Kathy Anderson will lead the discussion of Dust Child by Panque Nguyen. Come join us for an enlightening discussion.

## Presbyterian Advocacy Hour | Wed., March 25 | 11 AM | Lounge

Join us in the lounge for a zoom presentation and discussion afterwards. This month's topic is Christian Nationalism. All are welcome.

## **Palm Sunday Crane-apalooza: 1000 Birds of Peace**

**March 29 | 11 AM in Fellowship Hall**

All WPC children, youth, and families are invited to participate in a meaningful community art project immediately following the worship service on Palm Sunday, March 29. We will be folding origami peace cranes that will become a vital part of "1000 Birds of Peace," an inspiring and significant work of public art.

## **March Art Exhibits**

The Art Committee is pleased to present the photography of Bernadette Korslund and John Shaw for our March exhibition.

Bernadette's love of nature began with her childhood in Mende, France. Her camera is a constant companion in collecting the visual wonder and magic of our surroundings. Bernadette is an active member of Lincoln Camera Club and is the spouse of Westminster member Paul Korslund.

John Shaw is a long-time Lincoln resident whose image making includes architectural and landscape photography. John is an accomplished musician on violin and guitar and brings this artistic sensitivity to his photos. He is also known locally for his book Cameron the Capitol Cat.

## **Schedule of Worship Services for Lent and Easter**

Palm Sunday, March 29	10 am, sanctuary
Maundy Thursday, April 2	5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
Good Friday, April 3	6 pm, sanctuary
Easter Sunday, April 5	8 am, chapel
	10 am, sanctuary

## **Swanson Scholarship Applications Due March 31**

Established in 1999 by the Swanson Family, this scholarship provides \$500 financial support per recipient for one academic school year. Full-time undergraduate students and high school senior members of Westminster are encouraged to apply. Renewal of the scholarship for subsequent years is not automatic but will be considered by the selection committee. Applications are available on the church website ([https:// westminsterlincoln.org](https://westminsterlincoln.org)) under the GIVE tab or in the church office. The scholarship is open to individuals in all courses of study; however, preference will be given to applicants demonstrating an interest in Education and Community Service. Application deadline is March 31, 2026.

## Call for Donations | April 1

Our annual Easter Eggstravaganza egg hunt is on Wed., April 1, featuring the popular "Eggs for Points to the Prize Store" format we successfully launched last year. Children will collect eggs, exchange them for points, and then spend those points at our "Eggstravaganza Store" to choose prizes they want. To stock the store, we urgently need donations of simple, fun toys, crafts, games, and candy for toddlers through elementary schoolers. Sought-after items include plush toys, sports equipment (balls, jump ropes), building sets (LEGOs), art supplies (sidewalk chalk, coloring books), and individually wrapped candy.

Please drop off donations in the **collection tote** at the top of the steps near the **East entrance** of the church by **Monday, March 30**. For questions, contact Trish Souliere at [trish@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto:trish@westminsterlincoln.org). Thank you for helping us make this year's event a success!

## Week Beginning March 8

<p><b><u>Sun. (Mar. 8)</u></b> 10 AM Worship—Gifts of Women Sunday, Faith Village; Sanctuary 11:15 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship</p> <p><b><u>Mon. (Mar. 9)</u></b> 11 AM Lenten Bible Study— Pastor Ellen, Library 7 PM Recovery Group, Library</p> <p><b><u>Tues. (Mar. 10)</u></b> 9:45 AM Staff Meeting 10 AM PW Circle 5, Lounge 4 PM Stewardship &amp; Finance, FH 5 PM Building &amp; Grounds, Lounge 5 PM Church Life, Conference Rm 5 PM Personnel, Zoom 5:30 PM Worship, Music &amp; Fine Arts, FH 6 PM Mission &amp; Social Witness, Lounge 6:15 PM A&amp;P, Conference Room</p>	<p><b><u>Wed. (Mar. 11)</u></b> 1 PM Hearts, Hands &amp; Hugs, Library 5:30 PM W3 Wednesday Activities Youth Areas – All 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p> <p><b><u>Thurs. (Mar. 12)</u></b> 5 PM Bell Ringers Rehearsal, First Plymouth</p> <p><b><u>Sat. (Mar. 14)</u></b> 9 AM Spring Clean Up of Church Grounds</p> <p><b><u>Sun. (Mar. 15)</u></b> 10 AM Worship, Faith Village; Sanctuary 11 AM Pretzel Bar, Garden Room 11:15 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship</p>
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**Worship services are available on-line at this link:**

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