

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

April 12, 2026

Creation Celebration 1



Creation Celebration I “The Soil of the Earth”

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

“Earth and All Stars” by Keith Kolander

Welcome

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

Special Announcement: Battery Recycling

Laurel Van Ham

*Call to Worship (Psalm 95:1, 6-7)

Jack Johnson

One: O come, let us sing to the Lord;

Many: Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

One: O come, let us worship and bow down,

Many: Let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

One: For the Lord is our God,

Many: and we are the people of God's pasture, and the sheep of God's hand.

One: O that today you would listen to God's voice!

*Hymn #24

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

*Call to Confession

Rev. Chris Peters

*Prayer of Confession

Maker God, when we see the vastness of the universe you created, it puts things in perspective. Lord, we now see that we have failed to be good stewards – tending the land and protecting its resources. Forgive us for both our actions and inaction that lead to the spoiling of this world. Help us to value and care for all habitats: seas, deserts, forests, tundra, and prairies. Inspire us to live well and to care well with the future in mind. In the name of Christ we ask it, Amen.

*Time of Silent Confession

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

*Declaration of Forgiveness

Believe and share the good news!

In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!

*Response of Praise #246

Christ Is Alive! (verse 5)

Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age, till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

*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.

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

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Hebrew Scripture

Genesis 2:4b-9, 15

O.T. pg. 2

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 13:1-9

N.T. pg. 13

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

Sermon

“The Soil of the Earth”

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

*Hymn #36

For the Fruit of All Creation

Affirmation of Faith (from the Creation Care covenant within the PCUSA)

All: Peace and justice is God’s plan for all creation. The earth and all creation are God’s. God calls us to be careful, humble stewards of this earth, and to protect and restore it for its own sake, and for the future use and enjoyment of the human family. As God offers all people the special gift of peace through Jesus Christ, and through Christ reconciles all to God, we are called to deal justly with one another and the earth.

Invitation to the Offering

Choir Offertory Anthem

“All Things Bright and Beautiful” by John Rutter
(choir favorites #1)

Connection to Message: As we celebrate the beauty and diversity of God’s creation in this anthem, we are reminded that all things belong to God, who calls us to be faithful stewards of the earth. In gratitude for these gifts, we renew our commitment to care for creation, seeking peace and wholeness for all that God has made through Jesus Christ.

*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. Chris Peters

The Lord’s Supper

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. ***And also with you.***

Lift up your hearts. ***We lift them to the Lord.***

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. ***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Blessing and Sharing of the Elements Prayer After Communion

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

*Hymn (printed in The Vine)

We Plow the Fields

*Charge & Benediction

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

Postlude

“Now the Green Blade Rises” by Mark Sedio

Today's Call to Worship comes from Psalm 95, NRSV translation. Today's liturgy is largely written by Pastor Chris, including the Prayer of Confession which includes one line from “Prayers for the Earth from the Episcopal Tradition” found in worship resources at presbyearthcare.org.

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: Jack Johnson

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

Handbell Director: Christopher Boilesen

Director of Children & Youth: Trish Souliere

Ushers: Joan Roberts, Marilyn Hood, Kathy Anderson, Joyce Douglas

Dishwashers: Lisa and Steve McConnell

Sanctuary Audio and Livestream: Dale Minter

Communion Servers: Sarah Baltensperger, Ron Souliere, Dave Arunski, Marilyn Hood, Susie Hughes





*“I am the vine,
you are the branches . . .”*

The week of Apr. 12, 2026

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

What Next?

Christ has risen. What happens next? What happens to Jesus' followers? Join others to explore these questions as we read and discuss the stories of the early Church's formation in the book of Acts each Monday morning at 11 AM in the church Library during April and May. For more information: edavis3655@gmail.com

April Art Display—Dale Minter

The Art Committee is pleased to present the photography and assemblages of Dale Minter for our April exhibition. You probably know Dale from his presence in the WPC video booth, recording the livestream each Sunday. Dale is displaying pieces from different series of his art adventures. Many of his works combine photographic layers of nature and man-made objects. Dale is also including some recent assemblage work which add his images into 3-dimensional objects. Along with his display images, Dale will have some smaller canvas images for sale with the profits donated to the WPC video booth fund.

Dale Minter has lived in Lincoln for the last 30 years. He received a BFA in Interior Design from James Madison University (Harrisonburg, VA) and MFA in Fine Art Photography from Cranbrook Academy of Art (Bloomfield Hills, MI). Dale is an associate member of the Burkholder Project Gallery and has recently shown at the WallSpace Gallery here in Lincoln.

Prairie Readers in April

Prairie Readers will meet on April 15 at 1 PM in the lounge. Lisa DeBuse will lead the discussion of *My Friends* by New York Times bestselling author Fredrik Backman. The discussion promises to be lively. Come join us!

Fork & Friends - A Westminster Table Adventure

Church Life is ready to launch Fork & Friends. We would like to invite all who are interested to a potluck dinner on Friday, April 17 in Cole Hall at 5:30 p.m. Bring a dish to share & plan to eat at 6:00. Iced tea, lemonade & water will be provided.

At the potluck, couples & individuals will draw for the name of their host & ask any questions. If you are unable to attend, we will pick your host for you. Even if you have not previously indicated that you are interested, please come. RSVP to Marilyn Hood by phone or text at 402-499-9045 or by email at mhood0529@gmail.com.

Ordination Milestone for Rev. Lauren Peters

This April Rev. Lauren Peters celebrates her 10th anniversary of ordination in the PC(USA). Lauren joins the ranks of ordained Presbyterian clergywomen who continue to blaze trails of creative ministry begun 70 years ago in the Presbyterian Church in the United States. Presbyterian Women at Westminster are grateful for Lauren's gifts of ministry and wish her many more years of service to the church.

Week Beginning April 12

<p><u>Sun. (Apr. 12)</u> 10 AM Worship with Communion, Sanctuary 11:15 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 12 PM Sudanese Worship, Chapel</p>	<p>6:30 PM Children, Youth & Fam</p>
<p><u>Mon. (Apr. 13)</u> 11 AM Explorers Bible Study— Pastor Ellen, Library 6:30 PM Scouts Den Meeting, Cole Hall, Youth Café</p>	<p><u>Wed. (Apr. 15)</u> 1 PM Prairie Readers, Lounge 1 PM Hearts & Hands, Library 5:30 PM W3 Wednesday Activities 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, Sanc.</p>
<p><u>Tues. (Apr. 14)</u> 10 AM PW Circle 5, Lounge 4 PM Stewardship & Finance, FH 5 PM Building & Grounds, Lounge 5 PM Church Life, Conference Rm 5 PM Personnel, Zoom 5:30 PM Worship, Music & FA, FH 6:15 PM A&P, Conference Room</p>	<p><u>Thurs. (Apr. 16)</u> 5 PM Bell Ringers Rehearsal 6:30 PM Scouts Committee Meeting, Youth Café 7 PM Camera Club, Lounge</p>
	<p><u>Fri. (Apr. 17)</u> 5:30 PM Fork & Friends, Cole Hall</p>
	<p><u>Sun. (Apr. 19)</u> 10 AM Worship, Sanctuary 11:15 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 12 PM Sudanese Worship, Chapel</p>

Creation Celebration

Spring 2026

Power Down!

This year's Creation Celebration marks the beginning of a new program at Westminster: Battery Recycling. Starting this week, you will find a container in the reception area where you can recycle almost all the batteries used in your home—from AAA to D, single use and rechargeable, alkaline and lithium, and all the button, coin and 7V batteries in between.



Help us keep this process safe by taping around coin batteries and over the terminals of 9V, lithium, and rechargeable batteries before placing them in the container.

We won't be able to accept the acid batteries from your car but do hold on to the big lithium batteries used for charging power tools. There will be special collection dates for them periodically.

This is a cooperative venture with Staples, and they are providing small boxes for you optionally to accumulate your used batteries at home before bringing them to the church.

This is just one more way that Westminster, as an EarthCare Congregation, is caring for the creation that God has entrusted to us.

Invest in being Informed!!

Part of being a good steward of creation is being well-informed. Here are three excellent and convenient opportunities to up your earth care IQ. All presentations will last 45 minutes, from 11:15-noon. Just pick up your coffee and come to the Lounge Classroom after worship.

Sunday, April 12th

Did you know that our own Pastor Chris is Homestead Presbytery's clergy delegate to the General Assembly this year? Come hear what Presbyterians will be doing in Milwaukee this June, with a focus on three Overtures concerning earth care.

Sunday, April 19th

Did you know that Nebraska has completed a comprehensive Climate Assessment? And that we have a State Climatologist? Hear what Dr. Deb Bathke has to say about extreme weather, Nebraska's economy, and more in this video of her presentation at last fall's Nebraska Youth Climate Summit.

Sunday, April 26th

Did you know that data centers and AI are putting new and unprecedented demands on Nebraska's prized public power utilities? What will that mean for the ways our electricity is generated and for our utility bills going forward? How will it affect LES's commitment to reducing carbon emission?

Earth Care Pledge

Our **worship** and discipleship will celebrate God's grace and glory in creation.

Our **education** will encourage and support each other in keeping and healing the creation.

Our **facilities** will be managed, maintained, and upgraded to respect and cherish all creation.

Our **outreach** will encourage community involvement and public policy to protect and restore the earth.
