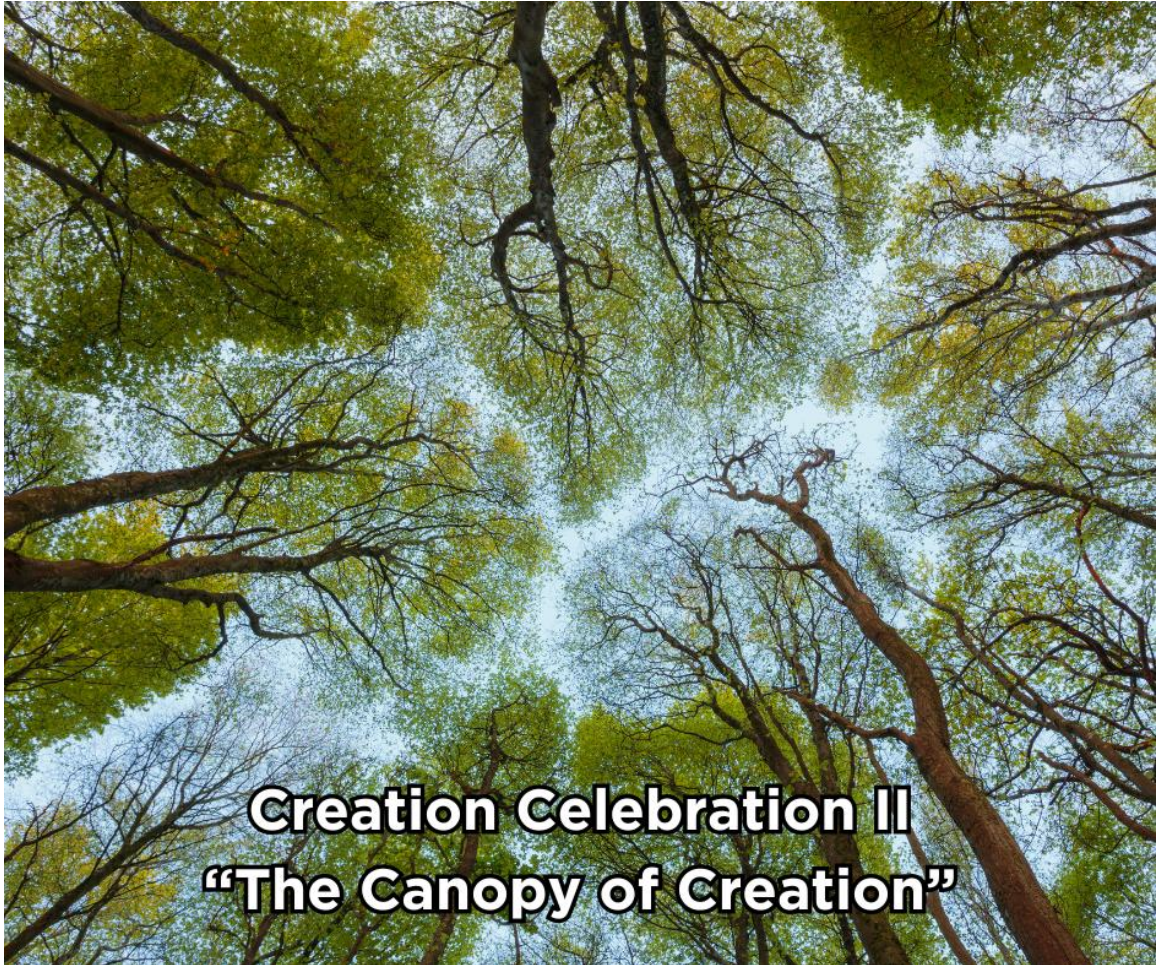


# Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

April 26, 2026

Creation Celebration 2



## Creation Celebration II "The Canopy of Creation"

\*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**

“Come Away to the Skies” by David Evan Thomas

**Welcome**

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

**Special Announcement: Camp Calvin Crest**

Elder Karen Hoffman

**\*Call to Worship** (Psalm 1:1-3, Common English Bible)

Jack Johnson

One: The truly happy person doesn't follow wicked advice,

***Many: The truly happy person doesn't stand on the road of sinners, and doesn't sit with the disrespectful.***

One: Instead of doing those things, these persons love the Lord's Instruction, and they recite God's Instruction day and night!

***Many: They are like a tree replanted by streams of water, which bears fruit at just the right time and whose leaves don't fade. Whatever they do succeeds.***

**\*Hymn #14**

**For the Beauty of the Earth**

**\*Call to Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

**\*Prayer of Confession**

***Creating God, we give thanks for the inspiration we find in your good work. We find awe and wonder, leading us to seek and find mercy in Jesus Christ. Still, we ignore the groans of creation. Renew and redirect us, O Lord. Help us to respond with care and stewardship for this world. Inspire us to word and work that replenishes, cleanses and heals this world. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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 #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. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

*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.**

## **Prayer for Illumination**

### **Scripture**

Hebrew Scripture

Deuteronomy 24:17-20

O.T. pg. 179

Gospel Lesson

Luke 13:18-21

N.T. pg. 76

New Testament Lesson

Acts 10:34-43

N.T. pg. 129

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

### **Sermon**

"The Canopy of Creation"

Rev. Chris Peters

### **\*Hymn #33**

**Praise the Lord! God's Glories Show**

### **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.***

## **Invitation to the Offering**

### **Choir Offertory Anthem**

"Ain'-a That Good News!" by William L. Dawson

*This joyful traditional spiritual celebrates the good news of Christ's resurrection and the promise of new life for all. Its lively spirit reflects the message of Acts 10, where the gospel is proclaimed boldly and shared with everyone.*

### **\*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**

Jack Johnson

### **\*Hymn #80**

**You Shall Go Out with Joy**

## \*Charge & Benediction

Rev. Chris Peters

### Postlude

“All Creatures of Our God and King” by Mark Sedio

---

#### Liturgy Notes and Sources

Today’s liturgy is adapted from scripture and Creation Liturgy in the Iona Abbey Worship Book. The Prayer of Confession and Prayer of Thanksgiving are written by Pastor Chris.

**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

**Liturgists:** Deacon Claire Titus, Jack Johnson

**Music Director:** Wes Hansmeyer

**Organist:** John Ross

**Handbell Director:** Christopher Boilesen

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

**Greeters:** Joyce Douglas, Marilyn Hood

**Ushers:** Rohn Loyd, Deb Schleining, Bruce Sheffield, Margaret Sheffield

**Dishwashers:** Gary & Glenna Haller

**Sanctuary Audio and Livestream:** Dale Minter





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

**The week of Apr. 26, 2026**

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

### **The Bridge Young Adult Group Top Golf**

**Today at 3 PM - 7 PM**

The Bridge Young Adult Group is heading to Omaha for an exciting afternoon of community and competition at Top Golf this Sunday! This outing offers a fantastic opportunity for young adults to connect, enjoy some friendly golf, and relax together. We invite all young adults in our community to join us for this special event.

Event Details:

- Meeting Point: We will meet at Westminster at 3 PM for departure.
- Return Time: We expect to arrive back at approximately 7 PM.
- Cost\*: The registration fee is \$20 per golfer.

\*Financial assistance is available.

### **Marathon Welcome | May 3 | 7:00 AM - 8:30 AM**

The Lincoln Marathon is next week. It starts at 14th and Vine Streets at 6:55 a.m. on Sunday, May 3. You are invited to join us in supporting the runners and cheering them on as they run by the church. We will set up our tables at 7:00 AM and clean up at 8:30 AM. You can help distribute capri sun, bananas, and donut holes or make a sign with the supplies we will have available and cheer the runners on. After we are finished, Pastor Chris will lead a brief, Communion service on the church steps.

**On Marathon Sunday we will have two worship services.** One on the West steps at approximately 8:30 AM, and a later service (10 AM) in the chapel. Both services will be closer to 35-45 minutes in length, and both will include communion and a brief reflection from Pastor Chris.

There will be no **Adult Ed** on May 3, 10 or 31. Watch for additional information about May 17 & 24.

## **Lunch Bunch on May 5**

Lunch Bunch will meet Tuesday, May 5, 11:30 A.M., at Sakura Japanese Restaurant, 8600 S 30th St, STE 106, Lincoln, NE 68516

RSVP to [jimkinkennon@gmail.com](mailto:jimkinkennon@gmail.com) or text 402-290-5888.

## **Save the Date: Putting Faith into Action**

On Saturday, June 13, 2026 (9:00 AM–1:00 PM), Westminster will partner with Sleep in Heavenly Peace to build 20 beds for children in the Lincoln community, living out both organizations' missions in a tangible way. Sleep in Heavenly Peace believes that "No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in Our Town." Through this bed build, Westminster volunteers will connect deeply, serve side-by-side, and make a real difference through service by giving children a safe, dignified place to sleep. All tools and safety equipment are provided, all ages are welcome, and a bedding drive will be held with the build. Volunteer registration opens May 18, 2026. To sign up: Contact: Paul Korslund ([paulkprslund@gmail.com](mailto:paulkprslund@gmail.com)) or Gary Haller ([garyhaller70@att.net](mailto:garyhaller70@att.net)). Please save the date and plan to be part of this meaningful day of service.

--Mission & Social Witness Committee

## **May Prairie Readers**

Prairie Readers will meet on May 20 at 1 PM in the Lounge. Dale Minter will tell us about *How to Solve Your Own Murder* by Kristin Perrin. Everyone is welcome!

## **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.

## **Summer Special Music**

This summer, we invite members of the congregation to share their musical gifts during worship! Special music will be provided by a Summer Choir, which will sing occasionally, as well as by individuals and groups from the congregation. You might choose to sing, play the piano or another instrument, ring bells, or gather a small group to offer music together. You do not need

to currently be singing or playing in a church group to participate—everyone is welcome! We especially encourage youth and families to consider sharing their gifts.

Summer special music is a wonderful way to offer praise to God and enrich our worship together. Please consider participating yourself, encouraging your children, or even sharing music as a family.

**Summer music runs from May 31 through Labor Day.**

**To sign up, please email [wes@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto:wes@westminsterlincoln.org).**

I'm excited to hear from you and look forward to the many ways our congregation will share their musical gifts this summer! 🎵

### **Youth Group Mission Trip | June 18-21**

Register now to join our summer trek to serve in Kansas City and see the Great Passion Play in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. We anticipate the cost per person will be \$350.

Register here <https://forms.gle/5MCTbUkw8gXrkbNj7>. Questions? Contact Trish at [trish@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto:trish@westminsterlincoln.org) or 402-570-0163

### **Westminster Arts and Crafts Show**

The Westminster Art Committee is planning a WPC Arts and Crafts Show on Saturday June 6 and Sunday June 7. Saturday, the show will be from 4:30 to 7:00 and Sunday from 9:00 to noon. We need artists and crafters to show off your talents in any genre. Items can be just for “show and tell” or they can be offered for sale. **Participants will need to complete an application and turn it in by May 24** so enough space can be planned. Blank application forms can be found by the display cabinets at the top of the stairs at the East Entrance. Completed forms are to be put in the drop box at the same location. An online link to the application will be in the eVine starting April 29. Any questions, please contact a member of the WPC Art Committee: Jim Kinkennon, Valery Wachter, Joyce Douglas, Marilyn Maude or Susie Hughes

### **Summer VBS: Roadtrip! | July 13 – 17 | 9 AM – Noon | 4 yo to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

VBS is back and we are hitting the road! Get ready to buckle up for an incredible journey! This summer, kids are invited to join us for Roadtrip!, our fun-filled Vacation Bible School adventure from July 13-17. We're taking off for a week packed with high-octane excitement as we explore the amazing destinations God has planned for our lives. Embark on an exciting journey with Road Trip VBS, based on Joshua 1:9 – "The LORD your God is with you wherever you go." Discover God's presence everywhere as we explore new places, make new friends, and experience God's goodness together. Don't let your child miss the trip of a lifetime; register here <https://westminster-goodshepherd.mycokesburyvbs.com/register-child>.

## Week Beginning April 26

<b><u>Sun. (Apr. 26)</u></b> 10 AM Worship, Sanctuary 11:15 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 12 PM Sudanese Worship, Chapel	5 PM Ladies' Night Out, Billy's 5:30 PM W3 Wednesday Activities 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
<b><u>Mon. (Apr. 27)</u></b> 11 AM Explorers Bible Study— Pastor Ellen, Library 6 PM Session, Lounge 7 PM Recovery Group, Library	<b><u>Sun. (May 3)</u></b> 7 AM Welcome to Marathon Runners, Sheridan Blvd. 8:30 AM Worship Service with Communion on West Side Steps 10 AM Worship Service with Communion, Chapel 11:15 AM Property Discernment Team Meeting, Lounge 12 PM Sudanese Worship, Chapel
<b><u>Tues. (Apr. 28)</u></b> 5:30 PM Deacons, Lounge	
<b><u>Wed. (Apr. 29)</u></b> 1 PM Hearts & Hands, Library	

**Worship services are available on-line at this link:**

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

# Creation Celebration Spring 2026

## Earth Sunday Worship Service

Today Westminster takes part in the international celebration of Earth Day. Over a billion people in over 190 countries will be joining in actions like clean-ups, education, and climate activism.

Our Earth Sunday Worship Service this morning is centered on a celebration of God's gift of creation and an affirmation of our commitment to tending and keeping that gift for future generations. You can expect moving scripture, beautiful music, and a timely message by Pastor Chris on the crucial role of trees in scripture and in our natural world.

## Adopt an Ash

We have an endangered species in our parking lot! Our beautiful ash trees are being attacked by the Emerald Ash Borer and some have already succumbed. We are doing our best to protect them with periodic systemic micro infusions that cost about \$150 per tree. If you are interested in helping with this round of treatments, please send your donation to the church, marked "Adopt an Ash."

## Are you Green@Heart? Join Us!

Green@Heart is a small group of Westminster folks who share a love of creation and a commitment to keeping it healthy. We work with other Westminster groups and staff to plan our Creation Celebrations and other activities aimed at helping us all be good stewards of creation. We meet on the third Monday evening of most months, and we'd welcome anyone who's interested in dropping in to see if you'd like to join us. [lbvanham@gmail.com](mailto:lbvanham@gmail.com)

## Invest in being Informed!!

Part of being a good steward of creation is being well informed. Here is one remaining opportunity during Creation Celebration to up your earth care IQ. All presentations last 45 minutes, from 11:15-noon. Just pick up your coffee and come to the Lounge Classroom after worship.

## Sunday, April 26th

Did you know that data centers and AI are putting new and unprecedented demands on Nebraska's prized public power utilities? Scott Benson, LES Director of Strategy and Innovation, last spoke with us during Creation Celebration 2018. What has changed since that time? What will it mean for the ways our electricity is generated and for our utility bills going forward? And how will it affect LES's commitment to reducing carbon emission?

## Power Down!

Make a habit of it! Bring your used batteries to church to help them power down. We'll make sure that valuable minerals are salvaged and that dangerous chemicals are kept away from our watersheds. The battery recycling receptacle is in the reception area, where you will also find masking tape and directions for the batteries that need taping. One more opportunity to be a good steward.



---

## 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.

---