

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER



# The Messenger

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*"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die," John 11:25-26*

### Sunday Service

We welcome you to Worship in the Sanctuary with us on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. and/or worship virtually with us on our YouTube channel at <https://westminsterlincoln.org/youtube-videos>



(402) 475-6702



2110 Sheridan Blvd, Lincoln, NE 68502

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026

VOLUME 96 ISSUE 4

## A Message to the Congregation

### Holy Week Schedule at Westminster

All are welcome on the journey of Holy Week with community, reflection, and meaningful worship!

Maundy Thursday Worship & Soup Potluck

Thursday, April 2 in Fellowship Hall

5:10 p.m. – Fellowship Hall Open for food to be set out

5:30 p.m. – Meal begins (come when you can!)

6:05 p.m. – Worship with Communion by Intinction

Good Friday: A Service of the Seven Last Words of Jesus and Hymns

Friday, April 3 in the Sanctuary

6:00pm – Worship Begins

Easter Sunday – Christ is risen!

Sunday, April 5

8:00 a.m. – Worship in the Chapel (no communion) with joyful music by John and Wes

9:05 a.m. – Cinnamon Roll Community and Connection Time in Fellowship Hall (come when you can!)

10:00 a.m. – Worship in the Sanctuary with Brass and Bells

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## Creation Celebration Spring 2026

The Lord God put humankind in the garden to tend and to keep it. **Genesis 2:15**

As a PCUSA certified Earth Care Congregation, we have signed a pledge that we will be careful stewards of the earth across four broad dimensions. Annually we set aside a special time to celebrate God's creation and nurture that stewardship.

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

Join in two special worship services, Sunday, April 12th and Sunday, April 26th, celebrating creation with scripture, prayer, music, and the spoken word.

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

Adult Education will increase our understanding of ways that we as individuals and a church can be better stewards of creation April 12th Pastor Chris, Homestead Presbytery's clergy commissioner to the summer's General Assembly, will describe how the GA is organized and explain several overtures to the GA that concern our stewardship of creation. April 26th Scott Benson, LES Manager of Resource and Transmission Planning, will bring us up to date as public power faces new challenges in bringing us reliable, affordable and environmentally sustainable energy. And Westminster Preschoolers will be learning about pond life!

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

We continue to maintain our landscaping with minimal use of chemicals and a focus on native plants. Faithful earth care stewards already volunteered their service on March 14th and 21st, and others are encouraged to join the team throughout the rest of the growing season. Contact [tpappas@windstream.net](mailto:tpappas@windstream.net).

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

Two Westminster members have recently joined in a community-wide interfaith service celebrating sister churches that have installed rooftops solar panels. And now we are invited to join friends at First Presbyterian to celebrate Earth Day and the wonders of creation through a presentation by conservation photographer Michael Forsberg.

**AND announcing a new Westminster earth care practice: Power Down! Read all about battery recycling elsewhere in this issue of The Messenger.**

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### April's Featured Artist

The Art Committee is pleased to present the photography and assemblages of Dale Minter for our April exhibition.



# WESTMINSTER PRESCHOOL

APRIL 2026



## Look What We're Learning!

The start of April will be all things Easter! Classrooms will spend a lot of time doing activities that are apart of the Easter story, ending in our Easter Egg Hunt right before we break.

We were so grateful to get our new sandbox added to our playground just in time for the spring weather to arrive! We also will spend some of April learning about weather and tornado drills.

Take a look at some of the themes we're learning about in April:

**STARFISH CLASSROOM:**  
**BIRDS & EGGS**

**BUMBLEBEE CLASSROOM:**  
**A TO ZOO**

**OWL CLASSROOM:**  
**A TO ZOO**



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**MARCH 30TH/31ST---**  
**SPRING CONFERENCES**

**APRIL 1ST/2ND---**  
**EASTER EGG HUNT**

**APRIL 3RD-6TH---**  
**NO SCHOOL**

**APRIL 13TH - 17TH**  
**WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD**

**APRIL 17TH**  
**PARENTS NIGHT OUT**



# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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## Upcoming Events and Important Dates

### Justice & Peace Calendar – April

#### Sexual Assault Awareness Month;

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexual\\_Assault\\_Awareness\\_Month](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexual_Assault_Awareness_Month)

**03** Good Friday; [pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/theologyworship/worship/christian-year/good-friday](https://pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/theologyworship/worship/christian-year/good-friday)

**05** Easter Sunday; [pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/theologyworship/worship/christian-year/resurrection-lordeaster](https://pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/theologyworship/worship/christian-year/resurrection-lordeaster)

**07** World Health Day; [who.int/campaigns/world-health-day](https://who.int/campaigns/world-health-day)

**08** International Romani Day; [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_Romani\\_Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Romani_Day)

**22** Earth Day; [earthday.org](https://earthday.org)

**24** Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day; [pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/world-mission/jinishian-memorial-program/armenian-genocide](https://pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/world-mission/jinishian-memorial-program/armenian-genocide)

**29** Denim Day; [denimdayinfo.org](https://denimdayinfo.org)

### Explorers Bible Study | Library | Mondays 11:00 AM

Stop by the library at 11 a.m. on Mondays to join us for our discussion. We look forward to seeing you. Everyone is welcome.

### Faith & Cancer Support Group | Tuesday, April 21 | 10:00 AM | Church Library

### Hearts and Hands | Library | Wednesdays 1–3 PM

Hearts and Hands is a fun-loving group that meets every Wednesday in the church library. All needle work folks are welcome to come visit and see what you're missing! Laughter is free. All yarn donations are welcome! Questions? Call Dorrie Gage at 402-730-9676.

### Lunch Bunch | Tuesday, April 7 | 11:30 a.m. | The Watering Hole East

Lunch Bunch will meet Tuesday, April 7, 11:30 A.M., at The Watering Hole East, 8300 Northwoods Drive.

Note this is the East location. Please RSVP to [jimkinkennon@gmail.com](mailto:jimkinkennon@gmail.com) or text 402-290-5888.

### Prairie Readers | Wednesday, April 15 | 1:00 PM

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!

### Ladies Night Out | Wednesday, April 29 | 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. | Billy's Restaurant

### Presbyterian Advocacy Hour | Wednesday, April 22 | 11 a.m.

Please join us in the Lounge for our next Advocacy hour. April's focus will be on Critical Minerals and Conflict.

### A Heartfelt Thank You

Thank you to all who made my birthday so special. The surprise party was just over the top! To all who helped Mark and Vicki Davis with setup, serving and cleaning up after the party a special thank you for keeping us Green! And all those birthday wishes, cards and in person thoughts: I am beyond humbled by your gracious words and kindness. God bless you all. Ellen Davis

### 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 to drop in and see if you'd like to join us. [lbvanham@gmail.com](mailto:lbvanham@gmail.com)

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## **Cranes, Plains, and a Watershed--**

A photographer's journey in flyover country. Saturday, April 25, 2026 - 7:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church invites us to an evening with Michael Forsberg. Michael is a Nebraskan whose 30-year career as a photographer and conservationist has been dedicated to wildlife and conservation stories in North America's Great Plains. His images have been featured in publications including Audubon, National Geographic, Nature Conservancy, and Sierra magazines. Get your tickets at <https://fpclincoln.org/michaelforsberg/>

## **Power Down!**

Our Spring Creation Celebration marks the beginning of a new opportunity for the Westminster Family to practice earth care—battery collection! What makes a battery work? Chemicals. And what's left when they stop working? Chemicals! The degree of toxicity varies with the type of battery, but no battery components are particularly good for leaching into our waterways, and many of them can be processed and repurposed. So we're taking advantage of a program offered by Staples to collect your used batteries—from AAA to D, single use and rechargeable, alkaline and lithium, button and 7V—and dispose of them safely. Just bring your used batteries to the reception area and place them in the giant battery container where they will be collected for delivery to Staples. Staples is also providing us small boxes to use at home as your spent batteries accumulate. We are unable to accept the acid batteries used in vehicles, but we will announce periodic special dates for collecting the lithium-ion batteries used to charge power tools. Be sure to 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. Thanks, Westminster Creation Stewards, for your commitment to keeping our environment clean for all living things!

## **Calvin & Knox and the Great Westminster Parking Scramble**

Calvin and Knox have been at Westminster a very long time. Long enough to remember the days before the church had a real parking lot—when Sunday mornings featured what the mice called “The Great Westminster Parking Scramble.” Back in 1951, Westminster had only a few parking spaces on the east side of the church.

Unfortunately, that didn't stop 300 cars from arriving for the 9:00 service... and another 300 cars for the 11:00 service. Cars parked everywhere. Up the street. Down the street. Around the corner. From their favorite windowsill perch, Calvin and Knox watched the whole thing unfold. Knox liked to narrate the action like a sports announcer. “Here comes another car circling the block... and yes! They've found a spot three neighborhoods away!” Calvin would shake his head. “By the time they walk to church,” he said, “the sermon will be on the benediction.”

Then along came Dr. Earl Lampshire, a 25-year-old dentist who joined Westminster in 1948. Knox remembers the moment clearly. “That man,” Knox whispered to Calvin one Sunday, “looks like he's thinking about parking.” And he was. Dr. Lampshire helped form the Parking Lot Committee in the early 1950s and served as its chair for decades. After years of planning and acquiring nearby property, Westminster finally built its first real lot. On January 9, 1966, the church dedicated a parking lot with 80 spaces on the east side of the building. Knox gazed at the new lot and whispered reverently, “Eighty spaces... we are living in the future.” Because Westminster sits on a hill, the lot was built in terraced levels, which Knox describes as “a layer cake made of concrete.” Over time the lot expanded as nearby land became available. The entrances on Ryons Street were once the driveways of houses that stood there before the property became part of the church lot. The final southeast corner was paved in 2006, completing the parking lot we know today. Westminster also shares part of the parking area with the neighboring South Branch City Library, which Knox says is a very sensible arrangement. “Books and church,” he says, “are two excellent reasons to find parking.” Today Calvin and Knox watch cars pull neatly into spaces every Sunday morning. No circling. No searching. No parking scramble. Knox sighs contentedly. “You know, Calvin,” he says, “without Dr. Lampshire's vision, people might still be circling the neighborhood looking for parking.” Calvin nods. “And we'd still be selling popcorn for the Great Westminster Parking Scramble.”

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## The Blueprint – March 2026

Westminster Presbyterian Church

While the wild weather of March has kept Nebraska guessing—sunshine one day, snow the next—the work at Westminster has remained steady and Spirit-led. The Implementation Team, alongside Ministry Architects, has been hard at work guiding two major milestones in our journey forward: a church-wide Vision Summit and a Volunteer Summit.

### A Grateful Church

First and foremost, we extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in the Wednesday and Thursday evening Vision sessions. Your voices, insights, and willingness to engage are shaping the future of Westminster in powerful ways. A special note of gratitude goes to those who made hospitality possible:

Fred & Susan Zander, Joyce Douglas, Marilyn Hood, and Susie Hughes—thank you for preparing meals, serving with care, and handling cleanup so graciously. Your service created space for meaningful connection and conversation.

### A Clear and Emerging Vision

What stood out most from the Vision Summit was not just the number of voices—but the clarity of calling emerging from them. There is a growing sense that God is at work in and through Westminster Presbyterian Church. Because of your participation and the collective discernment of our congregation, we are now very close to presenting a new Vision Statement for WPC. This is an exciting and hopeful step forward.

### Grounded in Reality: Financial Conversations

As part of this process, Steve and Emily met with Ministry Architects to take a thoughtful look at the church's financial landscape. These conversations help ensure that our vision is not only inspiring—but also sustainable and grounded in reality.

Building a Strong Volunteer Foundation

A key focus moving forward is strengthening how we organize and support volunteers.

Steve, Gary, and Kathy met with Ministry Architects to evaluate all things volunteer-related—a big task, but one filled with opportunity.

From this work:

- A new volunteer organizational structure is being drafted to better match the current size and needs of Westminster
- Short, clear job descriptions for every volunteer team are being developed (thanks to Annette and the team)
- Feedback from Pastor Chris will help refine this work before it is shared more broadly

This effort will help ensure that everyone who serves at Westminster is supported, equipped, and aligned with our mission.

### What's Next?

After a season of meaningful work and momentum, the team will take a brief pause.

Following Easter, the Implementation Team will:

- Reconvene for a 2-hour working session
- Review progress and documents
- Set the next Implementation Sprint
- Establish upcoming check-in meetings

### Looking Ahead with Hope

This is a season of building—a time of listening, organizing, and preparing for what God is calling Westminster to become.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

The Blueprint is taking shape... and the foundation is strong.

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## Youth News

### W3 Welcome to Westminster on Wednesdays: Fellowship, Fun, and Faith 5:30 PM–8:00 PM

Our mid-week gathering every Wednesday night provides a fantastic and consistent opportunity for children and teenagers to connect with their peers in a safe, engaging, and faith-filled environment. It's a key part of our weekly ministry designed to help young people build strong friendships and grow in their understanding of God.

### A Structured Evening of Activities:

The core programming for our Youth Group runs from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM and is open to children and teens ranging from kindergarten through high school. The evening is carefully planned to balance high-energy activities with meaningful spiritual instruction and discussion.

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026

VOLUME 96 ISSUE 4

## **Early Arrival and Fellowship (Optional):**

For those who wish to arrive early, the facility opens at 5:30 PM. This pre-program time is designated for open gym and free time, allowing kids to burn off energy, socialize, and casually connect with friends before the structured activities begin.

## **Dinner and Community:**

A vital part of our gathering is sharing a meal together. A full dinner is served at 6:00 PM sharp. This communal meal fosters a sense of family and belonging, ensuring that all participants are nourished and ready to focus on the evening's lessons and activities.

## **What Kids Experience:**

Each age group participates in tailored programming, including age-appropriate Bible lessons, small group discussions led by caring adult mentors, and engaging games that reinforce the evening's theme. Our goal is for every child and teen to leave feeling valued, encouraged, and more deeply rooted in their faith. Parents are encouraged to join us for dinner at 6:00 PM for a time of fellowship.

## **Annual Community Spring Celebration (Eggstravaganza): Dinner and Egg Hunt | Wednesday, April 1 | 5:45 PM–8:00 PM**

We are delighted to invite you to our annual Spring Celebration! This family-friendly event is designed for all ages and promises an evening of food, fun, and community fellowship. The evening will commence promptly at 5:45 PM with dinner. We encourage all attendees to arrive on time to enjoy the meal and social time before the main activities begin. Following dinner, the main attractions—the Egg Hunt and our regular Wednesday W3 activities—will kick off at 6:15 PM. The W3 (Welcome to Westminster on Wednesdays) activities will be adapted for the celebration, incorporating Bible stories, crafts, games, and seasonal fun.

## **The Egg Hunt: Separate Divisions for Fair Fun**

Children of all ages are welcome to participate in the egg hunt! To ensure a safe, fair, and fun experience for everyone, the egg hunt locations will be clearly marked and roughly divided into the following age groups:

- Preschool and Younger (Ages 0–5): A dedicated, enclosed area designed for our youngest participants, ensuring easy access and safety as they search for eggs.

- Elementary School (Grades K–5): A larger, but still well-defined area that offers a bit more challenge and space for our elementary-aged friends.
- Youth Group (Middle and High School): A special, challenging hunt designed for our older youth, potentially involving riddles or a wider search area to keep the excitement level high.

We look forward to seeing you there for an evening of springtime celebration!

## **Cinnamon Roll Breakfast | Sunday, April 5**

We invite you to join us for a delightful fellowship event this Easter Sunday, April 5th! We will be serving fresh, warm cinnamon rolls between our two morning worship services.

## **Event Details:**

What: Fresh Cinnamon Rolls – When: Easter Sunday, April 5th – Time: Available between the 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM services – Where: Fellowship Hall

This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with your fellow congregants and enjoy a sweet treat as we celebrate the joy of the resurrection. Whether you attend the earlier or the later service, please feel free to stop by and enjoy a roll and a cup of coffee. We encourage everyone to stay after the service they attend to participate in this special time of community and celebration!

## **WPC Youth Group Volunteering at Orphan Grain Train Sunday, April 19 – 3:00 PM–5:00 PM**

The WPC Youth Group is invited to participate in a meaningful service project on Friday, April 19th. We will be volunteering our time at Orphan Grain Train to help pack essential meals that will be distributed to those in need around the world. This is a wonderful opportunity for our youth to demonstrate Christian service and compassion. We encourage all members of the Youth Group to join us for this fulfilling event. It is a chance to make a tangible difference in the lives of others while enjoying fellowship and community building.

## **Details for the event:**

- Date: Sunday, April 19th
- Location: Orphan Grain Train facility, 1901 SW 6th Street
- Time: The shift is expected to run from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM. Please arrive a few minutes early.

Transportation from Westminster is available upon request. Your participation is greatly appreciated as

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Westminster  
Presbyterian Church  
2110 Sheridan Blvd  
Lincoln, NE 68502

## Youth News cntd

we partner with an incredible organization to help feed the hungry.

### Marathon Support | Sunday, May 3 @ 7:00 AM

The Annual Lincoln Marathon is a highly anticipated event, and its course passes directly by Westminster Presbyterian Church, presenting a wonderful opportunity for our congregation to engage with the community and extend our hospitality. All Westminster members are enthusiastically invited to participate in this outreach effort by staffing a dedicated welcome table. This station will be a vital point of encouragement for both runners and spectators. We plan to distribute essential refreshments, including freshly prepared donut holes for a quick energy boost, plenty of bottled water and Gatorade to ensure proper hydration, and bananas, which are excellent sources of potassium. This act of service not only supports the participants of the marathon but also allows us to showcase the warm, welcoming spirit of Westminster to the wider Lincoln community. Please consider joining us before the worship service to help make this year's marathon presence our most successful yet!

### VBS: Roadtrip! | July 13-17 @ 9:00 AM-12:30 PM

It's time to get your kids registered for VBS! Registration is \$15/child (\$45 max/family) before May 31. Register now at

Note: We are collaborating with Good Shepherd Presbyterian again this year and sessions will be held at Westminster, 2110 Sheridan Blvd.

Questions? Contact Trish Souliere by email, [trish@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto:trish@westminsterlincoln.org), or by text or phone, 402-570-0163.

### Synod School | July 26-31

Storm Lake, Iowa

Synod School is a learning and personal enrichment experience for people of all ages in an environment of hospitality, healing, and hope. The week is designed for laity, clergy, individuals and families with classes and activities for adults, youth, and children.