

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER



# The Messenger

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[communications@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto:communications@westminsterlincoln.org)



*Photo of the work being done on the stained glass window in our Sanctuary.*

*Photo provided by Jim Kinkennon*

## 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

MARCH 2026

VOLUME 96 ISSUE 3

## A Message to the Congregation

What is the fast you've chosen? We began this Lent on Ash Wednesday asking "What is the Fast You Choose?," emphasizing God's call to a fast that brings justice and equity – an active fast – in Isaiah 58! Perhaps you haven't had a Lenten discipline before, but I want to encourage you that it's not too late! As I write this, we have five Sundays plus Holy Week left until Easter!

Now, if you're wondering, "OK Mister Preachy-Pastor Person, tell us what you're doing," then you're in luck! This year I am 'adding' by taking some time for intentional reading for personal spiritual (and all-around) growth each day. Below are my current plans, some of which might resonate with you. I'd love to hear what plans you have or come up with for your own growth or your family's this Lent! Email me at [chris@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto:chris@westminsterlincoln.org)!

- For a 'quick and meaningful' practice, I will use and recommend [www.d365.org](http://www.d365.org). It's a year-round online daily devotional geared toward youth and families, but they do focus on the church year and seasons. These are written by Presbyterians, ELCA Lutherans, Cumberland Presbyterians, and other quality faithful folks and leaders.
- I've also decided to re-read and actually finish the book *Atomic Habits* by James Clear (2018, Avery Press) while planning some practical good-habit steps for my own life. This week I'm taking a few minutes each day to clean and reorganize my office. Ugh! Whew! Yikes!... but a little at a time.
- Other sources I have planned for my own reflection and growth this Lent include *Making Time for God: Daily Devotions for Children and Families to Share* (2002, Baker Books), *Meditations of the Heart* by Pastor and Civil Rights Activist Howard Thurman (1953, 1981; Beacon Press), and *Good Enough: 40ish Devotional for A Life of Imperfection* by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie (2022, Convergent Books). I know I'm taking a buffet or 'small plate' plate

approach, but that's just what I need this year to carry through.

This Lent I hope you'll join us for worship throughout the season, as we hear the stories of women in scripture through the lens of a Lenten journey "Toward Flourishing." During Holy Week we'll have our kids' Palm Sunday processional, Eggstravaganza Egg Hunt Wednesday, "Dinner Church" on Maundy Thursday, and a contemplative service of the Seven Last Words of Jesus on Good Friday.

May you have a blessed Lent and a fast full of grace, worship, growth, and doing justice!

Pastor Chris

PS - at the time of publication we are considering a special 'all ages' time together to make paper cranes for the Holy Trinity Arts Festival after church on Palm Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. Look for more details and an 'official' announcement in our 'big 3' weekly update channels (eVine, Facebook, and church announcements).

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## March Featured Artists

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*.

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# WESTMINSTER PRESCHOOL

MARCH 2026



## Look What We're Learning!

February we celebrated friendship and love with our Winter Formal dance and Valentine's Day! It was great to see so many moments between friends and our Preschool families!

Fall Registration has officially kicked off to prepare for the next school year. Our classrooms have shifted to discussions of the Lenten season and Easter as Spring weather rolls in.

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

**STARFISH CLASSROOM:**  
**POND LIFE**

**BUMBLEBEE CLASSROOM:**  
**BABY ANIMALS**

**OWL CLASSROOM:**  
**POND LIFE**



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**FEBR. 26TH---**  
**CHILDREN'S MUSEUM EVENT**

**MARCH 9TH-13TH--**  
**SPRING BREAK**

**MARCH 16TH---**  
**ART SHOW**

**MARCH 17TH---**  
**WEAR YOUR GREEN!**

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



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## Upcoming Events and Important Dates

### Justice & Peace Calendar - March

Women's History Month; [womenshistorymonth.gov](http://womenshistorymonth.gov)

**06** World Day of Prayer; [wdp-usa.org](http://wdp-usa.org) or [worlddayofprayer.net](http://worlddayofprayer.net)

**08** International Women's Day; [internationalwomensday.com](http://internationalwomensday.com) or [un.org/en/observances/womens-day](http://un.org/en/observances/womens-day)

**08** Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday; [pcusa.org/events/celebrate-gifts-women-sunday/march-8th2026-0800am](http://pcusa.org/events/celebrate-gifts-women-sunday/march-8th2026-0800am)

**09-20** UN Commission on the Status of Women; [unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/commission-on-the-status-ofwomen/csw70-2026](http://unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/commission-on-the-status-ofwomen/csw70-2026)

**15-21** National Agriculture Week; [iatp.org](http://iatp.org)

**22** World Water Day; [un.org/en/observances/water-day](http://un.org/en/observances/water-day)

**24-30** National Farmworker Awareness Week; [saf-unite.org/national-farmworker-awareness-week](http://saf-unite.org/national-farmworker-awareness-week) or [saf-unite.org/](http://saf-unite.org/)

### Adult Ed

**Mar 1 - Lent 2** - "Bad News Reporters" Luke 13:1-9

**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 Sunday** - "The Last Scribe to Dare Ask a Question" Mark 12:28-34

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

February 23-March 30

Join us on Monday mornings at 11 AM in the church library beginning February 23 to reflect on the Gospel According to Mark, the earliest of the Gospels. This study will be an opportunity to walk in the steps of the disciples as they follow Jesus to the cross. Explore what it means to be called. Discover anew who Jesus is. Walk the way of the cross during Holy Week. Please email your interest to Pastor Ellen at [edavis3655@gmail.com](mailto:edavis3655@gmail.com) so study materials are available for all.

**Faith & Cancer Support Group | Tuesday, March 17 | 10:00 AM | Church Library**

### Hearts, Hands, & Hugs | Library | Wednesdays 1-3 PM

Hearts & 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, March 3 | 11:30 a.m. | Lounge

Lunch Bunch will have an unusual event for March. We will meet on Tuesday, March 3, at 11:30 a.m. at Westminster Church, in the Lounge.

We will enjoy a brown bag lunch from White or Wheat. Bring a \$10 bill, drinks provided.

R.S.V.P. is a MUST for obvious reasons. I will confirm your spot when I hear from you.

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

### Prairie Readers | Wednesday, March 18 | 1:00 PM

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.

**Ladies Night Out | Tues, March 24<sup>th</sup> | Napoli's on S. 48<sup>th</sup> St.**



**Presbyterian Advocacy Hour | Wednesday, March 25 | 11 a.m.**

Please join us in the Lounge for our next Advocacy hour. March's focus will be on Christian Nationalism.

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## Calvin & Knox and the Garden Room Discovery

Calvin made an important discovery in the Garden Room. "Knox," he whispered, dramatically opening the cabinet rack, "look." Rows. And rows. And rows. Name tags. "Are these... historical artifacts?" Knox asked.



"No," Calvin said. "These are PEOPLE." They pulled one down and read it. "Ohhh," Knox nodded. "I know her! She makes the best lemon bars." They pulled another. "He sits on the west side. Laughs during sermons. Very dependable chuckler." Calvin looked around thoughtfully. "Why do some of these stay in the cabinet?" Knox shrugged. "Maybe people forget." So the mice conducted a little experiment. That Sunday, they watched. When someone wore their name tag? Newcomers smiled faster. Conversations started easier. Coffee tasted friendlier. When someone didn't? Lots of "Hi... you!" and polite guessing. Calvin closed the cabinet gently. "These aren't just plastic rectangles," he said. "They're invitations." Knox grinned. "And shortcuts to community." So here's your friendly March reminder from two observant mice: If you have a name tag in the Garden Room rack... grab it. wear it. help someone feel like they belong. Because around here, names matter.

— Calvin & Knox

## A Message from PEC and Green at Heart— Marching Toward a Greener Tomorrow

As we move into March, a season of transition and new beginnings, we are invited to think about what it means to march toward a greener tomorrow. This

month, we step forward together, reflecting on how our daily choices can help nurture and protect the Earth entrusted to our care.

Working toward a greener planet often begins with simple, steady steps. Small acts become meaningful expressions of gratitude and stewardship. This can look like supporting local and sustainable food sources, pausing to notice and give thanks for the beauty that surrounds us, and choosing reusable items that reduce waste. These intentional decisions, taken day by day, move us closer to a greener tomorrow.

Below are some ways you can take part in Marching Toward a Greener Tomorrow:

### Explore New Resources

As we continue through Lent and prepare for Easter, explore our website: [creationjustice.org](http://creationjustice.org) to find various programs, events near you, resources, advocacy information, and more!

### Help Clean Up Your Local Beach/Park

Pick up trash off your local beach, by a river, creek, or around a nearby park. Cleaning up these outdoor spaces will benefit your human neighbors, reduce the amount of trash entering the water, and prevent wildlife from ingesting or getting entangled in plastic/litter.

### First Day of Spring

Pay attention as buds appear on the trees, seedlings sprout, and animals are born. When you come across these signs of spring, say a blessing for God's new creation.

### Mindfulness during Mealtime

Before and during your next meal, try to think about and consider where your meal came from, who worked for the products, and the background of the food. Practice gratitude for every portion of the meal.

### Rest and Reflect during Holy Week.

On Good Friday, we confront the ways we have caused suffering in the world. As we remember the death of Jesus, let us acknowledge the suffering we have inflicted upon God's Creation. In our mourning, may we resolve to be healers and helpers. May we participate in the resurrection of our environment.

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## 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>) 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.

## Ministry Architects Blueprint Review

February, 2026

Our Implementation Team for the Ministry Architects ministry review has been meeting and working over the past month and we want to ensure you stay in the loop!

We work in specific time frames we call “sprints” to help move us along and we are currently in our second sprint working on some specific tasks.

Here’s a quick snapshot of what we’ve accomplished since the last update:

- The Property Discernment Team met for the first time to be oriented and begin dreaming about the future. See further info below.
- The Next Generation team has begun meeting with Trish to tackle some children’s and youth ministry-specific recommendations.
- We’ve helped clarify what “social witness” means in the church’s planning and have built a [calendar](#) of mission and social witness opportunities for the church
- We’ve begun tracking our groups involvement as a foundation to building a discipleship process in the ministry.
- We’ve gathered the initial list of volunteer teams and roles to better understand how we may be aligning our capacity with our ministry needs.

- We’ve developed a plan to help the congregation wrestle with past hurts in order to embrace a healthy future.

Coming up:

- We’ll focus on building a sustainable, and right-sized, volunteer structure along with a healthy recruiting and equipping process
- We’re working on an enfolding strategy to ensure everyone who comes through the doors is able to take next steps in building relationships at the church.
- We’re working on developing a financial sustainability strategy for the church.

As mentioned in the last update, we’ll be hosting a Vision Summit to help lay out some long-term clarity on our vision, values, and goals for our next chapter as a ministry together. This will be an important event for our church and we want as many voices as we can get to join in this exploratory process. Our first session is open to everyone and will take place on March 18 from 6:00–9:00 PM. You are invited and we hope you bring your perspectives, ideas, and energy to this time together.

Finally, we’re grateful that our Property Discernment Team has begun their work. This is not simply an extension of the Building & Grounds Committee, nor are they meeting to discuss maintenance issues of the building. Instead, their goal is to dream about how our facility might be further used for the mission God has called us to. This might result in new partnerships in the community, new mission focused ministries, new revenue streams or even new ways to use what God has blessed us with for someone else.

Our first session was about orienting ourselves to the path ahead and beginning to dream about what could be. By the end of the next 6–7 months, the team hopes to make some recommendations to the Session about what kind of facility strategy is most fruitful for the church. Feel free to chat with any members of our team:

Jason Woita  
April Douglas  
Owen Killham  
Kent Hemmerling  
Pat Leach  
Stacy Graham  
Steve Hughes

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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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.

### **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.

*Spring Break: Please note there will be no activities on Wednesday, March 12 due to Spring Break.*

## **Upcoming Events – More details in the March evines!**

### **Youth Group: Chopped, The Feeding of the Five(ish) Judges Continues | Sunday, March 22 | 5 PM–8 PM**

Chopped: The Feeding of the Five Judges is back and better than ever! Modeled after the hit TV show, this high-energy cooking competition challenges our youth group teams to put their skill, speed, creativity, and teamwork to the test. Each team has just seconds to plan and 30 minutes to create a cohesive, delicious dish worthy of the title. As the clock winds down and the pressure rises, our esteemed celebrity judges will taste, critique, and evaluate each creation on flavor, creativity, and presentation before crowning one team the ultimate culinary champion.

### **Participation Opportunity: Palm Sunday Processional March 29 | 10:00 AM**

All young members of our congregation are warmly invited to take part in the joyous Palm Sunday palm waving processional.

### **Palm Sunday Crane–apalooza: 1000 Birds of Peace March 29 | 11:00 AM**

Please refer to Pastor Chris' note on page 2.

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

As we approach our event, we are seeking donations for our Easter "Prize Store." Popular items we are looking for include: plush toys & stuffed animals, sports equipment, building sets, art supplies & craft kits, and Individually wrapped candy. Please drop off your items in the collection tote located at the top of the steps near the East entrance of the church.

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

We will be serving fresh, warm cinnamon rolls between our two morning worship services.

### **VBS Summer 2026: Roadtrip! July 13–17 | 9 AM–12 PM**

Event Details: Monday, July 13 – Friday, July 17 from 9:00 AM–12:00 PM (Daily)

- Who? Children 4 years–5th grade
  - Cost? \$15 per child, maximum \$45 per family
- Register at <https://westminster-goodshepherd.mycokesburybs.com/register-child>

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER



Westminster  
Presbyterian Church  
2110 Sheridan Blvd  
Lincoln, NE 68502

### 2026 Easter Lily Donation Form

Share the joy of Easter! We will be ordering Easter lilies to place in the sanctuary for the Easter Sunday services. You can make a donation in memory or in honor of a loved one, to be displayed in the bulletin for Easter Sunday. Or you may donate money to the Foundation to support Westminster Presbyterian Church.

The lily donation level is \$15. Please make checks payable to Westminster and write EASTER LILY on the memo line. Foundation donations can be any amount. Donations must be received by March 23 to be included in the order of worship.

Mail your check and the information specified below to:

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Attn: Joanne  
2110 Sheridan Blvd., Lincoln, NE 68502

\_\_\_\_\_ I/We would like to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
toward the purchase of an Easter lily/lilies.

\_\_\_\_ I/We would like to make a gift of  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the Westminster Foundation for  
the Foundation's general financial support of  
Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Given by:

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In memory of:

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In honor of:

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Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_