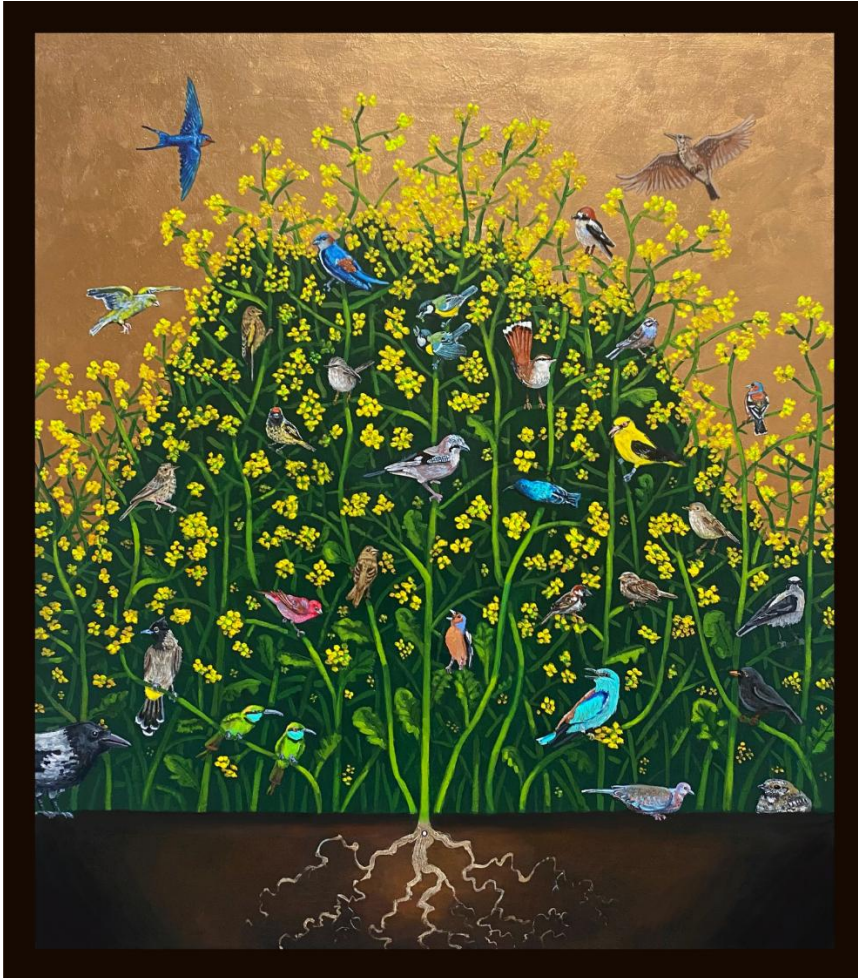


Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

July 26, 2026

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost



"The Parable of the Mustard Seed"

Modern Iconography. Kelly Latimore (kellylatimoreicons.com.)

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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

“Prelude & Fugue in e minor” by J.S. Bach

Welcome

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

*Call to Worship (from Psalm 119)

Deacon Claire Titus

One: The decrees of the Lord are wonderful,

Many: The unfolding of God's word gives light and understanding.

One: Turn to us, O God, and be gracious to us.

Many: Make your face shine upon your people.

One: Let us worship the Lord with gladness!

*Hymn #519

You Are My Strength When I Am Weak

*Call to Confession

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

*Prayer of Confession

God of grace, we want to understand what the kingdom of heaven is like, but our minds are clouded by cares and concerns of the world. We fail to trust your power, hidden in all things. We fail to watch for you, working out your purposes in mysterious ways. We fail to be whole-hearted in our faith and discipleship. We fail to put our trust in the treasures of your kingdom instead of the treasures of the world. Loving God, transform our lives and our world by your grace. 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 #240

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks (refrain)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Give praise to Christ's name

*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.

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

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Epistle Lesson

Romans 8:26-39

N.T. pg. 158

Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

N.T. pg. 14

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

Sermon

“The Work of Jesus: Starters”

Rev. Chris Peters

***Hymn #771**

What Is the World Like

Deacon Installation: Susan Jackson

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.

100th Anniversary Building Update

Elder Susie Hughes

Invitation to the Offering

Deacon Claire Titus

Offertory Special Music

“You Raise Me Up” arr. Tom Fettke
Summer Treble Clef Choir

***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. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

***Hymn #630**

Fairest Lord Jesus

***Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Chris Peters

Postlude

“Carillon de Longpont” by Louis Vierne

Liturgy Notes and Sources

Today's liturgy is adapted from *The Presbyterian Outlook: Worship Sunday, July 26, 2026* by Rev. Dr. Matt Rich, Senior Pastor / Head of Staff, Unity Presbyterian Church, Fort Mill, SC.

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

Director of Children & Youth: Trish Souliere

Greeters: Kelly Braswell, Valerie Wachter, Paul Korslund

Ushers: Rohn Loyd, Becky Bockrath, Bruce Sheffield, Margaret Sheffield

Dishwashers: Lisa & Steve McConnell

Sanctuary Audio and Livestream: Dale Minter





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

The week of July 26, 2026

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

Adult Ed | Sundays | 11:15 AM | Lounge

July 26: *The Butterfly* is back by popular demand! Westminster's version of *The Moth* where our Christian friends tell stories from their lives that have impacted their life of faith. On this Sunday the Butterfly will make a reappearance via engaging stories from some of our own.

Lunch Bunch

Join us for Lunch Bunch on Tues., Aug. 4, 11:30 AM, at Early Bird, 1900 K Street. R.S.V.P. to jimkinkennon@gmail.com or text 402-290-5888.

Sunday Save the Dates!

August 9 – Blessing of the Backpacks and Kick-Off Sunday!

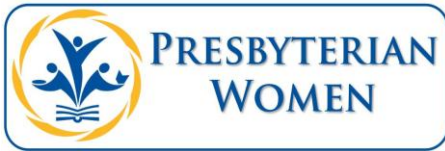
August 16 – "WPC Kids Big Sunday" #1 – KidCon! (During Worship)

Travels with Tami

Westminster member, Tami Wellmann, has found God in all her travels. Her photos will take you to many of the 60 countries she has visited. Travel with Tami to Morocco, Greece, Russia, Canada, Scotland and many more. The countries she has visited are comprised of people just like what we find in the United States. People looking for their place in this world. She was moved by Pastor Jimmy's sermon on July 12th and the parable of sowing seeds. It made her think about God not just sowing for us...but for lands far and wide—The World in which We Live. You will enjoy her photos on display as our Artist of the Month for August.

Prairie Readers in August

Prairie Readers will meet on August 19 at 1 PM in the lounge. Linda Burchard will lead the discussion of *The Emperor of Gladness* by Ocean Vuong. The book is a story of unexpected friendships and the gift of a second chance. Everyone is welcome to join the group.



Gather Us In

WHY: It's the Annual Kickoff

WHO: Presbyterian Women at Westminster and any women who belong to Westminster

WHEN: Saturday, August 22 at 9:30 AM

WHERE: Cole Hall (in the lower level)

WHAT WILL HAPPEN:

- Fellowship with coffee and refreshments
- Remembering our Honor Circle 1 PW's
- Overview of the 2026-2027 Horizon's Bible Study
- Hands-on mission project

Bring personal hygiene items for the LINCOLN HYGIENE NETWORK barrel.

Presbyterian Women gather with commitment to nurture our faith, support the mission of the church, work for justice and peace, and to build an inclusive caring community of women.

Questions? Contact Linda Burchard (lindajburchard@gmail.com)

Share Your Gratitude with Us!

As we will regularly have a Moment of Gratitude in church in worship going forward, and we would love to have your suggestions for those moments. Is there a church volunteer, team, initiative, or staff person you would like to lift up? Would you like to share a moment reflecting on how your church family has impacted your life recently? Please email office@westminsterlincoln.org with the subject "Gratitude Submission" only, at any time. You may give a simple suggestion for Chris or Jimmy to share, a scripted note (max 400 words) to be read aloud, or you may request to do one on your own (max 4mins, must be pre-written and practiced beforehand). If we receive a number of submissions, we may pair yours with a future theme, so please be patient. Thank you, and as always, remember – a Presbyterian's response to God's grace is gratitude!

Pastoral Care Cell Phone: 531-510-4929

If you are a member and have a need for pastoral care, such as a bereavement or hospitalization, call 531-510-4929. One of the pastors will answer or get back to you.

Back Pew Gardeners – Volunteers Needed

Many hands make light work! Please consider joining us as we work together to keep our church grounds looking their best. No gardening experience is necessary.

This week's to do list (July 26-Aug. 1):

South Street:

- weed along South Street
- cut the euonymus back to about one foot.

Ryons Street (near the church):

- weed the planting areas
- cut back the milkweed vine
- trim the tree
- remove sucker trees.

Along Ryons Street:

- clean up the fallen linden seeds.

If you have gardening gloves or hand tools, feel free to bring them. For questions, contact Tom Pappas. Thank you for helping to keep our church grounds beautiful!

Splashtacular Fun: Join Us for our End-of-Summer Pool Party!

As the summer sun begins to set on another incredible season, there is only one right way to celebrate: a massive community pool party! Grab your towels, flip-flops, and favorite swimsuits because it's time to make a splash before the school year kicks into gear.

Whether you are a toddler dipping your toes in the water for the first time, a teenager eyeing the high dive, or an adult looking to relax and catch up with neighbors, this night is for everyone. All ages are welcome and encouraged to join the fun!

New Venue Alert! Take note: we are switching things up this year! While we usually host this event at Star City Shores, we are moving the party to a fantastic new spot.

Join us on **Wed. Aug. 5, 6:30 PM to 8 PM, at Eden Pool** (4400 Antelope Creek Rd) for a fresh change of scenery and just as much excitement!

Eden Pool has something for absolutely everyone in the family:

- The Thrill-Seekers: Race down the twists and turns of the water slide!
- The Daredevils: Show off your best cannonball or dive off the diving board.
- The Little Ones: A dedicated wading and baby pool perfect for safe, shallow splashing.
- The Loungers: Plenty of space to hang out on the deck, chat, and cheer on the swimmers.

There is no better way to wrap up the summer than surrounded by great music, refreshing water, and even better company. We can't wait to see you all on deck!

Staff Schedules

Trish Souliere will be out of the office until August 3. After a week of vacation, she will attend Synod School beginning on July 27.

Week Beginning July 26

<u>Sun. (July 26)</u> 10 AM Worship, Sanctuary 11:15 AM Adult Ed, Lounge 12 PM Sudanese Worship <u>Mon. – Fri. (July 27-July 31)</u> 9 AM-3 PM and 4 PM-6 PM Youth Actors Academy of Lincoln (YAAL) <u>Mon. (July 27)</u> 6 PM Session, Lounge 7 PM Recovery Group, Library <u>Tues. (July 28)</u> 9:30 AM Memorial Service for Carolyn McCall, Reception following in Fellowship Hall	<u>Wed. (July 29)</u> 1 PM Hearts & Hands, Library <u>Sat. (Aug. 1)</u> 2 & 6 PM YAAL Performances, FH <u>Sun. (Aug. 2)</u> 10 AM Worship with Communion 11:15 AM Adult Ed, Lounge 12 PM Sudanese Worship 2 & 6 PM YAAL Performances, FH
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Worship services are available on-line at this link:

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