

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER



The Messenger

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"Harvest Celebration" by Allison Borgschulte, our featured artist for September

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven".

Ecclesiastes 3:1

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 PRESCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 2026



Look What We're Learning!

We're are off for the 2026-2027 school! Preschool started back to school on August 12th. We had an Open House the week before so our new families could meet their teacher and see the classroom. Everyone brought a stuffed animal and we had a stuffy sleepover! Teachers took funny pictures of the animals having fun at Preschool, and they were waiting for their owner on the first day!

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

CLASSROOM:
ALL ABOUT ME

CHAPEL CHAT:
CREATION

SECOND STEP:
FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS



UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPT. 4TH --
HUSKER DAY

SEPT. 8TH & 9TH ---
NO SCHOOL

SEPT. 16TH & 17TH---
PICTURE DAY

SEPT. 30TH & OCT. 1ST ----
FAMILY DAY



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A Note From Pastor Chris

Westminster Friends,
As you settle into your household's fall schedule, I hope you'll make church part of your regular plans!

Better Together

We've recently begun a soft rollout of one part of our new Vision and Values for our church, "Westminster... Better Together." Our new tagline, to use Ministry Architects language, is one that emphasizes the goodness of our faith when lived out in community. We're better together in worship and praise of God, better together in joyful service of God, and better together as we grow in faith and relationships as the church!

The Saga of Exodus Series

I'm excited for the two fall worship series we have this year! We are currently in a journey through major stories in the book of Exodus, "The Saga of Exodus." In September, we'll gather to hear the dramatic tales of the Passover, the Escape from Egypt, Manna from Heaven, Water from a Rock, and the Ten Commandments! September 20 and 27 will include an earth-care emphasis on food and water-related concerns for our second fall Season of Creation. At the time of writing, we are also working on a joint worship service with our Lohmen, Germany friends on October 4th, which is also World Communion Sunday. More details to come.

Our Next Chapter Series

Then, on October 11th, we will begin an uplifting, future-focused series, "Our Next Chapter: Better Together." This series will highlight one part of our new vision and values each week, going straight through to Advent! I hope you will be intentional to join us in-person for those weeks, and if you are unable for any reason, join us live or later on YouTube.

Ministry Architects Updates

Lastly, each week in worship through the end of the month, we will hear from members of our Ministry Architects Churchwide Implementation Team with

area-specific project updates. Over the last three weeks of August we heard about the Volunteer Organizational restructuring (8/16 and 8/23) and Property Discernment (8/30). Here's what's coming up: Discipleship Task Force (9/6), Marketing and Branding Strategies (9/13), Long-Term Staffing (9/20), and Financial Strategy (9/27).

Friends, when we show up, make connections, and serve joyfully in our community as one Westminster family, we truly are the church Better Together!

With Gratitude,
Pastor Chris

Pastoral Care Cell Phone: 531-510-4929

Upcoming Events and Important Dates

SEPTEMBER • National Hispanic Heritage Month (Sep 15–Oct 15); hispanicheritagemonth.gov

01 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation; creationjustice.org/world-day-of-prayer-for-the-care-ofcreation.html

07 Labor Day; dol.gov/general/laborday/history

08 International Literacy Day; en.unesco.org/commemorations/literacyday

13 Disability Inclusion Sunday; pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/disability-concerns

21 International Day of Peace; pcusa.org/worship-with-us/yearbook/september-21-2024

22 Native American Day; pcusa.org/native-american-day

Adult Ed Series for September:

September 6: Labor Day, no adult ed

September 13: GA 227 - What the Heck Does it Mean and Why Does it Matter? with Pastor Chris!

September 20: Creation Celebration: Tim Shaw and Phyllis, Bread for the World and the goal of Ending Hunger in our Lifetime

September 27: Creation Celebration: John Hay, Data Center Water Use 101

Explorers Bible Study Resumes Monday, September 14

The bible study will meet in the Library at 11 a.m.

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Upcoming Events Cntd

Hearts and Hands | Library | Wednesdays 1–3 PM

Hearts and Hands is a fun-loving group that meets every Wednesday in the church library. Questions? Call Dorrie Gage at 402-730-9676

Lunch Bunch | Tuesday, September 1 | Big Red (East)

Lunch Bunch will meet Tuesday, September 1 at 11:30 A.M., at Big Red Restaurant, 8933 Andermatt Drive (East location).

R.S.V.P. to jimkinkennon@gmail.com or text 402-290-5888.

Faith & Cancer Support Group | Tuesday, September 15 10:00 AM | Church Library

Prairie Readers | Wednesday, September 16 | 1:00 PM

Prairie Readers will meet on September 16 at 1 PM in the lounge. Diana Wild will lead the discussion of *The Marriage Portrait* by Maggie O'Ferrell. The author describes the world of Renaissance Italy through the life of a young woman thrust into an unfamiliar and unwelcoming court. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Ladies Night Out | Tuesday, September 29 | 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. | G.O.A.T.'S Table

Join us for our next Ladies Night Out on Tuesday, September 29th from 5–7 PM at [G.O.A.T.'S Table](#) 2901 S 84th Street Suite 16. This is a new restaurant where Dino's and Bob & Willie's Wonderbowl were located; G.O.A.T.'s Table has happy hour pricing too. We visit local restaurants to share in conversation and in a good meal. We have no agenda; our primary goal is to get-to-know one another better in a small group setting. We would love to have a seat at the table for you; please RSVP to robynu2@hotmail.com by Sunday, September 27th.

Questions or suggestions please email, text, or call Robyn Uebele (937) 935-6858.

From Filling Slots to Sharing Our Gifts

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord... Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good."

— 1 Corinthians 12:4–7 (NIV)

Something new is taking shape at Westminster.

Recently, many of our church leaders gathered for Leadership Training to begin working through a new approach to how we organize, lead, and invite people into ministry. A heartfelt thank you goes to everyone who attended and was willing to do the hard work—asking questions, sharing ideas, listening, and imagining what ministry at Westminster could look like in the future. One image from the training summed up the process particularly well: "Change is hard at first, messy in the middle and gorgeous at the end." — Robin Sharma. We may be entering the messy middle, and that is okay.



Why Are We Changing?

A volunteer audit conducted last fall confirmed something many of us were already experiencing: our current structure asks a great deal from our volunteers. We have many committees, teams, positions, meetings, and responsibilities, with some people serving in multiple roles. Over time, that can lead to burnout. It can also make getting involved seem overwhelming to someone who is new or simply wants to help. Our goal is to change the question from: "Who can we find to fill this position?" to: "What gifts has God given you, and how can you use them?" That is a very different way of thinking about volunteering. It turns volunteering into discipleship.

A New Structure

The proposed structure brings our ministries together under seven areas: Christian Formation, Church Life, Outreach, Worship, Administration & Planning, Facility & Finance, and Personnel. Within those areas, we are thinking about leadership in three ways: Moderators are the architects—helping establish vision and direction. Team Leaders are the general contractors—bringing people together and helping ministry happen. Team

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From Filling Slots to Sharing Our Gifts cntd

Members are the skilled craftspeople—people using their particular gifts, interests, experiences, and abilities to serve. Not everyone needs to lead a committee. Not everyone needs to attend another meeting. And serving does not have to mean making a long-term commitment to something that isn't a good fit. There should be many different ways to participate because, as Paul reminds us, there are different kinds of gifts and different kinds of service—but the same Spirit.

We Are Still Building

There are questions we haven't answered yet. There are pieces of the organizational chart that still need work. Team descriptions and responsibilities need to be developed, and we need to determine who will serve as Moderators, Co-Moderators, and Team Leaders. That is why the participation of our leaders at the training was so important. We aren't handing the congregation a finished product. We are building something together. Our hope is that this new structure will create a healthier and more sustainable way of doing ministry—one where leadership is shared, people aren't stretched across too many responsibilities, new people can easily find a place to belong, and everyone has an opportunity to discover how their gifts can contribute to the common good. Because ultimately, this isn't about creating a better organizational chart. It is about people. It is about discipleship. It is about discovering our gifts and using them together. And perhaps when we get through a little of the messiness, we will discover something pretty gorgeous on the other side.



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Creation Celebration Fall 2026

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. Matthew 25:35: "

Stewardship of Food and Water

Worship: Join in two special worship services, Sunday, September 20th, and Sunday, September 27th. Following the lectionary, Pastor Chris will be preaching on God's provision of manna when the people were hungry and water when they were thirsty. Wes and John are planning special music with a creation emphasis both Sundays.

Education: Adult education will follow similar themes, 11:15–noon, in the Lounge.

- Sunday, September 20th, End Hunger in Our Lifetime. That's the goal of Bread for the World, a non-partisan Christian advocacy organization urging U.S. decision makers to do all they can to pursue a world without hunger. Tim Shaw and Phyllis Arth, seasoned BFW volunteers, will tell the story of what happens when 300,000 people speak up.
- Sunday, September 27th, Data Center Water Use 101. We've all heard the buzz—pros and cons of data centers in Nebraska—in Lincoln!—, open and closed loop water systems, and their impact on communities. John Hay, UNL Extension Educator and member of Palmyra Presbyterian Church, has made a career of educating Nebraska about energy issues. Learn about the options and the trade-offs that make the issue so complicated.
- Sunday, October 4th, Nebraska Water—Development, Use, and Policy. Crystal Powers is a UNL Extension Educator who connects the latest research with practical actions steps

Service: Westminster Youth will do their part to protect Lincoln's water ways with a stream clean-up event. On Sunday, September 20th, we will have a special drive for our Pantry, with the theme of Ending Hunger in Our Lifetime. Every little bit helps!

The Green Barrel Returns for the LINCOLN HYGIENE NETWORK

Presbyterian Women at Westminster are again partnering in **September and October** with the **Lincoln Hygiene Network** to provide basic hygiene necessities through over 20 community groups who help people in the Lincoln–Lancaster County area. Hygiene and period products are NOT covered by SNAP or WIC. Hygiene items are essential to provide health and dignity for our neighbors.

The most needed products are

- deodorant, bar soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes, period products, hair care products, and laundry items.

If you wish to give a money donation a QR Code is available by the barrel or contact www.lincolnhygienetwork.org for how to donate online or by check with **PW Westminster** on the memo line.

Look for the **Green Barrel** near the east entrance off the parking lot for all of **September and October. Give with a generous heart.**

Youth News

W3 (Welcome to Westminster on Wednesdays!) Wednesdays, 5:30–8:00 PM

W3 is our intentional mid-week gathering designed specifically for children and youth from kindergarten all the way through 12th grade. It is the perfect oasis in the middle of a busy school week to unwind, connect with friends, eat a great meal, and dive deeper into faith and community.

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The Wednesday Routine

We've designed our Wednesday schedule to give kids plenty of space to burn off energy, share life over a dinner table, and engage in meaningful, age-appropriate small groups.

1. Open Gym Time: 5:30 PM.
2. A chance to run around, play basketball, burn off after-school energy, and hang out before the structured evening begins.
3. Community Dinner: 6:00 PM.
4. We gather around the tables to share a delicious, hassle-free meal together. Parents, you are invited to join us and enjoy one less night of cooking and dish-duty!
5. Stories, Discussion & Games: 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM.
6. Our children and youth split into their respective age groups for interactive stories, real faith discussions, and high-energy games led by our dedicated volunteer teams.

All Are Welcome!

At Westminster, our doors and our circles are wide open. W3 isn't just for church members—it is for everyone. We encourage our kids to invite their friends, neighbors, classmates, and acquaintances. If you've been looking for a casual, welcoming community where your child can plug in, build life-giving friendships, and feel a deep sense of belonging, W3 is the place to be. We can't wait to see you in the gym at 5:30 PM on Wednesdays!

WPC Youth Group: Most Wanted | September 13, 1:00–4:00 PM

Join us downtown in the Haymarket as we split into teams and search for Westminster's Most Wanted! They'll be hiding in plain sight throughout the Haymarket and we need your help tracking them down. Gather your friends, put your detective skills to the test, and see if you can catch them all!

WPC Youth Group: Roca Scary | October 18, 7:00 PM

Get ready for a night of frights, fall fun, and fellowship! The youth group is taking on Roca Scary on Saturday, October 18, and you won't want to miss it. Whether you're looking to brave the haunted attractions or just hang out and enjoy the autumn night, there's something for everyone.

When: Saturday, October 18, 2026

Where: Roca Berry Farm (Meet directly at the entrance)

Time: 7:00 PM

Admission:

\$30.95 if purchased through September

\$35.95 if purchased in October

(Scholarships are available upon request.)

Tickets must be purchased individually in advance. Head over to the official Roca Berry Farm website to lock in your discounted admission before September ends!

Grab your tickets early to save a few bucks, invite a friend, and get ready for a hauntingly good time. See you at the farm at 7:00 PM!

Spooktacular | October 28, 5:30 PM–7:00 PM

On Wednesday, October 28 from 5:30–7:00, put on your best costume and come to Fellowship Hall at WPC to play games, trick or treat, and have a frightfully fun evening.

Here are some of the activities you can look forward to:

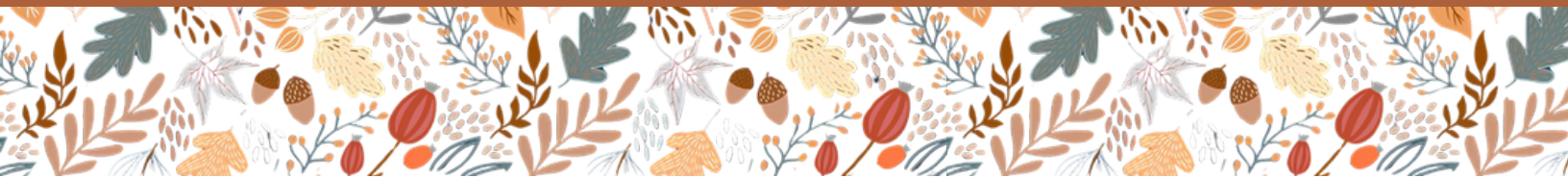
- Trick-or-treating
 - Photo Booth
 - Food
 - Giant Games – Spikeball, Pong, Connect 4, Jenga
- And more!

You can help us make this event possible in a couple of ways:

- Donate bags of candy, packaged snacks and/or any small handouts for the children. Look for collection buckets at the top of the steps by the East entrance.
- Decorate your table with a fun theme then pass out treats to the children. Let Trish know if you are interested in staffing a table by email at trish@westminsterlincoln.org or by phone/text at 402-570-0163.

Plan to arrive by 5:00 PM to claim your table and decorate your space. Contact Sarah Baltensperger sarah.baltensperger@gmail.com or Stacy Graham babyruth19@hotmail.com with any questions.

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Westminster
Presbyterian Church
2110 Sheridan Blvd
Lincoln, NE 68502

Featured Artist for September Allison Borgschulte

Allison's biography:

Allison Borgschulte is a multi-disciplinary artist working in glass, fiber art, painting, and kaleidoscope making. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Kansas City Art Institute in 2004 earning the Highest GPA in her graduating class and a Mentorship Award. She has since had her work displayed in local, national, and internationally juried exhibits, received high honors, and been published internationally in the Surface Design Association, Brewster Kaleidoscope Society, The Flow Magazine, Glass Patterns Quarterly, and Contemporary Marbles: Art and Artisans in the 21st Century. Allison has been commissioned numerous times for large stained glass and fiber works of art in public and private spaces. In 2022, she created a memorial window in the Oakdale Elementary School Library of Omaha, NE. Along with her personal artistic endeavors, she currently works in a professional stained-glass studio in Lincoln, NE, Architectural Glassarts, as their premier patternmaker and glass painter. She resides in Lincoln Nebraska with her husband and two children and spends much of her summer in Minnesota on their private island on a natural lake where she soaks up inspiration for her art.

