

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER



The Messenger

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*Photo of the West Window,
courtesy of Jim Kinkennon*

"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](https://westminsterlincoln.org/youtube-videos)



(402) 475-6702



2110 Sheridan Blvd, Lincoln, NE 68502

WESTMINSTER PRESCHOOL

OCTOBER 2026



Look What We're Learning!

Fall is here at Preschool! We're settling into our groove with new friends and teachers. We started Chapel Chat second week of September adding in our Spare Change Project. Students are collecting coins to contribute to help other children in our community. Last year we raised \$147.98!

In September we enjoyed celebrating one of our teachers getting married with a special bridal day and a day to wear our Husker gear!

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

CLASSROOM:
WEATHER & SEASONS

CHAPEL CHAT:
JOESPH & HIS BROTHERS
MOSES BIRTH

SECOND STEP:
IDENTIFYING FEELINGS



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**OCT. 12TH - 14TH ---
PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES**

**OCT. 15TH - 19TH ----
FALL BREAK - NO SCHOOL**

**OCT. 29TH & 30TH ----
CLASS HALLOWEEN PARTIES**



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VOLUME 96 ISSUE 10

A Note From Pastor Chris

Westminster Friends,

It was just over a year ago that we first met our friends from Ministry Architects for conversations about our beloved church family and commissioned an Implementation Team. This Fall we've seen more plans and efforts roll out, from the Volunteer Organizational Structure, conversations about the role of Deacons, and our first KidCon event! I'm excited to share details on one more – our new Vision and Values! On October 11th we will begin a sermon series launch of the ideals that will guide us as we begin our 'next 100 years' at the corner of Sheridan and South. I hope you will join us that Sunday and throughout the series, as we celebrate a different element of our identity as formed by the voices of our members earlier this year! Here's the plan, with some special fun in our service on 10/11!

Our Next Chapter: The Church, Better Together

October 11 – Our Vision: Redefining Church

October 18 – Our Values: Radical Welcome

October 25 – Our Values: Joyful Service

November 1 – Our Values: Deepening Faith

November 8 – Our Values: Better Together

November 15 – Our Vision: The Church Redefined and Always Redefining

November 22 – Our Why: The Guidance of Jesus

With gratitude,
Pastor Chris

Staff Update

We're excited to share that Dylan Douglas has accepted the role of Executive Administrator at Westminster! Dylan has served as our Communications and Administration Coordinator for the past two years and will transition into her new full-time role over the next few weeks.

As we welcome Dylan into this position, we also celebrate Joanne Gabriel, who is retiring after serving as Westminster's Office Manager since 2019. Join us after worship on Sunday, October 11 as we celebrate Joanne with cake, cards, and expressions of appreciation for her years of service.

Upcoming Events and Important Dates

OCTOBER

•Domestic Violence Awareness Month; ncadv.org/; nomore.org; presbyterianwomen.org/justice or pcusa.org/resource/domestic-violence-worship-resources

•FairTrade Month; fairtradefederation.org/celebrate-fair-trade-month

•National Disability Employment Awareness Month; dol.gov/agencies/odep/initiatives/ndeam

04 World Communion Sunday; pcusa.org/resource/resources-world-communion-sunday

11 International Day of the Girl Child; un.org/en/observances/girl-child-day

11 National Coming Out Day; hrc.org/resources/national-coming-out-day

12 Indigenous Peoples' Day; americanindian.si.edu/nk360/informational/columbus-day-myths

16 World Food Day; fao.org/world-food-day/home/en

18 Children's Sabbath: Educate a Child; pcusa.org/resource/sabbath-practices-ministry-kit-children or childrensdefense.org

24 United Nations Day; un.org/en/observances/un-da

Pianist Needed for Preschool Program

Preschool is looking for piano player to play at Christmas Program on Dec. 17th. Must be able to attend 2-3 morning practices during the week of the program. Contact Preschool Director if interested in helping out!

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, October 6 | 11:30 a.m.

Lunch Bunch will meet Tuesday, October 6, 11:30 A.M., at Hacienda Real, 3130 Pine Lake Rd. They are located near Trader Joe's.

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

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Upcoming Events Cntd

**Faith & Cancer Support Group | Tuesday, October 20
10:00 AM | Church Library**

Prairie Readers | Wednesday, October 21 | 1:00 PM

Prairie Readers will meet on Wednesday October 21 at 1 PM in the lounge. It is our privilege to have Pat Leech as our guest. She will review the American Library Association Notable Books for 2026. She promises to have some unexpected titles too. Everyone is welcome.

Ladies Night Out | Tuesday, October 27 | Billy's Restaurant | 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Join us this month at Billy's Restaurant. As always, it promises to be a fun time of catching up. Feel free to bring a friend! Westminster Presbyterian Church Ladies' Night Out @ Billy's 1301 H St; Tuesday, October 27th, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Nader and his team serve a variety of heavy appetizers family style. Our cost is \$17/per person, additional cost of your drink, tax, and tip. Feel free to order off their menu to meet your dietary needs or preferences. 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, October 25th.

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

We want to have plenty of seating for all. We hope you can join us!

**Adult Education at Westminster
for October 11, 18 & 25**



Lenses that Distort Scripture; Lenses that Reveal Scripture
Taught by Pastor Jimmy Shelbourn

Adult Ed Series for October:

October 4: Nebraska Water—Development, Use, and Policy

October 11: Lenses that distort Scripture: Literalism and Dispensationalism

October 18: Lenses that distort Scripture: Moralism and Hierarchy

October 25: Lenses that reveal Scripture: Context and the Jesus Lens



What do these people have in common?—Full Tummies & New Friends!!

Forks & Friends – A Westminster Table Adventure is organizing groups for the October – February timeline. There is still time for you to join. If you would like a new way to connect with people, this may be the group for you. 5-8 people meet once a month around a table to share a meal or snack & enjoy good conversation. Each group has a host(s) but everyone contributes to the planning & providing food. We want this experience to be fun, easy & way to make better friendships. For more information or to sign up, please contact Marilyn Hood by phone or text at 402-499-9045 or email at mhood0529@gmail.com.

Explorers Bible Study – Mondays @ 11 a.m.

The bible study will meet in the Library at 11 a.m. Join others in exploring the Apostle Paul's letter to the church at Rome.

Pastoral Care Cell Phone: 531-510-4929

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The Renovation Story Continues...

No major building project had been done to the building since the 1970's so in the late 1990's, the wish lists started. Items such as needing to replace the worn carpet in the Sanctuary; Cole Hall is too small; the education area is cramped again; the chapel seems isolated from the rest of the church; and it is hard to get to the second floor of the administration wing. As the list grew, folks started talking about another capital campaign for renovation.

In 1997, the Session approved a new capital campaign and hired consultants to raise money. Over the next 5 years, a Task Force was created and a needs assessment was conducted. All ministries of the church had a voice. All the needs were gathered. Sinclair Hillis Architectural firm was selected for a big three-part renovation that would touch almost every area of the church. Construction started in 2001 and finally finished in 2003. At first, the plan was to renovate the Sanctuary, choir loft and create an indoor link to the chapel. After that, the project would move to create a bigger fellowship space, address the educational needs, amend the east entrance and shift some rooms in the administration wing. There was an informational meeting to explain all of the various plans to the congregation. After listening to it all, someone stood up and suggested that since we want to be a church known for families, we should renovate their area first. This caused the architects to sit up straighter and after some deliberation, reported they could make that happen. Thus, starting in 2001 through 2003, much construction and work was done in many areas but not in the Sanctuary. Starting in the northeast corner of our building, a new gymnasium was built. It had outside access for community use and was just a door away from the Preschool. A portico was created to link the gym and preschool to a new east entry way into the church. It even included a dropoff area for easy access for Preschool children and church members. The east entrance was changed to support a portico link with the Preschool and created a better stairway, foyer, and coat closet area just ahead of the Garden room. The lower-level Atrium area was converted to an arts and crafts room. This tied the north and south classrooms and youth space together for easy access to both areas. With the newly created spaces in the educational area came a new children's teaching

method called a Rotation Model, and Faith Village was born. Church members Tamara Cass and Rose Ann Dowty were instrumental in designing the area into a space set back in time to when Jesus instructed the children. They did add a computer room, a stage room to act out the Bible stories and also a theater to watch videos stories. The babies got a new nursery area just off the east entrance for parents to easily drop off the little one. On the wish list for this renovation was the addition of the elevator in the administration wing. This allowed everyone access to the suite of offices on the second floor and access to Faith Village and all the children's and youth areas. During this time, the library and the reception desk area switched places. A lot of books were moved across the hall to the newly made bookcases. The new reception area boasted a new waiting room area with a two person work desk and new cabinets for staff and committees to have a "mail slot." The reception desk looked out into the new foyer to welcome all who entered the building. Two major changes on this renovation project was the conversion of the old gymnasium to the Fellowship Hall and a new set of well-needed restrooms. To achieve this, the old gym floors were removed, and the north wall was extended into the parlor. This did involve using some of the parlor space as well as the taking out the small kitchen attached to the parlor. A hallway was created to get from the Garden room to the parlor and restrooms. Two regrets heard by many at Westminster was the small kitchen should have been incorporated into the new Fellowship hall and the hallway should have been wider. The Fellowship Hall was first used in April 2003. In the fall of 2001, construction began on the Chapel link. This also included a Columbarium to be built behind the Chapel with a heated floor for accessibility all year long. The link connecting the Chapel with the rest of the building included access to the Columbarium and was just west of the hallway to the parlor.



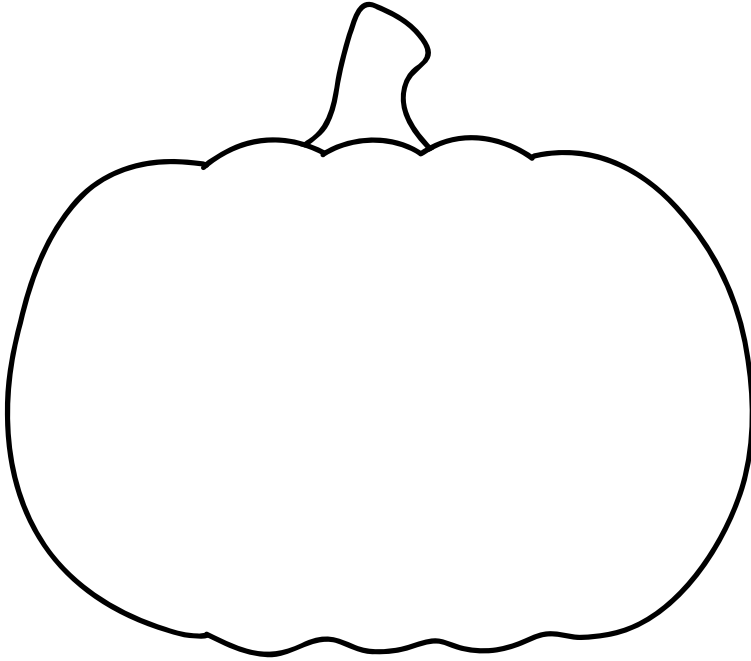
Preschool playground prior to 2001
Education Wing renovation

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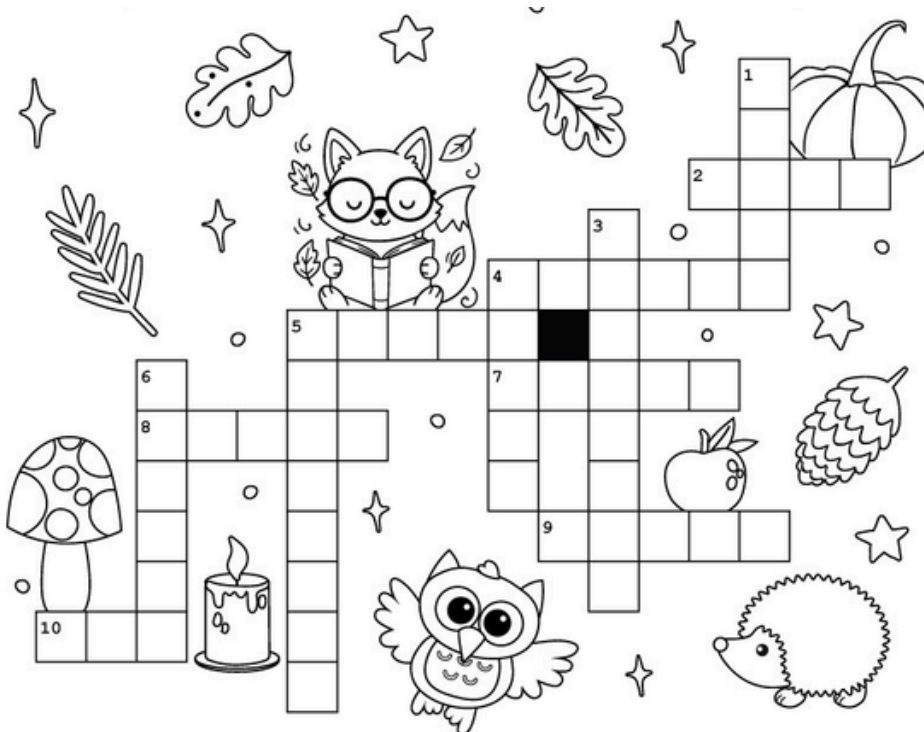
Kids Corner



Create your own jack-o-lantern!



DARK	SPOOK	CORN	PARTY
OGRE	BLACK	CAT	BROOM
FRIGHT	MOON		



ACROSS

2. Sound made by an owl at night.
4. Crops like wheat harvested in fall.
5. Sweet apple drink enjoyed warm or cold.
7. Crisp fruit picked in September.
8. Nut that grows on oak trees.
9. Cool air or crunchy apple in fall.
10. Thick mist covering fields on cool mornings.

DOWN

1. Footwear for puddles, mud, and leaves.
3. Outdoor fire for warmth or marshmallows.
4. Sauce served with mashed potatoes or turkey.
5. Farm attraction made from tall corn rows.
6. Making pies, breads, and cookies in fall.

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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.

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!

Confirmation Kick-Off Session – Sunday, October 25 11:15a – 12:00p in Fellowship Hall

For youth 9th-grade-and-up who have not been confirmed.

A parent/guardian is encouraged to attend with youth. We will have some icebreakers, snacks, and our first session, "What is Confirmation?" After the Kick-Off

session, the class will meet at the same time on Nov. 1, 8, 15, Feb. 7, 21, 28, and April 4, 11. Confirmation Sunday will be at the 10 am service on May 9. Contact Trish Souliere (trish@westminsterlincoln.org) to 'confirm' your participation in the class and/or RSVP for this session!

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!

KidCon II: Cake, Costumes, & Major Discoveries | October 25, 10:00 AM–11:00 AM

Faith has never been this much fun! Join us for KidCon II, an exciting adventure where kids can grow in faith and make lasting memories.



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Westminster
Presbyterian Church
2110 Sheridan Blvd
Lincoln, NE 68502

Youth News Continued

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.



SPOOK-TACULAR

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28 | 5:30 PM-7:00 PM
2110 Sheridan Boulevard