



# *The Voice of Westminster*

*We are a servant church, nurturing each other's spiritual journey and personal gifts. All are welcome!*

April 2022

## **The Other Pandemics**

**As we have noted before, we have been impacted in an unprecedented way by the Covid -19 pandemic.** However, in an article I read yesterday, **The Six Other Pandemics We Need to Talk About** by Ed Stetzer (Outreach Magazine, March 15, 2022), we need to be aware of the impact of much more.

The following are excerpts of an article where Ed Stetzer identifies six others. (Ed is an American author, speaker, researcher, pastor, church planter, and Christian missiologist. Stetzer is Billy Graham Distinguished Chair of Church, Mission, and Evangelism at Wheaton College and Executive Director of the Billy Graham Center at Wheaton College).

### **1. A Pandemic of Mental Illness .**

Kaiser Family Foundation reports that anxiety and depression have increased fourfold during the pandemic: "During the pandemic, about 4 in 10 adults in the U.S. have reported symptoms of anxiety or depressive disorder, a share that has been largely consistent, up from 1 in 10 adults who reported these symptoms from January to June 2019."

### **2. A Pandemic of Distrust**

We are seeing the highest level of distrust toward institutions, the media and other entities in at least a generation. Most of us are experiencing the highest level of mistrust in our lifetime. This has huge ramifications for how we relate to others, especially those with differing ideologies.

### **3. A Pandemic of Division**

This is one of the most divided times ever in the church. Pastors tell us they have never experienced this level of conflict in the life of the church.

I have heard from pastors from churches of every stripe that they have no idea how many will eventually return to church because they've never seen so many people so upset for so long.

### **4. A Pandemic of Defamation**

We've never seen social media become so vicious so quickly. The combination of never-ending 24-hour cable news, the constant newsfeed on our phones and the ubiquity of social media has afforded people the opportunity to trash one another at an unprecedented level.

### **5. A Pandemic of Disorientation**

Many things have changed quickly in our culture—some good, some bad. But the rapidity with which these changes have come has left little time for people to thoughtfully reflect on and engage these changes. The result has been widespread disorientation, not only in individual identity, but also in national identity. Disorientation can prompt fear and anxiety.

(continued on p. 2)

## The Other Pandemics

*Continued from p. 1*

### 6. A Pandemic of Disruption

COVID-19 created the greatest global crisis since World War II. Along with it came great disruptions in the way we go to school, work, travel and relate to others. For many, their work shifted from a work office to a home office. In-person meetings became virtual meetings. Some businesses and vocations flourished while many others suffered.

### Becoming the Cure

The culture is fragmenting and fraying. We need to resolve afresh to love people and to show kindness in the face of our disoriented world. These issues won't suddenly end when the COVID-19 pandemic ends. Cultural convulsions like the ones we are going through have patterns and tend to last four to six years. Our culture is resetting, and we must be prepared to respond to the new normal with the gospel in ways that are effective and life-giving.

In this Easter Season, let us be aware of our times (all the division, distrust and disorientation we face today), but keep our focus on our sure salvation; let us cast off the darkness of culture-copying and display the light of the gospel; and let us put aside sinful habits and put on Jesus, showing and sharing Christ to everyone around us.

*- Pastor Roger*

### March Session Notes

Pastor Roger opened the March 15 meeting with prayer. As a scant quorum attended, Pastor Roger pushed back the planned devotions for a later date.

Session did the following:

- Heard a financial update from Jim Patterson, Session member of the Finance Committee, . He shared that February had strong pledge collections. Offsetting the strong showing were continuing high natural gas costs as well as the scheduled payment of the quarterly HVAC contract, resulting in \$5,709 more than money taken in. Year to Date the church shows expenses of \$8,217 more than revenue.
- Heard a property update from Terry Perkins, that a bid from D&N fencing has been accepted to install a new fence by the satellite parking lot, as required by city code.
- Listened to a concern that the cluttered presentation within the main foyer to the church was uninviting. (Staff—Antoinette—has addressed the concern).

The meeting closed with everyone saying The Lord's Prayer together. The net Session meeting is April 19 at 6:30 p.m. in the Atrium.

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**STATEMENT TO THE CONGREGATION FROM THE SESSION**

+ Over the last several months the Session has held special meetings in which the fu-  
+ ture of Westminster was discussed. Like all churches, WPC would like to be a grow-  
+ ing congregation, but the national reality is that the percentage of Americans that  
+ identify as Christians continues to decline. The Session is tasked with “discerning”  
+ God’s will – a monumental task!

+ The Session has determined that we are to do what we CAN do, i.e., work with what  
+ we have, for the congregation we have. This has led the Session to embark on an  
+ initial phase to revitalize Sunday worship which is the purpose of congregating. This  
+ initial phase will have two components: the physical space, and aspects of wor-  
+ ship. The Session encourages you, the members, to provide constructive ideas to  
+ Session members.

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*Preparing for Easter*

Following are worship service plans for Holy Week:

Palm Sunday - April 10 - 10 a.m. - Sanctuary

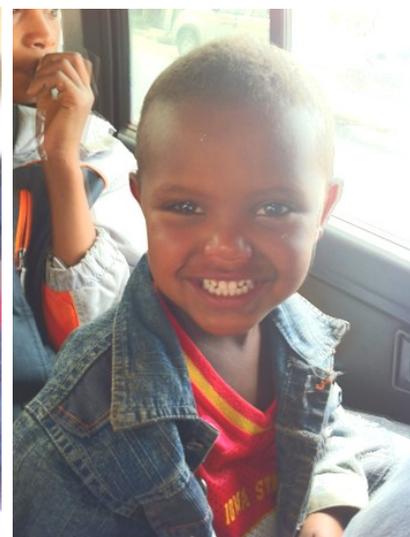
Maundy Thursday- April 14 - 6:30 p.m. - Family Life Center

Easter - April 17 - 10 a.m. - Sanctuary

Note: After discussion, it was decided to hold a Maundy Thursday service this year, rather than Good Friday service.

## Baptism-Confirmation Sunday | Special Students, Special Sunday

Important days, like confirmation and baptism should start with a good breakfast! Dureti Ali got her favorite omelet (thanks to Dave Leeper) and brother, Arefat Ali, added sparkling orange juice (non-alcoholic mimosas mixed up by Jan Kosowski, to his breakfast. Father/Uncle Tamene Gelashe picked up an order of scrambled eggs.



**And it seems like just yesterday!**

Dureti and Arefat shortly before coming to the United States from Ethiopia. How blessed we are to have this family in our midst!



Dureti and Arefat Ali were baptized and confirmed during Sunday service on March 27, 2022.



Prayer Shawl Ministry, represented by Barb Moss and Karol Cooper, present handmade tie-quilts for Dureti and Arefat.



Color, Chaos, Food-the perfect church reception!



Photos by Jan Kosowski, Warren Feerer, Karol Cooper and Gale Smetana



### April Birthdays

|                 |    |
|-----------------|----|
| Betty Pohorsky  | 1  |
| Nancy Evans     | 2  |
| Arefat Ali      | 8  |
| Bob Moran       | 8  |
| Butch Hataway   | 10 |
| Mark Tyler      | 10 |
| Joan Charters   | 12 |
| Barbara Schultz | 20 |
| Jennie Shanklin | 25 |
| Tom Read        | 26 |
| Karen Zazza     | 26 |
| Marsha Barta    | 29 |
| Ann Hearn       | 29 |

### The Month of April Thank You Volunteers!

#### Liturgists

- April 3**—Barb Read  
**April 10**—Ben Fashimpaur  
**April 17**—Jan Kosowski  
**April 24**—Brian Read

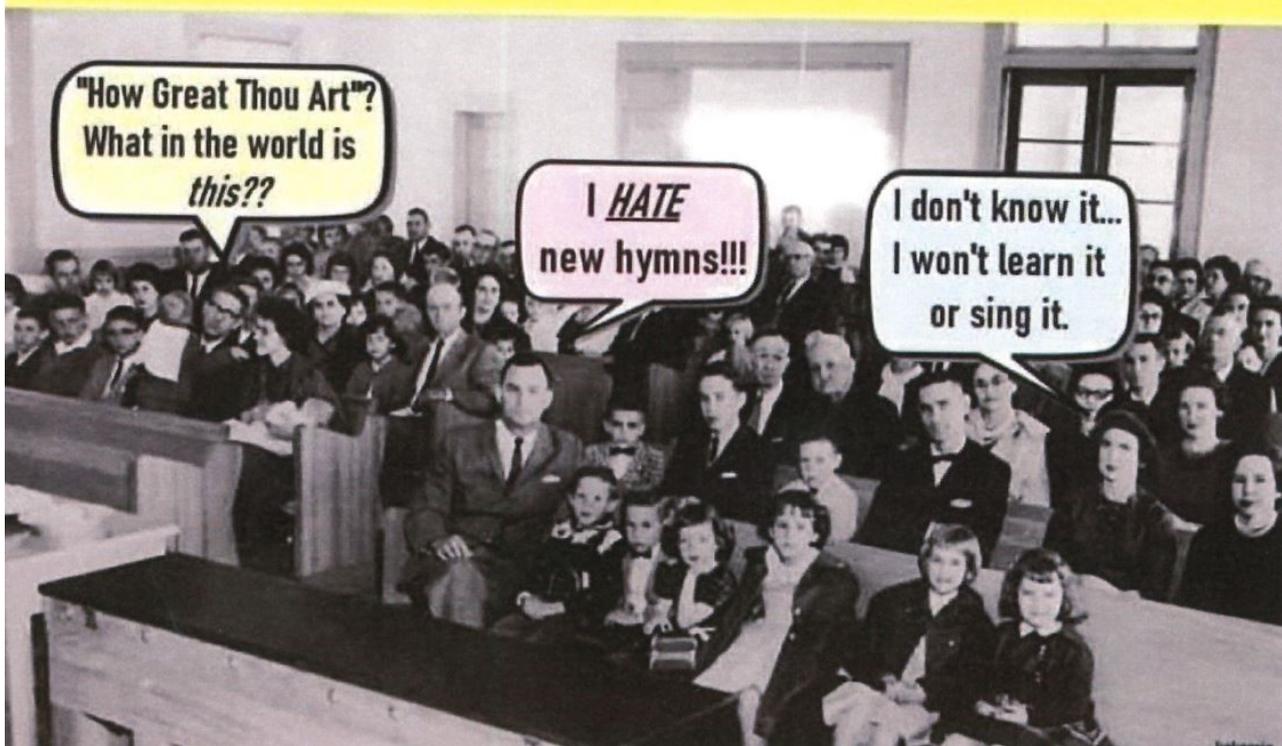
#### Greeters (at Front Door)

- April 3**—Jim Fine  
**April 10**—Bob Moore  
**April 17**—Brian Read  
**April 24**—Terry Perkins

If you are unable to cover your Sunday, please make arrangements with a substitute. Thank you!

### Meme of the Month...

## Heard throughout churches in 1953:





**Westminster Presbyterian Church**  
1285 Third Avenue SE  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403-4084

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*Return Service Requested*

*The Voice of Westminster*  
*April 2022*

# Westminster Presbyterian Church

## Office Hours

Monday - Thursday  
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## Sunday Worship

9 a.m.—Christian Education  
10 a.m.—Sanctuary

We live stream on our YouTube Channel & Facebook Page

*Visit us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Twitter or at [www.crwpc.org](http://www.crwpc.org)*

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Church Staff  
Pastor, Roger D. Grandia  
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