

## Voice of Westminster



### July 2026

The fifth and final focus point of a congregation in transition is FUTURE. This focus point does not require that Westminster discover an entirely new direction going forward. Rather, given current realities and circumstances, the congregation's sense of mission must be "innovative," "future-oriented," "reinterpreted," and "updated." This results not in a wholly new direction, so much as in a faithful response to a revitalized sense of mission.

The mission of the congregation is open to the new things that God may be calling us to participate in and ultimately to become. That future will certainly involve new clergy, but their selection will be consistent with the LEADERSHIP focus point discussed last month. This "fit" helps ensure that the future will be energetic and positive.

Rev. John Keydel ends his article on the Five Focus Points by suggesting that together they offer the congregation an expansive outlook. But there are no quick or predetermined outcomes. Rather, the outcomes emerge over a considerable amount of time. Rev. Keydel concludes with a reference to Abram, who was called by God to "Go . . . to a land that I will show you" (Gen 12:1). Abram was given no clear destination, no implementation plan, no schedule, and no guarantee of "success." Nonetheless, he responded in faith to the call of mission.

Not much has changed! Westminster Presbyterian Church is in the same position and must journey in faith to the future God has for us. I am happy to be with you as an intentional interim minister to help facilitate the process outlined by Rev. Keydel.

**Pastor Randy**



## JUNE SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session held its regular monthly meeting on June 16. Below are some of the notable topics and actions.

1. Discussed chapter two, "Relational Leadership," in the book *The Gift of Small*. The basic premise is that in the small church "the action of ministry happens through relationality rather than in spite of it (p. 41) and that "leaders of small-membership churches need to understand how relationship-building is an integral part of leading the entire organization" (p. 45).
2. Approved, via an earlier email vote, the property committee's request to replace electrical panels, to waterproof the basement sump pump room, and to repair, seal cracks, and re-stripe the Third Avenue parking lot.
3. Received a request and granted a scholarship to attend Camp Bear Creek for Jo Jo Kibui (Water Adventures, July 5-10).
4. Acknowledged reception of the Unified Mission Pledge Survey from the Presbytery of East Iowa. Session members were invited to participate with the Mission Committee to complete it.
5. Learned that Loaves and Fishes is covering the cost of having the carpet cleaned downstairs.
6. Emelly Nezi Padilha began her work as part-time bookkeeper. Pastor Randy has been communicating with Mount Mercy University to ensure that we have all the required paperwork in place for employing an international young adult with a student visa. Emelly will be introduced to the congregation at worship on June 21 with a reception to follow.
7. Westminster's liaison to the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry and Vitality (COMV) is Rev. Hans Poetschner from Vinton.
8. Pastor Randy was earlier granted a continuing education week, June 26-July 2 to attend General Assembly in Milwaukee. Rev. Jean Sullivan will preach on June 28.



## Strengthening Christ's Church by Equipping Congregations

Congregational Equipping courses offer a focused dive into the things you need to participate in ministry leadership, whether you serve as a church officer, a Christian Education leader or teacher, want training to become a commissioned ruling elder (CRE), or simply want to deepen your understanding of the Christian faith.

Students in Congregational Equipping courses can take individual courses based on specific ministry opportunities or can choose to complete a series of courses to earn a certificate in Congregational Leadership. Course offerings begin each semester and are provided flexibly online in 8-week sessions with experienced UDTS faculty and limited class sizes.

Rev. Dr. Tisha Brown from Dubuque Seminary would like to offer a course to Third Avenue Churches this fall if we can interest 6-8 individuals. More information about the Congregational Equipping Program is available in the church office and online at [DERegistration@dbq.edu](mailto:DERegistration@dbq.edu).

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### “THE LONGEST DAY”

The bridge club held its annual fundraiser for Alzheimers on Monday, June 15. The turnout was wonderful and everyone was very generous for the cause. They raised approximately \$3,400 to help with research for Alzheimers. The surprise was almost \$1,200 of the money donated was from people who just walked in and did not play bridge but wanted to support Alzeheimers research. We thank Jim and MaryAnn for leading such a wonderful endeavor.



## ANNOUNCEMENT FROM OUR PROPERTY COMMITTEE

**Property Information:** Our newly completed re-paving of the 4th Avenue parking lot has been a great improvement. While our attention was focused on that matter, we noticed significant cracks in the 3rd Avenue parking lot pavement. In order to avoid a major future expense, those cracks will be filled and sealed, and the entire surface will be re-sealed and striped.

Less than exciting but important projects are also awaiting work schedule confirmation:

As a result of an inspection of our building by Church Mutual Insurance, multiple electrical panel distribution panels were identified as prone to failure and pose a significant hazard. Replacement panels have been ordered, and work will begin when our electrical contractor receives the material.

We have had a continuing problem with standing water in the basement sump pump room, also known as the dungeon. The cause was identified as insufficient drainage of the 3rd Avenue wall. Work has been contracted to rebuild the external and internal drainage systems, install a vapor barrier, and replace the sump pump. Fortunately, the original wall is in reasonably good shape.

Stay Tuned for updates: Pictured below are the before pictures and when the projects are finished we will after pictures.



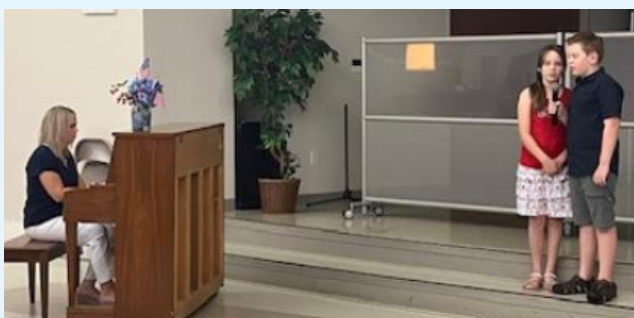


## FREEDOM FESTIVAL KICKOFF

Westminster had its own kickoff to the 250th anniversary celebration of America on Thursday, June 25. Sunday Supper Fellowship leaders hosted a meal for the members to begin the evening. Before the meal began Tom and Barb Read's grandchildren opened the event with a duet of the "Star Spangled Banner" while the Read's daughter, Julie, played the piano. (pictured below) What a wonderful way to begin the night's festivities.

There was lots of food, fellowship and even a little fun rivalry among the attendees as Val Neubauer set up a trivia game about American History. At the end Val not only gave the winning table a fun gift but stated "there are no losers at Westminster" in which everyone received a patriotic gift. Thank you ladies for all of your hard work. (Pictured below are Joyce Sedlacek, Barb Read and Val Neubauer) These ladies are behind all of the monthly Sunday Supper Fellowship Meals.

After the meal most everyone went up to the sanctuary where the Metro Mix Chorus and several other talented individuals delighted a large audience with patriotic songs and music. (pictured above) We thank all of the musicians for filling the sanctuary such beautiful music.





## LOAVES & FISHES SEES DRAMATIC INCREASE IN CLIENTS

This last Tuesday we served 260 clients at our food pantry! While we don't always have this many, we often serve over 200 people. We also continue to see many new people coming to the pantry. This most likely is due to people who already struggle, struggling even more due to current policies, and due to people becoming aware of L & F.

We work very hard to offer a wide assortment of both healthy and fun items, as well as try our hardest to let people know we are glad they have come. Over the years we have developed many partnerships with donors such as Linn County Public Health (condoms and Narcan), Buffalo Ridge Orchard (wonderful apples), Wilson Hy-Vee (Fast-N-Fresh and Scott Olson has arranged some plastic bag donations), Central Furniture Rescue (suitcases, kitchen wares, bedding), Oakland Church of the Nazarene (clothing donation after their annual garage sale), NFI Warehouse (bread, buns, donuts), Think Safe (alcohol wipes), Goldfinch Cyclery (annual Cranksgiving event) as well as maintaining our strong partnership Christ Episcopal Church (CEC).

We really have fun offering our clients items which they may not be able to get at other pantries, especially fun things like clothing, housewares and personal care items such as toothpaste and toothbrushes. See Dot Sheldon from CEC all decked out as a tube of toothpaste!

Loaves & Fishes is a mission of WPC and is not a separate entity. Please continue your strong support of our food pantry mission both with your time and with your money, remembering that when we serve one of these, we serve our Lord. - Jan Kosowski, L & F Director





## Calendar: Special Events

- July 4 - 250th Anniversary of the U.S. (Happy 4th of July)**
- July 5 - Communion Sunday**
- July 6 - WPC Ofc. Closed**
- July 13 - Property Meeting Noon**
- July 20 - Finance Meets 4:30pm**
- July 21 - Session Meets 6:30pm**

Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry will be every Tuesday from 2:30 - 5 p.m. at Westminster in the Lower Level

Access the updated WPC calendar at [crwpc.org/calendar](http://crwpc.org/calendar)

## Calendar: Regular Events

### Sundays

- Natural Swedish Pentecostal Church 9am - Classroom
- Westminster Worship 10 am - Sanctuary
- Beacon of Light 11:30 am - Chapel
- EGPC 11:3 am - Old Dining
- NA (Face Anything/Fear Nothing) 5 pm - Atrium

### Mondays

- Staff Meeting 11 am - Pastor's Office
- Bridge 11 am-4 pm - FLC
- Marion Gospel Hall Youth Group 7 pm - Atrium

### Tuesdays

- L&F Pantry 2:30 - 5 pm - Downstairs
- Beacon of Light (100 in 24) 6 pm

### Wednesdays

- Men's Breakfast 7:30 am - Atrium
- Prayer Shawl - 1 & 3 Wednesdays 9:30 am

### Thursdays

- NA (Face Anything/Fear Nothing) 5 pm - Atrium
- Beacon of Light Life Groups 6 pm - Chapel



## This Month's Birthdays

<b>Jim Boardman</b>	<b>July 3</b>
<b>Jim Shanklin, Jr</b>	<b>July 7</b>
<b>Sara Tyler</b>	<b>July 11</b>
<b>Samantha Johnson</b>	<b>July 11</b>
<b>David Leeper</b>	<b>July 14</b>
<b>Pam Richardson</b>	<b>July 17</b>
<b>Sharon Dewey</b>	<b>July 17</b>
<b>Don Damsteegt</b>	<b>July 31</b>



## This Month's Anniversaries

**Jack & Nancy Evans July 29**

**ATTENTION** - If your birthday or anniversary does not appear in the specific month please contact the office so we can get your information updated.

## Liturgist Schedule for July

- July 5 - Jan Kosowski**
- July 12 - Ann Buckheister**
- July 19 - Jan Walton**
- July 26 - Val Neubauer**

## Greeters

### Fridays

Office Closed  
EGPC 8 pm First Fri. of mth. Women's overnight  
prayer

### Saturdays

Office Closed  
EGPC 10 am to 3 pm - Old Dining  
Natural Swedish Pentecostal Church 10 am to 4  
pm  
NA (Steps in the Right Direction) 11 am - Atrium  
EGPC 7 pm last Sat. of mth. Men's overnight  
prayer

1st Sunday - Jim Fine  
2nd Sunday - Terry Perkins  
3rd Sunday - Jim Patterson  
4th Sunday - Neubauers  
5th Sunday -

**If you would like to greet any Sunday  
please be in the foyer between  
9:30 - 9:45 a.m.  
Everyone is encouraged to greet  
anytime.**



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