



The Voice of Westminster

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

August 2021

Providing a Safe Environment

Safety has become a major concern in practically every environment we encounter. In so many areas, rules and laws have become stricter, because accidents or traumatic events have occurred and incredible damage done to the lives of people involved. Consider just a few examples:

1. Driver's training has become more extensive and rules tightened to prevent tragedy. Plus, laws regarding texting and driving draw extensive fines, or even jail time mandated if negligence results in an accident or death.
2. Building codes have changed to address situations, unforeseen in previous years. Still, recently a high-rise apartment/condo complex collapsed, and we wonder what might soon be mandated to ensure greater safety, moving forward).
3. The types of toys allowed for certain ages have changed due to unforeseen dangers and unexpected harm.
4. What is required by insurance companies related to interaction of adults and children/youth has increased due to abuse and negligence, which in many cases has resulted in long-lasting emotional and physical trauma (let alone a steep increase in law suits).

Before arriving at Westminster the Presbytery rightly did various background checks to determine if my behavior in previous churches had been appropriate. The Presbytery also strongly encouraged congregations to use the Safe Gatherings system in screening all staff and volunteers who will be working with children, youth and vulnerable adults.

The Safe Gatherings **system** includes:

- A 2-hour online **abuse prevention training** for staff and volunteers
- Electronic **reference submission, evaluation and processing**
- **Applicant review process** – Safe Gatherings does the work for you including national, state and county **background checks** and **sex offender registry checks, along with administrative tracking** and reporting

You might be asking so what? What does this have to do with me? Shortly, as we enter our fall season, it is our hope that we might be able to offer Sunday School, youth activities, confirmation, and potential partnerships with the Eastern Arts and Music Academy. If any of these are to occur we will need at least two adults per class who have gone through the Safe Gatherings training and certification process. This applies to all helpers and substitutes as well.

Please prayerfully consider being one of the people, so these activities can be scheduled and operated.

July Session Notes

The Westminster Session met on Tuesday, July 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the Atrium. Pastor Roger opened with devotions from the book, "A Gentle Answer" by Scott Sauls that focused on the gentleness of Jesus and becoming gentle ourselves by following his example.

Session took the following actions:

- ◆ Heard from representatives of NA. They have 20-30 members present for meetings with a success rate of about 75%. The group was very appreciative of use of Westminster for meetings as it is centrally located for them.
- ◆ Discussed Sunday School and Adult Education the fall. Session voted to hold Sunday School, Adult Ed and Confirmation classes at 11:10-to-Noon on Sundays.
- ◆ Accepted the decision by Don Damsteegt to step down as coordinator of Adult Education. He has done this for many years. Session thanked him for his service. A new coordinator will be sought.
- ◆ Decided to request more detailed information from Big Bang Foundation in order to determine a fee for building use. Pastor Roger is to contact Paul Kongshaug to request this information
- ◆ Discussed, but did not vote on a proposal for art classes to be taught at Westminster by the Eastern Iowa Arts Academy, with Westminster paying \$135 per hour per class. Session decided to discuss this again at the August Session meeting.
- ◆ Discussed setting up small groups for the fall, perhaps as an alternative to Adult Education. This item will be on the agenda again in August.
- ◆ Discussed and approved a motion from Finance Committee that Westminster use Vanco to allow for online contributions .
- ◆ Discussed two proposals from Sound Concepts and DB Acoustics on ways to improve sound in the Sanctuary. Session decided to have Worship Committee present a proposal at the August Session meeting.
- ◆ Approved a motion from the Property Committee to accept a bid from Pate Asphalt to repair, resurface and paint the 4th Ave. parking lot and to resurface and paint the 3rd Ave lot for a cost of \$9,591.
- ◆ Accepted notification that Jan Kosowski and Maggie York intend to step down as co-moderators of the Property Committee at the end of the year. Session extended thanks to them for the many years of service.
- ◆ Approved a cash offer from Willis Dady to purchase the mission house. A congregational meeting will be held Aug. 15 after the 10 a.m. service to vote on the sale. Then it goes to the Presbytery for its approval. Session approved the sale at a price of \$55,000, no contingencies, to allow for coordination of grant and insurance money to be spent and to authorize Treasurer John Swanson to sign contracts.
- ◆ Pastor Roger reported a need for more people to complete Safe Gatherings training prior to working with children. There will need to be two adults present for confirmation class as well as regular Sunday School. He encouraged Session members to complete the training to assist in outreach endeavors.
- ◆ Session closed with The Lord's Prayer.
- ◆ The next Session meeting will be Aug. 17 at 6:30 p.m.

Kindred Sisters Come Together



L to R: Joyce Sedlacek, Mary Jo Crull, Linda Wood, Jan Kupka and Pat Teig. Missing: Alice Crosier

In the category of "things are starting to get back to normal", Kindred Sisters is meeting again! The current study topic for the group is "Women of the Bible." The series has both videos and a study guide. Women of Westminster and friends, please consider joining us for the study of God's Word, discussion and fellowship. The group would love new members!

The group meets 9:30-11 a.m. on the second and fourth Thursday of the month. They meet in the adult classroom on the second floor to the right of the elevator. For more information, contact Joyce Sedlacek at 319-393-7858.

Our Aging Facility

Did you know that in the last two weeks alone your Westminster Property Committee has addressed a flooded boiler room, overseen replacement of two 1960s era toilets, had to have the plumber in for a constantly running urinal, had roofers patch the roof after a rainstorm pushed rain down the walls of the Atrium. The committee started plans for addressing the crumbling alley sidewalk, called the carpet stretcher to take out the trip hazards in the large parlor carpeting, contacted a vendor to inspect our stained glass windows and forwarded a motion to Session to approve the repair/resurfacing/repainting of our parking lots.

Did you know that our own Dave Cosgrove not only collects the recyclables from inside our building but shoveled up all the garbage that was strewn around our dumpster? As our building and Congregation age, it becomes increasingly difficult for members of the Congregation to maintain our property. The Property Committee has done much to reduce our costs and simplify the maintenance needs of the property but at some point the property may overwhelm us. WPC soon may need to have another discussion about "the long view" regarding the maintenance of our property. - *Jan Kosowski, Property Committee Co-Moderator*

What Did You Do On Summer Vacation?

Most of us can remember starting back to school and having a teacher or fellow student ask, "What did you do on your summer vacation?" So, that's the question we posed to our Westminster Kids. In fact, Arefat Ali wrote a little essay on his great adventure.

The Best Summer Vacation Ever!

-by Arefat Ali

This summer is the best summer ever! I got to go on a two week road trip with my sister, Dureti, my little nieces, Mia and Bella and my big brother, Lemi. We got to see beautiful places and learn new things while visiting family and friends. I liked all of the states I went to, but three attracted me the most-California, Nevada and Texas, which were breathtaking to me.

California is a place of happiness and relaxation. I would definitely like to visit it again and spend more time there. You will see dazzling palm trees. In California, we went to Los Angeles. LA's weather is very nice and calming. I especially enjoyed LA because a lot of famous people live there. I even got to see a famous actress.

Nevada is a place of heat. When we were there, it was blazing hot and we were sweating head to toe. Even thou it was stinking hot, that did not stop us from enjoying the fun stuff that was there. In Nevada, we went to see our brother, Ibsa. We got to see the Hoover Dam in Las Vegas which was so amazing. We also saw Mike Tyson, the boxer, in Las Vegas.

Texas is known for its bridges. I saw so many bridges that I stated to wonder if I was in a maze. In Texas, we went to see Abdisa's family in Dallas. First we had to see the downtown part of Dallas, so we drove past it when we were going to our destination. There we had to cool off so we went swimming.

One other place that was amazing was the Grand Canyon. The Grand Canyon is the place to hike which we did on our adventure. At the Grand Canyon, we made a squirrel friend which followed us everywhere until we left him and his family.

As you can see, we had a lot of fun on this trip, which we will remember as the best summer vacation ever!



Arefat



Dureti



Mia & Bella

What Did Everyone Else Do On Summer Vacation?

This year, Westminster helped send a number of kids off to Camp Wyoming for some summer fun. These included both members kids and children who participate in some of the groups hosted by Westminster including Melanated Men. Other kids just had fun on their own. But, the pictures and comments are priceless. Oh, to be a kid again!



Nolan Kongshaug sneaks in a "no-mask" photo while at Camp Wyoming.



Hanna Kongshaug learned how to make necklaces. We might be seeing a few of these at church.



Micah Kongshaug's summer got off to a rough start when he broke both of his wrists. These cool plastic sleeves were a gift that helped him get back in the swim!



Oldest son, Cael Kongshaug, participated in a Peace Walk with his dad, Paul.

Our kids in Melanated Men which meets at Westminster e-mailed their reaction to going to camp for the first time and learning lots of things they had never had to opportunity to do before.

Isaac, "Hey I liked a lot about camp but caving was a great experience and all the games. We were always doing something and archery was just the best!"

Amare, "Some of the things I enjoyed in Camp Wyoming were the caving, tubing and being able to meet new people! Overall, I really enjoyed going to camp."

Amir, "I liked tubing because we just chilled for over 3 hours. I also enjoyed canoeing because we got wet. The Jesus walk was my favorite and I liked the people the most. I want to say thanks for letting me and my friends go."



Finally, Macey and Cameron Schlader have been having all sorts of fund. Macey had a Minnie Mouse birthday party for her 5th birthday.

She and Cameron have also been sporting some cool patriotic shades when they're out and about!





August Birthdays

Lee Anne Hataway	3
Jacqui Fashimpaur	4
Connie Hayes	7
Marybeth Allsop	8
Flora Kitzman	13
Philip Brooks	14
Don Hoeppe	19
David Cosgrove	20
Marjorie Bjornsen	24
Larry Cooper	24
James Patterson	25
Jan Perkins	27
Robert Warner	30

The Month of August Thank You Volunteers!

Liturgists

August 1

Pam Richardson

August 8

Heather Wagner

August 15

Paul Kongshaug

August 22

Warren Feerer

August 29

Tom Read



August Food List for Loaves & Fishes

Following are items needed
at L&F this month.

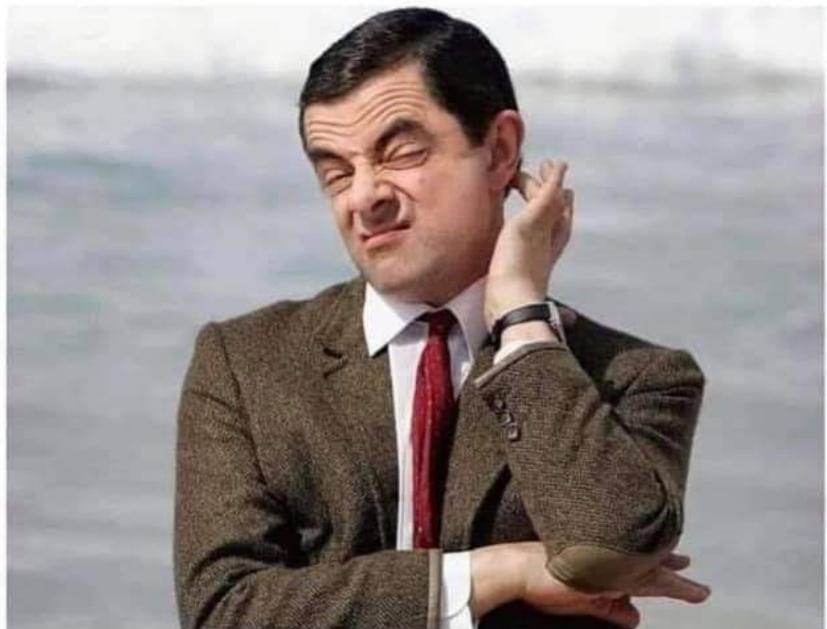
Salad Dressing

Kool-Aid mix

Instant potatoes

Toothpaste

When the Holy Ghost makes
you delete the whole text
and just reply with OK.



August 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion Sunday 10 am – Worship 1 pm – Beacon of Light 6 pm – Cedar Singers	2 11 am – Bridge-FLC 6 pm – Deacons Meeting 7 pm – AA	3 2:30 pm – L&F Pantry 6:30 pm - NA	4 7:30 am – Men’s Breakfast	5 Schedule Open	6 Office Closed 8pm - NA	7 8pm - NA
8 10 am – Worship 1 pm – Beacon of Light 6 pm – Cedar Singers	9 11 am – Bridge-FLC 1 pm - Property Meeting 7 pm - AA	10 2:30 pm – L&F Pantry 6:30 pm - NA	11 7:30 am – Men’s Breakfast 9:30 am – Prayer Shawl	12 9:30 am – Kindred Sisters 5:30 pm - Personnel	13 Office Closed 8pm - NA	14 8pm - NA
15 10 am – Worship 1 pm – Beacon of Light 6 pm – Cedar Singers	16 Newsletter Deadline 11 am – Bridge-FLC 4:30 pm - Finance 7 pm - AA	17 2:30 pm – L&F Pantry 6:30 pm - Session 6:30 pm - NA	18 7:30 am – Men’s Breakfast	19 Schedule Open	20 Office Closed 8pm - NA	21 8pm - NA
22 10 am – Worship 1 pm – Beacon of Light 3:30 pm – Chorale MW 6 pm – Cedar Singers	23 11 am – Bridge-FLC 7 pm - AA	24 2:30 pm – L&F Pantry 6:30 pm - NA	25 7:30 am – Men’s Breakfast 9:30 am – Prayer Shawl	26 Newsletter Assemblage 9:30 am – Kindred Sisters	27 Office Closed 8pm - NA	28 8pm - NA
29 10 am – Worship 1 pm – Beacon of Light 3:30 pm – Chorale MW 6 pm – Cedar Singers	30 11 am – Bridge-FLC 7 pm - AA	31 2:30 pm – L&F Pantry 6:30 pm - NA				

Please visit www.crwpc.org/calendar to stay informed of changes to this month’s calendar.

Westminster Presbyterian Church
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Cedar Rapids
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Return Service Requested

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Westminster Presbyterian Church

Office Hours

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

Sunday Worship

10 a.m.—Sanctuary
Online on our YouTube Channel

Visit us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Twitter or at www.crwpc.org

PHONE: 319-366-7185

Church Staff

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