



The Voice of Westminster

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

March 2021

March Madness

I always look forward to March Madness, the Men's and Women's NCCA Basketball Tournament. For the teams, it is a mixture between of March sadness and March gladness. The sadness and gladness begins with the selection of the teams to fill the 64 slots in each of the men's and women's tournament: gladness if you made the tournament, sadness if you did not; gladness if you got a good seed, sadness if you did not, as it meant the Road to the Final Four could be a bit tougher journey.

Of course, then fans enter the madness by filling out their brackets, or really hardcore ones put down substantial bets, and the games begin. I love one member of a previous congregation who still in her mid-nineties faithfully fills out her bracket, as does the rest of her family. Then she travels to her sister's house to watch as many games as they can until the crowning of the champion. Last year, Bertha, (the one in the mid-nineties) won the whole thing. She entered the madness, and ended up experiencing the gladness.

March finds us smack dab in the middle of the Lenten season. It is hard for me to truly identify what it would have been like living the ups and downs of the journey, the absolute horror of the cross, until the unexpected occurred: the resurrection. As we enter into the "madness" of this Lenten season, we know the end of the story. On Good Friday we know that Sunday is coming. What gladness that brings.

We are living in "real time" and in one aspect, do not know what the future holds. At a different level, however, we know that even if all hell breaks out, if we have a relationship with Christ, we ultimately are on the winning team. What joy and comfort it is to know that.

Blessings, *Pastor Roger*

Session Notes

Westminster's Session met Feb. 16 at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom. Pastor Roger led the devotions and discussion regarding spiritual leadership. Session then did the following:

- Approved holding one in-person worship service at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 4. COVID-19 protocols will be observed, including mask-wearing and social distancing.
- Session also moved to not have Maundy Thursday services this year, but to hold a virtual Good Friday service.
- Set up a congregational meeting for Sunday, March 7 at 10 a.m. to approve Barb Mumford as a deacon candidate. Barb is replacing a candidate who dropped out shortly before the annual meeting. The meeting will be held via Zoom.
- Heard from Carlos Sheets, founder of Melanated Men, a mentoring group for 6th and 7th grade African-American youth. Sheets started the mentoring group after his son was shot and killed. After hearing his story, and hearing from Paul Kongshaug, Session voted to establish a relationship with this mentoring program. They will meet on Monday nights after school and will share a meal together. Pastor Roger will participate in the program once a month. They will be meeting in the old dining room and possibly use the youth room. After discussion regarding facility use fees, a motion was made to suspend these fees for 90 days and then re-evaluate at that time.
- Approved a proposal presented by Gale Smetana, to work with Oak Park Media, to improve the live streaming capabilities for Westminster's live streaming, once we are back worshipping in person and no longer pre-recording our services. The proposal had been previously approved by the Finance Committee.
- Received update on the Mission House from John Swanson. John reported CRST International has granted \$25,000 to the Mission House to help repair and remodel the house into two apartments as it had previously been. Willis Dady maintenance have toured the building and were complimentary on the current condition of the house. The plans are for the house to be sold to Willis Dady.
- Pam Richardson shared Personnel Committee's recommendation to extend an offer to Jill Lorimer for the part-time position of Nursery Attendant, pending successful completion of the Safe Gatherings certification. She wants to serve as backup only. The search continues for a regular, second person to staff the nursery per Safe Gatherings guidelines. See information on page 4.
- Gave thankful recognition for the leadership of Pam Richardson and Jim Shanklin, Jr. as their terms on Session expire.

The meeting was adjourned and closed with prayer by Pastor Grandia.

Pipe Organs, Ice Dams & Exit Signs, Oh My!

There's always plenty going on at Westminster, even when we can't worship together in person. Over the past month, Property Committee has battled ice dams in the old pastor's study, had a photo cell sensor that controls parking lot lights replaced and Jan and Ed Kosowski replaced fire inspection exit lights with more energy efficient ones. The lights had been cited in the fire department's annual inspection. The Sanctuary now has LED bulbs in all the spotlights up front. These are all part of a long term plan to reduce energy costs.

The Old Pastor's Study, which is to be used by the Big Bang Foundation has proven to be a victim of the heavy snow and bitter cold temperatures.

An ice dam caused leakage into the ceiling of the room and onto the carpet. Thanks to Jan Kosowski and Pastor Roger, a dehumidifier was moved upstairs from the boiler room and tubs were set out to catch the ongoing drips. Once we get past the rough weather, and things dry out, carpet will be cleaned and ceiling repaired.



Ed Kosowski replaces an exit sign in the Sanctuary balcony. We appreciate all of his hard work at Westminster!



Pipe Organ Making Music Again!

Best news of the month has to be the news that Westminster's pipe organ is working again! A switch went out in the organ back in January. Randall Karstens made two visits to diagnose the problem and fix it, along with Nelson Electric. He even demonstrated the repaired organ's beautiful sound. There's a link on our home page.



Randall Karstens of Iowa City plays the organ after repairing it.

HELP WANTED

Westminster Presbyterian Church is looking for someone 18 or older who is willing to work with our current Nursery Attendant on Sunday mornings. If you feel you or someone you know may be qualified and wishes to learn more about the opportunity, the Personnel Committee will receive the names at personnel@crwpc.org. A letter of introduction and a short work history (resume) are being requested for evaluation.

All candidates will go through the Safe Gatherings course in accordance with the WPC Child Protection Policy. More information on the Safe Gatherings process can be found at www.safegatherings.com.

The current target for re-opening the nursery is Easter Sunday, April 4. This date is based on the Session's decision to reopen in-person services on Easter Sunday with a combined service in the Sanctuary at 10 a.m.



March Needs

Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry

Beef Stew

Cornbread Mix

Toothbrushes

Thank you for supporting this
important mission!

Remember, despite the move to Tanager Place,
you can still bring your L&F donations to West-
minster!



March Birthdays

Marjorie Daft	2
Glenn Lane	2
Darwin Busch	4
Ed Mumford	6
Julie Schlader	6
Linda Cosgrove	11
Jane Heck	17
Lindsay Meade	17
Bill Moss	23

March Calendar

Due to the extension of the church closing, there will be no calendar in the March newsletter. Any committee meetings will be conducted via Zoom. Please contact your committee moderator to doublecheck.

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

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Return Service Requested

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Westminster Presbyterian Church

Virtual Services on YouTube

Office Hours

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

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

PHONE: 319-366-7185

Church Staff
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Gale Smetana
Choir Director & Church Musician,
Damon Cole
FUEL Music Director, A.J. Plummer
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9:00 a.m. FUEL service in the Family Life Center
11:00 a.m. Traditional service in the Sanctuary
Worship on YouTube

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