



The Voice of Westminster

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

December 2021

Why It Really Is A Wonderful Life

This Advent and Christmas Eve will be special ones for many churches, and certainly for Westminster. Dr. Don Damsteegt moderates a series for Adult Education that includes the viewing and discussion of the 1946 movie, "It's a Wonderful Life." Themes like loss, courage and renewal will be discussed. It could be a metaphor for what this congregation and many others have been through during the past year-and-a-half. The loss of family and friends to a virus that we still don't fully understand. Finding the courage to seek renewal as we navigate the uncertain waters of life. With God's help, we slowly resume what were once "normal" activities.

Besides our Advent Adult Education offerings, Westminster will offer both an in-person Christmas Eve service for the first time since the pandemic prompted us to pre-record last year's service. In keeping with tradition, we will worship with a service of "Lessons and Carols." It's a perfect way to share the story of the birth of Christ all those years ago. We recognize that we still have members and visitors who are unable to be with larger crowds, so we will be live streaming our service on both our YouTube Channel and Facebook Page, too.

Advent begins (or began, depending on how quickly the postal service delivers this newsletter to your home) on Nov. 28. Please join in the full celebration of this important season in the Christian calendar, by attending Adult Education, Sundays at 9 a.m., in the Atrium. Then join us for our 10 a.m. Sunday worship. Finally, we hope you make time to join us for "Lessons and Carols" on Christmas Eve, Friday, Dec. 24, at 5 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Few stories have the power to restore our faith, hope and courage like the story of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ—an event that forever changed the world. It can be told in many ways, but it never ceases to bring us home to Christ, perhaps now, more than ever. After all, "It's a Wonderful Life" isn't just the title of a movie. It's a gift from God.

-Gale Smetana, Communications Coordinator

Lessons & Carols

A Traditional Christmas Eve Service at Westminster



Westminster returns to in-person worship for this year's Christmas Eve service—a welcome return to tradition. And keeping with tradition, the service, "Lessons and Carols" will share the story of faith and wonder that we all cherish. The structure of the service is as simple as the title: nine passages of Scripture are followed by nine carols.

Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve, Friday, Dec. 24

5 p.m.

Sanctuary

If you are unable to attend, please join us via YouTube or Facebook.

November Session Notes

The Westminster Session met on Tuesday, Oct. 26, at 6:30 p.m., in the Atrium. The Rev. Dr. Carl Anderson, Interim Pastor at Christ Church Presbyterian, served as moderator, as Rev. Grandia was ill. The meeting began with everyone saying what they are thankful for. Session discussed or took action on the following items:

- Voted to move the time for the Christmas Eve service to 5 p.m. It had been scheduled for later.
- Warren Feerer gave an update on Pastor Roger's health, having spoken with him the day of the Session meeting. He said Pastor Roger would like to be back for Advent, all pending ongoing tests. There was also discussion of how leadership and members can fill in the gap.
- Barb Read discussed the possibility of a Christmas social event. (Details to follow in weekly announcements).
- The 2021 Nominating Committee report was distributed.
- Session approved (with caveat) NA's request to use the Old Dining Room on Dec. 18 for a regional meeting. The caveat is that we negotiate pay for the room, address security concerns and compliance with the fire code. Warren Feerer followed up on this.
- The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Westminster Kids Update!

Westminster Kids, under the tutelage of Val Neubauer are learning about mission work by raising money to purchase items such as farm animals and sewing machines to help the underserved in other countries. Items help people sustain themselves economically and in some cases, provide them with food. By the end of their bake sale on Nov. 21, they had raised \$744.13 toward their mission, and will likely purchase . We are so proud of our kids. They bring joy and goodness to all of us!



Changes at Presbytery

At the end of October the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of East Iowa, Dr. Rebecca Blair, completed her ministry with the Presbytery. A reception was held Nov. 14, to honor her service and to wish her the best in her new position.

Dr. Blair has accepted a new position with the Presbytery in Southeastern Illinois. Rebecca's new title is Lead Presbyter for Transformation and Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois. We wish her the best!



Warren Jensen commends Rebecca Blair for her work as Stated Clerk of the East Iowa Presby-

THE HOLIDAYS AT LOAVES & FISHES

While food is needed by our clients year round, the holidays can be especially important as special dishes and treats are such a big part of them. Thank you for your generosity throughout the year and for making delicious holiday meals possible for so many. How do we know we make a difference in our clients lives? Because they tell us! Here are some comments from just the past couple of weeks: "You have the BEST desserts!", "I like to come here because I never know what I am going to get! Some pantries give out the same thing all the time." "You don't know what a difference this food makes to us, thank you." - *Jan Kosowski*

5th ANNUAL CRANKSGIVING GATHERS HOLIDAY FOOD FOR L&F

Goldfinch Cyclery held its 5th annual Cranksgiving Bike Ride and Food Drive Sunday, Nov. 21. The traditional ride and food drive resumed this year after an abbreviated version held last year during the height of the pandemic.

More than 2-tons of food was brought in by the cyclists. Our L&F Saints did the sorting and storing. We are grateful that once again, Loaves & Fishes will receive the food gathered by cyclists.



Property Changes & Updates



Thank you to outgoing co-moderators of the Property Committee-Jan Kosowski and Maggie York. They have spent countless hours serving Westminster. From answering emergency calls to scheduling routine safety checks, they have been extraordinary, dedicated servants. Thank you!

Winding Down

As 2021 winds down, your Property Committee can report that a lot of work has been accomplished this year. Most recently the large parlor carpet was repaired and cleaned, and upstairs and downstairs carpet areas that weren't cleaned last year have been cleaned. Our 5-year termite inspection and treatment has been completed, too.

The drains on the flat roof and the roof itself have been cleared in preparation for the fall and winter but there are several projects that are now going to have to wait until spring due to timing or because of vendors being swamped with work and not having enough workers. Spring projects now include completing the parking lots resurfacing and lines (already contracted), repairing the alley sidewalk (already contracted) and repairing narthex stairs (we have one bid). Over the winter we hope to repair the newly damaged canopy (yes, again!) and have some work done on the lighting in the Family Life Center.

The Committee is somewhat concerned about the cost of utilities this winter as the forecast is for natural gas prices to nearly double and electricity costs to rise, too. Your Property Committee has spent a lot of effort over the last several years converting incandescent lighting to much lower cost LED lighting including the Sanctuary chandeliers, the 3rd Ave. parking lot lights which are on all night, and all of our exit signs which are on all the time. Your help is needed in turning off lights when choir and Sunday school are over or when using other parts of the building. Please close double doors, too.

Although not on Property Committee, Dave Cosgrove has always pitched in to help. Here, he works on lighting in the FLC.



Russ Koons glues down carpet

in the Large Parlor that was pulled up and stretch to get rid of large ripples.



December Birthdays

Dawn Schuettpelz	6
Douglas Horton	7
Audrey Fashimpaur	8
Bob Richardson	13
Jerry Hewitt	14
Barb Moss	19
Brenda Warner	25
Scott Olson	28
John Conkling	29
Carol Ferguson	29



December at Loaves & Fishes

Following are items needed at L&F this month.

Boxed potatoes

Sugar



Proud Grandma & Grandpa

Barb and Darald Schultz are happy to announce the birth of their first grandchild, born to son Tyson and his wife, Kaylee. The baby, Ruth Aspen, was born Oct. 10 and weighed 7-pounds, measured 20-inches and is healthy! Barb says she's beautiful. Barb also says if you want to see photos, she has plenty to share! Congratulations!

The Month of December Thank You Volunteers!

Liturgists

Dec. 5—Pam Richardson

Dec. 12—Tom Read

Dec. 19—Warren Feerer

Dec. 26—Jan Walton

Greeters (at Front Door)

Dec. 5—Jim Fine

Dec. 12—Bob Moore

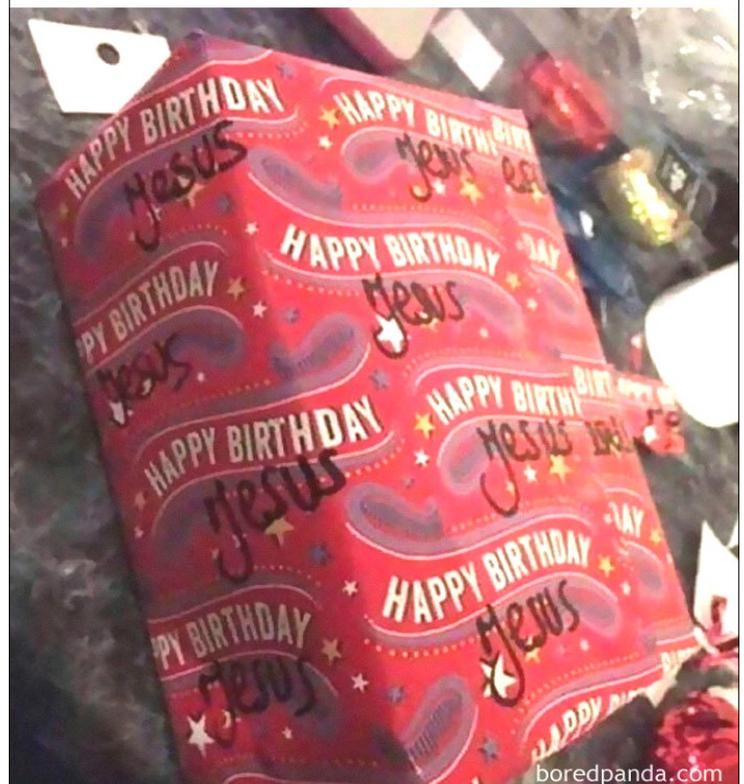
Dec. 19—Brian Read

Dec. 26—Terry Perkins

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

Meme of the Month...

When you run out of Christmas wrapping paper



WPC Calendar December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:30 am – Men’s Breakfast 5 pm – Confirmation Class 7 pm – Choir Practice	2	3 Church Closed	4 Church Closed
5 2 nd Sunday of Advent 8 am – Breakfast-Old Dining Rm 9 am – Christian Ed 10 am-Worship	6 11 am – Bridge Club-FLC 7 pm – AA-Old Dining Rm	7 2:30 -5 pm – L&F	8 7:30 am – Men’s Breakfast 5 pm – Confirmation Class 7 pm – Choir Practice	9 9:30 am – Kindred Sisters 5:30 pm -Personnel	10 Church Closed	11 Church Closed
12 3 rd Sunday of Advent 8 am – Breakfast-Old Dining Rm 9 am – Christian Ed 10 am-Worship	13 11 am – Bridge Club-FLC 7 pm – AA-Old Dining Rm	14 2:30 -5 pm – L&F	15 7:30 am – Men’s Breakfast 5 pm – Confirmation Class 7 pm – Choir Practice	16	17 Church Closed	18 10 am – 10 pm -NA Regional Anniversary-Old Dining
19 4 th Sunday of Advent 8 am – Breakfast-Old Dining Rm 9 am – Christian Ed 10 am-Worship	20 11 am – Bridge Club-FLC 7 pm – AA-Old Dining Rm	21 2:30 -5 pm – L&F	22 7:30 am – Men’s Breakfast 5 pm – Confirmation Class 7 pm – Choir Practice	23 Newsletter Goes Out	24 5 pm - Christmas Eve Service	25 Merry Christmas! 
26 8 am – Breakfast-Old Dining Rm 10 am-Worship	27 11 am – Bridge Club-FLC 7 pm – AA-Old Dining Rm	28 2:30 -5 pm – L&F	29	30	31 Church Closed	1 

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

The Voice of Westminster
December 2021

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

PHONE: 319-366-7185

Church Staff
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Communications & Shared Ministry Coordinator
Gale Smetana
Choir Director & Church Musician,
Damon Cole
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