

Voice of Westminster



April 2026

When I took the first week of interim training at Princeton Seminary, I learned about the five (5) focus points of transitional ministry (John Keydel). I summarized the first focus point last month: HERITAGE. It involves creating safe places for members to talk openly and honestly about the congregation's history and all that has happened to bring you where you are today. In that process of storytelling, we will (re-)discover some good things to build upon.

The second focus point is MISSION. This does not involve inventing a whole new identity. Rather, this is the sense of direction that arises through engagement with the heritage focus point. "Mission brings the historical awareness of heritage into dialogue with the congregation's contemporary expressions of its identity and core values" (Keydel, 56).

Westminster's contemporary expression of its identity is expressed in its Mission Statement: "We are a servant church nurturing each other's spiritual journey and personal gifts." The core values are then described:

- We hope for inspiring, fulfilling worship and spiritual nourishment.
- We want to invite and engage more people in our ministries and missions, including ministry for (though not limited to) the next generation.
 - We hope to understand and trust each other; to be flexible and resilient; to find shared solutions.
 - Most important of all, we know we need to lean on God.

The above mission statement and core values explain why worship is key to our mission, why we involve new volunteers and young people in our food pantry, and why Allen Stanton can write that one of the gifts of the small church is to be nimble, adaptive and flexible. Our mission identity and core values provide "a deep sense of abiding purpose that is gradually discerned by prayer, reflection, and careful listening by the members and leaders of a congregation" (Keydel, 56).

Finally, our mission gives us even more than a sense of abiding purpose. To have a mission is to be sent out of the present situation into the future. As a servant church, we embark on our journey together with faith, clarity, and confidence--all the while leaning on God!

Pastor Randy



MARCH SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Your Session met on March 24 and shares some of what was heard and actions it took.

1. Pastor Randy informed us that Coe College is applying for a \$2.5 million Lilly Grant over 3-5 years to implement a program to reclaim its heritage. Coe would like to involve First Presbyterian and Westminster in this program. Session responded positively. More to come.
2. The Finance Committee reported the good news that February donations were ahead of budget. Also, the last payment has been made for smoke damage recovery.
3. Session approved a Unified Mission Pledge of \$3,000, to be equally divided between Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly.
4. The Property Committee gave an update that re-paving the parking lot would likely happen in June.
5. A new camera and software was purchased for the live stream. Pastor Randy was given permission to seek donations of about \$2,300 to cover the cost.
6. New annual contracts were approved for the Evangelical Global Pentecost Church and Beacon of Light Church.
7. Facility Use requests were approved for Dureti's graduation party (May 24), bus parking for the Iowa Chorale Showcase (April 29), and the Big AA gatherings (June 6, Sept 12, Dec 12).
8. Session requests that the Worship Committee discuss an outdoor worship service at Prairiewoods or Coe College.
9. The book "The Gift of Small" by Allen Stanton was distributed and a chapter discussion plan for each month in 2026 was outlined.
10. Rev. Bobby Outterson-Murphy, Presbytery Executive, will be preaching on April 12.



ANNOUNCEMENT FROM OUR PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Property Information: This last week one of the seals on one our water pumps to our boilers split open, flooding the boiler room once again. This is a reminder that our boiler system is aging and at some point, will need major upgrades.

Also, a reminder that we have limited custodial help and very limited maintenance help. Please clean up after yourselves and return items where you got them. Turn off lights and close the fire doors when you are the last one. Do NOT touch the temperature settings on thermostats, especially in the sanctuary which must be kept at a constant temperature to protect the organ. The sanctuary "System" setting must stay on "Auto".

Lastly, a big thank you to Gale Smetana and Ed Kosowski for installing our new live stream camera in the sanctuary. If you would like to donate to the new camera and software upgrade, please designate your check and return it to the office. Thank you, the livestream is very important to our mission!





PASSION SUNDAY

A special thanks to those involved in the dramatic reading “The Passion of Our Lord according to Matthew.” We heard a lot of positive feedback from the congregation about how much they enjoyed the worship service (despite the sounds coming from the organ chamber!).

Jesus: Dureti Ali
 Servant: Jan Walton
 Judas: Jim Fine
 Witness: Carla Santos

People: Congregation
 High Priest: Val Neubauer
 Pilate: Loren Neubauer
 Peter: David Basler



SUNDAY SUPPER FELLOWSHIP FUN

Passion Sunday evening after a delicious meal of chicken casserole (made by our own Joyce Sedlacek), fresh salad and rolls and a variety of yummy deserts everyone joyfully made clay pocket crosses. They rolled, cut out, decorated and baked the crosses to be given to Loaves and Fishes and the Deacons. When you receive a birthday card from the Deacons, it will contain a beautiful little cross made with Westminster love.

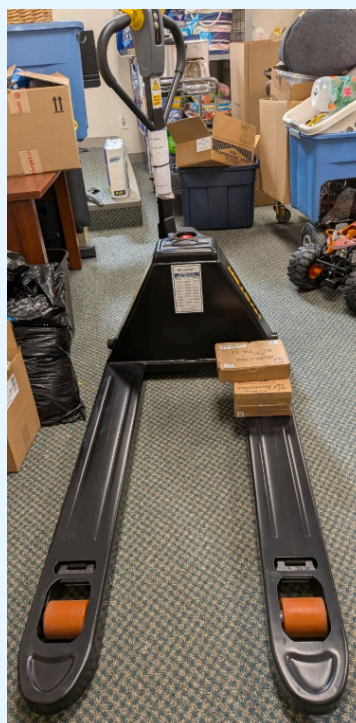


LET'S DO THE DISHES

Loaves & Fishes will be collecting bottles of dish soap during the month of April. Last week, we had 240 clients come through L & F and their needs are great. Many of our clients do get SNAP benefits but those benefits do not cover things like TP, dish soap, toothpaste - all the personal care and cleaning supplies we take for granted. If you are able, you are being asked to pick up a bottle or two of dish soap for L & F and leave it in the large parlor as we did TP. Dish soap is available at the Dollar Tree for \$1.25 (nothing is a dollar these days!). Truly, when you give to others, you are blessed. Thank you.

NEW PALLET JACK FOR L & F

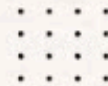
Once again L & F volunteer, Paula Krings, applied for a grant and we got it! We used the grant to purchase an electric pallet jack. We have a lot of food coming in on Tuesday mornings on pallets which we currently have to hand carry down to the lower level. Many of our volunteers simply are not physically able to do this. Paula is such a blessing to the pantry! Over the years she has applied for many grants enabling us to get shelving, coolers, insulated blankets, refrigerators, and freezers. Her kind heart is an example for us all. I thank God for Paula and all our volunteers. - Jan Kosowski, L & F Director





Presbytery-wide workshop

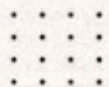
CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY SUMMIT



Join us as we explore what church vitality can look like today for small and rural congregations, especially those facing the challenge of dwindling resources. While this event is focused on small church vitality, people from all contexts would benefit from the expertise provided by our incredible workshop leaders.

GUEST SPEAKERS: REV. DR. ALLEN STANTON & REV. PHILIP BLACKBURN

Director of Townsquare Collaborative &
Author of 2 books on rural ministry



Saturday, April 25, 2026

10 AM to 3:30 PM

9:30 AM Check-In, Coffee & Gathering
Hotel Millwright, Weaving Room, Amana, Iowa

Event sponsored by Plentiful Gifts. \$10 for lunch

March 16 - early bird registration with free book (1 per church)

April 10 - registration ends

Questions: sarah.f.hegar@gmail.com or bobby@peia.org

**REGISTRATION LINK FOR CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY
WORKSHOP**



Calendar: Special Events

- April 2 - Maundy Thursday Service @ Olivet Presbyterian Church 5:00pm**
- April 3 - Good Friday**
- April 5 - Easter Sunday w/communion**
- April 6 - Easter Monday - WPC ofc. closed**
- April 13 - Mission Meets 2:30pm, Deacons Meet 5pm**
- April 15 - Tax Day**
- April 20 - Property Meeting 1:00pm, Finance Meets 4:30pm**
- April 21 - Session Meets 6:30pm**
- April 26 - Sunday Fellowship Supper 5:30pm**

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

Calendar: Regular Events

Sundays

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

Mondays

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

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

- Men's Breakfast 7:30am - Atrium
- Prayer Shawl - 1 & 3 Wednesdays 9:30am
- WPC Chancel Choir Practice 7:00pm



This Month's Birthdays

Nancy Evans	April 2
Arefat Ali	April 8
Bob Moran	April 8
Butch Hataway	April 10
Joan Charters	April 12
Barb Schultz	April 20
Jennie Shanklin	April 25
Karen Zazza	April 26
Ann Hearn	April 29



This Month's Anniversaries

Bob & Pam Richardson April 16

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 April

- April 5 - David Basler**
- April 12 - Barb Mumford**
- April 19 - Ed Mumford**
- April 26 - Pam Richardson**

Thursdays

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

Fridays

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

Saturdays

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

Greeters

1st Sunday - Jim Fine
2nd Sunday - Terry Perkins
3rd Sunday -
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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