

## *Voice of Westminster*



### **“Just. Move. Forward” May 2024**

The above is the title of the commencement address that will be given this week at Muskegon Community College in Muskegon, Michigan. The person giving it is Ryan Wheeler, Senior Fellow of Advanced Visualization at Collins Aerospace. Most of us know him as a weekly volunteer at Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry. When he shared that he was going to be giving the address, along with another one to alumni as this year’s Distinguished Alumni recipient, it peaked my interest. Why? Because my granddaughter is just finishing her freshman year at MCC. It is a small world.

He sent out the draft to several of us at L & F, in case we had any suggestions. In his message he noted some of the challenges he faced as he entered MCC, where he actually did not expect to be admitted. “Between migraines with aura, epilepsy, undiagnosed hearing impairment, and the upheaval of fleeing to Michigan from our home as targets of White Supremacists, I was surprised to even be graduating high school. GPA: 2.009. Class rank: 107th of 127.”

He has obviously come a long way, over the last thirty years, by following his motto: “Just. Move. Forward.” As many have noted, the longest walk is still “one step at a time.” Along the way, we may fail, but John Maxwell encouraged us in his book: *Failing Forward*, when he said, “When you fall down, pick something up while you are there.” As we attempt to move forward individually and a congregation, a few from Westminster are taking a 30- Day journey called the Hope Initiative. You will hear more later. What is your plan to move forward spiritually? Contact me if you want to know more about this potentially transformative experience.

**Pastor Roger**

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## Father Lapsley Speaking Engagement

Monday, April 15, Pastor Roger attended the speaking engagement of Father Michael Lapsley. The evening started off with a video explaining what prompted Pastor Michael to establish the Institute for Healing Memories in Africa and his own story of how someone sent him a bomb in the mail and it caused him to lose one eye and both hands.

Pastor Michael then went on to do a question and answer session with the audience. Father Michael asked the Pastor of First Congregational church here in Cedar Rapids, Rev. Melanie Van Weelden, to tell a story about a social media experience. Rev. Melanie likes to post about the beautiful days and many people always like or comment on her posts. Last fall she put a post up regarding the young man shot and killed in N.E. C.R. She explained how he was a special boy who donated so much of his time to the Boys and Girls Club. Always taking a boy fishing or to play a sport. After posting this story she literally did not get one like or one comment. Why? This is a question she asked herself then and still does.

Father Michael said sadly a prejudice problem does exist right here in Cedar Rapids. Many people here in C.R. and everywhere are so quick to judge others by their skin color, clothes they wear, house they live in and etc...but as Christians the answer is simple....We are all God's children and we should love one another. Next time you find yourself staring at someone, remember everyone has a story and you do not know what there's is nor do they know yours!



**Refugee Family**– Does your heart feel called to give to a great cause? This could definitely be the one. Our own Pastor Theo, from the Evangelical Global Pentecost Church (EGPC) that meets here every week, spoke at the Men's breakfast on March 27. He told the group about a family in Tanzania that has been living in a refugee camp since 1996. Can you imagine? He explained what it takes to bring a family to the United States from a camp. EGPC is trying to do just that. Pastor Theo has fulfilled all of the classes and paper documents required by the government but now it comes down to the money needed to set the family up for 3 months. The U.S. government requires \$3,000 per person and it needs to be in a viable account. The refugee family EGPC is sponsoring has a total of 7 members.

This is where you or anyone you know who may feel called to help comes in. If you are interested you can place a check in the *offering plate*, drop one in the office or mail it to the church. In the memo line please put: Pastor Theo so we know to put it in the correct account for him. There is no deadline, it's simple, the government will not bring the family here until the \$21,000 is raised. We will eventually send one payment on behalf of all donors to the fund. This can also be a great tax write-off for next year.

This story has been in the E-news and Announcements but it needs to be shared as much as possible.

Pastor Theo will be sharing more information after the May 12 church service. Please plan to attend and hear first hand from Pastor Theo about his plans.



## Calendar: Special Events

- May 6 - Deacons Meet 5:00 p.m.
- May 12 - Pastor Theo speaks during church service
- May 13 - Property Meets 1 p.m.
- Mission Committee 6:30 p.m. (zoom)
- May 19 - Last Breakfast till Fall
- May 20 - Finance Meets 4:30 p.m.
- May 21 - Session Meets 6:30 p.m.

**NO ADULT ED UNTIL NEXT FALL**

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

## Calendar: Regular Events

### Sundays

- Breakfast 8 -9:30 a.m. - Old Dining
- Worship 10 a.m. - Sanctuary
- Beacon of Light 11:30 a.m. - Chapel
- Beacon of Light Community Dinner every other Sunday starting on 4/7
- EGPC-1:30 p.m. - Old Dining
- Chorale Midwest 3 p.m.- Large Parlor

### Mondays

- Bridge 11 a.m.-4 p.m. - FLC
- Women in Action 7 p.m. - FLC

### Tuesdays

- L&F Pantry 2:30-5 p.m.
- Beacon of Light (100 in 24) 6 p.m.

### Wednesdays

- Men's Breakfast 7:30 a.m. - Atrium
- Prayer Shawl Ministry-1 & 3 Wednesdays
- 9:30 a.m. - Small Parlor
- Choir 7 p.m. - Choir Room

### Thursdays



## This Month's Birthdays

Robert Vancura	May 1
Richard Cornish	May 2
James Heck	May 5
Susan Winegarden	May 7
Fran Hanzel, Johnson	May 13
John Henderson	May 20
John Swanson	May 22
Stephen Allsop	May 26
Joyce Sedlacek	May 26
Patricia Teig	May 27

## Liturgist Schedule for May

- May 5 - Jan Walton
- May 12 - Pam Richardson
- May 19 - Barb Mumford
- May 26 - Ann Buckheister

## Greeters

- 1st Sunday - Jim Fine
- 2nd Sunday - Terry Perkins
- 3rd Sunday - Brian Read
- 4th & 5th Sunday - Kupka's or Neubauers

**Greeters please be in foyer between 9:30 - 9:45 a.m.**

## About Your Newsletter

The "Voice of Westminster" newsletter will

Bible Study-2 & 4Thursdays 9:30 a.m. -  
Atrium  
Beacon of Light (Youth Group) 6 p.m.

**Fridays**  
Office Closed

**Saturdays**  
Office Closed  
EGPC 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. - Old Dining

no longer be mailed to you but delivered to  
your email inbox. This was approved by  
Session. Homebound members will still  
receive a printed copy as many do not have  
access to a computer. Printed copies also  
will be available in the foyer kiosk.



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