

Voice of Westminster



MARCH 2026

My work as an interim pastor has been influenced by Episcopalian priest John Keydel. Rev. Keydel writes that the real work of the intentional interim minister is to facilitate and coach, guide and support the members and leaders of the congregation as they engage five focus points. I hope to discuss each of these points in the months ahead.

The first focus point is HERITAGE. The interim helps the congregation create "safe places" or opportunities to remember, recognize, and articulate the defining stories of their community. These stories create a broad sense of identity, meaning, and purpose. I have heard wonderful stories about Dr. John Woods, Rev. Herb Isenberg, and Rev. Roger Grandia, as well as some of the past lay leaders of this congregation. I look forward to hearing about others too.

Even in those situations where there may have been conflict in the past, those events can be safely, though perhaps painfully, acknowledged and grieved. The purpose of the HERITAGE focus point is not therapeutic catharsis, but the affirmation of a shared past, its ongoing meaning, and the sense of purpose that it can provide. In sum, this reflection on the central stories creates a sense of self-awareness that enables the congregation to embrace the paths that have brought it to the dynamic present.

Next month, the second focus point: MISSION.

Pastor Randy



FEBRUARY SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

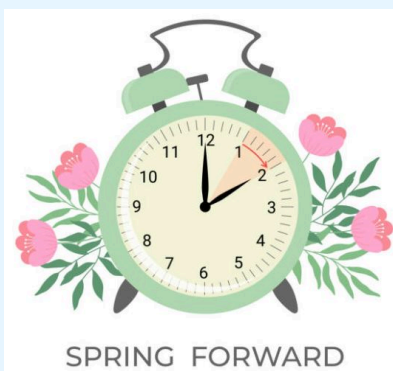
You may be interested in a brief update from the February 17 Session meeting.

1. Pastor Randy encouraged members of Session to register for the "Congregational Vitality Workshop" to be held in Amana, Iowa on Saturday, April 25. Registration is open and is free thanks to a Presbytery grant. Guest speakers are Rev. Dr. Allen Stanton and Rev. Philip Blackburn.
2. Building Use contract renewal reviews have been scheduled for the Evangelical Global Pentecost Church (Pastor Theo) and Beacon of Light (Pastors Marcy and Dedric). Elder John Swanson is the Session rep for these reviews.
3. David Basler presented a summary of the financial results at the end of January 2026. January general contributions exceeded the monthly budget. Expenses were in line with plan for the month, slightly higher.
4. The Property Committee gave an update from the smoke damage. Insurance has paid their portion. One bill is yet to be paid for cleanup after it has been itemized and received.
5. The Deacons now have the responsibility for communion supplies and set-up. In the Presbyterian tradition, it is common for Deacons to serve in this way.
6. The Worship Committee is planning a "Passion Sunday" on March 29 to start holy week. The Passion According to St. Matthew, a dramatic reading, will be read by members of the congregation in the place of the sermon.
7. David Basler was elected treasurer and Kathie Lane and Pam Richardson were elected co-clerks. Both elections were for one-year terms.
8. Session approved serving communion on the first Sunday of each month in 2026 and the reception of the three special denominational offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing, World Communion, and Christmas Joy.
9. The purchase of New Revised Standard, updated edition, pew Bibles through donations was approved. The NRSVue is published by Augsburg Fortress.
10. A task force to write a church policy regarding ICE was appointed: Jan Kosowski, Pastor Randy, Lisa Freeman, Pastor Theo and Fidel. A model policy from a Lutheran church in Des Moines was distributed to Session members.



ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELDERS AND DEACONS

On Sunday, February 22 during the Sunday morning service Westminster ordained and installed its new Elders and Deacons for the Class of 2029. Robyn Moon was ordained and installed as a Deacon. John Swanson, Jan Kosowski and David Liljedahl were installed as new Elders. Bonnie Keiper, Jan Kupka and Joyce Sedlacek were installed along with Robyn as the new Deacons. We thank each of these new officers for their time and dedication that they will put forward in these positions.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME – Next Saturday, March 7 do not forget to set your clocks ahead before you go to bed or you will miss church.



Ecumenical Community Center Foundation (ECCF)

Dear Westminster Presbyterian Church,

I extend my heartfelt thanks for your recent gifts of \$5,000 to ECCF's Bicks Down, Neighbor Up! Campaign, and \$5,000 to ECCF and our Helping Hands Ministry (HHM). Because of generosity like yours, neighbors are able to remain safely housed, keep essential utilities connected, purchase auto gas to get to work and medical appointments, obtain vital identification, and access basic household and personal care items. Your support also enables us to offer referrals, connect people to community resources, and provide financial and life coaching.

Each act of care reminds our neighbors that they are not alone. Your support allows us to walk alongside people as they build brighter, more stable futures. Through financial coaching and encouragement, we help strengthen resilience, restore confidence, and nurture long-term stability amplifying the impact of your love in action.

Weith sincere appreciation for you neighborly compassion,

Robin Switzer Brunner, Chief Operating Officer

BEAR CREEK



Summer Camp Registration is open!

Dear Churches and Ministry Leaders,

Hello from Camp Bear Creek! Though it might be cold outside, we are already anticipating summer and all that comes with it. We believe that the summer camp experience is a wonderful and powerful way to extend the work that you do beyond the walls of your church. Week in and week out, you are providing education and programming for the kids in your congregation and neighborhoods. Summer camp is an opportunity to get kids outside and immersed in God's creation and provide a faith-forming experience that is unique and impactful. At camp, kids get to live in the moment, away from phones and screens. They get to be their authentic selves and discuss their faith in a supportive community of peers their own age. They get to explore nature and the world around them. They grow in faith, spend time in worship, and escape the ordinary for one special week each summer.

Below are links to our Promo Video for the 2026 summer. You will also be receiving summer camp flyers for the families in your church via mail soon. We would love it if you'd share the video with your congregation during a service or week-night children/youth program and encourage them to sign up for camp. Our summer programs include both full and partial week options. Campers can register online through our website (bearcreek.camp), and early bird pricing is available until March 15th. After that date, all prices go up by \$25. Please encourage families to register as soon as possible.

We sincerely appreciate your partnership in ministry. If you have any questions, please contact the camp office at (563) 488-3893.

Stay warm!
The Camp Bear Creek Staff

[Watch the Promo on Youtube](#)

Other News at Camp Summer Counselors

The Camp Counselors are one of the best parts of the camp experience for kids. They serve as role models and leaders. It's a great chance for college-age young adults to grow in skills, have fun, and make a difference this summer. Please encourage your young adult congregants to consider a summer at camp!

[SUMMER STAFF INFO](#)



L & F AND THE TP TOWER

We ended our month of collecting TP for Loaves and Fishes with a whopping amount of 520 rolls. Our goal was 400 so we did an amazing job of surpassing that number. The clients of L & F will reap these benefits on Tuesday, March 3.

On Tuesday, February 17, L & F hit an all time high record of the amount of people they served, 250! Will they be able to continue if this number stays this high??

So many of the resources for stocking our pantry have dwindled down. If you know anyone who is having a special event or would like to create a fundraiser for non-perishable foods, sanitary goods or monetary donations. Please let them know about the great work our pantry does for so many. We are always willing to give any information needed to any groups who may be interested in helping restock our shelves. Thank you.





SUNDAY SUPPER FELLOWSHIP

Our Sunday Supper Fellowship on February 22, was once again, a rousing success! Just like the Olympics it had an international flare. Ethiopia/US was represented by Tamene, Dureti and Arefat. Brazilian students from Mt. Mercy and Cedar Valley Christian also joined in. We had around 30 participants. How great is that??

We enjoyed a delicious supper of sloppy joe's, potato salad, green salad, and fresh veggies. Of course, there were delicious cookies and other treats on the dessert table!

Interesting conversation around the tables, and getting to know each other better was followed by Pastor Randy and his wife Ann, sharing their life story. We learned that Ann is a top-notch dental hygienist and that Randy is a lifelong learner, always enjoying academia while serving the Lord by pastoring churches. Pastor Randy is a fisherman in his spare time and would surely share some "big fish" stories if you ask! A big thank you to the Argall's for sharing more of their personal lives with us as we get to know them better. Again, we are so blessed and thankful that Pastor Randy accepted the invitation to Westminster.

Our next Sunday Supper Fellowship will be on March 22, so watch for details and plan to join us.



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

- March 1** - Communion Sunday
- March 2** - Deacons Meet 5:00pm
- March 7** - The Big AA meeting
- Set Clocks ahead before bed!**
- March 16** - Property Meeting 1:00pm, Mission Meets 2:30pm, Finance Meets 4:30pm
- March 17 - St. Patrick's Day**
Session Meets 6:30pm
- March 19** - Foundation Meeting 5pm
- March 22** - Sunday Fellowship Supper
- March 28** - Beacon of Light - Teacher Appreciation Event

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 11 am - 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 7:30 am - Atrium
- Prayer Shawl Ministry - 1 & 3 Wednesdays
9:30 am - Small Parlor
- WPC Chancel Choir Practice 7:00pm



This Month's Birthdays

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



This Month's Anniversaries

Robert & Ann Buckheister	March 10
Butch & Lee Anne Hataway	March 22
James & Maryann Boardman	March 30

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 March

- March 1** - Heather Wagner
- March 8** - Pam Richardson
- March 15** - Jan Walton
- March 22** - Val Neubauer
- March 29** - Heather Wagner

Thursdays

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

Fridays

Office Closed

Saturdays

Office Closed

EGPC 10 am to 3 pm - Old Dining
Natural Swedish Pentecostal Church 10am to
4pm
NA (Steps in the Right Direction) 11am - Atrium

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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