



The Voice of Westminster

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

January 2022

Regifting

If it has been a normal Christmas season, chances are we received a few gifts, that we either can't use, or perhaps aren't our style: a new tie when you have three in the closet that are still packaged; a sweater that is three sizes too big, two sizes too small, or has a design that we would not be caught dead in; a game that is more complicated than our brain can handle, or something to eat, that literally scares us, or is not on our diet. The list goes on...

What do we do? We appreciate the thought, and the person who gave it, but do not see using it, and we don't want to offend the giver. The reality is that some clothes just make it to the deep corners of our closet (after perhaps a token appearance in it). Other items get placed in the "everything" drawer, but some we might regift, and give it to someone who might be able to use it more, or whose "style" better fits the gift.

I admit that I feel a bit uncomfortable in regifting. There is an area, though, where God wants us to become more and more comfortable about regifting. That area is in sharing the good news. Hopefully the good news is not something we see as unusable or not our style. Hopefully we have experienced the joy of it, the immense value of it, and want others to experience it. Paul certainly felt that way when he shared the following.

1 Corinthians 9: 19-23 "Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law, I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law, but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means, I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings."

The good news had not changed, but Paul "repackaged" it in a way to that would provide the best chance for others to respond favorably. None of us can perhaps be like Paul, in becoming all things to all people, but a good start is to take inventory of all those God has already brought into our path. A positive approach begins and continues with **prayer**, followed by exercising **care** (listening being one of the best ways to do so, to till the soil of their heart before we **share**).

What would happen if all of us began the process in 2022 by praying for at least one person who does not know Christ? How might the kingdom grow?

- Pastor Roger

December Session Notes

Pastor Roger opened the meeting-thanking Pastor Roundtree and others for helping out while he was ill.

Roger read a passage from the Bible and discussed how to lead when you don't know where you're going. He observed that what worked at Westminster years ago will not work today, that we are in a totally different world.

Session agenda included the following:

- Theogene Havugimana of the Evangelical Global Pentecostal Church in Iowa City discussed why he has requested use of Westminster for his congregation. He wanted a 2-1/2-hour service in the Sanctuary each Sunday, and part of Saturday, too. Theo is a native of Rwanda. He came to US in 2010. He has 3 bachelor degrees and is working on a Master of Divinity. Discussion of his request followed. Session noted that his story was compelling, but due to the timing of the request and commitment to other groups, it voted to deny the request.
- Session voted to begin the process of disposing of the satellite parking lot. Now that Loaves & Fishes has moved, the lot is no longer used by the church.
- Session nominated and approved two new WPC Foundation members: Jan Kosowski and Pam Richardson.
- Goals for Westminster-Session began a discussion of a two-year plan to address various items such as increasing membership, building use and pastor priorities. It was decided to continue this discussion at a later meeting, likely a called or special meeting.

Prior to closing. Session member Barb Read thanked Ann Buckheister for her service on the Session.

The meeting closed with prayer. The next regular Session meeting will be Jan. 18 at 6:30 p.m.



Annual Meeting

Westminster will hold its annual meeting Sunday, Jan. 30, following the 10 a.m. worship service. We will meet in the Family Life Center. Snacks and beverages will be provided.

Former Westminster Interim Pastor to Acting Presbytery Clerk

Rev. Sue Krummel is serving as Acting Stated Clerk for the Presbytery of East Iowa, for a few months in a very part-time role. Sue served as PEIA Stated Clerk a few decades ago, and also served as interim/temporary pastor in several congregations in the presbytery. Longtime Westminster members might remember her for serving as an interim pastor here prior to the installation of Herb Isenberg. She just retired as Executive Presbyter of Chicago Presbytery and lives in Peoria, Illinois. Thank you, Sue, for serving (again).



It Takes a Congregation

We have heard that it takes a village to raise a child - well it takes a congregation to put on a Christmas nativity play! A big thank you to our parents and grandparents for bringing the kids to participate in this year's Christmas play. Thank you to the kids for their great performance!



Thank you to Jan Walton and Veronica Ngundu for serving the cupcakes for Jesus's birthday. Thank you to Dick Trotter for his great narration. Thank you to A.J. Plumber for his accompaniment. Thank you to Brian Read, Warren Feerer and Jan Kosowski for taking photos. Thank you to Maggie York for helping put the heavenly

host angels together. Thank you to Ed Kosowski for making the star and the Wisemen's staff and fixing the broken manger. Thank you to Barb Read for washing all the costumes and buying cupcakes and balloons, picking out music, and helping in all the planning and execution. Thank you to Jan Kosowski for making new Wisemen costumes, drafting the narration and helping with all the planning and execution. And thank you to all the congregation for your willingness to take part- playing the Heavenly Host, of course.



-submitted by Jan Kosowski

Christmas Time at Loaves & Fishes

Ham, chicken, ground beef—the Loaves & Fishes holiday giveaway was Dec. 21. Thanks to smart shopping and your donations, volunteers were able to offer a choice of meat (ham, chicken, or hamburger) with lots of holiday sides such as green bean casserole, sweet potatoes, butter, candy, milk, mashed potatoes, gravy and so much more. Buffalo Ridge Orchard provided bins and bins of beautiful fresh apples. Volunteers brought in wrapping paper, gift bags and ribbons. And all of these goodies went in to reusable



tote bags provided by WPC!



There were so many expressions of heartfelt thanks from our clients. But the holidays are not happy for everyone. There is the man who is living in his van who we provided with items that didn't need cooking.

Another man, when asked if he would see his family for Christmas, sternly replied "I hope not!"

Loaves & Fishes serves as a bright spot in many lives and is a very real example of "good will towards men". As we often say, "Loaves & Fishes-It's not just the food."

-Jan Kosowski, L&F Director



From Dream to Reality—Let the Water FLOW!

Join us Sunday, Jan. 9, for a presentation by Haji Ali-an update on his water project in Ethiopia. A number of you might recall giving money to his project. You will be amazed at what he’s accomplished.



Haji Ali as a child in Ethiopia.

Helping people provide clean water to their villages is something close to Haji’s heart. As a child, he often walked at least 20-miles in an effort to get water-not clean water-just water. Sometimes he went home empty-handed. He knows the need. After being adopted by his aunt and uncle, Tamene Gelashe and Shuna Tosa and brought to Cedar Rapids, he was amazed that clean water was just a tap away. Still, he never forgot his own experience. With the knowledge that many still walk miles for even dirty water, he wanted to help.

Haji’s water project started with a 10th grade paper, which was followed up by a number of presentations and awards. The project is now well-underway. The 170-foot well has been dug, and the land has been prepared. What remains to be done is to purchase the pump, and the solar panels which will power the well.



Haji makes a presentation on his water project in Washington, DC.

Haji has started a [“Go Fund Me page”](#) to raise the money needed to complete the project. You can learn much more about his water project and its enormous potential by joining us in the Atrium on Jan. 9 at 9 a.m.

Sign of the Times



Over the last few months, WPC's staff, volunteers and the Property Committee have been dealing with homeless people camping out or living in vehicles on our property. Westminster has followed the advice of the city and posted “no trespassing signs.” It is against city ordinance for anyone to lived outside on any property. Jan Kosowski spoke to several of the people camping out to tell them this, and finally asked the police to intervene. Maggie York ordered signs and Ed Kosowski posted private property-no trespassing signs for us. A lot of garbage was left behind, and yet another abandoned car had to be towed. Please know that staff and volunteers are working to alleviate the situation.



January Birthdays

Roger Grandia	1
Luman Colton	2
Antoinette Mukakaband	4
Karol Cooper	10
Sherry Cornish	10
Signe Henderson	11
Leanne Leeper	15
Ann Buckheister	19
Linda Smith	21
Jackie Alff	28
Jack Haney	28
Val Neubauer	30
Tim Winegarden	30
Jan Kupka	31

Don't Forget!

100th Birthday Party for Luman Colton

Jan. 2 - 2-5 p.m.

Family Life Center

All are welcome!
Come and celebrate!!!



January at Loaves & Fishes

Following are items needed at L&F this month.

Mac 'n cheese
Canned Fruit
Shampoo

The Month of January Thank You Volunteers!

Liturgists

Jan. 2—Brian Read

Jan. 9—Lemi Tilahun

Jan. 16—Val Neubauer

Jan. 23—Ben Fashimpaur

Jan. 30—Deb Liljedahl

Greeters (at Front Door)

Dec. 5—Jim Fine

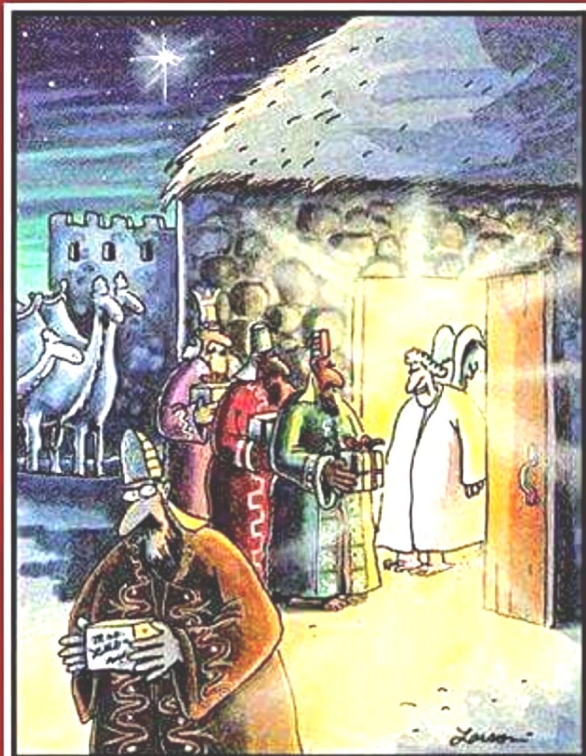
Dec. 12—Bob Moore

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...



Unbeknownst to most theologians, there was a fourth wiseman, who was turned away for bringing fruitcake.

icunny.com

WPC Calendar - January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Communion Sunday 10 am Worship 2 pm Luman Colton's 100 th birthday party	3 Office Closed (New Year Holiday) 7 pm – AA-Old Dining	4 2:30 pm – L&F Pantry	5 7:30 am - Men's Breakfast Group 9:30 am – Prayer Shawl 5 pm-Confirmation Class	6 Church Closed	7 Church Closed	8 Church Closed
9 8 am-Breakfast-Old Dining 9am – Haji Ali Water Project Update-Atrium 10 am-Worship 1 pm-Beacon of Light 6:30 pm-Chorale Midwest	10 11 am-Bridge Club-FLC 1 pm – Property Comm. 6:30 pm – Mission Comm. 7 pm – AA-Old Dining Rm	11 2:30 pm – L&F Pantry	12 7:30 am - Men's Breakfast 5 pm-Confirmation Class 7pm – Choir Practice	13 9:30 am – Kindred Sisters 5:30 pm-Personnel	14 Church Closed	15 Church Closed
16 8 am-Breakfast-Old Dining 10 am-Worship 4 pm – Chorale Midwest	17 11 am-Bridge Club-FLC 4:30 pm – Finance 7 pm-AA-Old Dining	18 2:30 pm – L&F Pantry 6:30 pm - Session	19 7:30 am - Men's Breakfast 9:30 am – Prayer Shawl 5 pm-Confirmation Class 7pm – Choir Practice	20 Church Closed	21 Church Closed	22 Church Closed
23 8 am-Breakfast-Old Dining 10 am-Worship 4 pm – Chorale Midwest	24 11 am-Bridge Club-FLC 7 pm-AA-Old Dining	25 2:30 pm – L&F Pantry	26 7:30 am - Men's Breakfast 5 pm-Confirmation Class 7pm – Choir Practice	27 9:30 am – Kindred Sisters	28 Church Closed	29 Church Closed
30 8 am-Breakfast-Old Dining 10 am-Worship 4 pm – Chorale Midwest	31 11 am-Bridge Club-FLC 7 pm-AA-Old Dining					

Please visit www.crwpc.org/calendar to stay informed of changes to this month's calendar.

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Return Service Requested

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January 2022

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

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