



The Voice of Westminster

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

October 2022

All Good Gifts

*"We plow the fields and scatter the good seed on the land.
But it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand."*

-John-Michael Tebelak, Stephen Schwartz "Godspell"

While growing up on a farm in rural Oskaloosa, IA, I was always amazed at the transformation of a small seed to a large plant, ready for harvest. Of course, a seed can also be a metaphor for so many promising things in life. Right now at Westminster, a seed has been planted and the crop will be bountiful. When Veronica Ndungu asked for donations on Facebook for her former schoolhouse in Kenya, with the help of Heather Wagner's artistic talents, she didn't know what to expect.

Generosity can be a challenging thing to predict. But what ensued at Veronica's church, Westminster, was beyond her expectations. Individual donations started coming in and Jan Kosowski wrote a grant and obtained a \$1,000 contribution from the Presbytery of East Iowa to donate to the cause. Westminster's Mission Committee allocated \$500. Enough money has been raised through multiple sources (both in and outside Westminster) to build the one room school and they are now adding on additional classroom space.

From there, the seed was nurtured by Val Neubauer. She did a bit of googling and found patterns for t-shirt dresses, sanitary pads and picked up shorts on sale for the boys at the school. She started to teach Sunday School kids to sew. She reached out to Marcy Roundtree at Beacon of Light. They hold youth night at Westminster. Would her youth be interested in learning to sew and take part in the mission project? They were-and the seed was nourished further.

Then, a new women's group, "Soul Sisters" started up at Westminster. Val visited that group to see if they might want to help with the mission project. It could be cutting patterns or attaching skirts to the t-shirts to make dresses. Many said yes, even those who didn't come to the meeting.

In December, Veronica plans to return to Kenya. There will be a package stuffed with dresses, pads, shorts and deflated soccer and volleyballs for the kids. All, because one person reached out to another...to another...to another...and on and on.

The common thread here is relationships-both with each other and God. It is nothing short of amazing what we can do when we put aside our differences and focus on what we can do together for good and in God's name. For, in the end we plant the seed, but it is with God's hand that they are fed and watered. As the musical Godspell proclaimed, "All good gifts around us, are sent from Heaven above."

Blessings,

Pastor Roger

Session Notes from the Sept. 20 Meeting

The September Session meeting began with prayer, followed by devotions. Discussion, based on scripture, followed on whether we are operating as a manager or an owner at Westminster. Later, Session did the following:

- Approved a proposal called 124 Pathway designed to help teach financial literacy with an eye toward home ownership for those who have not owned previously. Collins Community Credit Union will partner with Dedric and Marcy Roundtree to hold the classes on Tuesday nights during the time already scheduled for use by the Roundtrees.
- Approved use of Westminster as an election polling site through 2023.
- Voted to move the Christmas Eve service to 7 p.m. in order to have Marilyn Mark provide music. The Christmas Day service will be at 10 a.m. on Sunday.
- Tabled a building use request from Pastor Theogene to use the Old Dining Room on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. After lengthy discussion, the request was tabled until next month, giving Pastor Roger time to meet with Pastor Theo to obtain answers to Session questions. The Swahili language congregation currently worships on Sundays in the Old Dining Room.
- John Swanson reported Westminster will close on the sale of the satellite parking lot to Willis Dady for \$10,000 on Sept. 30.

Personnel Updates:

- Barb Read reported that Gale Smetana will be retiring at the end of the year. She has agreed to work part time and train a new person if needed.
- Barb also reported that Tina Mueller has streamlined her position so she can work just one day a week.
- The meeting closed with everyone saying the Lord's Prayer together.

Westminster Deacons Bible Trivia Question

Paul became ship-wrecked on what island?

(Hint: It wasn't Gilligan's)

(Another Hint: The answer was given in a sermon and a Sunday bulletin in September)

Answer to last month's question: Matthias (chosen to replace Judas Iscariot after Judas betrayed Jesus).



Rally Sunday Cookout a Success

Westminster's Hospitality Committee held a Rally Day Cookout September 11, after worship services. Hamburgers, hot dogs and salads from HyVee were on the menu. As always, Westminster women baked cookies and bars to round out the meal. Centerpieces were raffled off as prizes. A special thanks to everyone who chipped in to make this happen including Brian Read who subbed as grill master. Our next gathering will be after church on October 16-a spaghetti lunch. More details coming up in weekly announcements.



Besides a good meal, it was also a good opportunity to pick up the new church directory.



Judging by the smiles, the food and fellowship were good!



Sharon Colton staffs the beverage table with a smile.



Ask and ye shall receive. Folks kicked in with cookies and bars for dessert.

- Photos by Jan Perkins and Karol Cooper



Westminster members have been out and about this fall. Warren Feerer and Jack Evans ran in the Mt. Trashmore 5K "Dash to Bash" epilepsy on Sept 10. They were in good company—Cedar Rapids Mayor Tiffany O'Donnell was there, too.



Our Prayer Shawl Ministry took another nine blankets to Ronald McDonald Room at St. Luke's. The blankets are given to patients in the neonatal ICU or NICU unit where the tiniest of patients stay until they are strong enough to go home. These expert knitters started this practice with Ronald McDonald Room several years ago and always remember the tiny ones in their work.

Westminster has a new women's group-Soul Sisters. About 12 people turned up for the first meeting. They are looking for ideas to give the group purpose. Their first project will be helping to make t-shirt dresses and other items for children in the Kenyan village where Veronica Ndungu lived. Val Neubauer is organizing that project. More on that mission on the next page. For now, Soul Sisters are meeting on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 9:30 a.m.



Our neighbors at His Hands Free Clinic held a ribbon cutting to celebrate raising \$1.82 million to pay off a loan used to expand the clinic. Since 1992, His Hands has been seeking to honor God by helping the uninsured and underinsured in our community. Westminster loaned them 60-plus folding chairs for the indoor ceremony. Pastor Roger attended the ceremony.

Plant the Seed, Watch It Grow!



Newly constructed school.

As the front page of this newsletter indicated there's a relationship-growing, multi-faceted mission project going on at Westminster. What started as an online fund-raising effort to replace an old and badly damaged school in Veronica Ndungu's hometown in Kenya, has become an all out mission project for a variety of groups working together at Westminster. Besides money to build schools (a second is in progress), some groups are making brightly colored dresses for the kids and getting soccer and volleyballs (deflated). When Veronica visits Kenya in December, there will be much to celebrate. Thank you to everyone helping this small community in need.



Second classroom under construction.



Town kids celebrate with big checks.

A Prayer: Heavenly Father, loving our neighbors means caring for people near or far away. May these gifts of animals help to remind us that in serving others, we are serving you. Amen.

— Valerie Neubauer, Sunday school teacher,
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

From the 2022-2023 23 Presbyterian Giving Catalog



Beacon of Light youth learn to sew in Westminster's sewing room and begin making gift bags.



Logan and Landen Engels are learning to sew, too, for this project. Landen is busy making sure the pin cushions are well-stocked.



October Birthdays

Truman Johnson	October 3
Heather Wagner	October 7
Marion Engel	October 11
Beth Allsop	October 12
Shuna Tosa	October 14
Jan Walton	October 19
Jack Evans	October 22
Nancy Haney	October 24
Penny Novak	October 24
Judy McCracken	October 27

The Month of October Thank You Volunteers!

Liturgists

Oct. 2—Ed Mumford

Oct. 9—Deb Liljedahl

Oct. 16—Barb Read

Oct. 23—Jan Kosowski

Oct. 30—Brian Read

Greeters (at Front Door)

Oct. 2—Jim Fine

Oct. 9—Bob Moore

Oct. 16—Brian Read

Oct. 23—Terry Perkins

Oct. 30—Val/Loren Neubauer



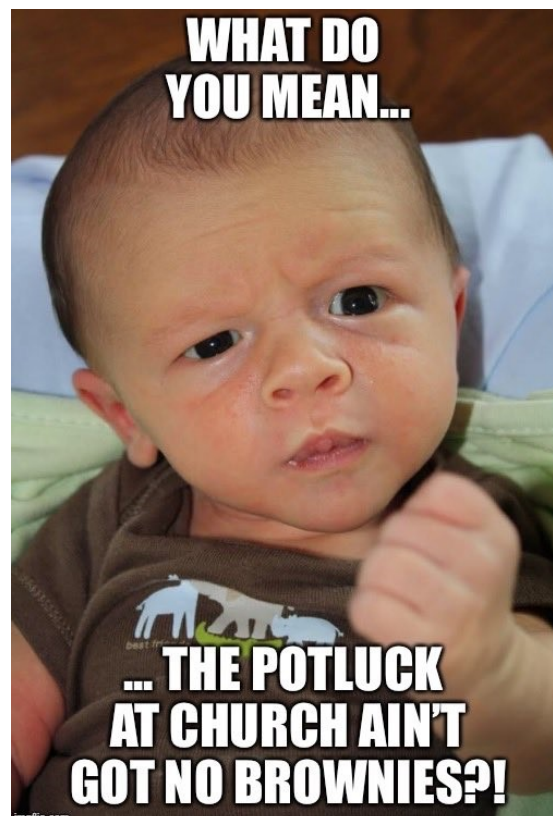
Breakfast Time!

The Westminster tradition of a hot breakfast returns on Sunday, Oct. 16. As before, breakfast will be in the Old Dining Room. Serving time will be 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Get ready for scrambled eggs, sausage, French toast sticks and lots of other goodies.

Thank you Karol and Larry Cooper for this delicious ministry.

Meme of the Month...



WPC Calendar | October 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Church Closed
2 Communion Sunday 9 a.m. Christian Ed 10 a.m. – Worship I Sanctuary 1 p.m. Beacon of Light 1:30 p.m. Swahili Language Service 3 p.m. Chorale Midwest	3 11 a.m. – Bridge Club 6 p.m. – Belden Court Meet 6 p.m. Deacons 7 p.m. AA Meeting	4 2:30 p.m. – L&F 6 p.m. Beacon of Light	5 7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast 9:30 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:30 p.m. – Life After Life	6 6 p.m. Beacon of Light	7 Church Closed 5:30 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal	8 2 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Foley-Nelgum Wedding
9 9 a.m. Christian Ed 10 a.m. – Worship- Sanctuary 1 p.m. Beacon of Light 1:30 p.m. Swahili Language Service 3 p.m. Chorale Midwest	10 11 a.m. – Bridge Club 1 p.m. – Property Committee 6:30 p.m. – Mission Committee 7 p.m. AA Meeting	11 2:30 p.m. – L&F 6 p.m. Beacon of Light Wellington Heights Meet	12 7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast 5:30 p.m. – Atrium	13 9:30 a.m. Soul Sisters 1 p.m. Personnel Committee 6 p.m. Beacon of Light	14 Church Closed	15 9 a.m. – NA Regional Meet
16 9 a.m. Christian Ed 10 a.m. – Worship- Sanctuary 11:15 a.m. Spaghetti Lunch-FLC 1 p.m. Beacon of Light 1:30 p.m. Swahili Language Service 3 p.m. Chorale Midwest	17 11 a.m. – Bridge Club 4:30 p.m. Finance Committee 7 p.m. AA Meeting	18 2:30 p.m. – L&F 6 p.m. Beacon of Light 6:30 p.m. – Session Meeting	19 7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast 9:30 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:30 p.m. – Life After Life	20 6 p.m. Beacon of Light	21 Church Closed	22 Church Closed
23 9 a.m. Christian Ed 10 a.m. – Worship I Sanctuary 1 p.m. Beacon of Light 1:30 p.m. Swahili Language Service 3 p.m. Chorale Midwest	24 11 a.m. – Bridge Club 7 p.m. AA Meeting	25 2:30 p.m. – L&F 6 p.m. Beacon of Light	26 7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast 5:30 p.m. – Atrium	27 9:30 a.m. Soul Sisters 6 p.m. Beacon of Light	28 Church Closed	29 Church Closed
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Please visit www.crwpc.org/calendar to stay informed of changes to this month's calendar.

Westminster Presbyterian Church
1285 Third Avenue SE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403-4084

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Return Service Requested

The Voice of Westminster
October 2022

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Sunday Worship

9 a.m.—Christian Ed
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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