



The Voice of Westminster

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

June 2021

Why Juneteenth is Important

I must confess that Juneteenth never really came across my radar much at all until this last year. It forced me to admit that, even though I have several black friends, I had largely lived in a white world where Juneteenth was not celebrated. In fact, I am ashamed to say that the first time I encountered the term, I did not have a clue what it meant. While there are other dates that are candidates for the celebration of the Emancipation of slavery in the U.S., Juneteenth is the most popular.

The first Juneteenth is considered to have started in Texas on June 19, 1865 with a proclamation of Major General Gordon Granger, *"The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with the proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor..."*

The sad part is that 156 years later, slavery in the U.S. is still a huge problem. According to 2016 statistics, in Texas alone, where Juneteenth got its official start, a total of 313,000 people are victims of human trafficking. 79,000 of these are minors that are victims of sex trafficking, and another 234,000 workers are victims of labor trafficking, that is they are being forced to work for no pay. Labor traffickers exploit approximately \$600 million from their victims annually. And this is only one state in the United States! Plus, I am sure that these statistics have risen significantly in the last 5 years.

We could look at so many statistics that indicate we are far from the world that God intended us to be—a world that is reflective of what it means to be in Christ:

"There is no longer Jew nor Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male nor female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:28

I am looking forward to Juneteenth this year, particularly because the mentoring group called Melanated Men that meets on Mondays here at Westminster is going to be having an eating contest to raise money for their group. Let's take time to rejoice with our brothers and sisters of color!

- Pastor Roger

May Session Notes

The Westminster Session met on May 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the Atrium. Rev. Grandia read I Thessalonians 5:12-28 regarding Paul's commands. Session discussed the commands and closed with the ACTS prayer.

Session discussed and took action on the following items:

- Request by Five Seasons Music Festival to use Westminster facilities June 21-26. This could include using up to eight rooms from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. With a concert on Saturday night. Session voted to allow the requested room use for \$800.
- Given the latest CDC recommendations, masks will be optional for those who have been fully vaccinated. Session also voted to resume Communion on June 6, with people receiving Communion up front, using a plan suggested by Karol Cooper. It was also decided to begin passing the collection plate during worship services.
- Reviewed the Pastor's Report. Vacation was approved for Pastor Roger for June 28-July 4. Pastor Dedic Roundtree will fill in on May 30. Rev. Barb Furman will fill in on July 4.

Session meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer. The next Session meeting will be June 15.

Pentecost Special Offering



Once again, Westminster has stepped up and collected money for the PCUSA Pentecost Special Offering. In all, we collected \$824.65. Of that amount, our Westminster Youth collected \$100.65 in their red and white coin boxes. Love our kids!

The purpose of the Pentecost Special Offering is to support PCUSA programs for at-risk youth and children. Forty-percent of the money raised by churches stays with the churches that raised the money. In our case, that comes out to just under \$330 dollars.

Thank you to everyone, who gave this year. Please let our bookkeeper, Tina Mueller, know if you are still planning to make a contribution.



PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

Property Initiatives

It may be a “small, small world,” but it’s a big, big church. Over the last several years, your Property Committee has adopted two initiatives that perhaps have not well articulated. These two initiatives are to 1) implement upgrades that reduce our long term costs and maintenance, and 2) eliminate clutter and used items from around the church.

Examples of reducing long term cost and maintenance:

- Replacing light bulbs in lamps and ceiling fixtures with LED lighting
- Replacing parking lot lighting and canopy lighting with LED lighting
- Upgrading our EXIT signs (which are on all the time) with LED lighting
- Replacing water spigots with aerator style nozzles
- Replacing mulch with rock
- Reducing overgrown plantings, trees, and bushes with lawn

Examples of eliminating clutter include:

- Getting rid of VHS tapes and machines
- Selling old wooden benches from the basement
- Getting rid of all the tattered youth room furniture
- Recycling tens of fluorescent light tubes
- Recycling and getting money for stray metal around the church
- Donating excess furniture to Habitat's Restore

The Property Committee encourages the entire Congregation to be active in these initiatives. -

- The Property Committee

Also, a special thank you to David Cosgrove for helping us out while our custodian, Tamene Gelashe, was away. David always takes care of the recyclables, but he did everything from vacuum the Sanctuary for services to changing out ceiling tiles. Thank you Dave!

Fun Stuff at Westminster!



It was a very special Mother’s Day at Westminster. First, it marked the beginning of a six month trial period of holding once service at 10 a.m. on Sundays in the Sanctuary with a combination of contemporary and traditional music.

But, it was also Mother’s Day! Thanks to Val Neubauer with help from Rachel Kongshaug, our Westminster Kids made cards for all the Moms and handed out roses, too. What a great treat! Thank you to everybody who helped with this project.

Mia, Hanna and Bella paused for a picture while handing out roses on Mother’s Day.



This photo was in the Mother’s Day cards given out after church.



Dureti Ali hands roses to Maggie York and Jan Kosowski on Mother’s Day.

June Food List for Loaves & Fishes

Following are items needed at L&F this month.

Peanut butter & jelly

Marshmallows

Graham crackers

Bar soap

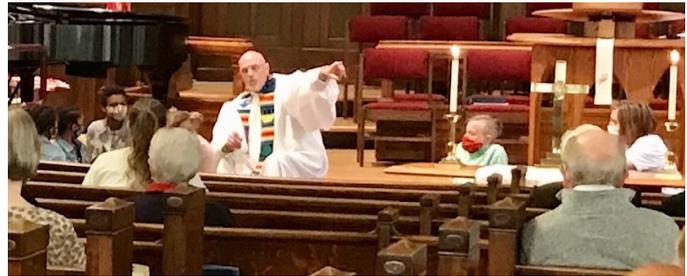


Who Ya Gonna Call? Stigma Busters!



We are Stigma-Busters!

Pastor Roger shared a 4-part message in April and May about the church's role in helping those with



mental illnesses. These personal messages were compelling. In a Children/Youth Message, he shared the need for all of us to be stigma-busters since mental health is often hidden from view. He also shared resources that are listed below.

ADULT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Mental Health Access Center

501 13th St. NW 398-3562

(Crisis care for people experiencing a mental health or substance use disorder crisis that requires immediate attention).

Catholic Charities

St. Mary Lawrence Community Ctr.
420 6th St. SE Ste. 220 364-7121

Cornerstone Brief Therapy

5925 Council St. NE, Suite 120 393-6796

Crisis & Assessment Services

701 10th St. SE 398-6476
(24-hour telephone consultation)

Family Psychology Associates, PC

1221 Center Point Rd. NE 378-1199

Foundation 2 Crisis Center

1540 2nd Ave SE 362-2174
24/7 Crisis Line

Keys to Living

1642 42nd St. NE 377-2161

Marriage & Family Therapy Clinic-MMU

1650 Matterhorn Dr. NE 368-6493

Mercy Family Counseling

1340 Blairs Ferry Rd 398-6575

Unity Point Health

810 1st Ave NE 369-7952

Unity -St. Luke's Counseling

1077 N. Center Pt. Rd. 369-7952

Veterans Administration

2230 Wiley Blvd. SW 369-4340



June Birthdays

Sharon Colton	2
Darald Schultz	2
Basil Tilley	3
Ben Fashimpaur	5
Sherryl Hoepner	5
Warren Feerer	11
Bonnie Keiper	13
Barb Read	14
Rick Whiteaker	14
Sandra Yarrington	14
Gloria Kromminga	17
Terry Perkins	20
Diane Brooks	23
Pamela Feerer	24
Jill Grandia	30

June is

“Do Something Nice for Someone Month”

Well, it really isn't, but wouldn't it be neat if we all did one kind thing this month for a fellow Westminsterite? See the list of birthdays to the left? It could mean sending a birthday card to someone.

Are there members you know who can no longer attend? Maybe they're homebound or have been in a nursing facility.

If you need an address for someone, just call the office. We can look it up.

Otherwise, happy June and happy birthday to everybody who has a birthday in this beautiful month!

The Month of June Thank You Volunteers!

Liturgists

June 6

Jan Walton

June 13

Deb Liljedahl

June 20

Westminster Youth

June 27

Barb Read



June 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 2:30 pm—L&F 6:30 pm—Narcotics Anonymous (NA)	2	3	4 Church Closed 8 pm—NA	5 8 pm—NA
6 10 am.—Worship-Sanctuary 1 m—Beacon of Light	7 3 pm—Melanated Men 6 pm—Deacons	8 2:30 pm—L&F 6:30 pm—NA	9 9:30—Prayer Shawl	10 5:30 pm—Personnel	11 Church Closed 8 pm—NA	12 9 am—Marion Music Academy Recital 8 pm—NA
13 10 am.—Worship-Sanctuary 12:30—Marion Music 1 m—Beacon of Light	14 1 pm—Property Meet 3 pm—Melanated Men 4:30 pm—Finance	15 2:30 pm—L&F 6:30 pm—NA 6:30 pm—Session	16 Newsletter Deadline	17	18 Church Closed 8 pm—NA	19-June 19-June 8 pm—NA
20-Father's Day 10 am.—Worship-Sanctuary 1 m—Beacon of Light	21 3 pm—Melanated Men	22 2:30 pm—L&F 6:30 pm—NA	23 9:30 am—Prayer Shawl	24 9 am—Newsletter Assemblage	25 Church Closed 8 pm—NA	26 8 pm—NA
27 10 am.—Worship-Sanctuary 1 m—Beacon of Light	28 3 pm—Melanated Men 7 pm—AA	29 2:30 pm—L&F 6:30 pm—NA	30			

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
June 2021

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Office Hours

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

Sunday Worship

10 a.m.—Sanctuary
Online on our YouTube Channel

Visit us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Twitter or at www.crwpc.org

PHONE: 319-366-7185

Church Staff

Pastor, Rev. Roger D. Grandia
Communications & Shared Ministry Coordinator
Gale Smetana
Choir Director & Church Musician,
Damon Cole
A.J. Plummer, Praise Band Leader
Bookkeeper, Tina Mueller

pastorroger@crwpc.org
gale@crwpc.org
cole1350@gmail.com
bookkeeper@crwpc.org

Nursery Attendant, Lindsay Meade

Newsletter Editor, Gale Smetana
Newsletter Proofreader:

Newsletter Contributors: Pastor Roger Grandia, Jan Kosowski,

lindsay_meade@hotmail.com
gale@crwpc.org