



# The Voice of Westminster

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

August 2022

## Immigrants and Church Renewal

Could Immigration have something to do with Church Renewal? Lisa Rodriguez-Watson certainly thinks so. In an article entitled, *"Why Immigrants Are Our Greatest Hope for Church Renewal"* she addresses this issue. In our session devotions for June and July Session members have studied this article and what scriptures tell us about how God views the "stranger" or "immigrant" in our midst.

### Quotes from the article:

*"For far too long we have exported our Western, white, educated, male understanding of the gospel to other nations, often failing to listen and learn from what God has already revealed in those people and places."*

*"The global church sees our desperation and struggle. They understand they have a role to play in our healing. The question is, will we allow ourselves to listen to and learn from the global church? Will we allow them to be an agent of our healing and renewal?"*

*"If we will embody mutuality, marked by a true understanding that we need one another, we will flourish. If we are open-handed and share power, we will thrive. If we say "yes" to this movement of God, it will simultaneously feel like loss and gain. Will we choose to surrender our power, our preferences, our positions, and receive the gift of renewal? If we are concerned with saving our lives as we know them—our comforts, our convenience, our rights—we will lose them. **But if we are willing to lose our lives for the sake of God's mission in the world, then we will most assuredly find them.**"*

There are at least 40 passages of scripture that address how God views the "stranger" or "immigrant" in our midst. Meditate on these two:

**Leviticus 19:33-34 Common English Bible** *When immigrants live in your land with you, you must not cheat them.<sup>34</sup> Any immigrant who lives with you must be treated as if they were one of your citizens. You must love them as yourself, because you were immigrants in the land of Egypt; I am the LORD your God.*

**Matthew 25:38-40 New American Standard Bible** *And when did we see You as a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You?<sup>39</sup> And when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'<sup>40</sup> And the King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it for one of the least of these brothers or sisters of Mine, you did it for Me.'*

We have a positive track record in the past of welcoming immigrants, strangers, and refugees. Let us build on this foundation as we move forward into the future.

*-Pastor Roger*

## Summer Meals in the 'Hood

The Neighborhood Meals program resumed serving indoor meals after brown bag lunches last year. Although numbers were not as high as before, serving the meals is always a good time for fellowship among Westminster members. Your participation is appreciated so much-by organizers and those who come for a hot midday meal.

Westminster has two more days to cover on Aug. 1 and 2. First Lutheran is taking the rest of that week. Please sign up online at [neighborhoodmeals.org/volunteer](http://neighborhoodmeals.org/volunteer) or on the signup sheets in the Large Parlor.



Photos by Jan Kosowski, Karol Cooper & Gale Smetana





### It's Sock it to Me Time!

Remember "Sock-it-to-Me-Time" from the 1960s show Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In? We're showing our age here. Skip ahead to this century and it's the theme of a Loaves & Fishes fundraiser. One of the most needed items for disadvantaged people are socks-especially when the cold winter months set in. Westminster will be collecting socks-all types and sizes-during August and September. Then they will be made available to clients at Loaves & Fishes in October and November. So, next time you're out and about, pick up a pair or two and drop them off in our L&F grocery carts.

### Luman Flies High in Downtown CR

Longtime Westminster member and WWII veteran, Luman Colton, is being honored with Freedom Festival's Military Tribute Banner Program. Luman's widow, Sharon and other family members raised the money for the tribute. After the banners come down at the end of August, the banner will go to Sharon. What a beautiful keepsake! Luman's banner is located across from the City Transit Center.



### Evolution of a Sidewalk

Another Property Committee goal was reached in mid-July, when the sidewalk that borders the alley was broken down, removed and a new walk poured.



The rods placed within the concrete had not been properly placed so what started as a partial fix became reconstruction of the sidewalk which leads to the canopied entrance.



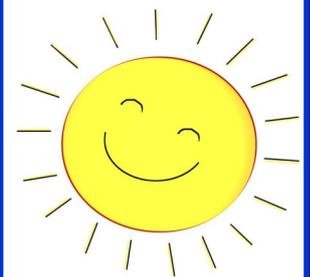
## Kernels Game Added to Hospitality Committee Get-Togethers

Westminster's Hospitality Committee is back in full force, after the "great pause" for the pandemic. The group is planning the following for the rest of the year, so mark your calendars!

- Aug. 21—Kernels Game, 2 p.m.—Box seats and a late lunch included. \$ 20. Sign up in the Large Parlor.
- Sept. 11 —After worship—Rally Day Picnic—Grill outside, eat inside and celebrate the first day of Christian Education at Westminster this fall.
- Oct. 16—Fall/Halloween spaghetti dinner. Join us after the service in the Family Life Center for a fall feast. Have the kids bring their Halloween costumes!
- Dec. 11—Christmas Celebration—Join us after worship for food and fun to celebrate the

## Sunshine Club Begins in August

Westminster's new Sunshine Club has its first meeting Thursday, Aug. 11 at 11:30 a.m. in the Family Life Center. Pastor Roger and Jill Grandia came up with the idea and hope it will be a positive force for members. There will be lunch and then they'll discuss what the club is all about. See you there!



## DEACONS BIBLE TRIVIA HOW KNOWLEDGEABLE ARE YOU?

The Westminster Deacons have come up a new addition to the monthly newsletter-Bible trivia! Each month, a question will be asked in the "Voice of Westminster" newsletter and Pastor Roger will reveal the answer during the church service. So, here's the question for this month, courtesy of Glenn Lane:

Paul wrote the most books of the Bible, but who had the greatest number of words attributed to him in the Bible?

Pastor Roger will have the answer during worship on Aug. 7.



Dear WPC,

I want to thank everyone who has kept me in your thoughts and prayers as I represented the Presbytery of East Iowa (PEIA) over the last several weeks at the PCUSA General Assembly (GA).

As a Commissioner for the PEIA, there were three parts to my participation: a series of training sessions; a week of in-person committee work in Louisville, and a long week of on-line Zoom™ meetings for the GA itself.

My assignment was the Immigration Committee. There was great emphasis in this committee urging that we be a "radical" church. The committee did pass and send on to the GA a motion to declare the PCUSA to be a sanctuary and an accompanying church for immigrants- which means offering support such as taking them to legal hearings and other appointments that help them gain access to legal representation. The GA passed the resolution.

Our week of Zoom™ meetings included long days as there were many pressing topics such as dealing with errant clergy to abortion rights. I was able to contribute a motion on not only abortions rights, but on the right to contraceptives, stating that nothing has empowered women more in all of history than the right to vote and the advent of contraceptives. The motion with the biggest impact on the PCUSA itself, which was passed, was the motion to unify the Office of the GA and the Presbyterian Mission Agency's budget due to the imbalance between these two budgets and the looming depletion of reserve funds. Of course, I was the one to point out the sharp decline in the reserves as the PCUSA approved the future budget based on a deficit in income.

A reminder that the GA is held every two years, and I participated in the previous session which was abbreviated due to the COVID epidemic. The OGA did an amazing job setting up virtual meetings for both committee work and for the GA. Because there were no rules in place to govern a virtual GA (you know Presbyterians adhere to rules!) the work of last year's GA could not be officially approved but had to wait for approval by this year's gathering, at which time operational rules for a virtual GA could be in place.

Again, thank you for your support as I want to leave you with the clear message that we are not alone. The PCUSA is filled with many, many sharp minds and passionate people who seek to serve our risen Lord just as we do.

Thank you, Commissioner Janalee Kosowski



### August Birthdays

Lee Anne Hataway	August 3
David Marner	August 3
Jacqui Fashimpaur	August 4
Karen Tyler	August 5
Connie Hayes	August 7
Marybeth Allsop	August 8
Flora Kitzman	August 13
Philip Brooks	August 14
Don Hoepfner	August 19
David Cosgrove	August 20
Suzanne Huebsch	August 22
Marjorie Bjornsen	August 24
Larry Cooper	August 24
James Patterson	August 25
Nancy Hawkins	August 27
Jan Perkins	August 27
Robert Warner	August 30

## The Month of August Thank You Volunteers!

### Liturgists

**Aug. 7**—Heather Wagner

**Aug. 14**—Pam Richardson

**Aug. 21**—Ann Buckheister

**Aug. 28**—Ben Fashimpaur

### Greeters (at Front Door)

**Aug. 7**—Jim Fine

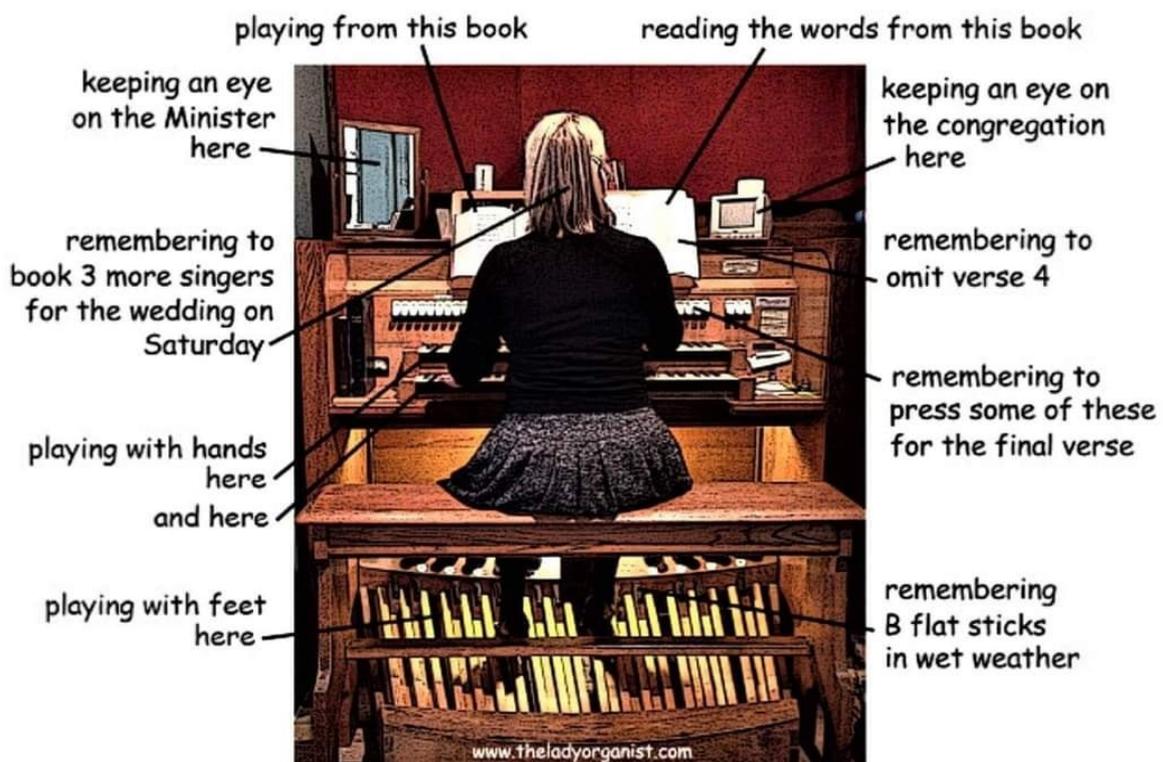
**Aug. 14**—Bob Moore

**Aug. 21**—Brian Read

**Aug. 28**—Terry Perkins

If you are unable to cover your Sunday, please make arrangements with a substitute. Thank you!

## Meme of the Month...



## THE CHURCH ORGANIST

# WPC Calendar August 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 11 a.m. – Bridge Club-FLC 6 p.m. Deacons 7 p.m. AA-Old Dining Rm	2 2:30 p.m. L&F Pantry 6 p.m. – Beacon of Light	3 7:30 a.m. – Men’s Breakfast 9:30 a.m. Prayer Shawl 5:30 p.m. Life after Life - Atrium	4 6 p.m. Beacon of Light	5 Church Closed	6 Church Closed
7 Communion Sunday 10 a.m. – Worship-Sanctuary	8 11 a.m. Bridge Club-FLC 1 p.m. – Property Committee 6:30 p.m. – Mission Committee 7 p.m. – AA-Old Dining Rm	9 2:30 p.m. – L&F pantry 6 p.m. – Beacon of Light 6:30 p.m. Wellington Heights Assoc.	10 Men’s Breakfast 5:30 p.m. – Life after Life-Atrium	11 11:30 – Sunshine Club-FLC 1 p.m. – Personnel Committee 6 p.m. Beacon of Light <i>Gale-Vacation</i>	12 Church Closed	13 Church Closed
14 10 a.m. Worship – Sanctuary <i>Gale-Vacation</i>	15 11 a.m. – Bridge Club-FLC 4:3 p.m. Finance Meeting 7 p.m. – AA-Old Dining Room <i>Gale-Vacation</i>	16 2:30 p.m. – L&F Pantry 6 p.m. Beacon of Light 6:30 p.m. Session Meeting <i>Gale-Vacation</i>	17 7:30 a.m. – Men’s Breakfast 9:30 a.m. – Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:30 p.m. Life after Life-Atrium	18 6 p.m. – Beacon of Light	19 Church Closed	20 Church Closed
21 10 a.m. Worship – Sanctuary 2 p.m. – WPC at Kernels	22 11 a.m. – Bridge Club – FLC 7 p.m. – AA-Dining Rm	23 2:30 p.m. – L&F Pantry 6 p.m. Beacon of Light	24 7:30 a.m. – Men’s Breakfast 5:30 p.m. – Life after Life-Atrium	25 6 p.m. Beacon of Light	26 Church Closed	27 Church Closed
28 10 a.m. Worship – Sanctuary After Worship – Church Picnic-FLC	29 8:30 a.m. – Newsletter Mailed 11 .m. Bridge Club – FLC 7 a.m. – AA – Old Dining	30 2:30 p.m. – L&F Pantry 6 p.m. Beacon of Light	31 7:30 a.m. – Men’s Breakfast 5:30 p.m. – Life after Life-Atrium			

Please visit [www.crwpc.org/calendar](http://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*  
*August 2022*

# Westminster Presbyterian Church

## Office Hours

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

## Sunday Worship

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](http://www.crwpc.org)*

Phone: 319-366-7185

### Church Staff

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

[pastorroger@crwpc.org](mailto:pastorroger@crwpc.org)

[gale@crwpc.org](mailto:gale@crwpc.org)

[cole1350@gmail.com](mailto:cole1350@gmail.com)

[bookkeeper@crwpc.org](mailto:bookkeeper@crwpc.org)

### Nursery Attendant, Lindsay Meade

[lindsay\\_meade@hotmail.com](mailto:lindsay_meade@hotmail.com)

### Newsletter Editor, Gale Smetana

[gale@crwpc.org](mailto:gale@crwpc.org)

**Newsletter Contributors:** Pastor Roger Grandia, Jan Kosowski, Sharon Colton, Glenn Lane, Karol Cooper

**Newsletter Assembly Crew:** Maggie York, Connie Hayes, Sue Patterson

**Newsletter Proofreader:**