



# *The Voice of Westminster*

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

July 2021

## **“A Welcoming Presence?”**

What does my face reveal? Different times my wife has asked me, “What was that face all about?” I admit that often, I am unaware of what my face may be conveying. I become concerned when I end up revealing something totally different than what I thought I was.

My hope is that my face will be welcoming and inviting around others instead of exemplifying an attitude that would make people feel uncomfortable or demonstrate an aloofness, which could be translated as arrogance. What does your face reveal as you come to church, or go about your weekly schedule? We are not advocating a fake smile or pretending all is well, when it isn't, but at least becoming aware of how our face and body language might impact others, particularly those who might be visiting.

Going deeper, however, to a heart level, how much are we concerned about those that we don't know? Thomas Bandy in his book, [“Kicking Habits: Welcome Relief For Addicted Congregations”](#) notes that “*every dying church is a friendly church.*” The people are friendly.....at least to *each other* (the people they know). Oh, they may greet others during the passing of the peace, but there is not much initiative to spend time chatting with those that are “new to them.” As the old saying goes: “We do not have a second chance to make a first impression.” If we fail to get a chance to catch up with our friends on Sunday morning (or at another church event), we can call them later and do that. Also, if you see someone standing alone, go and strike up a conversation. We live in a world of “crowded loneliness:” many people around, yet a feeling of being disconnected. Taking time for them can show them that you care.

As we have combined our two services, I have particularly heard some declare, “There are so many people I don't know.” Some are afraid that if they ask, “Are you new to Westminster?” they will discover that the individuals have been a part of the church for years, but went to the other service. I have found it best to just say something to the effect, “I am not sure if we have met yet. My name is \_\_\_\_.” This will often encourage them to share their name and can become a good beginning for further conversation. Then, attempt to introduce them to one other person if possible. This will help the circle grow of people they have met, and encourage them to stay longer for the coffee hour and feel a bit more at home at Westminster. Let's all try to transition from a friendly church to a welcoming one.

Blessings,

**Pastor Roger**

## June Session Notes

The Westminster Session met on June 15 at 6:30 p.m. in the Atrium. Rev. Grandia led a discussion from the book *Spiritual Leadership* by Henry and Richard Blackaby. Discussion regarding effective spiritual leadership and what the kingdom of God meant. He closed this session with prayer.

### Session discussed and/or took action on the following items:

There has been positive feedback regarding one service. Positive feedback on the combined music. Communion went well. Sanctuary sound and projection are being evaluated for improvement.

Discussion was held regarding Communion on July 4 when the Rev. Barb Furman will be filling in for Pastor Roger. Motion was made to move Communion to July 11, 2021.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE**—John Swanson reported the church is in good financial condition. Loaves and Fishes received a \$10,000 grant to be used for their rent. This will cover more than a year for them.

**UPDATE ON THE MISSION HOUSE**—John Swanson reported the sale of the Mission house is still progressing with Willis Dady desiring to acquire the house. Inspections were done for asbestos and lead paint. Grant money has been received.

**COMMUNICATION REPORT**—Gale Smetana reported the Live streaming updates are progressing with new cameras being installed this week. Audio has improved.

### PASTOR'S REPORT

Report was reviewed. Motion was made to approve Carlos Sheets, founder of Melanated Men, to share his story on Sunday, August 8, during the morning worship service.

### SMALL GROUPS

Discussion was held regarding starting small group discussions about various topics again.

### BIG BANG UPDATE

Paul Kongshaug and Chuck Crawley presented an update on the Big Bang Foundation. They are continuing to work with the kids at McKinley and Johnson schools and identifying extracurricular work that would be of interest to the students. They also discussed the possibility of using a portion of Westminster's parking lot to put in lighted basketball courts with cameras so the kids in the neighborhood will have a safe place to go. After the report, discussion was held regarding the Facility Use fees per the contract. This discussion will be tabled until July.



*Mission Committee Member, Paul Kongshaug, makes a point while discussing the Big Bang Foundation with the Session.*

### COMING UP

November 18, 2021; 1-5 p.m., Westminster will host the Presbytery meeting.

The next Session meeting will be July 20.

The meeting closed with prayer.

## Westminster Makes Major Livestream Leap

When the COVID pandemic struck and Westminster halted in-person worship, staff had to scramble to do to provide online worship. We pre-recorded and edited on free software. When services briefly resumed, we used an iPhone to stream to Facebook. Audio was hit or miss and even uploading video could be time consuming using computers with slow processors. But, where there's a will, there's a way. Session backed a few small purchases as we have slowly added to our arsenal of video equipment. After Jacob Spiekermeier and Oak Park Media proposed a more comprehensive plan, Session approved. We now have three POE (power over ethernet) cameras that can be remotely controlled via computer software and a separate controller. The cameras are inconspicuous, mounted in the Sanctuary. The "control room" is located in the old "audio room". Services are streamed and recorded on YouTube at a much higher quality than before. You can find them on our YouTube Channel.



*Jerry from Technicom carefully strings ethernet cable from the server room upstairs along a ledge in the Sanctuary.*



*Cameras-three total-powered over ethernet rest beneath the ledge just below the balcony. They are controlled remotely.*



*All cameras and graphics are monitored and switched via computer. The computer also streams to YouTube.*



*This controller allows the operator to change camera angles, zoom in or out and even focus or adjust the iris.*



## FOCUS ON THE SANCTUARY

### Property Report

Now that we have entered a 6-month trial period with one service in the Sanctuary, there has been a lot of effort to make sure the Sanctuary is as functional as we can afford to make it. Here are some of the activities that have occurred over that last couple years or are currently underway:

- A couple of years ago a new fire detection system was installed. This is a laser system that detects smoke so that a fire can be detected as early as possible.
- Two years ago new carpeting was installed in the narthex.
- Last year, the Sanctuary chandelier lighting was replaced with LEDs and new control switches including remote control dimming capability.
- This year new LED EXIT signs were installed.
- Our new live streaming system has been completed under direction of Gale Smetana, our Communications Coordinator. This is a service for those who can't join us for in-person worship, but also as a tool to reach out to potential members and attendees.
- Currently the Worship Committee, led by Ann Buckheister, is evaluating the Sanctuary acoustics for upgrades and possible video capability.

But there's more information from your Property Committee.

We use natural gas to heat water to 140 degrees in what we call "the boilers".

Copper piping takes the hot water to locations where there are copper coils which fans blow air over and into the room. (There is one of these blowers easily visible on the ceiling in the old dining room.)

The thermostat in the sanctuary has been reprogrammed to include an "AUTO" mode.

In AUTO mode the heat comes on automatically when the temperature in the sanctuary drops below 70 degrees and the air conditioning comes on automatically when the temperature gets above 73 degrees (this is a perfect consistent temperature range for our precious organ) **DO NOT MESS WITH THE THERMOSTAT!!!!**

Our boilers are designed to be on all the time. If they are turned off (except for repair) stagnant water minerals adhere to the inside of the piping which, over time, causes the pipes to clog (\$\$\$\$). There is a master switch in the mechanical room to turn off the boilers - **PLEASE DON'T TOUCH IT!**

There is a thermometer outside that controls the temperature to which the boilers heat the water. When the weather is warm, the boilers lower the temperature of the water to below the 140 degree heating level to save energy (natural gas). We have a new contract with Modern Piping and believe it's already paying dividends with their attentive service.—*Jan Kosowski, Property Committee Co-Moderator*



### July Food List for Loaves & Fishes

Following are items needed at L&F this month.

Canned tuna or chicken

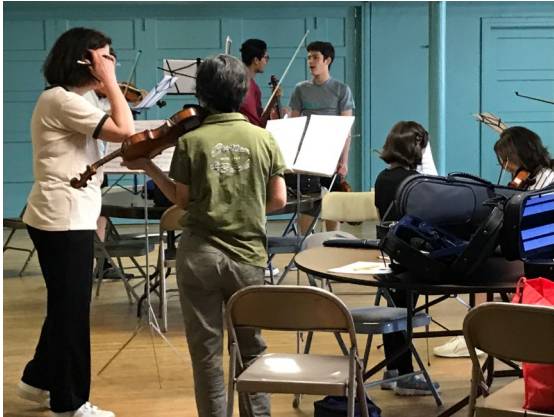
Mayo

BBQ Sauce

Shampoo

## Good Things Happen at Westminster!

We've said it before; we'll say it again. Good things happen at Westminster! After the dormant year of the pandemic, Westminster is involved in all sorts of activities. We put together the photos and captions below so you know!



*From lessons to practice, from brass ensembles to violins. The halls were filled with music the last week of June as Westminster hosted the Five Seasons Chamber Music Festival. Our own David Liljedahl is picture on the right.*

*Pastor Roger celebrated Juneteenth by placing 2nd in his age group at a pie eating contest at New Bo. It was sponsored by Melanated Men-a group that meets at Westminster.*



*Westminster made history as it hosted K's Corner mobile salon-made possible by a change in Iowa law. Underserved children got free haircuts. Special thanks to Dreaam Sports for sponsoring the event!*





### July Birthdays

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| Vic Naxera         | 1  |
| James Boardman     | 3  |
| James Shanklin, Jr | 7  |
| Bernie Tiede       | 9  |
| Abdisa Ali         | 10 |
| Samantha Johnson   | 11 |
| Sara Tyler         | 11 |
| Dave Leeper        | 14 |
| John Roof          | 16 |
| Pam Richardson     | 17 |
| Dick Trotter       | 21 |
| Dorothy Harlan     | 26 |
| Bud Kudart         | 27 |
| Lemi Tilahun       | 28 |
| Jean Kenison       | 29 |
| Don Damsteegt      | 31 |

### The Month of June Thank You Volunteers!

#### Liturgists

**July 4**

Loren Neubauer

**July 11**

Ed Mumford

**July 18**


Jan Kosowski

**July 25**

Ben Fashimpaur



# July 2021

| Sun   | Mon   | Tue  | Wed   | Thu                       | Fri                            | Sat           |
|---|---|--|---|---------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| 4<br><br>Pastor Roger on Vacation. No Communion<br>10 am—Worship | 5 Independence Day observed—Office closed.<br>7 pm—AA | 6<br>2:30—L&F Pantry<br>6:30 pm—NA           | 7<br>Nothing on Schedule                    | 8<br>Nothing on Schedule  | 9<br>8 pm—NA                   | 10<br>8 pm—NA |
| 11<br>Communion Sunday<br>10 am—Worship   | 12<br>7 pm—AA   | 13<br>2:30—L&F<br>6:30 pm—NA                 | 14<br>9:30—Prayer Shawl Ministry—Sm. Parlor | 15<br>Nothing on Schedule | 16<br>Office Closed<br>8 pm—NA | 17<br>8 pm—NA |
| 18<br>10 am—Worship<br>1 pm—Beacon of Light   | 19<br>4:30 pm—Finance<br>7 pm—AA                      | 20<br>2:30—L&F Pantry<br>6:30 pm—Session     | 21<br>Nothing on Schedule                   | 22                        | 23<br>Office Closed<br>8 pm—NA | 24<br>8 pm—NA |
| 25<br>10 am—Worship<br>1 pm—Beacon of Light   | 26<br>7 pm—AA   | 27<br>Newsletter Assembly<br>2:30—L&F Pantry | 28<br>9:30—Prayer Shawl Ministry—Sm. Parlor | 29                        | 30<br>Office Closed<br>8 pm—NA | 31<br>8 pm—NA |

Please visit [www.crwpc.org/calendar](http://www.crwpc.org/calendar) to stay informed of changes to this month's calendar.

**Westminster Presbyterian Church**  
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*Return Service Requested*

*The Voice of Westminster*  
*July 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](http://www.crwpc.org)*

**PHONE: 319-366-7185**

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Gale Smetana  
Choir Director & Church Musician,  
Damon Cole  
A.J. Plummer, Praise Band Leader  
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