

The Voice of Westminster

June-July 2023



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



Preserving Westminster, p. 4

Clay Creations



There is just something about getting our hands dirty in clay: to squeeze it and feel it ooze through our fingers; to see a shape gradually unfold, whether through hand-building or on the potter's wheel. When I find myself shaping a piece, so often some of the songs related to God being the Potter come to mind. For me they become prayers to God, seeking forgiveness, renewal, and reshaping so I can fulfill his purposes.

One of the familiar ones that frequently comes to attention is:

Change my heart Oh God, make it ever true.

Change my heart Oh God, may I be like You.

Change my heart Oh God, make it ever true.

Change my heart Oh God, may I be like You.

You are the potter, I am the clay,

Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.

Change my heart Oh God, make it ever true.

Change my heart Oh God, may I be like You.

Looking forward to offering a small class (due to size of the Art Room) starting in June. See details below. No experience necessary.

-Pastor Roger

Take a Summer Break And Get Creative!

Pastor Roger is starting a ceramics fellowship on June 19. The classes will be on Mondays from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. beginning June 19. The group will meet for eight weeks. We will be creating crosses to decorate the church and other outreach projects as well. Seating is limited. Adults only at this time. Let Pastor Roger know if you're interested. It promises to be fun!

What is Per Capita?

Every year, every member of every congregation is asked to give a contribution to the Presbyterian church beyond their regular tithing, in support of the larger Presbyterian church. This contribution is referred to as Per Capita. The Per Capita amount for 2023 is \$40.70. The Per Capita is divided between the three higher levels of the church and is divided into these amounts for 2023: Presbytery of East Iowa \$25.31, Synod of Lakes of Prairies \$5.78, General Assembly \$9.61.

These amounts are used to cover not only staff, building and operational costs, but to support (among many other things) the recruitment, education and placement of the clergy within the denomination - a very important function. Each Congregation's contribution is based on the previous year's reported membership number. This is not a "mandatory" contribution to the larger church but, like our own Congregation's budget, these entities build their budgets based on the Per Capita contributions of the Congregations. Each of these higher levels of the church are groupings of the Presbyterian congregations.

Now each congregation is free to meet their per capita commitment or not, but as members of the PCUSA, it is a commitment each congregation makes. We can be proud that Westminster meets our obligation every year whether or not our members have made their individual Per Capita contributions. If a member does not make a Per Capita contribution, their Per Capita (\$40.70) is covered by the general budget of WPC.

WPC is currently behind in donations from its members putting a strain on our budget. If you have not made your Per Capita donation for this year, please consider doing so, or maybe cover the Per Capita for another member who may be unable to do so.

"Per Capita is crucial to the overall health of the PC(USA), because it binds presbyteries, synods, and congregations together in one church."

J. Herbert Nelson, II, Outgoing Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the PC(USA)

Preserving Westminster’s Stonework



A couple of years ago the Property Committee had the exterior stonework of the building inspected. Due to more pressing priorities over the years, little tuck-pointing work had been performed and the Committee realized it was time to prioritize this inspection. The inspection revealed that the oldest part of our church, nearing 125 years old, needed some work and some of the need was getting pressing. The Committee sought bids and received one viable bid to do the needed work. Because the total of the work needed is several hundred thousand dollars (which is far beyond the authorization of the Property Committee), the Committee sent the bid and recommendation to Session. The Session formed a task force led by Brian Read.

The stonework needed is divided into three parts depending on urgency. The most urgent issue is the deterioration of our bell tower. If not addressed, this issue can turn into a huge costly safety concern. Fortunately, due to the diligence of WPC's Finance Committee in forming the Long View, there were sufficient funds on hand to allow the Task Force to sign a contract last year for the bell tower work to be done this year. Work is slated to begin in late July of early August.

While various avenues of funding are being explored, your continued support of WPC's Long View will remain the foundation for accomplishing larger projects, such as this, which sustain the integrity of WPC's building. Please consider supporting the Long View as these projects are being addressed over the next several years.

New Bible Study Group Meeting at Westminster

Westminster is starting a Bible study group. It’s open to all members and friends. The group will meet on the fourth Thursday of the month in the Small Parlor, from 9:30-11 a.m. It is open to all members. The first series is “The 10 Most Misunderstood Verses of the Bible.” The group will be moderated by Jill Grandia, and will include the Bible verses, videos and discussion. Great opportunity for knowledge and fellowship!

The Deacons Bible Trivia Question



In the Bible, what are the four rivers listed as flowing out of Eden?

Hospitality Committee Organizes Upcoming Social Events

Westminster's Hospitality Committee has been organizing some fun events to take us through the end of 2023. First up in June is a group trip to a Kernels game. Last year, we had a great time together, but the committee would like to invite more people to sign up.

Sunday, June 25

1 p.m. (Gates Open at Noon)

\$22 per person-Includes game ticket, sandwich, chips and beverage

Signup sheet in Large Parlor-Bring a friend!

Another repeat event is our Miniature Golf outing. This brought another group together last summer. Lunch is included.

Sunday, Sept. 10

Mini-Golf at Twin Pines

After Church-More details coming

Other "Save-the-Dates" coming up later in 2023:

Sunday, Oct. 15—Fall Chili Lunch-FLC-after church

Sunday, Dec. 10—Christmas Fellowship-Large Parlor-after church

Watch weekly announcements for more information, mark your calendars and look for signup sheets with more information in the Large Parlor!



Sunday School Is Out for Summer. VBS in July-August!

Reminder: Our Westminster Kids are through with Sunday School year for the summer. Now, it's on to Vacation Bible School. Classes will be held at First Presbyterian Church, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. July 31-Aug. 3, with a daylong trip to Dubuque's River Museum on Friday, Aug. 4. Val Neubauer is the Westminster contact for this Christian Ed project. Kids, grandkids-all are welcome! Look for signup sheets in the Large Parlor.



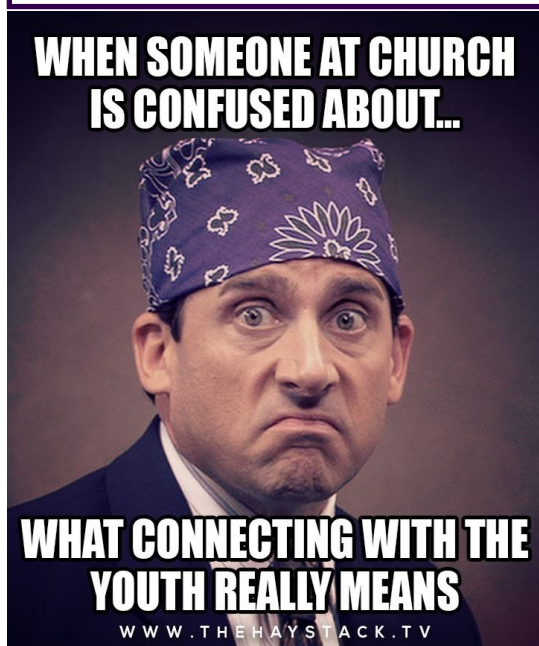
June

Sharon Colton	June 2
Ben Fashimpaur	June 5
Sherryl Hoepfner	June 5
Warren Feerer	June 11
Bonnie Keiper	June 13
Barb Read	June 14
Sandra Yarrington	June 14
Gloria Kromminga	June 17
Terry Perkins	June 20
Diane Brooks	June 23
Pamela Feerer	June 24
Jill Grandia	June 30

July

James Boardman	July 3
Jim Shanklin, Jr	July 7
Bernie Tiede	July 9
Samantha Johnson	July 11
Sara Tyler	July 11
Dave Leeper	July 14
Pam Richardson	July 17
Dick Trotter	July 21
Dorothy Harlan	July 26
Arthur Kudart	July 27
Lemi Tilahun	July 28
Don Damsteegt	July 31

Meme of the Month(s)



The Months of June & July Thank You Volunteers!

Liturgists

June 4—Ann Buckheister

June 11—Heather Wagner

June 18—Pam Richardson

June 25—Tom Read

July 2—Ben Fashimpaur

July 9—Barb Mumford

July 16—Loren Neubauer

July 23—Warren Feerer

July 30—Val Neubauer

Greeters (at the Front Door)

First Sunday—Jim Fine

Second Sunday—Brian Read

Third Sunday—Terry Perkins

Fourth Sunday—Jim Fine

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

Bible Trivia Answer: In the Bible, what are the four rivers listed as flowing out of Eden?

The Phishon, Gihon, Hiddekel (Tigris) and Phirat (Euphrates).

On the Westminster Calendar

Weekly Recurring Activities

Sundays

Communion Sunday (1st Sunday)

- 10 a.m. Westminster Worship
- 1 p.m. Beacon of Light
- 1:30 p.m. Evangelical Pentecostal Church (Swahili)

Mondays

- 11 a.m. Bridge Club
- 7 p.m. Old Dining Room

Tuesdays

- 2:30-5 p.m. – Loaves & Fishes
- 6 p.m. – Beacon of Light (Housing Initiative)

Wednesday

- 7:30 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

Thursday

- 6 p.m. – Beacon of Light

Fridays

- Church Closed

Saturdays

- Office Closed
- 10 a.m. - Evangelical Pentecostal Church (Swahili)

Other Meeting Times

- Saturday June 3 Car Show
- Saturday-Sunday June 10 & 11 Marion Music Academy

Mondays:

- 1st Monday Deacons
- 2nd Monday Mission Comm. (time varies)
- 2nd Monday Property Comm. 1 p.m.
- 3rd Monday Finance Comm. 4:30 p.m.

Tuesdays:

- 3rd Tuesday Session 6:30 p.m. - *note in June, Session will meet on June 27 at 6:30 p.m.*

Wednesdays

- 1st & 3rd Wednesdays Prayer Shawl Ministry 9:30 a.m.

Thursdays

- 2nd Thursday 9:30 a.m. Soul Sisters
- 2nd Thursday Personnel Comm 1:30 p.m.
- 4th Thursday Bible Study 9:30 a.m.

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

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Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403-4084

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Return Service Requested

The Voice of Westminster
June-July 2023

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Office Hours

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

Sunday Worship

10 a.m.—Sanctuary

We livestream on our YouTube Channel & Facebook Page

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

Phone: 319-366-7185

Church Staff

Pastor, Roger D. Grandia
Office Manager, Lisa Freeman
Communications Coordinator, Gale Smetana
Music Director, A.J. Plummer
Bookkeeper, Tina Mueller
Nursery Attendant, Lindsay Meade
Nursery Assistant: Jill Lorimor

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