

Voice of Westminster



May 2026

I have been writing about the five (5) focus points of transitional ministry. Today, we come to the third focus point: CONNECTIONS. If the first two focus points help us answer the questions "Who are we?" (HERITAGE) and "Who and what is God calling us to be?" (MISSION), the third focus point answers the question "Who is my neighbor?"

CONNECTIONS is about discovering all the relationships that a faith community builds outside of itself. The church in transition can create or strengthen these relationships. This may be to Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly. It may also involve ties to ecumenical and interfaith groups. It certainly includes community-based ministries and non-profits. Beyond the local level, it may involve regional, national and international ministries.

Westminster has made many such connections in the past and continues to do so. Our congregation and its members have not only participated in a variety of communities, but our active engagement has helped shape them. Recently, there has been an effort to re-connect with Coe College. We have been asked to participate in a Lilly Grant application designed to help students discover their vocation and calling in life. More about this in coming months.

Finally, consideration of this focus point provides a wonderful opportunity for Westminster to update its technology and communications processes. Web pages need to be continually revised. Live streaming of worship services should use state-of-the-art equipment and software. Social media and networking options should be explored. In this day and age, the first connection/visit of a newcomer to our church happens most often online!

Next month the fourth focus point: LEADERSHIP.

Pastor Randy



APRIL SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Session discussed the introduction to the book "The Gift of Small," by Allen Stanton. Extra copies of the book are available. See Pastor Randy if you are interested. The Session will study the book chapter by chapter in upcoming months.

Finance Committee reports that March general contributions exceeded the monthly budget due to two significant gifts.

Connie Adams has taken a new position. Many thanks to Connie for her over two years of service to Westminster. She was great to work with, and we give her our best wishes in her new job. Personnel Committee is now searching for a part-time bookkeeper. The position description is posted on the Presbytery of East Iowa and Westminster Church websites.

Jan K reported on the Presbytery of East Iowa meeting April 18. Updates were approved to the Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) process. Westminster may want to consider having a CRE in the future.

John S shared his involvement with the Lilly Grant application process at Coe College. The purpose of the grant is to design a program for students that focuses on vocation and the role of spiritual practices. The application is due May 18.

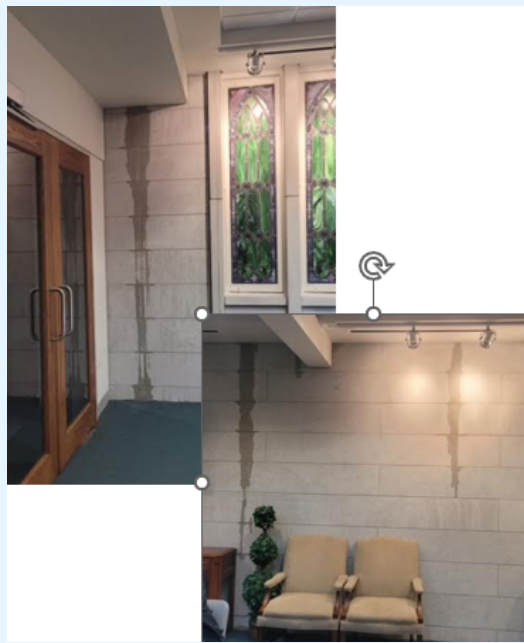
A first version of an I.C.E. policy and protocols was submitted and will be further scrutinized by Session members with any mark-ups/edits to be shared with Pastor Randy prior to a second reading.

The Property Committee noted that the project to pave the parking lot may happen in May (prior to the wedding on May 30) rather than in June as originally thought.

Pastor Randy requested a vacation week, June 1-7, to attend a wedding in Wisconsin. June 7 is Communion Sunday. Rev. Anni Thorn will provide pulpit supply and serve at the table.

NEW PEW BIBLES

Our new Bibles, New Revised Standard Version updated edition (NRSVue) have arrived! We will be pulling the old ones out this Sunday after worship, May 3, and will be donating them to those who come through Loaves and Fishes. The new Bibles will be placed in the sanctuary sometime next week and we will have a dedication on Mother's Day.



ANNOUNCEMENT FROM OUR PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Property Information: Sadly the building problems at Westminster never seem to end. During all of these Spring rains we have developed leaks where our new building attaches to the old building. This has brought water leaking down into our Atrium and Conference room. Dry Space has been out and hopefully determined and fixed the issues and that will be the last of that one.

In the mean time we are having the awning repaired again. Unfortunately when the sign company put up the caution signs for clearance they inserted the screws into the overhang incorrectly. This exposed the under side of the canopy to water running in and around the screws and dripping down through the canopy. In turn it caused it to collapse out wards onto our pavement.

One last thing our 4th Ave parking lot is being replaced starting May 5 and will be closed until further notice. If it isn't one thing it's another. Prayers for a maintenance free May would be a blessing to Westminster.





EASTER SUNDAY

Easter Sunday was filled with beauty and music. Westminster had the privilege of the Eastside Brass Quartet joining us for our worship. Our Chancel Choir as always gave a beautiful performance that everyone enjoyed as always! The sanctuary was beautiful with the empty cross and Easter lilies at the foot of it. God shined his light in the sanctuary on the cross during the service. It was absolutely stunning. If you missed the service you can always go back on line to our Youtube channel and watch it.





EASTERN IOWA HONOR FLIGHT

The mission of Eastern Iowa Honor Flight is to provide veterans with a “once in a lifetime” opportunity to visit monuments and memorials built in their honor for the sacrifice and service they made for our freedom. On Tuesday, April 21, Westminster’s own David Basler was a guest on the Eastern Iowa Honor Flight. In David’s own words he said “It was a Great Day! We visited 8 memorials and Arlington National Cemetery. It couldn’t have been any more perfect.” David’s Guardian for the day, pictured with David, was Russ Murphy. Thank you for your service David and we are so happy it was a great time for you!



LET'S DO THE DISHES

Loaves & Fishes collected 139 bottles of dish soap during the month of April. What a blessing this will be to less fortunate families. Thank you everyone for your contributions!



HUMAN INTEREST STORY

Nossos Amigos-Our Friends

Carliha, Pedro, Luca, Alejandro, Emely, and Nacho.

These are new names at Loaves and Fishes. They are international students from Mount Mercy who originally came to the pantry for food. Even though their tuition increases, their scholarships don't. They are so appreciative of the extra food.

One day Carliha said, "We are young and strong. How can we help you?" Between academics and athletics, they don't have much spare time. On Tuesdays we pick up Carliha, Petro, Luca and Alejandro at Mt. Mercy, and they work unloading the truck and stocking the shelves from 12:30 to 1:30 Emely and Nacho come later to help with clean up.

They all go back to school with bags of food, but Westminster receives more than we give. Their enthusiasm and energy rub off on the pantry staff who enjoy working with these fine young people.

Last week we were invited to join the Brazilian contingency at Mt. Mercy's track and field event where we watched 5-foot Carliha come in second in the pole vault. We all cheered, waving the Brazilian flag.

How exciting it is to have these youthful friends who feel at home in Westminster.



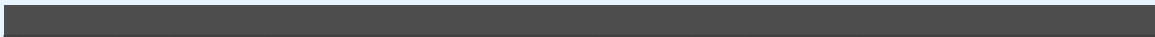
I HAVE A STORY TO TELL.... by Joyce Sedlacek

As a Deacon I delivered an Easter plant to Ruth Chipokas, a resident of The Views Care Center. At the front desk to greet me was a young lady. I told her I was from Westminster Presbyterian to deliver a plant to Ruth. This young lady immediately responded, "Oh, Westminster. Westminster saved me!" What she had to tell me next was truly heart-warming.

Shanika Pledge is this woman's name. As a child, she and her brothers participated in the Logos program, activities and meals on Wednesday after school. Her home was just a block or so away on 4th Ave. Shanika couldn't say enough about how important that time was for her and her brothers and the neighbor kids who lived next door to them. She mentioned how much Karen Carver, Westminster's Christian Ed director at that time meant to her. Shanika said, "We were always welcomed no matter how my brothers acted and encouraged to come EVERY week. And we did". Not only did Westminster provide the Wednesday meal and activities but it was a great place to be. And Shanika told me, "Did you know that Westminster paid for me to attend Camp Wyoming? That was a life-changing experience."

Shanika Pledge has obtained her Medical Assistant's certification and is employed at The Views. Her daughter is in nurse's training. Before I left, Shanika again told me, "Westminster saved me"

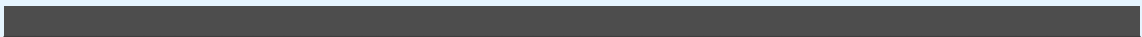
Truly, MAY GOD BE PRAISED!



LIVESTREAM FUNDRAISER

Our two live-stream operators, Gale and JoEllen, do a fabulous job every Sunday. They report that the new camera and software update are performing wonderfully. The Session approved a fund-raising appeal to cover the cost of \$2,400. To

date we have raised 30% of this goal, or \$725. If this ministry is important to you and you would like to donate, please designate your check and it will be received with gratitude. Pictured is the new controller that controls all the cameras.



BEAR CREEK



VOLUNTEER WORK DAY

Join us on Saturday, May 9th to help us get the site ready for summer camp! Projects will include things like setting up Arts & Crafts, moving furniture, cleaning lifejackets and caving helmets, organizing supplies, splitting firewood, painting, landscaping, and a whole host of other things! This is the perfect service day for families, individuals, churches, and youth groups. Lunch will be provided for all volunteers!

When: Saturday, May 9th from 9am-2pm

Who: All ages and abilities

RSVP: Use the button below!

[RSVP](#)

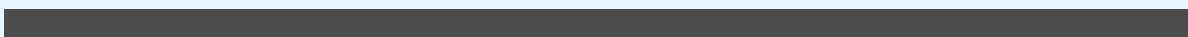
SUMMER KICKOFF

We invite you to come to camp to help us kick off our summer! We will run activities in the afternoon for individuals and families to enjoy such as climbing wall, zip lines, crafts, and kayaking. At 4pm, we will have worship at Bird Chapel and commission the summer staff as they prepare for their upcoming summer ministry. Alumni, families, neighbors, churches, and campers are all invited to join us for this afternoon of fun at camp.

When: Sunday, May 31st from 1pm-5pm

Who: Everyone

RSVP: Not necessary. Just come and join the fun!



SYNOD SCHOOL JULY 26-31, 2026

Synod School is kind of like summer camp for all ages. It is a week of learning and living in community at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake. Multiple room/dorm options are available. Classes of all types are offered for adults and children, meals are dorm style, there is worship, movies, games, meditation, whatever soothes your soul. Age appropriate activities are offered and include exploring God's creation, art, music, scripture, cooking, crafts, and games. Program catalogues and registration information is available on the table in the large parlor.



Calendar: Special Events

- May 3** - Communion Sunday
- May 4** - Worship Committee 10am Deacons Meet 5pm
- May 11** - Property Meeting 1pm, Mission Meeting 2:30pm
- May 18** - Finance Meets 4:30pm
- May 19** - Session Meets 6:30pm
- May 24** - Duretti Ali Graduation Party 12 (noon) WPC members are invited
- May 25** - Memorial Day (WPC Ofc. closed)
- May 29** - Lock/Edwards Wedding Rehearsal 4pm
- May 30** - Lock/Edwards Wedding - all day

This Month's Birthdays

Bob Vancura	May 1
Dick Cornish	May 2
James Heck	May 5
Susan Winegarden	May 7
John Henderson	May 20
John Swanson	May 22
Joyce Sedlacek	May 26
Steve Allsop	May 26
Pat Teig	May 27

Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry will be every Tuesday from 2:30 - 5 p.m. at Westminster in the Lower Level

Access the updated WPC calendar at crwpc.org/calendar

Calendar: Regular Events

Sundays

Natural Swedish Pentecostal Church 9am - Theater
Westminster Worship 10am - Sanctuary
Beacon of Light 11:30am - Chapel
EGPC 11:30pm - Old Dining
NA (Face Anything/Fear Nothing) 5pm - Atrium

Mondays

Staff Meeting 11am - Pastor's Office
Bridge 11 a.m.-4pm - FLC
Marion Gospel Hall Youth Group 7pm - Atrium

Tuesdays

L&F Pantry 2:30 - 5pm - Downstairs
Beacon of Light (100 in 24) 6pm

Wednesdays

Men's Breakfast 7:30am - Atrium
Prayer Shawl - 1 & 3 Wednesdays 9:30am
WPC Chancel Choir Practice 7:00pm

Thursdays

NA (Face Anything/Fear Nothing) 5pm - Atrium
Beacon of Light Life Groups 6pm - Chapel

Fridays

Office Closed
EGPC 8pm First Fri. of mth. Women's overnight prayer

Saturdays

Office Closed
EGPC 10 am to 3pm - Old Dining
Natural Swedish Pentecostal Church 10am to 4pm
NA (Steps in the Right Direction) 11am - Atrium
EGPC 7pm last Sat. of mth. Men's overnight prayer



This Month's Anniversaries

Dave & Linda Cosgrove May 11
Bill & Barb Moss May 30

ATTENTION - If your birthday or anniversary does not appear in the specific month please contact the office so we can get your information updated.

Liturgist Schedule for May

May 3 - Heather Wagner
May 10 - Ann Buckheister
May 17 - Jan Walton
May 24 - Val Neubauer
May 31 - David Basler

Greeters

1st Sunday - Jim Fine
2nd Sunday - Terry Perkins
3rd Sunday -
4th Sunday - Neubauers
5th Sunday -

If you would like to greet any Sunday please be in the foyer between 9:30 - 9:45 a.m.

Everyone is encouraged to greet anytime.



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