

WESTMINSTER Messenger

APRIL 2018 • VOLUME 46 • ISSUE 4

**SPRING,
CONFIRMATION,
VBS AND
ALL THAT JAZZ**



Westminster
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WELCOME

APRIL 2018 • VOLUME 46 • ISSUE 3

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**Join us for
worship on
Sundays at
10:00 a.m.**

*Cover Image: Flowers on Easter
Sunday in memory or honor of
our loved ones.*

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You are always welcome to worship with us!

We believe that our life together centers around meeting God in worship. At Westminster, our sermons are rooted in the Bible and connected to everyday life. Here, people from all ages and varying backgrounds come together to form a community shaped by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

What we believe:

We believe that we worship a God of power, mystery, and love who actively seeks to have a relationship with everyone of us.

We welcome all persons as participants in our congregation, regardless of age, race, gender, marital status, physical condition, gender identity, sexual orientation, ethnic background, economic status or any other human condition.

We believe that God's love - reflected in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus - is the most powerful force in the world.

We believe that there is nothing we have done in the past that can separate us from God's love, because we worship a God of new beginnings and second chances.

We believe in a God who takes initiative in our lives, challenging and comforting us in unexpected ways.

**Read more about each service weekly at
westpres.org/sunday**

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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515-274-1534 • fax 515-274-1537 • www.westpres.org
Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Dr. Scott Paczkowski, Senior Pastor - scott@westpres.org
Rev. Dr. Bill Ekhardt, Interim Associate Pastor/Chief of Staff - bill@westpres.org

MISSION STATEMENT

Westminster is a welcoming Christian family, joined in discipleship to pray, learn and serve.

INCLUSIVITY STATEMENT

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A Message from Pastor Scott...



Making a Difference

If you've been part of Westminster Church for any length of time, you've heard of *One Great Hour of Sharing*. One Great Hour of Sharing, or OGHS, was started during World War II by Protestant groups concerned about reconstruction efforts after the war. By 1950, the organization was formally introduced. Since then, as many as 29 different denominations have participated in any given year. It is a true ecumenical success story. One Great Hour of Sharing focuses on four specific areas: Water, Hunger, Disaster Relief, and Empowerment. Today I would like to tell you a recent story of one of those OGHS' successes.

Matee Kakoo is a 40-something woman who lives in a poverty-stricken area in Eastern Kenya. Their group has not been blessed with financial or political support over the years. The situation has gotten so bad that their water resources were almost non-existent. They had no water in their village and they had to walk a long distance, stand in line for four to five hours to get access to the water, and then walk all the way home again.

Needless to say, they had no water for bathing, leaving them humiliated by their neighbors. The people in Matee's village often went hungry because there was no water left over for cooking. They dreamed of having a school, but water is necessary for making bricks, and water for bricks was a pipe dream.

Then, One Great Hour of Sharing stepped in to help. With the funds from OGHS, a sand dam was built to preserve water for Matee's community. Now, they are able to bathe and have regained their self-respect. They have water for cooking and their families are healthy again. They even built their long-awaited classrooms. Plus, many of the residents started building their own homes because water was so prevalent.

This is just one of many faithful success stories made possible by One Great Hour of Sharing. This year, on Sunday, April 15, we will introduce this year's OGHS program. We will take the OGHS collection the following Sunday, April 22. Please pray before you give. Your donation can make a huge difference, when included with other Westminster member's gifts. Together we can make a lasting difference in the lives of the less fortunate. Matee showed her appreciation by saying of the OGHS-sponsored dam: *"It will be remembered by generations to come."* Be part of making a difference in God's name, by supporting One Great Hour of Sharing.





by Bill Ekhardt, Interim Associate Pastor and Chief of Staff

We at Westminster are passionately committed to fulfilling our baptismal vow to raise the children in our congregation to become disciples of Jesus Christ. In each of our 25 baptisms last year we pledged to pray for them, teach them and model for them Christ-following lives to the day that they would profess their own faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The focused culmination of that work is our confirmation service which we will have the joy to celebrate Sunday, April 22.

I have been meeting weekly with about 12 confirmands this school year on Sunday mornings. It has been a joy to share my faith with them, to hear their faith questions and to cover a wide variety of topics about Scripture, Reformed theology, the Presbyterian Church and what it means to be a member. We spent a Friday and Saturday touring other Christian and Non-Christian faith communities to understand our beliefs and practices in the context of beliefs around us. The picture above is from our visit to the Greek Orthodox church.

As they are coming to the end of this process they have been writing their statements of faith. It is surprising and gratifying to hear the students put their faith into their own words. We have written a statement as a class, but each is also writing their

personal statement of faith. They are going to share those statements with Elders to be voted on by the Session. In our worship service they will be answering the questions of membership and making a public profession of faith. The picture below is from the 2017 Confirmation class' profession.

I invite you to pray for our confirmands as they finish this season of preparation. They will soon be full adult members of our congregation. They have already been leading us in worship and partnering with us in mission. Let us celebrate their development and God's call in their lives.



Jazz Sunday

Easter Sunday isn't the end of the celebration. Eastertide is a season of the Church year that begins on Easter Sunday and concludes on May 20. During this season we recognize the profound impact of the Resurrection on the early Church, throughout history, today, and into the future. We continue this Eastertide celebration with Jazz Sunday, the Sunday after Easter, on April 8.

Each year we look forward to Jazz Sunday.

This year Karla Killinger will bring back musicians and music from her father's Big Band and will also include some of our talented church members.

Whether you stream Big Band music on your phone, or remember it playing on your grandparents' phonograph, you will enjoy the upbeat music played by uniquely talented musicians. Jazz Sunday is part of the Westminster Fine Arts' Series. Come, attend this very special service of worship. You will not be disappointed.

Preschool Summer Camps

Children age three through those entering first grade in the fall are encouraged to attend Westminster's Summer Preschool Camps. Camp themes are varied, focusing on a variety of interests and skills. The camps are held in the mornings, on the days stated (right) for each class.

Enroll in as many camps as you wish!

Registration forms are available on our website: www.westpres.org/preschool or call 515-274-1534.

Fine Arts June 4-8 9:00 a.m. - Noon	Nature Explorers June 11-14 8:30 - Noon
World Travelers June 21, 28, July 5 & 12 9:00 a.m. - Noon	Kids in the Kitchen July 26, August 2, 9, & 16 9:00 a.m. - Noon



Westminster Foundation

by Bill Ekhardt, Interim Associate Pastor and Chief of Staff

One might say our Westminster Foundation has been something of a lamp hidden under a bushel. This \$5.9 million legacy of

accumulated contributions and testamentary gifts is the result of decades of members supporting today's and tomorrow's ministry. Last year more than \$300,000 in investment revenue from the Foundation was given to the Session to distribute for God's ministry. On Foundation Sunday, April 29, we are going to bring this lamp out of the bushel and let it shine.

Did you know that the Foundation does not direct what its revenue is used for? Some donors have designated their gifts toward particular ministries and the Foundation lets the Session know which of those funds need to be used in those ways. Some examples of designated revenue in 2017 include about \$35K for missions. Of that money, our Session designated \$15K toward the God's Garden project that we are excitedly building in our north parking lot to create about 20 garden plots for refugee families. About \$35K is designated for buildings and grounds and our Session uses that money to maintain and improve our building. About \$10K is designated to support Westminster's Fine Arts program. About \$6.5K is

designated to be used in Christian Education. About \$6K is designated for our summer young adult volunteer SUMMIT program. About \$175K is not designated to any particular ministry and the Session distributes this money to support various ministries of the church. The Foundation is a steward of these legacy gifts, investing them for a return and making sure they are used for the categories donors choose. However, the Session chooses how best to use this revenue to carry out God's work in our world.

On April 29, we have invited Mary Serovy, a Ministry Relations Officer of the national Presbyterian Foundation to travel to Des Moines to join us. She is going to participate in our worship service then provide an informational gathering in The Commons. She will share with us financial



Mary "Minner" Serovy

tools available to help us join with those who have given in decades past. Please join us on Foundation Sunday, when we will recognize those who have given in the past, celebrate the fruit of our Foundation's work in the present and invite us all to join to build tomorrow's ministry.



God's Garden Design



COMPANY IS COMING!

for dinner and
overnight at
Westminster Church

Come, help share
THE LOVE OF GOD
with our
Family Promise guests
APRIL 22-29

*"Words
can't really explain
how thankful we really are for
everyone that volunteered time away
from their families and schedules
just to take care of us and make sure that
we were comfortable and happy – that
really meant a lot to us!"*

The Mitchell Family,
Family Promise guests

Family Promise of Greater Des Moines provides emergency shelter to homeless families with children. Westminster is home to the Family Promise Day Center, where families receive help in securing housing and jobs, and assistance with other needs. Fourteen churches in the Des Moines area provide overnight housing and hospitality to the Family Promise families on a rotating basis. As part of that network of churches, Westminster Church hosts Family Promise guests overnight two weeks out of each year.

This mission of Family Promise could not succeed without the service of volunteers... and no one person could do this alone. Together, Family Promise volunteers make a real difference in the lives of struggling families!

HOST WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Hosting begins at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, April 22. The Family Promise guests relax until supper is ready. The meal is served cafeteria style, and guests fix their own plates. Volunteers eat and visit with guests.

After dinner, the volunteers fellowship with the families, playing games, helping with homework, watching videos, or participating in other planned activities. The families settle into their rooms by 10:00 p.m., or often sooner. Two volunteers spend the night in the building with the guests.

Each weekday morning, the Family Promise guests return to the Day Center by 7:00 a.m. School-age children go to school, and if parents aren't employed, they work with a case manager to seek employment. The cycle begins again at 5:00 p.m. each day. On Saturday the families are permitted to sleep in, and Westminster provides breakfast. Westminster's host week ends at 7:00 a.m. Sunday morning, April 29.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

We need volunteers for setup, supper prep, supper hosts, evening hosts, overnight hosts, Saturday morning hosts, take-down and laundry.

Sign up to help today by going to westpres.org/familypromise or calling the office at 515-274-1534.





PRIZES FOR
BEST SNACKS!

PRIZES FOR
BEST TABLE
DECORATIONS!

CROSS MINISTRIES
4TH ANNUAL
**TRIVIA
NIGHT**
AND SILENT
AUCTION

SATURDAY, APRIL 14

Enjoy a fun night with friends and support a vital neighborhood ministry! On Saturday, April 14, the fourth annual CROSS Ministries Trivia Night Silent Auction will be held in Westminster Hall. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for the Silent Auction and Games begin at 6:30 p.m. Don't miss out on this unique and fun opportunity to support CROSS Ministries, an organization that works hard to support struggling families in Polk County.

There's a place for you and your team of family and friends! Tickets are \$15/person and \$100/table of eight. Bring your own beverages (no alcohol, please) and snacks to munch on while you enjoy a bit of light-hearted competition. Prizes will go to trivia winners AND the table with the best decorations! Doors open at 5:30 p.m., trivia and bidding begin at 6:30 p.m. Make your reservation now, online at www.westpres.org/trivia, or at the church office 515-274-1534.

Here's your opportunity to help those in need of assistance and have a great time, too!

Learn more at westpres.org/trivia

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Join us this summer on an action-packed VBS adventure! Rolling River Rampage invites children on a white-water rafting adventure to experience the ride of a lifetime with God! Westminster invites all kids age 3 to those entering 6th grade to raft the river! Along the river, children discover that life with God is an adventure full of wonder and surprise, and that they can trust God to be with them through anything. Music, exciting science, creative crafts, fun recreation, and memorable Bible stories will help kids know that God is always with them as they ride the rapids of amazing grace!

The fun runs July 16-20, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, with our incredible VBS Celebration on Sunday, July 22.

Register today at westpres.org/VBS or visit the church office. Each family will receive a VBS CD with paid registration.

Volunteers

We can't make VBS happen without our volunteers! We will need help with many aspects leading up to, during and after the week. Any one entering 7th grade or older is invited to volunteer.

Some volunteer areas include:

- Prep - Help paint and construct set, collect props, decorate rooms, etc.
- Administration - Help with administrative tasks: registration, name tags, check-in, etc.
- Hands-On - Help with VBS stations, crews, VBS Sunday Celebration, etc.
- Audio/Visual Support - Help run A/V equipment during opening, closing and VBS Sunday worship.
- Set-Up-July 15 or Tear-Down - July 23
- Donate - Materials and/or snacks for volunteers.





Upcoming Events and Activities at Westminster

Adults

Church Events:

Jazz Worship - April 8, 10 a.m.
See page 5 for more information.

CROSS Trivia Night -
April 14, Doors open at 5:30 p.m.
for Silent Auction. Trivia begins at
6:30 p.m., Westminster Hall.
See page 8 for more information.

Baccalaureate Worship -
Wednesday, April 25, 6:15 p.m.
Sanctuary

Community Events:

Senior College - "Alternative Energy"
Wednesday, April 4, 10:00 a.m.
Westminster Hall.
For more information or to register
online, go to myseniorcollege.org.

Senior College - "Foster Care"
Monday, April 23, 10:00 a.m.
Westminster Hall.
For more information or to register
online, go to myseniorcollege.org.

Education:

Westminster Wednesday
Every Wednesday, Westminster Hall.
Dinner at 5:45 p.m., worship at 6:15,
Faith Formation classes
at 6:30 pm.

Pastor Scott's Lectionary Study
Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.
Multipurpose Room

Discipleship Group - Good Samaritan
Sunday, April 15, 9:00 a.m.
Simmerman Lounge

Discipleship Group - #screentime
Sundays, 11:00 a.m., Classroom 304-E

"All Things Considered "
Current Issues Forum
Sundays, 11:00 a.m.
See westpres.org/atc for upcoming
speakers. Meets in the Chapel.

Pastor's Reception for Visitors
Sunday, April 8, 11:00 a.m.
Simmerman Lounge

New Member Classes
Sundays, April 15 & 22, 11:00 a.m.
Seminary Center
April 29, Meets with Session 9:15 a.m.
Seminary Center

Groups:

Men's Basketball Small Group
Every Monday, 6:30 p.m.
The Commons

Men's Group
First Wednesday morning each month,
6:30 a.m., Waveland Cafe; and, every
Wednesday evening, 6:30 p.m.
Seminary Center

Westminster Book Club
Wednesday, April 4, 6:30 p.m.,
Simmerman Lounge - "A Grandson's
Story" by David Safris. Join us as we
discuss the book with the author.

Presbyterian Women: Hope Circle
Meets first Thursday of the month
Thursday, April 5, 10:00 a.m.
Simmerman Lounge

**Restaurant Group I meets the first
Saturday of each month.**
Saturday, April 7, at 5:15 p.m.,
Maxie's Restaurant, 1311 Grand Ave.,
West Des Moines.

Cooking for the Homeless
Monday, April 9, 8:30 a.m., Kitchen

Pizza Lovers' Small Group
Tuesday, April 10, 5:15 p.m.
Godfather's Pizza

**Gay Lesbian Straight Affirmation
(GLSA) Group**
Sunday, April 15, 9:00 a.m.
Seminary Center. All welcome, go to
westpres.org/glsa for more information.

Presbyterian Women: Eve Circle
Meets four Tuesday of the month
Tuesday, April 24, 7:00 p.m.
Simmerman Lounge

Stitchin' Time
Thursday, April 26, 1:00 p.m.
Hope Alcove

Afternoon Bridge
Friday, April 27, at 1:00 p.m.
Simmerman Lounge

Music:

Westminster Choral
Rehearsals on most Thursdays, 7:00 p.m.
Music Room, and continue Thursdays
September through May.

**Anchor Coffee House
Bob Black & "Banjoy"**
Saturday, April 7, 7:00 p.m.
Westminster Hall
Purchase tickets in the church office
during the week, The Commons on
Sunday, or on-line at www.westpres.org/anchor

Kid's Education & Other Activities: (From Babies to 5th Grade)

Nursery Faith Formation

Every Sunday, 9:15 a.m. in the Nursery
(Nursery childcare begins at 8:45 a.m. on Sundays)

Sunday School - Preschool to 5th Grade

Every Sunday, 9:00 a.m.
in Children's Classrooms

Westminster Wednesday

Every Wednesday, in Westminster Hall .
Dinner at 5:45 p.m., Worship at 6:15,
Faith Formation classes at 6:30 pm.

Kids' Leadership Sunday

April 15, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary
Once a month, our kids serve as leaders in Worship.

Youth Education & Other Activities: (6th through 12th Grade)

Faith Formation Sunday - 6th to 12th Grade

Every Sunday, 9:00 a.m.
in Children's Classrooms

Confirmation

Every Sunday, (until April 15) 9:00 a.m.
Tower Classroom

Westminster Wednesday

April 4, our Youth are Visiting Other Churches, sharing a meal
and discussing their faith

Confirmation-Senior High Picnic

April 18, 5:45 p.m.
Brad & Lisa Anderson's Home

Youth Leadership Sunday

Sunday, April 22, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary
Once a month, our youth serve as leaders in Worship.

Confirmation Breakfast and Meeting with Session

Sunday, April 22, 8:15 a.m.
Westminster Hall

Junior High Mission Trip Pre-Trip Meeting

Sunday, April 29, 11:00 a.m.
Seminary Center

Committee Meetings

Church & World

Tuesday, April 3, 5:30 p.m.
Library

Deacons

Sunday, April 8, 11:00 a.m.
Seminary Center

CE Children's Committee

Sunday, April 8, 11:10 a.m.
Room 303-E

CE Youth Committee

Monday, April 9, 5:30 p.m.
Hope Alcove

Human Resources

Monday, April 9, 5:30 p.m.
Seminary Center

CE Adult Committee

Monday, April 9, 6:00 p.m.
Simmernan Lounge

Finance & Administration

Monday, April 9, 6:30 p.m.
Seminary Center

Outreach Unit

Tuesday, April 10, 6:00 p.m.
Westminster Hall

Social Justice

Tuesday, April 10, 6:30 p.m.
Hope Alcove

Church & Community

Tuesday, April 10, 6:30 p.m.
Westminster Hall

Session

Monday, April 16, 6:30 p.m.
Seminary Center

Building and Grounds

Wednesday, April 18, 5:00 p.m.
Seminary Center

Worship, Music and Arts

Monday, April 24, 6:30 p.m.
Seminary Center

WESTMINSTER Messenger

PERIODICALS

4114 Allison Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50310-3398

Address Service Requested

Renewed, Loved and Forgiven Eternally

by Joan Mahaffey

It's over. We celebrated Easter just a few short days ago, complete with loud, "Alleluias," beautiful music, inspiring worship, and a wonderfully spiritual Easter Experience for children of all ages. We pull out all the stops for Easter. Christ's gift of Eternal Life, was made manifest through his death and Resurrection, and for that we are so grateful, that we look forward to giving our thanks and celebrating our joy on Easter morning.

But, wait. What's that? You say it's not over? That Christ reminds us daily of our gift of Salvation? Well, we do see the great beauty of God's paint pallet, in the colorful flowers that burst forth in the spring. And, when the rain washes away the dirt of winter, we are reminded of having our souls washed clean with Jesus' forgiveness. The sunshine bespeaks the warmth of God's love, and the quiet, starry nights shine with the Christ's peace that passes all understanding.

When we look, we find. When we seek, we grow. When we pray, we are renewed. God is with us always. Spring is the perfect time of year to remember the blessings God presents to us. Happy Spring! Happy Easter!

May God's love abound
with you now and
forever.