

WESTMINSTER Messenger

FEBRUARY 2018 • VOLUME 46 • ISSUE 2

**LENT AT
WESTMINSTER**



Westminster
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WELCOME

FEBRUARY 2018 • VOLUME 46 • ISSUE 2

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Worship.....	2
Message from Pastor Scott.....	3
Peacemaking.....	4-5
Lent 101.....	6
Interim CE Director.....	7
Shrove Tuesday & Ash Wednesday.....	7
Fine Arts Series Update.....	8
Sweetheart Dance.....	9
Upcoming Events.....	10-11
Westminster Financial Update.....	12

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

*Cover Image: Sun coming
through a stained glass window
in the Chapel.*

(USPS 993-960)

The Westminster Messenger...
is published monthly by
Westminster Presbyterian Church
4114 Allison Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50310-3398

Periodicals postage paid at
Des Moines, IA
Laura Sherlock, Editor

**Postmaster -
Send address changes to:
WESTMINSTER MESSENGER...
4114 Allison Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50310-3398**

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.



February 4

The Scripture readings will be Exodus 20:1-17 & John 2:13-22.

On the 5th Sunday of Epiphany, Pastor Scott will preach "Giving Life." We will celebrate Holy Communion together.

February 11

On the 6th Sunday of Epiphany Pastor Bill be preaching.

February 14: Ash Wednesday

*The Scripture readings will be Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
& 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10.*

Pastor Scott's sermon will be "Weapons of Righteousness."
Learn more about Ash Wednesday and Lent on pages 6 & 7

February 18

The Scripture readings will be 1 Peter 3:18-22 & Genesis 9:8-17.

On the 1st Sunday in Lent, Pastor Scott will preach
"The Character of God"

February 25

*The Scripture readings will be Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
& Romans 4:13-25.*

On the 2nd Sunday of Lent, Pastor Scott's sermon will be
"Trust Trumps Law."

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

4114 Allison Avenue • Des Moines, Iowa 50310-3398
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

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.

 WestPresDM
 WestPresDM
 WestPres
WestPresDM

A Message from Pastor Scott...



Getting Ready For Lent

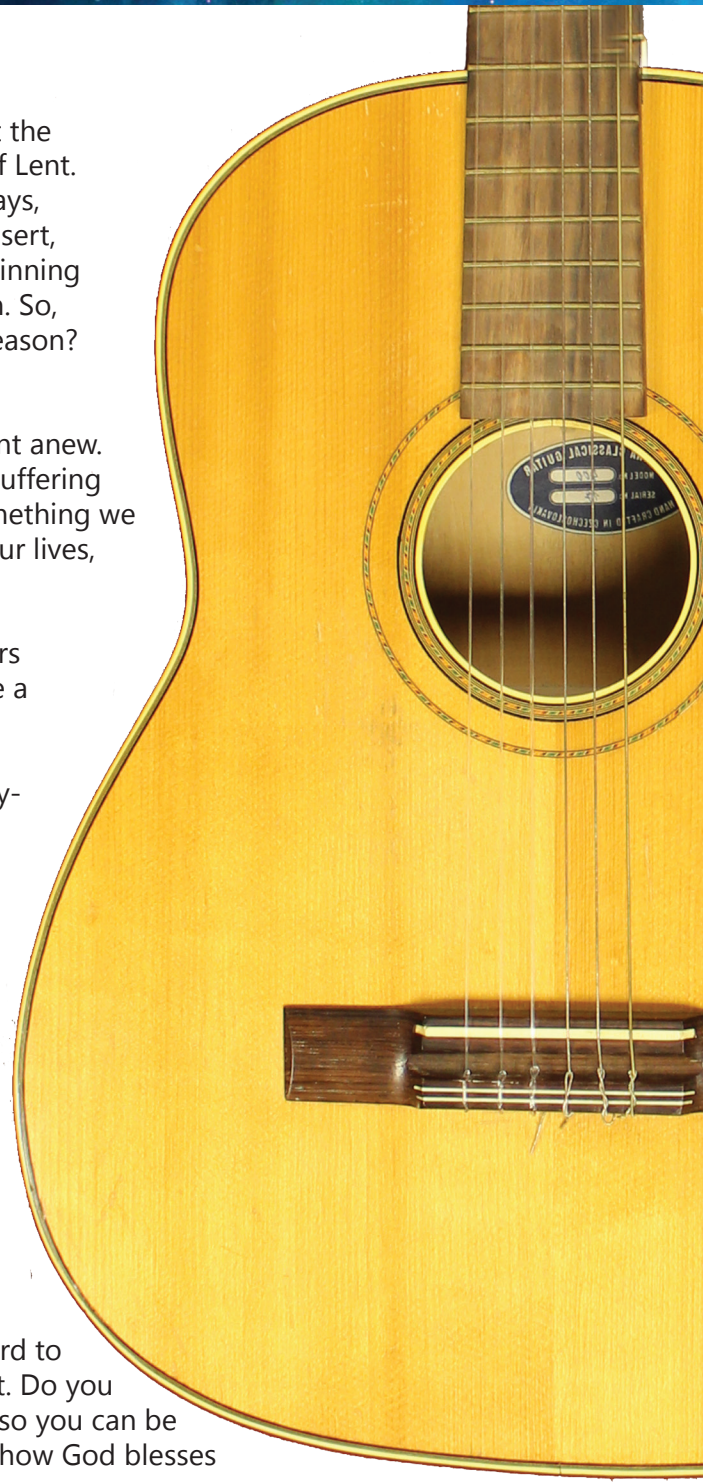
It is hard to believe we are already getting ready for Lent. At least the Super Bowl is over before we step into the more reflective time of Lent. The Lenten season is traditionally described as lasting for forty days, in commemoration of the forty days Jesus spent fasting in the desert, according to the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, before beginning his public ministry, during which he endured temptation by Satan. So, how do we commemorate, celebrate, or experience the Lenten season?

Lent is not a season we commemorate because it isn't primarily something we remember in the past. Each year we experience Lent anew. Lent isn't something we celebrate, because it is a recognition of suffering and sinfulness. It is not a "yahoo" moment. At its best, Lent is something we experience. We use those approximately six weeks to reflect on our lives, especially the areas that need improvement.

Some Christian Churches give up meat, or worse chocolate. Others exclude flowers from their services throughout Lent. Others make a commitment to nurture the faith of its members by participating in Lenten devotionals. My devotionals can be used as a spiritual practice throughout Lent. (You can see them at westpres.org/daily-devotions). Whatever you choose to do, make sure it isn't just a painful obligation, but a meaningful opportunity to nurture your relationship with God.

I've taken a few days of vacation and gone to a monastery, and used time in silence and prayer to experience a deeper time with God. I've committed to a number of Lenten devotions through the years. Personally, the least meaningful Lenten practice I've done is giving something up. Now, adding a spiritual discipline through Lent is important because it develops spiritual habits that just may continue throughout the rest of the year.

This year I plan to pick up my nylon string guitar to play and sing Taize music each day. In my last church we had a monthly Taize service, and it was a powerfully spiritual time for me. I look forward to inviting the Holy Spirit into daily worship over the 40 days of Lent. Do you have a Lenten plan yet? Be sure to think about your Lenten plan, so you can be ready to focus on God this Lenten season. You will be amazed at how God blesses your time with the Holy One.





Peacemaking

by Bill Ekhardt, Interim Associate Pastor and Chief of Staff

Regrettably, we can count on conflict remaining part of our human existence. There are myriad sources of

conflict available to us. We misunderstand one another. We are prone to feeling unappreciated, disrespected, or having our role undervalued. We are rankled when we are left out of decision making or we feel we have not been heard and considered. Sometimes there are clashes between our's and others' expectations and values. Conflict comes. We can, unfortunately, anticipate it with certainty.

Many have shared their disappointment with me that churches have conflict like the rest of the world. It is true. We have the same challenges in the body of Christ that we have in our families and workplaces. In fact, conflict can be deeper in churches because the stakes can be higher. Our ideals can be more strongly held. The importance of church as a place and a family can escalate conflicts to a level not found elsewhere for the simple reason that we care more deeply. There is more at stake, and more to lose.

And yet, we are called to be peacemakers. Jesus, in Matthew 18, specifically taught a pattern for seeking resolution to conflict. Paul in his letters to his churches implored them to be of one mind, to seek to get along with one another. He admonished them for breaking into factions. He called them to be one.

Peacemaking is not easy. Reconciling all things – to God and to one another – is what Jesus described the purpose of his ministry to be. Jesus continues that ministry today and invites us to join in it. Where we can, let us go directly to those with whom there is conflict. Let us refrain from sharing our hurts with others in a way that draws them to us and against the one with whom we are in conflict. Let us speak without accusation. Let us listen and make our hearer feel heard before we move on to what we want to say. Let us recognize that we are never at greater peril of error than when we assume motives of those with whom we are in conflict. Instead, let us endeavor to interpret one another charitably. Let us seek to restore trust where it can be restored and de-escalate hostility where we can, bringing down the temperature step by step. And finally, let us pledge to remain civil with those with whom we disagree.

There is no area of our lives where we are free of opportunity for conflict. We can be certain that when we develop tools for dealing with conflict we will have ample opportunity to use them. I encourage you to consider the Guidelines for Presbyterians During Times of Disagreement available on the next page. They were adopted by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church and our Session.

Seeking to be Faithful Together:

Guidelines for Presbyterians During Times of Disagreement

In a spirit of trust and love, we promise we will...

<p>Give them a hearing... listen before we answer</p> <p><i>John 7:51 and Proverbs 18:13</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Treat each other respectfully so as to build trust, believing that we all desire to be faithful to Jesus the Christ; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> we will keep our conversations and communications open for candid and forthright exchange, we will not ask questions or make statements in a way which will intimidate or judge others. 2. Learn about various positions on the topic of disagreement. 3. State what we think we heard and ask for clarification before responding, in an effort to be sure we understand each other.
<p>Speak the truth in love</p> <p><i>Ephesians 4:15</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Share our concerns directly with individuals or groups with whom we have disagreements in a spirit of love and respect in keeping with Jesus' teachings. 5. Focus on ideas and suggestions instead of questioning people's motives, intelligence or integrity; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> we will not engage in name-calling or labelling of others prior to, during, or following the discussion. 6. Share our personal experiences about the subject of disagreement so that others may more fully understand our concerns.
<p>Maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace</p> <p><i>Ephesians 4:3</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Indicate where we agree with those of other viewpoints as well as where we disagree. 8. Seek to stay in community with each other though the discussion may be vigorous and full of tension; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> we will be ready to forgive and be forgiven. 9. Follow these additional guidelines when we meet in decision-making bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> urge persons of various points of view to speak and promise to listen to these positions seriously; seek conclusions informed by our points of agreement; be sensitive to the feelings and concerns of those who do not agree with the majority and respect their rights of conscience; abide by the decision of the majority, and if we disagree with it and wish to change it, work for that change in ways which are consistent with these Guidelines. 10. Include our disagreement in our prayers, not praying for the triumph of our viewpoints, but seeking God's grace to listen attentively, to speak clearly, and to remain open to the vision God holds for us all.

Adopted by the 204th General Assembly (1992) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for use by Sessions and Congregations.

Lent 101

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the liturgical season of Lent. Congregations, increasingly called to welcome seekers and new Christians, are aware of the importance of defining the language of faith and interpreting the traditions of the community. A basic guide to Lenten practices may be helpful.

Lent

The season of Lent leads up to the most holy of Christian days, Easter Sunday. The forty days of Lent begin Ash Wednesday and end at dusk the Saturday before Easter, not counting the Sundays in between. The Sundays during Lent, like every Sunday, are considered weekly celebrations of the resurrection. Many denominations encourage disciples to renew and strengthen their faith during Lent. Plans are made for community-wide Lenten preparation through the spiritual disciplines of prayer, Bible study, fasting, and service.

Presbyterians may find it meaningful to give something up for Lent, but it is not required. Some disciples may find a more valuable spiritual exercise in taking something on during Lent—a more Christ-like attitude toward others, a humble spirit at work, or a feeling of gratitude in the midst of scarcity. Whatever spiritual disciplines and preparations are embraced during Lent, they can help us prepare for or renew our baptisms as part of the resurrection celebration at Easter.

Ash Wednesday, February 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Ash Wednesday is the entry point for Lenten preparation. It is a service rich in ritual and symbolism. Palms waved at the previous year's Palm Sunday service are saved and burned to create ashes for the next Ash Wednesday. Participants on Ash Wednesday come forward for a minister or elder to mark their foreheads with the sign of the cross in ashes, saying the words, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return,"

from Genesis 3:19. With these words, disciples are reminded of their mortality and, when combined with the sign of the cross, they are also reminded of the hope of the resurrection. *Please note: there will be an Ash Wednesday soup and salad potluck in Westminster Hall prior to worship. See the next page for more information.*

Maundy Thursday March 29, 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

The Thursday before Easter Sunday is the day to commemorate the Last Supper of Jesus with his disciples. The story of Jesus breaking and blessing bread at the Passover meal, as a reminder of his life given freely for all, is told in the books of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. This Passover act became the sacrament of holy communion in the Christian church. Celebration of communion is usually the centerpiece of a Maundy Thursday worship service.

Many scholars believe the term "maundy" is taken from the Latin word "mandatum" or "mandate." John 13:34 includes Jesus' words, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."

Good Friday March 30, 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

The Friday before Easter is the day to remember the crucifixion and death of Jesus. Many wonder why this day is called "good." This Friday is sometimes called Holy or Black Friday, but the term "good" reminds us of Jesus' blameless, good, and pious life. Churches sometimes have a special worship service between noon and 3 p.m. to represent the hours that the sky turned dark as Jesus suffered and died.



Interim Children's Christian Education Director



It is our pleasure to introduce you to Tiffany Hays, our Interim Children's Christian Education Director. Tiffany has been serving as our Nursery Director. She has been supervised by Erin Marth, and worked closely with Erin and Lisa Anderson doing projects and supporting them. Tiffany has agreed to serve 15-20 hours a week supporting our children's Christian Education program. We understand she will be a bridge between our outgoing full time Director of Christian Education and the next director, whom we will be actively seeking. We are thankful that Tiffany has been willing to step into this role. We encourage you to get to know her if you have not and support Tiffany as she carries this ministry into its next chapter.

Shrove Tuesday Pancakes and Ash Wednesday Potluck

February 13

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Mark your calendars to join us on February 13, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., for our traditional Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. Shrove Tuesday is the day immediately preceding Ash Wednesday, which is celebrated at Westminster by consuming pancakes. Our Deacons sponsor this festive, delicious supper so that we can prepare together for the beginning of Lent. A suggested donation will be requested to cover the cost of the meal.



February 14

Ash Wednesday Potluck

The church family will gather in Westminster Hall to share a simple soup and salad "potluck" before worship. Please sign up at this week's Wednesday night registration table. Our regular Wednesday night classes will not be held on Ash Wednesday. Worship will begin at 7:00 p.m.



Two Choirs in Two Months!

Westminster and the Des Moines community was blessed with two recent performances by inspiring choral ensembles. In December, the Central College A Cappella Choir, under the direction of Mark Babcock and Kris DeWild, performed before a "sold out" audience in our Sanctuary.



In January, the Emmy-nominated Nebraska Wesleyan University Choir graced Westminster with a beautiful program.

A special thank you to our host families for making the performance possible! The WMA Unit is grateful for your generosity: Ramona Wink & Sue Wilhite, Jean Eby, Joanne & Dan McPhail, Candy Nardini, Scott & Jill Paczkowski, John & Judy Gardner, Scott & Melanie Batchter, Clark & Chris Jensen, Karen Hanson, Maggy Miller, Karla Killinger & Scott Blacketer, Shannon Brostad, Bob & Diane Rosene, Sasha Kamper, Bob & Linda Railey, Carrie Hall, Kim Trautman, Bret & Jennifer Voorhees, Joe & Renae Jones, and Eric & Trina Miller.

Next Performance: Organ & Winds, Sunday, Feb. 11, 3pm



Hear Westminster's own, Kris DeWild, as she showcases our glorious Dobson organ with a performance featuring music from the Baroque era to the present. The concert will also feature Kris on harp in collaboration with Dr. Cynthia Krenzle from Central College (clarinet) and Mackenzie Uhlenhopp from the University of Iowa (flute and voice).



Dr. Cynthia Krenzle
clarinet



Mackenzie Uhlenhopp
flute and voice

Sweetheart



Family Dance, Dinner & Fundraiser

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Dinner at 5:30 p.m., Dance 6:15 - 8:00 p.m.

Calling all Families, Mother/Son, Father/Daughter, Grandparent/grandchild.... Come to our 3rd annual Sweetheart Dinner & Dance on February 16th at 5:30 for dinner and 6:15 for the dance. Enjoy a delicious dinner, dancing and fun!

We have enjoyed watching this fundraiser grow, and are very excited about it again this year. The Sweetheart Dance helps supplement tuition costs to pay for field trips and extra materials for the classrooms. This is our major fundraiser for the year. The Sweetheart Dinner & Dance is open to the whole community, and we would love having some help spreading the word! The more people, the more fun!

For dinner we will have a burrito bar. For the dance we will enjoy group dances led by Grant Hobin, lots of dancing with friends and family, a professional photographer, a photo booth and a balloon drop.

Dinner & Dance

\$20 each or \$36 per pair,
Family Maximum of \$90

(Immediate family only)

Dance Only Tickets:

\$10 Each or \$18 Per Pair



Fundraiser for Westminster Preschool
If you have any questions, please contact
Megan at 515-274-1534 or
preschoolmegan@gmail.com



Upcoming Events and Activities at Westminster

Adults

Church Events:

2018-19 Preschool Registration for Westminster Families Begins

Friday, February 2

Shrove Tuesday Pancakes

Tuesday, February 13, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Westminster Hall

Ash Wednesday Soup & Salad

Wednesday, February 14, 5:45 p.m.
Westminster Hall

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.,
(Except February 14)
Multipurpose Room

Discipleship Group - Good Samaritan

Sundays, February 4 and 18, 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, February 11, 11:00 a.m.,
Simmerman Lounge

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, (Except February 14)
at 6:30 p.m., in the Seminary Center

Presbyterian Women: Hope Circle

Meets first Thursday of the month
Thursday, February 1, 10:00 a.m.,
Simmerman Lounge

Restaurant Group I meets the first Saturday of each month. They will meet February 3.

Cooking for the Homeless

Monday, February 5, 8:30 a.m., Kitchen

Westminster Book Club

Wednesday, February 7, 6:30 p.m.,
Simmerman Lounge - "The Boys in the Boat" by Daniel James Brown.

Pizza Lovers' Small Group

Tuesday, February 13, 5:15 p.m.,
Godfather's Pizza

Gay Lesbian Straight Affirmation (GLSA) Group

Sunday, February 18, 9:00 a.m., Seminary Center. All welcome, go to westpres.org/glsa for more information.

Stitchin' Time

Tuesday, February 22, 1:00 p.m.,
Hope Alcove

Afternoon Bridge

Friday, February 23, at 1:00 p.m.,
Simmerman Lounge

Music:

Westminster Chorale

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

Anchor Coffee House Ry Taylor

Saturday, February 3, 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.

FAS: Organ and Winds Recital

Sunday, February 11, 3:00 p.m.
Westminster Sanctuary
Kris DeWild showcases our glorious
Dobson organ, and also collaborates
with Dr. Cynthia Krenzel, Central
College, on clarinet, and Mackenzie
Uhlenhopp, flute and voice, from the
University of Iowa.

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

Sunday, February 11, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary
Once a month, our kids serve as leaders in Worship.

VBS Reveal

Sunday, February 18, 10:00 a.m., The Commons
See what this year's theme will be!

Youth Education & Other Activities:

(6th through 12th Grade)

Faith Formation Sunday

6th to 12th Grade

Every Sunday, 9:00 a.m. in Youth & Senior High Classrooms

Confirmation

Every Sunday, 9:00 a.m., Tower Classroom

Westminster Wednesday

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

Youth Leadership Sunday

Sunday, February 18, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary
Once a month, our Youth serve as leaders in Worship

Committee Meetings

Deacons

Sunday, February 4, 11:00 a.m.
Seminary Center

CE Children's Committee

Monday, February 5, 5:30 p.m.
Room 303-E

CE Youth Committee

Monday, February 5, 5:30 p.m.
Library

CE Adult Committee

Monday, February 5, 6:00 p.m.
Simmern Lounge

Session Meets with New Members

Sunday, February 11, 9:15 a.m.
Seminary Center

Human Resources

Monday, February 12, 5:30 p.m.
Seminary Center

Finance & Administration

Monday, February 12, 6:30 p.m.
Seminary Center

Session

Monday, February 19, 6:30 p.m.
Seminary Center

Outreach Unit

Tuesday, February 20, 6:00 p.m.
Westminster Hall

Church & World

Tuesday, February 20, 6:30 p.m.
Library

Social Justice

Tuesday, February 20, 6:30 p.m.
Hope Alcove

Church & Community

Tuesday, February 20, 6:30 p.m.
Westminster Hall

Building and Grounds

Wednesday, February 21, 5:00 p.m.
Seminary Center

Worship, Music and Arts

Monday, February 27, 6:30 p.m.
Seminary Center

Church and World Committee



4114 Allison Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50310-3398

Address Service Requested

Westminster Financial Update

2017 Summary

The 2017 operating budget closed in the black, meaning that income from all sources exceeded the combined expenses from all the church ministries. Although there was not a large year-end surplus, closing in the black indicates strong member giving, good financial planning and careful committee spending. The total income received in 2017 was about 4% less than budgeted and our expenses were about 5% less than budgeted. The budget for 2017 was about \$1,330,000. Full financial reports are always available to church members.

2018 Pledge Drive

Westminster depends on member pledges to fund the majority of our missions and ministries. Your financial pledges for 2018 slightly exceeded the dollars that were pledged last year. This is good news and a sign of ongoing financial health and good member support. Pledged dollars per member increased over 2017. The most exciting news is that 225 Westminster families increased their pledge for 2018 and 14 families made their first pledge. The church's ability to effectively plan programs depends on knowing all our income sources, especially the largest source: pledged income. Thank you to everyone who made 2017 a success and to everyone planning their support for 2018!