

WESTMINSTER Messenger

JUNE 2018 • VOLUME 46 • ISSUE 6



Westminster
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WELCOME

JUNE 2018 • VOLUME 46 • ISSUE 5

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

On the Cover:

*Kids play in the Nursery
during Sunday Worship.*

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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.



June 3 - Junior High Commisioning

The Scripture readings will be Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 & 2 Corinthians 4:5-12.

Pastor Scott will be preaching "Strong in Our Brokenness."
We will celebrate Holy Communion together.

June 10 - 50-Year Members

The Scripture readings will be Psalm 138, 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1.
Pastor Scott will be preaching "Point of Contact."

June 17 -Senior High Trip & Summit Commisioning

Pastor Bill will be preaching.

June 24 - 5th Sunday after Pentecost

The Scripture readings will be Psalm 133 & Mark 4:35-41.
Pastor Scott will be preaching "Be Still."

**THERE'S STILL TIME TO REGISTER FOR
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JULY 16-20
WESTPRES.ORG/VBS**



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.,
Starting June 25 the Office will close at noon on Fridays.

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.

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A Message from Pastor Scott...



A Thank You Note

I am already missing Westminster Wednesday evenings. I miss seeing everyone each week. One of my favorite parts of the night is sitting with the elementary age children (and some childlike adults) and singing the songs and dancing while Grant plays his ukulele and Kendra accompanies on the piano. I also miss my class. Each person makes the commitment to come every week, taking time to pray for those in need, offering each other support, and learning more about God's sacred Scripture.

The discipline of meeting and studying each week has been a gift to me. One of the overarching themes my class has taught me over time is that God is less concerned about our making a personal decision for Jesus Christ, and more about showing God our gratitude. I also learned that gratitude is a foundational key to understanding the mind of God.

Throughout my time in Waterloo, I had more theologically conservative members regularly quoting John Piper to me. John Piper is a nationally popular pastor and writer. John Piper is a Reformed Baptist pastor from Minnesota. Over the past few years I am surprised to read that John Piper's theology is transforming. Piper was a conservative Baptist who emphasized a personal commitment to Jesus Christ as the means of obtaining eternal life.

In one recent article, John Piper, surprisingly wrote, *"The effort of this dominant viewpoint in American evangelicalism to define saving faith apart from the spiritual affections is biblically futile. To define saving faith apart from feelings of dependence, thankful trust, fervent admiration, pleased submission, contented resting, thrilled treasuring, eager reverence, heartfelt adoration is futile."* While I doubt John Piper and I will ever affirm the same understanding of Scripture, or theological confession, I do appreciate the understanding he describes.

Traditionally, evangelicalism focused primarily on creating a *"saving faith"* in someone to gain eternal life. Now, even those conservative evangelicals are recognizing that this is a manipulative and unsuccessful means of engendering lasting faith. These adjectives of *"dependence, thankful trust, fervent admiration..."* describe feelings of a loving relationship. Throughout the year, our class studied God's Scripture and found not a God needing to be pacified so as not to cast us into hell, but a loving God, worthy of our deepest gratitude and love. We should not be afraid to approach this God or feel the need to offer the right salvation prayer to be included, but to develop a relationship based on gratitude for all God has done, is doing, and will continue to do.

Thank you, Wednesday group, for allowing me to learn anew, the love and blessings of God, in Jesus Christ.

*I also learned
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Looking Back

**by Tiffany Hays,
Interim Director of Christian Education**

Wow! It is hard to believe that this academic year has come to an end. It was not that long ago that we were preparing for it to begin by gathering volunteers, selecting curriculum, and cleaning classrooms. I am so grateful for the opportunity to celebrate and reflect on this past year of Faith Formation.



First and foremost, I want to thank our spectacular volunteers! Without their dedication, Faith Formation would not be the amazing ministry we currently have. We are blessed with the amount of support we receive from the members of our congregation. In addition to the volunteers who made a year-long commitment to serving the children and youth in our programs, there have been many volunteers who have pitched in throughout the year. Thank you to everyone who has given their time to support our Christian Education programming!

On Wednesdays, I have two sets of volunteers to thank. First, thank you to our dinner volunteers. They are an essential component of preparing and cleaning up Westminster Hall and The Commons for dinner. This includes: Ruth Carey, Pat Burke, Ryan and Heather Hanser, Vivian Thatcher, Gary Dicks, Gene and Mary Weber, Bill Schmeiser, Cheryl Smith, Megan Anderson, and Karen Caligiuri. Additionally, I wish to thank Grant Hobin and Kendra Leisinger for leading our worship and music in Westminster Hall while Bill Ekhardt leads the youth worship. Finally, our Wednesday night shepherds and teachers include Josh and Kelly Bronsink, Rachel Wahl, Shannon Brostad, and Jen Hughes.



On Sunday mornings, we have numerous volunteers who have dedicated themselves to sharing the love of God with our children and youth. The opening gathering, as parents dropped off their children, was lead by youth at the beginning of the school year. Grant Hobin replaced them part-way through the year. In the preschool room Debbi Regennitter and Heather Von Brown rotated as teachers. Dorothy Reser leads the Kindergarten group.



Rachel Wahl has been leading our 2nd and 3rd graders this year. Our 4th and 5th grade group has been led by Mandy Hollander, Trina Miller, and Jessica Rogers. Megan Anderson and Renae Jones have led the 6th and 7th grade group this year. Bill Ekhardt and Jon Latch have led the confirmands on their journey of faith. The senior highs have been led by Lisa Anderson. We had J.J. Severson, Kelly Bronsink, Sara Rahe, Molly Wosmanskyy, and Anne VanderNaald have volunteered as subs throughout the year in our classrooms on Sunday mornings.

As the Interim Director of Christian Education, I have been so fortunate to inherit a program that Erin Marth did a phenomenal job putting together. She worked with Lisa Anderson, Susan Denton, and Joan Mahaffey to plan the curriculum, recruit volunteers, and set the schedule for the year. As a result, we enjoyed several exciting events throughout the year. We kicked our year off with a picnic gathering and fun on the lawn. The children led several Sunday worship services with our Kid's Leadership Sunday program. We had a birthday party for Jesus in addition to our Christmas Eve pageant, both of which were wonderful ways to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Our Ash Wednesday soup and salad potluck was a great opportunity for intergenerational fellowship prior to the Ash Wednesday Service. The Palm Sunday procession was another opportunity to talk about the life of Jesus Christ within our ministry. Our unique Easter Story Celebration was an exciting way to share the story of crucifixion and resurrection in a memorable and interactive way! We even got the chance to travel over to Calvin Community to play Bingo with some of the residents. And I would be remiss if I failed to mention the Baccalaureate ice cream social on April 25th and end-of-year celebration on May 20th!

Thank you to our amazing volunteers, parents, and staff for making this year of Faith Formation a success. We are currently looking toward the future and planning next year's activities. I hope you and your family will join us throughout the year for Faith Formation programs and our special events!





Westminster Preschool

By Megan Seifert, Preschool Director

June is a month of growing. Nature is growing everywhere around us and the world is changing everyday in the summer. Preschool changed so much this year and is constantly growing, a lot like nature.

This year our full-time program grew immensely! It is high in demand for next year as well. Because of the full-time program, we have been making changes to the calendar to accommodate working parents. We tried evening programs for the first time this spring. We also added an end-of-the-year picnic at Ashby Park.

Next year we are going to give the kids a change of scenery by changing rooms. With the Wrap Around program growing, we need to rearrange classrooms to make the most of all our classrooms. We are excited to see what the kids think of the changes.

May marked one year of visiting Calvin Community (with a break during flu season). We have LOVED seeing the program change and the relationships developing with the residents over there.

This year we went on more field trips than we have in the past few years. The children have enjoyed seeing new places and creating new experiences. The favorite field trips still happened, of course. We also continued to learn about festivals from around the world.

Our Developmental Kindergarten also changed a bit by having a Montessori-trained teacher for the second half of the year. They had a few ongoing projects they shared with families and staff! It was a highlight of everyone's day to see how the projects were done. It was interesting to see how they took shape, and we are excited for what next year has in store.

The faces of the preschool staff changed also as we added new teachers to our group. The variety of teaching styles and the new teachers' past experiences have benefited the kids greatly! We are excited for our the preschool to continue to blossom and grow next year!



Upcoming Events and Activities at Westminster

Church Activities:

Ribbon Cutting for God's Garden

Sunday, June 3, 11:15 a.m.
North Parking Lot

Education:

Pastor's Reception for Visitors

Sunday, June 10, 11:15 a.m.
Simmerman Lounge

Groups:

Men's Basketball Small Group

Every Monday, 6:30 p.m.
The Commons

Restaurant Group I meets the first Saturday of each month.

They will meet June 2, at Nick's Restaurant.

Men's Group

During the summer this group meets every Wednesday morning at 6:30 a.m., at the Waveland Cafe. The third Wednesday of each month, during the summer, they meet at 5:30 p.m. at the Windsor Heights' HyVee. Their next meeting is Wednesday, June 20, 5:30 p.m.

Cooking for the Homeless

Monday, June 4, 8:30 a.m.
Kitchen

Westminster Book Club

Wednesday, June 6, 6:30 p.m.
Simmerman Lounge
Their next selection is "Beautiful Ruins," by Jess Walter.

Pizza Lovers' Small Group

Tuesday, June 12, 5:15 p.m.
Godfather's Pizza

Gay Lesbian Straight Affirmation (GLSA) Group

Sunday, June 17, 9:00 a.m.
Seminary Center. All are welcome. Go to westpres.org/glsa for more information.

Afternoon Bridge

Thursday, June 28, 1:00 p.m.
Simmerman Lounge

Stitchin' Time

Thursday, June 28, 1:00 p.m.
Hope Alcove

Music:

Summer Choir

Rehearsals on Sundays, 9:05 a.m., before worship, in the Sanctuary.

Summer Office Hours will continue through Friday, August 31. The church office will be open 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday; and, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. on Friday.

Committee Meetings

Deacons

Sunday, June 3, following God's Garden Ribbon Cutting
Seminary Center

CE Adult Committee

Monday, June 4, 6:00 p.m.
Simmerman Lounge

Visual Arts Committee

Tuesday, June 5, 1:00 p.m.
Wednesday, June 6, 1:00 p.m.
Hope Alcove

Church & World

Tuesday, June 5, 5:30 p.m.
Library

Nominating Committee

Thursdays, June 7 & 21, 5:30 p.m.
Seminary Center

CE Children's Committee

Sunday, June 10, 11:10 a.m.
Office

Human Resources

Monday, June 11, 5:30 p.m.
Seminary Center

Finance & Administration

Monday, June 11, 6:30 p.m.
Seminary Center

Outreach Unit

Tuesday, June 12, 6:00 p.m.
Westminster Hall

Church & Community

Tuesday, June 12, 6:30 p.m.
Westminster Hall

Social Justice

Tuesday, June 12, 6:30 p.m.
Hope Alcove

Session

Monday, June 18, 6:30 p.m.
Seminary Center

Building and Grounds

Wednesday, June 20, 5:00 p.m.
Seminary Center

Worship, Music and Arts

Their next meeting will be Tuesday, August 28, 6:00 p.m.
Seminary Center

Youth Education & Other Activities:

(6th through 12th Grade)

Junior High Mission Trip Commissioning

Sunday, June 3, 10:00 a.m.
during Worship

Junior High Mission Trip to Minneapolis

Sunday, June 3 - Sunday, June 10

Senior High Mission Trip Commissioning

Sunday, June 17, 10:00 a.m.
during Worship

Senior High Mission Trip to Baltimore

Saturday, June 23 - Saturday, June 30

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PERIODICALS

4114 Allison Avenue
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Address Service Requested

Calling All Westminster Artists...

Westminster Church is planning to present a fall art exhibit in the Sanctuary, and all Westminster artists are invited to participate. The theme of this art exhibit will reflect the vision of the church that is currently being developed by the Session. Supporting Scripture passages will be provided to the artists for inspiration.

For this exhibit, each artist is asked to create a piece of art, 36" x 36". Art can be a realistic portrayal of the theme or an abstract representation. Canvases will be provided, or you may work with your own canvas or other material. Fabric creations, quilt art, and photography (printed on canvas) are welcome and encouraged, too, as long as the finished piece is 36" x 36" and can be hung on the wall with a nylon filament thread.

Art will be due in late October, and the works will be on display through the month of November. After the exhibit, the art is yours to keep.

If you are interested in participating, please plan to attend an artists' meeting on Sunday, June 3, at 11:30 a.m. in the Library (following the God's Garden dedication).

If you have questions, please contact Jan Davison (janpolk@msn.com),
Judy Sebern Beachy (jsebern@aol.com),
or Beth Hirst (sunniesky@msn.com).