

# WESTMINSTER Messenger

MAY 2018 • VOLUME 46 • ISSUE 5



**GRADUATING SENIOR  
HIGH STUDENTS**

# WELCOME

MAY 2018 • VOLUME 46 • ISSUE 5

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

On the Cover:  
High School Seniors Briar and  
Kathryn help serve at a meal at  
Central Iowa Shelter and Services.

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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.



### May 6 - 50 Year Members Honored

On the 6th Sunday of Easter, Pastor Bill will be preaching  
We will celebrate Holy Communion together.

### May 13 - Hymn Festival

There will be hymns, new and old, for the congregation, children’s choir, Chorale, handbells, and organ. Soloists from the Chorale will also be featured.

### May 20 - Pentecost

The Scripture readings will be Romans 8:22-27 & Acts 2:1-21

Pastor Scott’s sermon will be “I Can’t Wait.”

### May 27 - Trinity Sunday

The Scripture readings will be Romans 8:12-17 & Isaiah 6:1-8

Pastor Scott will preach “Unwanted Calls.”

## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

4114 Allison Avenue • Des Moines, Iowa 50310-3398  
515-274-1534 • fax 515-274-1537 • [www.westpres.org](http://www.westpres.org)  
Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.,  
Starting May 25 the Office will close at noon on Fridays.

### PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Dr. Scott Paczkowski, Senior Pastor - [scott@westpres.org](mailto:scott@westpres.org)  
Rev. Dr. Bill Ekhardt, Interim Associate Pastor/Chief of Staff - [bill@westpres.org](mailto: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...



## An Opportunity to say “Thank You”

As I’ve said before, I’ve never served a congregation as committed to caring for their Seniors than Westminster. Our Deacons are each assigned a shut-in. They make regular communications with their shut-in and make personal visits, as well. I am touched by how often I go to visit a shut-in at the hospital and the person requests that I call their Deacon. In those moments when there is a death, I almost always see the deceased person’s Deacon at the funeral, continuing their call by offering support to the family. It is not unusual for Deacons, who are no longer on the board, to continue going to visit their shut-in because their friendships have become so deep.

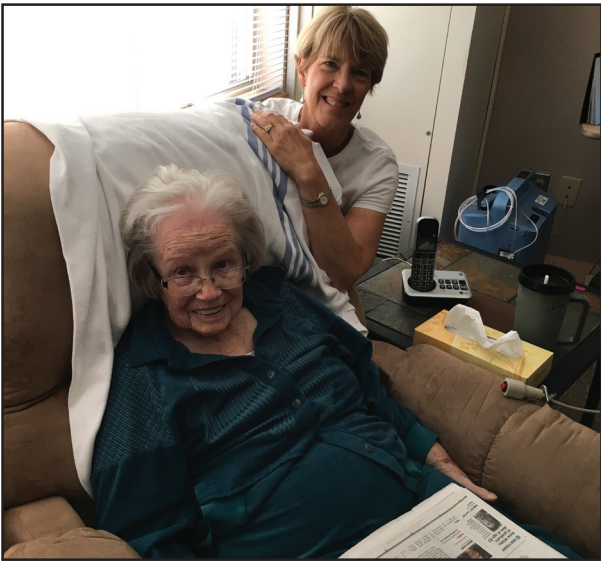
Along with Deacon care, we have the blessing of three individuals in our congregation who give so much of themselves in providing ongoing care and offering the sacrament of Holy Communion. Rev. Dick Kiefer, Linda Blair and Jan Bannister make regular visits to our shut-ins and keep up with their lives and spiritual needs. These three are also great communicators, sharing information with the pastors and the Board of Deacons, so we can remain regularly informed of a person’s needs.

Our congregation is also blessed with Rev. Ken Arentson’s continued pastoral care. Ken volunteers part time making hospital visits, performing some funerals, and responding to other pastoral issues that arise. His knowledge of the church’s families and their histories makes him an invaluable resource. But most of all, his wisdom, faith, and compassion allows him to care in a uniquely meaningful way.

Finally, I am grateful for all of you. I cannot count the number of times members of our church family have come up to me, just to make sure I know about someone’s particular situation. Your love and concern for one another is moving. Please continue to watch out for one another. Get to know the people you sit near in worship. If they’ve been missing for a few weeks, ask around and make sure that all is well. Also, let me know if someone you know is hospitalized or struggling in any way. Never assume we know everyone’s situation. I would much rather be told ten times about someone, than miss an opportunity to offer care.

The ministry provided by those mentioned by name, and so many other members of our church, is an inspiration. Those I’ve mentioned today are a blessing, but they are not uniquely qualified to care. Any one of us can be a blessing - it just takes a little time and compassion. Even if you are not at a place where you can make visits, you can take a little time each day and offer prayers. It is as easy as going through the church directory. Go through the directory, and each day pray for two or three individuals or families. Your prayers can make a lasting difference.

Thank you, one and all, for the ways you offer care!



Marcy Nelson with her Deacon, Carolyn Larson

# Congratulations Graduating Seniors

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." - Jeremiah 29:11



Kathryn Ikeda

Kathryn will be graduating from Johnston High School. She plans to attend the London School of Economics and Political Science next year to study International Relations. Her favorite Westminster Wednesday memory is carving pumpkins with the Senior Highs.



Sarah Nelson

Sarah Nelson is graduating from Johnston High School. She has been awarded the Red Cord for making 5 blood donations in High School and the Silver Cord for completing 150 volunteer hours. Sarah was the front line section leader in Marching Band, was accepted into the Teen Clay Academy at the Des Moines Art Center, and was involved in the school newspaper her senior year. She has been accepted at the University of Iowa and plans on majoring in nursing. Her favorite part of Westminster Wednesday this year has been the interfaith field trips that showcased how different faiths are more alike than different.



Briar Conrey

Briar is graduating from Urbandale High School. She is part of the Urbandale Singers and was the show choir captain. She has also been involved in the "Hope in Action" club as well as starting a coding club at a local elementary school. She plans to attend DMACC for her associate's degree, and then eventually to save the planet. She has spent so many of her Wednesdays with her friends at Westminster that she couldn't possibly pick one favorite memory!



Sam Knoshaug

Sam Knoshaug plans to attend Simpson College in Indianola, majoring in Biology. Sam will also be on the football team at Simpson. He plans to attend medical school after Simpson. Sam is graduating from Roosevelt High School on May 26, 2018. He also attended Central Academy. While at Roosevelt, Sam earned 3 varsity letters in football and was a two-time all-district performer and was named to the academic all-state team. He earned 2 varsity letters in basketball and was named to the all-district team. He also earned academic letters all 4 years of high school.



Oliver Carrell

Oliver Carrell is graduating from Roosevelt High School this year. Next year he plans to attend Iowa State University to double major in Mass Communication & Journalism, and Advertising. Oliver had a hard time choosing a favorite memory because between the countless lock-ins, games of Sardines, late night talks and the Senior High mission trip to Florida, they all have a special place in his heart. He guesses that means that Westminster is his favorite memory.



Rylin Kleese

Rylin Kleese plans to attend DMACC and study graphic design. While attending Hoover High School, Rylin was involved in baseball, basketball, track, bowling, golf, and the newspaper. Rylin was the Co-Editor in Chief of *The Challenger* his senior year. He was also a 3-year letter winner in baseball and a 2-year letter winner in golf and bowling.

# GOD'S GARDEN REFUGEE GARDEN PLOTS

A COLLABORATION OF  
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
AND LUTHERAN SERVICES IN IOWA

The Social Justice Committee and the God's Garden Team are excited to announce that God's Garden is relocating and expanding! The new garden will be located in the north parking lot and will be a partnership with Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI). The space will provide small community garden plots for 19 refugee families near their homes. Community gardening helps support refugee assimilation and stabilizes refugee families by reconnecting farmers with the land as they build their new life in the U.S.

After one year in LSI's community garden program, farmers are eligible to participate in the Global Greens program. The Global Greens farm, shown in pictures on the next page, is located behind Valley Community Center in West Des Moines. In this program, farmers can learn more about U.S. agriculture and start their own business by selling produce at LSI's Farmers' Market and in LSI's Community Supported Agriculture Program (CSA).

Construction on the garden began in April with asphalt removal in the back part of the north parking lot. If all goes according to plan, we anticipate that families can begin planting at the end of May.

We need your help to make this exciting mission happen! There will be several opportunities this spring to help with this exciting mission.

Two Work Saturdays have been scheduled for May 5 and May 19 from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Volunteers of all skill levels are welcome. Jobs will include spreading and mixing soil, moving and organizing sheds, building garden beds and paths, laying down weed barrier, mulching paths, and much more!

If you are unable to help during the work days, you can still pitch-in. There will be several opportunities to donate garden supplies. Please keep an eye out for requests in upcoming E-blasts and bulletin inserts.

We would like to thank Jeff Geerts for the countless hours he has worked to make this project happen. We would also like to thank the City of Des Moines for donating the soil for the garden, Central Iowa Fencing for providing fencing materials at cost, and to Josh Hays for agreeing to install the fence at no cost to Westminster.

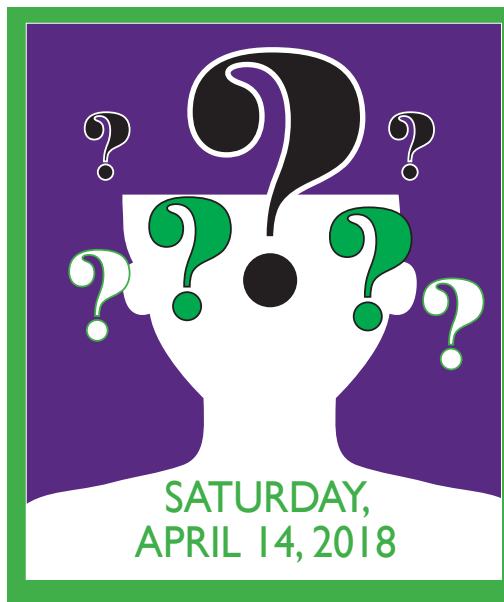


# TRIVIA NIGHT

## A SUCCESS!

A big "thank you," to everyone who provided silent auction items, promoted the event, wrote trivia questions, helped with set up on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and, of course, to all our volunteers that evening. And, another round of applause to those who supported CROSS by attending this year's successful Trivia Night.

Our emcee, Brad Anderson, was fantastic. The beverage station organizer, hosts helping our guests find seats, those tallying trivia scores, our table judges (and their great 70's outfits), folks helping with checkout, running the PowerPoint and managing our silent auction bids - all these things came together beautifully, because of your efforts! Tallying all of our checkout sheets, and including matching funds and dollars from tickets, we raised over \$13,000 for CROSS Ministries!



Upcoming Events and Activities at Westminster

Church Events:

**Focus Group - Newly Marrieds to Preschool Parents**  
Sunday, May 6, 9:00 a.m.  
Seminary Center

**Blood Drive -**  
Tuesday, May 8, 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.  
The Commons, West Parking Lot

**Hymn Festival Worship Service -**  
Sunday, May 13, 10 a.m.

Education:

**Discipleship Group - Good Samaritan**  
Sundays, May 6 and May 20, 9:00 a.m.  
Simmerman Lounge

**Discipleship Group - #screentime**  
Sundays (through May 20), 11:00 a.m.  
Classroom 304-E

**"All Things Considered "**  
**Current Issues Forum**  
Sundays (through May 20), 11:00 a.m.  
See westpres.org/atc for upcoming speakers. Meets in the Chapel.

**Pastor's Reception for Visitors**  
Sunday, May 13, 11:15 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, 6:30 p.m.  
Seminary Center (through May 23)

**Westminster Book Club**  
Wednesday, May 2, 6:30 p.m.  
Simmerman Lounge - "The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry" by Gabrielle Zevin.

**Presbyterian Women: Hope Circle**  
Meets first Thursday of the month  
Thursday, May 3, 10:00 a.m.  
Simmerman Lounge

**Restaurant Group I**  
meets the first Saturday of each month.  
They will meet May 5, at 5:15 p.m.,  
Noah's Restaurant

**Cooking for the Homeless**  
Monday, May 7, 8:30 a.m., Kitchen

**Pizza Lovers' Small Group**  
Tuesday, May 8, 5:15 p.m.  
Godfather's Pizza

**Gay Lesbian Straight Affirmation (GLSA) Group**  
Sunday, May 20, 9:30 a.m.  
Chapel. All welcome, go to westpres.org/glsa for more information.

**Presbyterian Women: Eve Circle**  
Meets fourth Tuesday of the month  
Tuesday, May 22, 7:00 p.m.  
Simmerman Lounge

**Stitchin' Time**  
Thursday, May 24, 1:00 p.m.  
Hope Alcove

**Afternoon Bridge**  
Thursday, May 24, 1:00 p.m.  
Simmerman Lounge

**Messenger Volunteers**  
Tuesday, May 29, 10:00 a.m.  
The Commons

Music:

**Westminster Chorale**  
Rehearsals on most Thursdays, 7:00 p.m.  
Music Room, and continue Thursdays through May 17.

Committee Meetings

**Church & World**  
Tuesday, May 1, 5:30 p.m. , Library

**Deacons**  
Sunday, May 6, 11:00 a.m.  
Seminary Center

**CE Youth Committee**  
Monday, May 7, 5:30 p.m.  
Library

**CE Adult Committee**  
Monday, May 7, 6:00 p.m.  
Simmerman Lounge

**Westminster Foundation**  
Tuesday, May 8, 7:30 a.m.  
Seminary Center

**Outreach Unit**  
Tuesday, May 8, 6:00 p.m.  
Westminster Hall

**Church & Community**  
Tuesday, May 8, 6:30 p.m.  
Westminster Hall

**Social Justice**  
Tuesday, May 8, 6:30 p.m.  
Hope Alcove

**Human Resources**  
Monday, May 14, 5:30 p.m.  
Seminary Center

**Nominating Committee**  
May 10 & 24, 5:30 p.m.  
Seminary Center

**Finance & Administration**  
Monday, May 14, 6:30 p.m.  
Seminary Center

**Building and Grounds**  
Wednesday, May 16, 5:00 p.m.  
Seminary Center

**Session Visioning Meeting**  
Sunday, May 20, 11:10 a.m.  
Westminster Hall

**CE Children's Committee**  
Sunday, May 20, 11:10 a.m.  
Main Office

**Session**  
Monday, May 21, 6:30 p.m.  
Seminary Center

**Worship, Music and Arts**  
Tuesday, May 22, 6:00 p.m.  
Seminary Center

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS



by Tiffany Hays, Interim Christian Education Director

I am so excited to lead the Rafters of our congregation on the ride of a lifetime this summer at Vacation Bible School! Now that Easter has passed, I am able to focus my energies on creating a unique experience for children to cultivate their faith in the midst of what I anticipate will be another steamy Iowa summer. From July 16th – 20th over 100 children, youth, and volunteers will fill Westminster with energy and excitement, as we gather together and discover God’s promise to be with each of us, as we pass through waters both calm and tumultuous in our lives.

To make this memorable week the very best experience, I need your help. We are in need of a number of volunteers to lead groups and activities during VBS week, to prepare props and set up all of the various rooms we will use before VBS begins, and to help tear everything down and put it all away, after VBS is over. We will be gathering donations of needed supplies as we get closer to VBS. If God is calling you to support our ministry in any of these areas, please touch base with me on a Sunday here at Westminster, email me at thays@westpres.org, or stop by the office and speak with Susan.



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

**Nursery Faith Formation**  
Every Sunday (through May 20), 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 (through May 20), 9:00 a.m.  
in Children's Classrooms

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

**Faith Formation Sunday - 6th to 12th Grade**  
Every Sunday (through May 20), 9:00 a.m.  
in Classrooms

**Senior High Mission Trip/Focus Group**  
Sunday, May 6, 11:00 a.m., Simmerman Lounge

**Sunday Worship/Senior Recognition Sunday**  
May 20, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

# WESTMINSTER Messenger

4114 Allison Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50310-3398

**Address Service Requested**

PERIODICALS

## Finding God's Word at Westminster

On April 18, the Children's Christian Education Committee painted rocks with kids aged preschool through 7th grade. Each rock had a verse applied to one side and was hidden somewhere within our church. Throughout the summer, the Children's Christian Education Committee and the children of Westminster challenge YOU to find God's word at Westminster.

Take a photo of the rock you found, read the verse on the back and share your photo with the verse on social media. Once you have completed these tasks, please find a new spot for the rock to be found by another member.

The children are excited, because whomever created the rock that is found and shared the most between May 1st and August 30th gets to choose the dessert for one of our Westminster Wednesday Faith Formation dinners next year!

#RockGodsWord

#WestPresDM

