

Westminster Messenger – January 2018

*With Christ as our Cornerstone we
Believe, Become, Belong, Build*

*Keep my steps steady according to your promise, and never let iniquity
have dominion over me. Psalm 119:133*



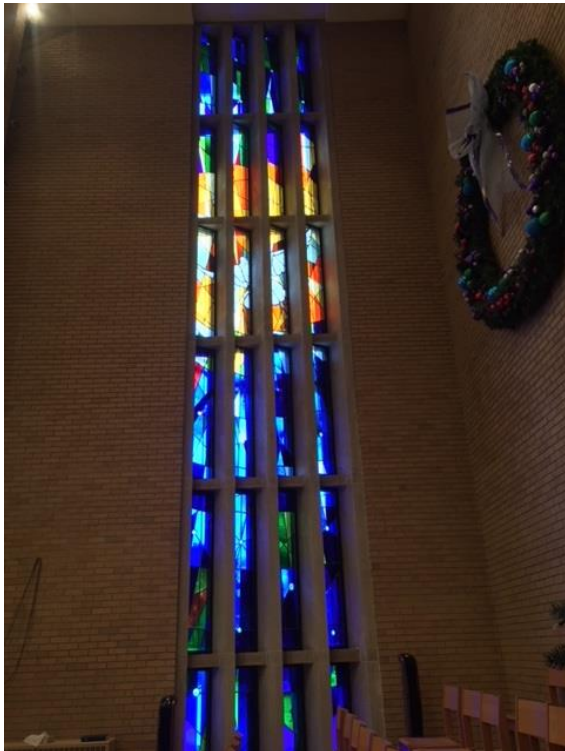
Keep moving forward will be our theme as we begin 2018! At Westminster we enjoyed a wonderful 2017 and as your Senior Pastor I am so thankful for each of the gifts you all shared over the past 12 months. Between your financial gifts and the gifts of your time, we were able to bring much glory to God and make a difference in our neighborhood and wider world. A woman at the Christmas dinner asked me, "How do you do this every year?" My immediate response included two facts, God's amazing faithfulness and the team work so evident at Westminster.

So now we move forward into 2018 and I challenge us all to keep our steps in line with God's plan for us. The Sunday that I candidated for the Associate Pastor position back in March of 2004 the choir sang the anthem, "Order My Steps"; those lyrics have stayed with me over the years.

*Order my steps in Your word dear Lord
Lead me, guide me every day
Send Your anointing, Father I pray;
Order my steps in Your word
Please, order my steps in Your word*

May we all be challenged to move forward and let God guide us. Let us rejoice in our Seeking New Paths progress with the addition taking shape literally and our new beautiful chancel stained glass window. We also have a new laser projector in the Shared Life Center.

Thank you for your support and prayers as we move to the New Year!!
Pastor Tricia



Congregational Meeting - Sunday, January 28

Just a reminder that we will have our annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 28 following our 9:00 worship service. This meeting will be held in the Social Hall.

The Annual Reports for 2017 will be available on Sunday, January 21 for you to review prior to the meeting.

Sermon Series

In the New Year we will dive deep into the fourth gospel, the gospel of John. John is known for its great symbols of life through Jesus. Get ready to move forward with fresh and helpful insights into what matters to Jesus!



January 7	"What Matters: Come and See John"	John 1:35-51
January 14	"What Matters: Always Enough"	John 2:1-11
January 21	"What Matters: It's Just(ice) Business"	John 2:13-25
January 28	"What Matters: Soul Repair"	John 3:1-21

Music Ministry

Worship with us Sundays at:

9:00 am for Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary and 11:15 am for Contemporary Worship in the Shared Life Center.



Special Music for this month:

January 7	9:00 am 11:15 am	Sanctuary Shared Life Center	Chancel Choir Worship Team
January 14	9:00 am 11:15 am	Sanctuary Shared Life Center	Chancel Choir, Messenger Choir Worship Team, Westminster Chimes
January 21	9:00 am 11:15 am	Sanctuary Shared Life Center	Chancel Choir Worship Team, LightShine Choir
January 28	9:00 am 11:15 am	Sanctuary Shared Life Center	Meisteringers Worship Team, Church Mice

Musical Opportunities about at Westminster!

The start of a new year is a wonderful time to consider joining one of the many musical ensembles at Westminster! There is opportunity for everyone, and all are invited!

For the youngest musicians our Church Mice choir rehearses on Wednesday nights from 6-6:20 pm and is open to all children age 3 through Kindergarten. For students in first through fifth grade our Messenger choir meets Wednesdays from 5-5:35 pm and is a wonderful opportunity to come together and make music while having fun and building friendships.



Bells ring and Boomwhackers sing in our Westminster Chimes ensemble that is open to students starting in 4th grade. This youth handbell program meets Wednesday afternoons from 4:15-5 pm. No musical training is needed- we will learn to read as we play!

The LightShine choir is a great opportunity for Junior High & High School students to keep on singing with their church friends! Spring is always an exciting time for LightShine as the choir will present a musical on April 15th featuring solos, group songs, and acting.

Westminster's adult music ensembles provide a chance for busy adults to come together and sing or play God's praises. For those interested in playing music the Meisteringers Bell Choir meets Wednesday evenings from 6-7:15pm and provides a wide range of bell music for Sunday morning worship once a month September through May. The Chancel Choir rehearses Wednesday nights from 7:30-9pm and sings at most 9am services throughout the September through May program year.

For those looking to satisfy their contemporary music craving, the Worship Team rehearses Thursdays from 7-8pm and sings in the 11:15 am Jacob's Well Service each Sunday. The Worship Team is always excited to welcome new singers and instrumentalists (keyboard, guitar, bass, drums, woodwinds) to the ensemble!

For those who are craving to sing but might not be able to make it to weekly rehearsals, the Unity Choir sings 6 times per year during our single service Sundays with worship at 10am. The Unity Choir offers ultimate rehearsal flexibility as the music is learned in both the Chancel Choir & Worship Team rehearsals two weeks before the performance weekend.

For more information about the music program please contact Patrick Marchant at patrick@wpcw.org or call 234-5501.

Formation

Wes Pres Youth

HAPPY NEW YEAR! We had a very eventful 2017 and it is hard to believe that we have moved into 2018 already.

Our youth finished the year with a number of activities. We began December with 40 of our youth caroling to our members at Landmark Commons and Friendship Village. My thanks to Stacy Hesse, Shawna Buckley and Dee Jordan for helping to transport our youth.

CONFIRMATION

Our confirmation group has been active in our classes and in our church. They helped at our Christmas brunch and did a wonderful job of serving our members and cleaning up! Classes will resume on January 7.

PLAN AHEAD!!!

We are officially in the planning stages of our summer trips! It's never too early to do this so please mark your calendars for these events!

SENIOR HIGHS

We will be returning to Puerto Rico and helping our friends recover from hurricane Maria damage. Depending on our flights, we will leave the Cedar Rapids airport on June 10 and return either June 16 or 17.

There will be a meeting on Tuesday, January 30. We will meet in the chapel at 6:30 pm. I will share the final costs and other specifics of the trip with you at that time!

JUNIOR HIGHS

Our junior highs will be traveling to the Green Lake Conference Center for our summer trip to Great Escape. We will be attending this year's camp July 9 - 14. Please let me know if your son or daughter will be attending this year's camp. If we make our reservations before Feb. 1 your cost will be \$444.00 per student. Any time after the 1st the price will be \$469.00.

There will be an informational and sign-up meeting on Monday, January 22 in the Chapel at 6:30 pm.

Please make your reservations ASAP to assure the lower cost for this camp.

PLEASE NOTE:

Our Wednesday night youth will resume on January 3. We will participate in our "Come Together" evening. Senior highs will help with the carnival which will be from 6:30 to 7:15 in the Shared Life center.

Peace,
Scott Cose

Wes Pres Kids

What a wonderful year 2017 turned out to be! December was a huge success! The children did a wonderful job performing their "Starry Night, Noisy Night" Christmas Musical at the 5:00 pm service on Christmas Eve. It is a joy to see the children participating in church activities. We are blessed with children that love to be active in their church.



Ladies and Gentlemen! Boys and Girls! Get ready for the Westminster Winter Carnival on January 3rd! This fun night will begin with a high-energy, family-friendly worship service in the Sanctuary at 6:00 pm. Following worship, all are welcome to come and participate in the Carnival games in the Shared Life Center until 7:15 pm.

Complimentary concessions and prizes will also be available. This is sure to be a great night! See you there!

The regular Discovery Night schedule and classes will resume on January 10th, following the Carnival on the 3rd, which is our COME TOGETHER event for January.

Sunday School resumes January 7. There will be NO Sunday School on January 28th, due to the Congregational Meeting. All the children, Preschool through 5th grade, are welcome to meet on the 3rd floor for supervised activities while their parents attend the meeting. There will be NO Sunday School on February 4th. We will be having one service at 10:00 am that morning, with a special choir presentation.

Adult Education Opportunities

Intro to the Gospel of John - January 7 (1 week)

The 4th Gospel is often noted for being quite different from the first 3, less historically accurate, more anti-Semitic, and with a lot of extra flowery theological language. Why is that? And is it true? What else is unique about the Gospel of John?

These questions and more will guide us as we get a drive by on the John's Gospel which we will be using in worship through Easter.

Location: Chapel Facilitator: Pastor Dan.

Communication and Conflict Management

Compassion, humility, patience...important Christian attributes but, often difficult to exercise and maintain in the face of conflict, whether it be minor disagreements or ongoing arguments. None of us are immune to conflict. This four week class will help participants understand their own conflict style, conflict triggers, the positives and negatives associated with conflict, and the roles power, defensiveness, and other emotions have in conflict situations as well as learn how to be more grace-filled and offer forgiveness. **Begins January 7. Location: Room 216. Facilitators: Eric & Lori Johnson**

Mental Health - January 14

Mental Health issues are of huge importance but are often ignored in family and cultural conversations. Probably because so many of us are not sure what to say or think about them. During this month, beginning on January 14th, Thomas Eachus, the Executive Director for Black Hawk Grundy Mental Health Center will be coming to talk about all things mental health: services (or lack thereof), how families deal with significant mental illness, how to talk about, how to be a church that is more inclusive to those with mental illness, and much more. You are encouraged to bring your own questions and Tom is hoping those will also guide class discussion. This class is not to be missed and will gather in the chapel.



The Journey

This adult discipleship class is an in depth study over 15 weeks and is now full/closed.

Weekday Adult Opportunities

Mondays

Bible Study for Women:

Rev. Cathy Young leads a weekly, in-depth Bible study for women from 9:00 to 10 am on Mondays in Room 216. All women of Westminster and the wider Cedar Valley are invited to attend the study. The group is studying the gospel of Luke. Women are asked to bring their favorite Bible. **When:** Monday's at 9:00 am. **Where:** Room 216. **Facilitator:** Rev. Cathy Young

Bible Study for Men: Join us on Monday's at 9:00 am in Room 216. Benefits galore are available: sharing insights, relishing in God's grace, watching fellow men grow in knowledge and also in spiritual strength. You are not required to bring any biblical knowledge with you other than an ability and desire to meet "brothers in Christ." Currently they are studying the Reformation. **When:** Monday's at 9:00 am. **Where:** Adult Library. **Facilitator:** Rev. Dan Voigt.

Sweet Hour of Prayer: Join with us to review prayer joys and concerns of our extended church family. All are welcome. **When:** Monday's at 1:30 pm. **Where:** Pastor Tricia's Office.

Wednesdays

Centering Prayer

Meets Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 8:30 am in the Chapel and Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm.

Men's Retreat "Vital Signs" - February, 2018

On February 16 - 18, 2018 join Pastor Dan for a "spiritual heart, eye, hearing and lung exam" with Rev. Dr. Tom Tewell. Rev. Tewell is the Executive Director of Macedonian Ministries. We will explore our spiritual health and delve into prescriptions from the Great Physician himself, Jesus Christ. This retreat is being held at the Lakeshore Center in Okoboji, IA. Contact Pastor Dan with interest or questions. You can register on line at <https://www.lakeshorecenteratokoboji.org/adults.html> or there are hard copies in the church office you can fill out. Scholarships are available.

Church Bookies

Calling all women! You are invited to join us on the third Sunday of the month. Our next meeting is Sunday, January 21 at 7:00 pm.

A look ahead at books to read:

January: *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult

February: *Brain on Fire* by Susannah Cahalan

March: *Braving the Wilderness* by Brene Brown



Contact Cindy Harmon with any questions at 268-0049 home or 239-9761 cell.

Resources

Finance

Budget Summary for November, 2017.

BUDGET SUMMARY					
	NOVEMBER	NOVEMBER	YTD	YTD	BUDGET
	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 48,551.90	\$ 64,411.19	\$ 670,018.74	\$ 619,993.93	\$ 828,554.00
ADMINISTRATION	\$ 1,808.14	\$ 2,958.37	\$ 35,629.35	\$ 38,035.30	\$ 43,650.00
OPER & MAINT	\$ 3,497.11	\$ 2,470.20	\$ 69,087.09	\$ 77,563.31	\$ 99,500.00
CHRISTIAN ED	\$ 1,336.08	\$ 2,167.70	\$ 15,971.59	\$ 19,448.38	\$ 23,300.00
PERSONNEL	\$ 44,354.54	\$ 44,823.99	\$ 456,415.83	\$ 422,300.73	\$ 530,045.00
MISSION	\$ 7,009.66	\$ 2,485.09	\$ 63,946.39	\$ 72,293.75	\$ 82,000.00
MUSIC & WORSHIP	\$ 718.22	\$ 1,530.08	\$ 11,036.66	\$ 10,093.25	\$ 15,000.00
STEWARDSHIP	\$ 832.51	\$ 577.11	\$ 1,123.79	\$ 971.22	\$ 1,500.00
HOSPITALITY & DEACONS	\$ 106.58	\$ 284.20	\$ 3,258.19	\$ 3,676.01	\$ 5,000.00
MEMBERSHIP & OUTREACH	\$ 189.52	\$ 330.70	\$ 2,901.74	\$ 2,379.79	\$ 5,700.00
PER CAPITA	\$ 1,904.91	\$ 1,822.67	\$ 20,954.01	\$ 20,049.37	\$ 22,859.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 61,757.27	\$ 59,450.11	\$ 680,324.64	\$ 666,811.11	\$ 828,554.00
REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$ (13,205.37)	\$ 4,961.08	\$ (10,305.90)	\$ (46,817.18)	

AmazonSmile

Have you heard of AmazonSmile?

What is Amazon Smile - it is a simple and automatic way for you to support Westminster Presbyterian every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you will find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase to Westminster Presbyterian.

How do you shop at AmazonSmile? To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and starting your shopping.

Which products on AmazonSmile are eligible for charitable donations? Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages. Recurring Subscribe-and-Save purchases and subscription renewals are not currently eligible.

Can you use your existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile? Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry and other account settings are also the same.

How do you select a charitable organization to support when shopping on AmazonSmile? On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. AmazonSmile will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

How much of your purchase does Amazon donate? The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes or service charges. From time to time, there may be offer specials, limited time promotions that increase the donation amount on one or more products or services for additional donations.

Can you receive a tax deduction for amounts donated from your purchases on AmazonSmile? Donations are made by the AmazonSmile Foundation and are not tax deductible by you.

Please consider this easy way to help support Westminster Presbyterian Church. If you have any questions on this, please contact Becky at the church 234-5501 or email Becky@wpcw.org.

Thank you
Finance Committee

Scrip Cards



SCRIP is a program where the church purchases prepaid gift cards at a discount (ranging from 1.25-16%) and then sells them at face value. The discount goes into an account that can be used for a variety of uses based upon the church's needs.

Gift cards can be used to give as gifts, to make everyday purchases, or to help maintain your monthly budget. We offer quite a variety including gas, grocery, restaurants, movie theater, clothing, crafts, home improvement, sports, car repair, Visa & Discover and SO much more.

If you purchase one \$25.00 gift card each month for a year, you could raise \$20.00 for the church. For 300 members to make that commitment could mean \$6,000.00 for 1 year. Think of the possibilities!

The SCRIP table will be open the first and third Sunday in the Welcome Center. SCRIP is also available in the office Monday-Friday. Click [HERE](#) for the current scrip list! Fill it out and bring it with you on Sunday mornings to have your order filled! Cards that we do not have available can be ordered for you.

Don't forget to share this opportunity with friends and family- the more the merrier!

If you have any questions or would like to special order cards, please reach out to Sarah Hellman at sari@cfu.net or contact the church office.

Mission

Free Christmas Day dinner Thank You!

Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped make the Free Christmas Day dinner a success! Over 600 meals were served and handed out "to go". Whether you were here helping to serve, clean up or you made a pie many thanks to each of you for your help and participation!



Free Community Breakfast-Sat. January 6 - 8:00 am

How does a delicious homemade breakfast sound, along with a time of fellowship? You are invited to attend our monthly community breakfast, held on the first Saturday of the month. The men of Westminster cook up a delicious meal and there is a time of devotion and fellowship. We'd love for you to join us and bring a friend or two!

Sunday Supper Update

The ministry of Sunday Supper continues every Sunday evening at First Presbyterian Church in Waterloo! Have you attended yet? It is a great way to meet community friends and enjoy a great meal together!

It starts at 5 pm in the lower level of First Pres which is located at 505 Franklin Street. If you would like to lend a hand some Sunday with the food prep, hospitality or clean up please see the schedule which is located in the Welcome Center. There are TWO different shifts to choose from:

- * OPEN which is 3:30 pm to 5:40 pm and this includes food prep, serving line or greeting
- * CLOSING which is 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm and could include serving, assisting with carrying trays and the inevitable joy of clean up!

Volunteers are always needed! Check out the sign up sheets in the Welcome Center! Please contact Mary Lisa Mueller [319-274-9650](tel:319-274-9650) with any questions.

Care

Deacon Medical Equipment Lending Program

We have available the following items to be loaned on a short term basis to Westminster members:

Wheel Chair, Walker, Bed Rail, Shower Chair, Cane, Crutches and others.

Due to the generous donation from a Westminster Church family, we now have available an electric wheelchair if there is ever a need.

Contact the church office if you are in need or should you have any items that we can use, please let us know by calling 234-5501. Thank you!

Other Church News

Fusion Epiphany Party

Our Fusion Event for the Month will be to have one last Christmas Celebration.

You might say, "No Way! Christmas is over." But you would be wrong my friend. The Traditional Christmas holiday lasts until January 6th (also called Epiphany and a.k.a. The last day it's okay to have your Christmas Lights on).



Our new Music Director Patrick Marchant has offered to host this one. And when you see his house you will know why (100 Derbyshire, W'loo, 01).

We'll gather at 6pm on Saturday, January 6th. Patrick will provide a main course and drinks and we all will provide the rest. Not to try and deter anyone, but in an attempt to allow us to converse a bit easier we would like this one to be for adults only. If child care is an issue, please let me know and we will have a solution for you.

Please RSVP and don't forget to dress festive, because it's still Christmas!!

Pastor Dan

Over 60 Fellowship - Thursday, January 18

We'll start our day with lunch at Basal's Wood-fired Pizza! From there we will go to the Grout Museum which features: *From the Prairie to the Trenches: Iowans in the Great War*, *The Cold War Ablaze: Iowans in the Korean War*, plus so much more.

We will meet at the church and leave by 11:15 am. Cost is for your lunch and \$10 per person fee for the Grout Museum.

Please RSVP by noon Wednesday, January 17. 234-5501.

Friendship Village Lunch and Communion

We will have lunch and communion at the Village Place Tea Room on Thursday, January 25 at 11:30 am. Please call the church office to make a reservation by Tuesday, January 23.

Winter Warm Up! Chili/Soup Cook-off Sunday, January 28 at 6:00 pm

Calling all chefs! Time to get those recipes out for your best chili or soup! We'll gather in the Shared Life Center for this fun event. Come up with a great theme! Prizes are awarded not only for the best chili or soup, but also decorations for your table! Free tickets for anyone who submits an entry! Pick up your entry form in the office or at the special display beginning January 14. Tickets are \$3 adult, \$1 for 12 & under, \$8 per household.



Beverages and Desserts are provided by the Hospitality Team. Any questions see Pastor Tricia.

Friendship Club does not meet in January.

Presbyterian Women

Executive Board: No board meeting in January.

Circles: Wednesday, January 17 at 10:00 am in the Children's Library.

Lesson 7: Jesus, According to the Non-Canonical Gospels. Read Matthew 1-2, Luke 1-2.



PIECEMAKERS meets each Thursday 9:00 - 12:00.

Our mission will continue to make quilts and children's clothing. We welcome new members. Drop by on any Thursday to get acquainted and see how your talent could help out.

The Piecemakers quilting group is seeking new members! This group meets Thursdays from 9:00 am to noon, on the 2nd floor of the church, across from room 216. No sewing or quilting experience is needed! If you are interested in joining us, we are happy to teach you some basic skills. We need people who are willing to sew a basic straight stitch in order to put the quilt blocks together, as well as those who would like to tie the layers of the quilt together with a needle and yarn. We support our local community by donating our finished quilts to the Red Cross, pregnancy centers, and foster care programs. If you want more information about joining this fun and rewarding ministry, please contact Alisa Engelhardt.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Just a reminder that there are prayer shawls available in the Welcome Center for you to take to someone you know who may be sick, have a new baby or just maybe needs a hug of love. These shawls were made by a very special group of women who then prayed over them. Please feel free to take one for yourself as well!



As a reminder, this group meets on the 4th Monday of the month at 9:30 am in the children's library! We would love for you to join us!

Thank You's

Thanks for all your prayers, cards and calls during our recent health issues. A special thanks to the Deacons for their food ministry. We are blessed to have such a caring church family. *John and Jean Butler*

My heartfelt thanks for your thoughts and prayers on my journey with cancer. I am now a survivor. To God be the glory. *Nancy Hoffman*

Session Minutes

No minutes to report as Session did not meet in December.

Our Condolences

- Evan "Curly" Hultman and his family on the passing of his wife Betty
 - The family of past member Marian Miller who passed away
 - The family of past member Steven Kline who passed away
-

Westminster Church Calendar

To view all the events happening at Westminster, please visit our website at www.wpcw.org. The church calendar can be found on our home page.