Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:1-2

January can be a difficult month here in Iowa. A feeling of restlessness can overtake us as the days can be long and dark. The thought of escaping to a warm beach in the Caribbean seems so inviting. The reality for most of us is that we need to figure out how to live these days with hope and not just survive them. We are after all God’s beloved children, as the apostle Paul reminds us in the verse above, and we’re called to be imitators of God. Wow, what a calling!

For 2019, our theme is “Growth Begins With Us” this theme was birthed out of our leadership retreat last April. In church life we give a lot of energy and attention to what church growth experts refer to as “noses and nickels.” We have great anxiety over attendance and budget and we lose the important exercise of looking at our own heart as a disciple of Christ. So we will have tremendous emphasis on our own spiritual growth through personal devotions, education classes, worship and service. Please remember to attend our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 27 at 10:10 am in the Social Hall.

Special thanks to all who made our Advent season and Christmas celebration so meaningful and abundant. As we’ve celebrated the new born king, let us give Christ our transformed hearts in this New Year.

With Peace and Hope,
Pastor Tricia

Congregational Meeting - Sunday, January 27
Just a reminder that we will have our annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 27 following our 9:00 worship service. This meeting will be held in the Social Hall.

The Annual Reports for 2018 will be available on Sunday, January 20 for you to review prior to the meeting.

Wednesday Worship and Carnival - January 9
Discovery Night will be starting up on January 9th with our 2nd Annual Winter Carnival. Starting at 6pm we will have a fun worship together, followed by the Carnival in the SLC from 6:30-7:15. There will be games for all ages, snacks, and of course prizes. Speaking of which, we are asking parents to donate any working and inexpensive toys they do not need anymore to be given away for our prizes that day. If you are interested in helping please talk to Pastor Dan dan@wpcw.org

Adult Education Sunday School
Pastor Dan will continue his Bible Class following the Sunday Lectionary in Room 216.

Stay tuned for more opportunities later in the month.

Musical Opportunities abound 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!

Kids & Youth Ensembles
Westminster Chimes Handbell Ensemble (Grades 4-12) meets Wednesdays from 4:15-5:00
Church Mice Choir (Ages 3-Kindergarten) meets Wednesdays from 5:30-5:50
Messengers Choir (Grades 1-5) meets Wednesdays from 5-5:30
LightShine Choir (Grades 6-12) meets Wednesdays from 6:45-7:30
**Adult Ensembles**
Meisteringers Handbell Ensemble meets Wednesdays from 5:30-6:45  
Chancel Choir meets Wednesdays from 7:30-8:45  
Contemporary Team rehearses on Thursdays from 6:30-7:30. Contact Patrick to get on the schedule!  
For more information about the music program please contact Patrick Marchant at patrick@wpcw.org or 319.234.5501 ext 110

**Promise Academy Spring 2019 Registration is Open!**
Registration for the Promise Academy's Spring Semester is open! Visit our website for more information or contact Patrick Marchant! Registrations are due by Wednesday, January 9, at 9am. http://promisemusic.org

**January Music Schedule**
Jan 6: 9am- Hannah Jacobs & Jocelyn Roof, 11:15- Worship Team
Jan 13: 9am- Chancel Choir, 11:15- Worship Team
Jan 20: 9am- Chancel Choir, 11:15am- Messengers & Worship Team
Jan 27: 9am- Meisteringers, 11:15am- Worship Team

**Wes Pres Youth**
“What is Worship” will be Wes Pres Youth’s series to kick off the 2019 year! We live in a world of chaotic timeframes, hectic schedules, and long to-do lists. Worship can not only be confusing and overwhelming, but it can also become a thing to push to the side when lives gets to be too much. This series will explore the idea that with music, prayer, gifts, and study, worship brings rejuvenation and restoration. Keep up with us on social media to see how our week to week unfolds as we dig into “What is Worship”.

Our Jr. & Sr. High students are invited to our new ministry called “Summit Studies”. Summit Studies is a bible study for Wes Pres Youth students that will work on knowing each other more and more deeply – Sharing our hearts and lives, praying for one another, asking questions, and digging deeper into a relationship with Jesus Christ. The Summit Studies that begin the week of January 7th will be:

- Monday mornings at 8am for Cedar Falls Sr. High Students at Sidecar Coffee on College Hill
- Wednesday Mornings at 6:30am for Waterloo Sr. High Students at Westminster’s Coffeehouse
- Thursday afternoons at 5:15pm for all Jr. High girls in Erica Fernandez’s office at Westminster

Erica Fernandez

**Thank you Alisa Engelhardt**
Join us Sunday, January 13th at 10 am for a "Thank You" reception for Alisa as we celebrate her 4 years of service as the Director of Children's Ministry. There will be cake!

**Deacon Medical Equipment Lending Program**
Just a reminder that 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 also have available an electric wheelchair if there is ever a need.
Contact the church office if you are in need by calling 234-5501. Thank you!
Chili Soup Cookoff!

Save the Date!
Sunday, February 10 will be our Annual Chili/Soup Cookoff!! Get those recipes ready!! Be sure this “delicious” event is on your calendar! Tickets will go on sale soon!

From the Finance Department

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Women’s Book Club
The next book club gathering is Sunday, January 20 at 6pm. All women are invited. The book to read for January is "Educated" by Tara Westover.

If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Harmon at 239-9761 or Sandy Lewis at 504-2802.

Hope to see you on the 20th!
Presbyterian Women
Executive Board: No board meeting in January.

Circles: Wednesday, January 16 at 10:00 am in the Children’s Library.

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.

Friendship Club
Meets next on Thursday, February 7. This is a time of fellowship, a potluck meal and a special program. We hope to see you there!

Please go to our website at www.wpcw.org to view the full church calendar.