

Westminster Messenger, December 2019

*Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.*
Psalm 98:4



In 1719, English composer Isaac Watts composed the most popular Christmas hymn ever, *Joy to the World*. He used the text from David's Psalm 98. This year we'll celebrate the 300th anniversary of this beautiful song. For me, Christmas is so much about the memories we hold in our hearts and minds of past Christmas celebrations. I always looked forward to the joyous singing of *Joy to the World* and I especially hold dear the phrase, 'let every heart prepare him room.'; for really this is the message of Christmas, do we have room in our hearts for Christ?

Our sermon series for Advent will consider the expansion of our hearts. We know we live in a world where there can be frustrations, yes, even in this most wonderful time of the year. Could we seek Christ and let go of the biases we have towards others or be rid of the bitterness in our soul regarding disappointments in 2019?

May this Advent season especially bless you as you attend Worship services, Cocoa & Carols, Live Nativity & Cantata and our beautiful Christmas Eve Services. Special thanks to all of our musicians who bless us so much with their talents and devotion. As an extra blessing this December please remember our beloved members who are unable to join us for Worship.

Consider sending them a Christmas card or stopping by with some Christmas cookies. If you need direction, we have a list of those members.

Please know how much our staff here at Westminster appreciates the privilege of leading you all and we're very excited about the new decade ahead as we serve Christ together.

With an expanding heart,
Pastor Tricia



G-Love Tree

We have placed a G-Love tree in the Welcome Center to receive your new, THICK gloves and mittens. The request has been made to us that those items are needed the most.

Your gifts will be received thru December 8.

From the Heart

The **From the Heart** project involves buying Christmas gifts (one clothing gift and one fun gift) for CINA Children (Children in Need of Assistance). These are children who are generally in foster care after being removed from their homes because of abuse or neglect.

There will be **hearts available on Sunday, December 1** and WRAPPED gifts will need to be **returned by Sunday, December 8**. Please make sure your heart is secured to your gift.



The children as well as the adults who support them have been very appreciative of our generous and caring support.

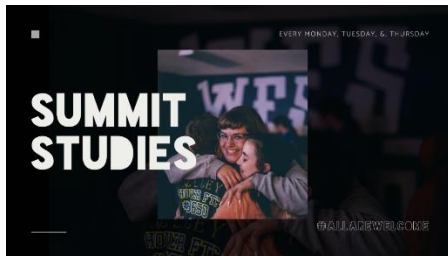
Adult Sunday School

The purpose of Advent is to make us pregnant with hope. For many, the holiday season is not filled with joy, family, and gifts, but anxiety, stress, and despair. Advent seeks to re-frame our experiences with new expectations, expectations that will not disappoint. It is the expectancy that new life will start to grow within all of us. However, we must be willing to make room for an interruption. Can we make that space to receive this gift?

Where: Chapel **Facilitator:** Pastor Dan **When:** December 1, 8, 15, 22

Wes Pres Youth

This upcoming Christmas season, Wes Pres Youth will be studying a series called, "The Stories of Christmas". This three-week series examines the many stories surrounding the narrative of Jesus's birth, as well as our call to worship him and love others. By understanding the Father's generous heart in offering Jesus to us, we can celebrate the joy of the season by giving back to God and to those around us. This series discusses several ideas: that evangelism is important during this season, that every believer is equipped to share through their testimony, and that the freedom of forgiveness enables us to touch the lives of those around us. Follow us on our social platforms to keep updated and encouraged throughout this beautiful season @wespresyouthia



This year our students have been kicking off our second year of 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. ALL are welcome. Sign your student(s) up today for a small group by filling out an interest on our new connection cards inside our bulletins on Sunday OR by reaching out to our youth director, Erica Rissi.

It's finally here, the moment you've all been waiting for: BYOC (Bring Your Own Cereal). Wes Pres is hosting a unique event bridging everyone's favorite breakfast cereals and a game night! On December 1st at 7pm your Jr. and Sr. High students are invited to join us for a game night like no other. Make sure to bring your very own unique/tasty/crazy breakfast cereal to the party! Follow us on our social media's for more info at @wespresyouthia



Finally, please follow this link to register your students for our 2019-2020 year of Wes Pres Youth. All of the information you will fill out will make it possible for our students to go on trips, to be involved in activities, and for us to have all of the information we need to keep your student(s) safe and invested in. Thank you so much! <https://wpcw.org/wpwreg/>

Erica Rissi

Jr. High Dance Schedule for 2019-2020

December 13, January 10, February 7, March 6, April 3, May 1.

If you are looking for an opportunity to help, chaperones are always needed to insure a safe and fun environment for the Jr. High kids who attend this event! Contact Erica at erica@wpcw.org to find out how you can help!





Save the Dates

December is a month full of wonderful music at Westminster! Bells will ring and carolers will sing, with musical events each weekend; there's something for everyone to enjoy!

On **Sunday, December 8** our **9:00 am** worship service will include the **Meisteringer's Bell Festival** filling the sanctuary with the beautiful ringing of bells from prelude to postlude and everything in between! That same day at **6:00 pm** **Cocoa & Carols** will continue the celebrations- the concert will be followed by a time of fellowship with cookies & cocoa. This year's Cocoa & Carols is sure to make a bright light shine in the night sky!

Sunday, December 15 our **Chancel Choir's Christmas Cantata "The Silence and the Sound"** will be presented in parts with the orchestra during the **9:00 am** worship service and in whole with the orchestra, lights, and running narration at **6:30 pm**. Heather Sorenson's "The Silence and the Sound" recites the narrative of the beautiful sound of Christ coming into the silence of that first Christmas night.

Our **youth Christmas Musical, "Christmas Spirit"** will be presented by the Messenger & LightShine choirs at the **5:00 pm worship service on Christmas Eve**. A trip through Christmas Past, Present, and Future, we'll journey alongside 3 kids and their time traveling grandma to discover the true meaning of Christmas.

December Music Schedule

- December 1: 9am: Hannah Jacobs, Erica & Whitney Rissi, 11:15am Praise Team
- December 8: 9am: Bell Festival, 11:15am Praise Team
- December 15: 9am: Choir Cantata, 11:15: Praise Team
- December 22: 9am: Messengers & Chancel Choir, 11:15: Praise Team
- December 29: 10am Worship in the Shared Life Center with Piano and Cello

Patrick Marchant

LIVE NATIVITY



ON DECEMBER 15TH 5:30 - 6:30 PM

AND OPEN AGAIN AFTER OUR CANTATA CONCERT

CHRISTMAS CAROLS
COOKIES AND COCOA

LIVE ANIMALS AND A
NATIVITY PHOTO BOOTH

**2020 Mission Trip to Chipley, Florida
February 3-7, 2020**

The Presbytery of North Central Iowa's 2020 Mission Trip will be to Chipley, Florida, to help rebuild after Hurricane Michael hit the area in October 2018. The Presbytery of North Central Iowa invites the Presbytery of Prospect Hill to be a part of this mission opportunity.

The cost will be \$175 per participant. Participants will also be responsible for their own lodging and travel to Florida and back. Further details for the trip will be sent to participants. There will also be an orientation meeting and information on that will be provided to participants at a later time.

To receive a registration form, please contact Jeannie in the Presbytery Office at 319-233-1747 or northiowapresby@gmail.com. They can also be found at this link: <https://presbynciowa.org/events/> or on the table in the Welcome Center. Contact Pastor Dan with interest/questions at dan@wpcw.org or 234-5501

Applications MUST be received in the Presbytery Office no later than January 6, 2020. Please note that a registration will not be considered complete without a \$75 deposit.

We will be staying at the Dogwood Acres Retreat Center, a Presbyterian camp. Will be in 2-bedroom cabins, four people per bedroom/bathroom. Bunk beds. <http://www.dogwoodacres.org/Housing> Meals to be provided by the camp staff during the week. Catholic Charities will be the local agency we will be working through.

From the Finance Committee

| BUDGET SUMMARY | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| | OCTOBER | OCTOBER | YTD | YTD | BUDGET |
| | 2019 | 2018 | 2019 | 2018 | 2019 |
| TOTAL REVENUE | \$ 79,544.65 | \$ 42,231.11 | \$ 607,107.64 | \$ 599,950.78 | \$ 784,669.00 |
| ADMINISTRATION | \$ 4,373.43 | \$ 2,969.26 | \$ 29,113.37 | \$ 28,848.77 | \$ 35,700.00 |
| OPER & MAINT | \$ 6,484.74 | \$ 6,294.11 | \$ 74,388.26 | \$ 87,149.42 | \$ 94,750.00 |
| CHRISTIAN ED | \$ 695.41 | \$ 1,348.49 | \$ 15,764.20 | \$ 14,873.19 | \$ 24,100.00 |
| PERSONNEL | \$ 43,624.02 | \$ 41,150.12 | \$ 414,364.30 | \$ 435,514.70 | \$ 514,515.00 |
| MISSION | \$ 157.03 | \$ 12,494.15 | \$ 53,608.25 | \$ 62,913.45 | \$ 68,000.00 |
| MUSIC & WORSHIP | \$ 564.25 | \$ 876.07 | \$ 10,053.20 | \$ 9,034.27 | \$ 15,800.00 |
| STEWARDSHIP | \$ 210.20 | \$ 464.19 | \$ 282.20 | \$ 907.83 | \$ 1,500.00 |
| HOSPITALITY & DEACONS | \$ 442.31 | \$ 207.85 | \$ 3,704.77 | \$ 2,875.80 | \$ 5,000.00 |
| MEMBERSHIP & OUTREACH | \$ - | \$ 50.00 | \$ 2,048.44 | \$ 2,058.57 | \$ 5,700.00 |
| PER CAPITA | \$ 1,633.68 | \$ 4,017.92 | \$ 16,336.80 | \$ 20,089.60 | \$ 19,604.00 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$ 58,185.07 | \$ 69,872.16 | \$ 619,663.79 | \$ 664,265.60 | |
| REVENUE OVER EXPENSES | \$ 21,359.58 | \$ (27,641.05) | \$ (12,556.15) | \$ (64,314.82) | |

Friendship Club

This group meets on Thursday, December 5 at 6pm in the Shared Life Center. It will be "Game Night". Please bring a dish to share. There will also be an election. All are welcome!





Women's Book Club

This group will NOT meet in December because of the busy holiday month. Mark your calendars for Sunday, January 5, 5:00 pm. You will be meeting at the home of Mary Lisa Mueller.

Please bring an appetizer to share and a list of the books you would like the group to consider. This group is open to all women!

Please welcome the newest members to Westminster. These new friends joined on Sunday, Nov. 17.



Etonam Adabasus
215 Baltimore St., Apt. 7
Waterloo, IA 50701
917-595-8574
etonamadabasus9@gmail.com

Etonam is taking ESL classes at Hawkeye Van G. Miller and is working at Tyson.

Bryan, Kelly, Charles & Brenna Barlow
6191 Foulk Rd. Waterloo, IA 50702
319-415-9828, bryanandkelly@yahoo.com Bryan
319-230-6371, kellynbarlow@gmail.com Kelly

Bryan is an assembler for Deere & Co and Kelly is a tax preparer for H & R Block. They have 2 children, Charlie - 7 and Brenna - 6.



Kristi, June, Jaydin and Michael Klein-Bacon
2666 Logan Ave., Waterloo, IA 50703
319-415-1510 Kristi
319-239-4665 June
kleinbacon@gmail.com

Kristi is an E-commerce business owner at H.O.P.E. Enterprise and June is a social worker and business owner. They have 2 children Jaydin - 3 and Michael - 3.

Diana Belle Nelson
1416 Oleson Rd. #2, Waterloo, IA 50702
319-230-2555
319-529-7108 Cell

Diana is married to Ronald and she worked as an RN before retiring.





Jordan, Jessica and Taylor Smith
704 Cataract Ave., Waterloo, IA 50702
641-751-0882, jsmithuni@gmail.com Jordan
319-231-0559, jessicasmith71616@gmail.com Jessica

Jordan is a CNC Programmer at Iowa Laser and Jessica is a speech-language pathologist for Central Rivers AEA. They have one daughter Taylor - 7 mos.

Austin & Chloey Wood
1301 W. 11th Street, Waterloo, IA 50702
319-505-0736, austin.d.wood@outlook.com Austin
319-505-7510, chloey.wood17@gmail.com Chloey

Austin is a laborer at Advanced Heat Treat Corp and Chloey is a teacher at Cunningham Elementary.



Scrip

Click [HERE](#) to download the updated Scrip form. Tables will be open on Sundays:

- Dec 1 Between Services & After 2nd Service
- Dec 8 Between Services
- Dec 15 Between Services
- Dec 22 Between Services
- Dec 29 No Scrip

