

Westminster Messenger, November 2020

Current Black Hawk County Status:

High

[What does this mean?](#)

Church Closing Information

The below in person events will only happen if the Black Hawk County Health Department returns our risk level to moderate/orange.

This month in worship we are going to be looking at three big themes in Scripture.

Grace, judgement and longing.

We'll start the first Sunday in November by being reminded of the Beatitudes or blessings that Jesus speaks over his disciples as part of his very first teachings. And as nice as that sounds, when we become careful readers, we have to admit that some of them sound rather strange. Blessings announced over people we do not often think of or see as particularly blessed. But that's not an accident. In fact, that is part of point. God often sees what we fail to see, and celebrates what we would too often ignore. This text becomes particularly meaningful on All Saints Sunday as we look back and remember the cherished ones we've lost, and are reminded of the blessings they've been to us and their virtues that show us what is most important in life.



For the next three weeks we will take a bit of a sharp turn as we jump to Jesus' last teachings in Matthew's gospel. Here we will linger on stories of judgment that can have a bite or even severity to them. In contrast to the Beatitudes, it can almost start to feel like we have a schizophrenic God. But as we read these texts, and maybe even find ourselves perplexed by their harshness, I find that holding onto the God of blessings is actually vital to their understanding.

Lastly, to round out the month, we will begin the season of Advent with a great Hebrew text from the prophet Isaiah, longing for God to just come down already. For any out there that are sick and tired of being sick and tired of the condition of the world around them, you'll find a companion here to shake your fists at the heavens with and the words to scream as you long to see something change for the better.

There we have it, a glimpse of this month in worship. Starting with a reminder of God's blessings, lingering on Christ's stories of judgment, and finishing with a longing for God to come down and save us.

I look forward to exploring these texts with you as we continue to be guided by presence of God's spirit and the teachings of Christ.

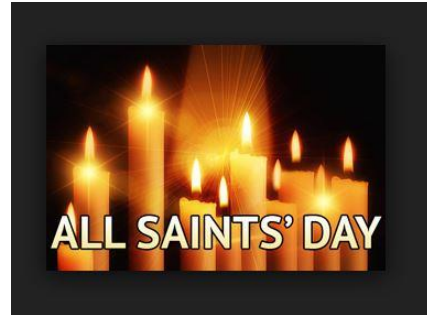
Grace and Peace,
Pastor Dan.

Nov. 1 – Mt. 5:1-12 The Beatitudes
Nov. 8 – Mt. 25:1-13 Parable of the Wise and Foolish Bridesmaids
Nov. 15 – Mt. 25:14-30 Parable of Valuable Coins
Nov. 22 – Mt. 25:31-46 Vision of the Judgement of All the Nations
Nov. 29 – Is. 64:1-9 Longing for God to Come Down.

All Saints' Day

On November 1 candles will be lit in honor of those we lost this past year.

Clayton Lyon 12/5/2019
Lois Roof 2/5/2020
Geof Grimes 3/31/2020
Cornelia Hess 5/18/2020
Nancy Hoffman 7/4/2020
MaryAnn Johnson 7/4/2020
Judy Steiert 7/29/2020
Alice Snyder 10/3/2020
Marilyn Ormord 10/14/2020



Memories

I feel a warmth around me like your presence is so near, and I close my eyes to visualize your face when you were here. I endure the times we spent together and they are locked inside my heart, for as long as I have those memories we will never be apart. Even though we cannot speak no more, my voice is always there, because every night before I sleep I have you in my prayer. -Author, Louise Bailey

Reminder from your Financial Secretary...

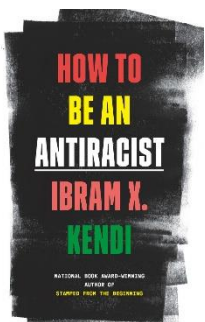
Stewardship time is here! Hopefully you have had a chance to review your Information packet that was sent October 13 concerning the 2021 Budget year.

If you have not turned in your pledge card, please mail it back to me – or if you prefer – contact me with your intent at becky@wpcw.org or 234-5501.



Please consider the E-Giving information that was included in your packet. If you did not receive a packet, or need another one, please let me know.

Blessings to you—stay safe and well!
Becky Dietz



Our Wednesday Night men's and women's groups have decided to participate in the Cedar Valley wide book read of **How to Be an Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi**. Although behind the October schedule, these groups will be reading the book and watching the community leader discussion videos at their own pace. Contact Pastor Dan if you would like to be involved. Below is more information on the purpose of the book read.

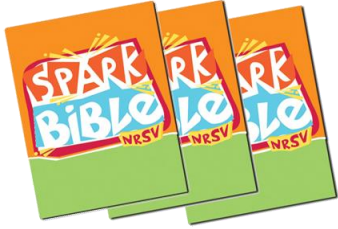
Please click here to watch this short video invitation.

Dismantling racism is a priority and will not happen without ongoing intention, prioritization, and strategic focus. A collective reading of How to be an Antiracist can help our community by:

- *creating shared vocabulary and definitions around race, racism, and antiracism.
- *growing understanding through the reading and by listening to our Cedar Valley neighbors.
- *building new and stronger connections with Cedar Valley neighbors.

*forging a collective sense of urgency and value to work together as antiracists toward the vision of a more just community.

*providing a launching pad for further discussion and strategic action.



3 yr old and 3rd grade Bibles

On Wednesday, November 18, during Wes Pres Wednesday, we will be handing out Bibles to our 3 year olds and 3rd graders.

Please let Dee Jordan know if your 3 year old or 3rd grader will be here to receive their Bible at dee@wpcw.org or 234-5501.

Come join a “3 - 2 - 1”

We are living in the COVID19 season of uncertainty and unrest. It is a perfect time to dig deeper into our faith and search scripture for answers on how to live in a time as this. Soo-Inn Tan wrote the 3-2-1 model for spiritual friendships in hopes to have small groups pause in their overcrowded schedules and focus on God and his work in our lives.

3-2-1 is a group of 3 people, meeting about 2 hours, 1 time a month. This meeting could be over lunch or coffee or also could meet via video conference if you are more comfortable with technology. In each meeting, the participants would share one joy and one struggle since the last meeting. Sharing snapshots of one’s soul helps bond the participants. Each group would choose their own faith-based discussion questions, or call the office for a handout.

Ideally, these meetings would center around food or coffee. Praying at the beginning of the meeting reminds us that indeed Christ is the “unseen guest at every meal and the silent listener to every conversation.”

Call a couple of your friends and get your “3-2-1” started. Experience the joy of sharing your faith and digging deeper into scripture for guidance to living through these times. You can also leave your contact info at the church office and we will make a group for you. Please register your group with the church office so we can send further communication and encouragement to you.

If you have any questions, please contact Dan at dan@wpcw.org or Troyce at 319-240-8605

Wes Pres Youth

We have had a wonderful October studying our spooky series, “Ghost Stories”, where we learned all about how the Holy Spirit is working within our lives, through tough decision making, and even in spaces where we didn’t see it coming. Through the work of the Spirit, we are empowered to love others, speak about Christ, and live lives of obedience to God. With a lot of the hardship 2020 has brought us, we are excited to hear future stories of how our students will see how the Holy Spirit will bring all kinds of fruit to their situations. Keep up to date on how fun, insightful, and encouraging our youth are by checking out our social media platforms!



We are saddened to have to cancel our Fear Factor Lock-in this year and consequently the FRIGHT NIGHT event, due to all things pandemic.

Be sure to follow us on our social media pages @wespresyouthia OR by requesting to erica@wpcw.org to join in on her monthly newsletter!

Erica Rissi - Jr. & Sr. High Youth Director

Wes Pres Wednesday Schedule:

1st & 3rd Wednesdays:

Nursery care - 5th grade will be in-person from 6-7pm

2nd & 4th Wednesdays

3yr olds – 5th grade will have online classes

- 3yrs olds – kindergarten from 5:30 - 6pm
- 1st - 2nd grade from 6 - 6:30
- 3rd - 5th grade from 6:30 – 7pm

Adults and Youth will have in person classes every week.

Masks will be required and social distancing measures will be used.



Music Ministry

The Moments of Christmas

Join us for our musical offering on December 20, 2020: The Moments of Christmas!

Reservations can now be made online at wpcw.org/upcoming-events

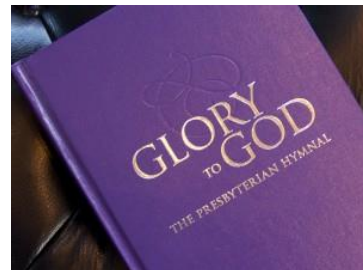
Masks will be required in our physically-distanced sanctuary.

The performance will feature up to four singers, a violinist, and piano accompaniment.

A live stream of both performances will also be available.

Sing a new song to the Lord!

Check out the hymnal racks in the sanctuary. We are so excited to have the Presbyterian Hymnal, Glory to God, for use in worship! All of the hymns you are hearing in traditional worship come from this new hymnal. In addition to the pew copies, we also have the entire hymnal with words and music for projection. How great it will be to someday lift our voices together in congregational song!



Worship Live Stream

We now record and share our worship services live each Sunday.

Join us Sunday mornings from the comfort of your own couch! You can watch Sunday's worship service with us live, or any time after by visiting wpcw.org/YouTube. Our worship services are also saved to the Worship tab on our website.

Patrick Marchant

\$7k Blessing

Please submit all nominations by November 1. The Mission committee will then select three finalists and announce them ahead of the vote on Sunday, November 22.

From the Finance Committee

The following is a recap of the financial picture of our Church. As you might suspect, the first nine months of the year have been affected by the pandemic. The Finance Committee continues to monitor Church finances to ensure proper stewardship of your gifts.

Total revenues at \$497,563 are down versus last year and budget as we have not been able to hold "normal" services for a good part of the year. We would encourage you to review your pledge statements and if you are able, bring your commitments current.

On a somewhat positive note, Church expenses at \$506,581 are running lower than anticipated as some expense categories have not been called upon to their full budget. As we have had to change some programming, the Church Staff has been diligent regarding allocating dollars to what is needed in these changing times. That said, we have incurred some one-time and on-going expenses to provide a safe building and added technology to video and live-stream services and programming.

John Speas
Finance Committee Chair

BUDGET SUMMARY

	SEPTEMBER	SEPTEMBER	YTD	YTD	BUDGET
	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 40,825.06	\$ 39,746.71	\$ 497,679.06	\$ 527,562.99	\$ 775,505.00
ADMINISTRATION	\$ 2,742.03	\$ 2,053.00	\$ 23,012.69	\$ 24,739.94	\$ 35,700.00
OPER & MAINT	\$ 4,642.26	\$ 5,437.43	\$ 52,716.28	\$ 67,903.52	\$ 94,750.00
CHRISTIAN ED	\$ 1,186.37	\$ 3,920.30	\$ 5,795.65	\$ 15,068.79	\$ 24,100.00
PERSONNEL	\$ 40,323.69	\$ 41,452.45	\$ 352,338.82	\$ 370,740.28	\$ 511,221.00
MISSION	\$ 6,209.00	\$ 29.89	\$ 46,267.53	\$ 53,451.22	\$ 63,000.00
MUSIC & WORSHIP	\$ 2,381.26	\$ 684.93	\$ 10,173.68	\$ 9,488.95	\$ 15,800.00
STEWARDSHIP	\$ -	\$ 39.90	\$ 59.31	\$ 72.00	\$ 1,500.00
HOSPITALITY & DEACONS	\$ 125.42	\$ 213.47	\$ 1,035.16	\$ 3,262.46	\$ 5,000.00
MEMBERSHIP & OUTREACH	\$ 90.00	\$ 57.41	\$ 1,132.54	\$ 2,048.44	\$ 5,700.00
PER CAPITA	\$ 1,561.14	\$ 1,633.68	\$ 14,050.26	\$ 14,703.12	\$ 18,734.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 59,261.17	\$ 55,522.46	\$ 506,581.92	\$ 561,478.72	\$ 775,505.00
REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$ (18,436.11)	\$ (15,775.75)	\$ (8,902.86)	\$ (33,915.73)	

What is Per Capita?



2020 Per Capita

Our congregation pays an annual amount of money, per church member, to our presbytery. The per capita amount requested of Westminster is a combined total of requests from the presbytery, the synod in which our presbytery is located and the General Assembly, based upon the respective budgets of these organizations for the coming year.

For 2020 the per capita represents \$36.95 for each man, woman and child who is a confirmed member of the church. If you have not paid your per capita amount for this year, please prayerfully consider doing so as this will help reduce the need from the church's general budget. Thank you.

Walk the Labyrinth

The Labyrinth is part of the ancient tradition of "walking one's prayers." You can sign up to walk the Labyrinth on Saturday, November 14 from 9am - 12.

Contact the church office to sign up.



Scrip

As we head into the holiday season, don't forget how quick, easy and safe it is to purchase Scrip cards for all your gift/shopping needs!



Proceeds go back to Westminster with each card you buy! You can download an order form at wpcw.org or click [HERE](#).

In addition to the list we also have the following cards: Panda Express (\$25), Fleet Farm (\$25 & \$100), and Barmuda (\$25 cards selling for \$20 & \$50 cards selling for \$40). Barmuda cards are usable at Roxxy's, Tap Tap, Stuffed Olive, Deringer's & VooDoo Lounge all located on Main Street in Cedar Falls.

Orders can be placed with the office for any cards we do not have in stock. Please allow 8-10 days for cards to arrive.

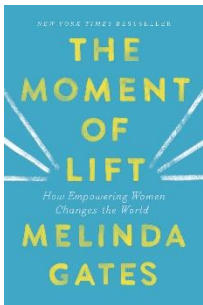


Card Ministry Class

This class will gather Thursday, November 12 from 1:30 - 3pm. The card ministry mission is to reach out to our church community, especially those unable to join us at church as an extension of Christ's love. We encourage any member to participate through monthly community cardmaking events, donating some unused cards or dollars for postage, or writing cards to members. School age and older welcome. Deadline to sign up is November 1.



Contact Bonnie Smith Davis at 230-2165, jericho1SD@ram-jet.com or Ann Northey at 269-9359, northey@hughes.net with your name, phone # and email to sign up. We will social distance and ask that you wear a mask.



Women's Book Club

The Westminster Women's Book Club will meet Sunday, November 15 at 6:00 pm via Zoom. The book to read for that gathering is "The Moment of Lift" by Melinda Gates.

December TBA - Book to read is "Lost Roses," by Martha Hall Kelly.

This group is open to all women! Contact Sandy Lewis if you would like to be added to the Zoom invite list. sandycnm@cfu.net or 319-504-2802.

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