

Messenger August, 2021

**Worship with us Sunday's at 10:00 am in person
or online at wpcw.org/worship**

Weather permitting, on August 29 we will worship outside on the north lawn.

Detroit Mission Trip 2021!

So grateful for these youth and their leaders for their dedication to helping others!

We had the greatest week in Detroit, MI where our Jr. and Sr. High youth ministry, Wes Pres Youth, went on an adventure to learn about Loving Thy Neighbor (Matthew 22: 34-40). While in Detroit, we had a blast:

- We served at Auntie Na's Village where we did some serious yard work in their community garden and fellowship space. James Knight created a design for their very own fire pit and all of the kids helped make the creation come to life!
- We played many hours of throw throw burrito, SCUM, catch Mathias, and golf! We even got out into the community and spent a day playing at Jump Island on lake Bishop!
- We visited Pastor Tricia and Bruce Jacobs at their church in Rochester Hills! We were able to work in their community garden and even had some fun along the way! (Check out our photos on our Instagram and Facebook pages!)
- We also worked at Focus Hope packing food for low-income seniors and decided to pay back to the community we were staying in by spending some time picking up trash around the streets!

While on the trip, our youth took a day off relaxing at the beach where we played games in the sand (Jump Island) and on floaties in the water! It was a refreshing day that was very well deserved! Thank you to everyone who helped fundraise, volunteer, donated financially or with your time to make our mission trip possible. To hear and see more about our adventures, check out Wes Pres Youth on our social media pages or sit down by a Wes Pres Youth student sometime!







Thank You

Westminster has been a home for myself and my family for three years now. Between laughing until my stomach hurts to crying from the vulnerability shared from the purity and honesty in our youths hearts – I have been so blessed to be a part of this church community. Thank you for sharing life with us the past few years. We are forever grateful for the wisdom, kindness, joy, and love shared.

Forever cheering you ALL on,
Erica Rissi

Elder's Seeking Wisdom News Brief

In a special Session meeting on June 28, Session approved hiring a part-time Music Director, a Contemporary Worship Leader, and Handbell Director. A vacancy in music and strong congregational support for cuts to music expenses based on feedback from the congregation following the June 6 congregational meeting suggest music is a good target for budget and personnel cuts.

This proposal solves two problems: a projected budget shortfall and staffing vacancies in music programming. Budget projections show a shortfall of approximately \$14,000 for the 2020 fiscal year. These cuts cover nearly all of the shortfalls, but not all.

If anyone knows of good candidates, they should forward those names or inquiries to Jodi Fabrizio, jodi.fabrizio@mediacombb.net, and Marie Hills, danmarie2010@gmail.com.

Felicia Cass
feliciacass64@gmail.com
319.883.8626

From Pastor Ken

For a few weeks in July, I had the pleasure of facilitating the Women's Bible Study in their review of 1st Corinthians. Together, we explored some of Paul's words of wisdom to the small congregation in Corinth. We specifically noted that some of what Paul wrote was specific to his time and place. But some of it is universal and applies equally well to us, today.

One of Paul's greatest concerns was about worship. We don't know much about the worship services of Paul's day, but we believe that they were full and busy. There were lots of hymns and readings from the scriptures. Some people would prophecy and others would speak in tongues. It seemed that the more people that were involved the better the service!

Paul was fine with that. He was happy with a full and robust service. But he insisted that everything be

done in an orderly way. He did not want worship to be chaotic.

Partly, Paul was concerned that everyone should have a chance speak. He didn't want anyone talking on top of anyone else. Also, he believed that our God is an orderly God, not given to chaos. (Contrast this to the Greco-Roman gods who frequently caused chaos and the Babylonian gods who created the world after a divine brawl.)

But Paul's main concern was that strangers be able to understand and follow the service. This is a concern for us today. Have you ever been to worship services that left you confused and dazed, services where you had little idea of what was happening? Would an unchurched person in our services feel that way, too?

That's one of the reasons why I periodically remind us why our service is ordered the way it is. Not that there will necessarily be visitors that Sunday, but so that we can remember and explain it to our guests.

We begin our services with the Call to Worship, reminding ourselves we are here to worship God. Next, we confess that, both as individuals and as a body, we have sometimes failed to follow God well. We have sinned. Once we have that off our chests, we formally recognized that God loves us so much God freely forgives us. No penance or arduous pilgrimage required. By God's grace in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and are peace with God and one another. Flush with grace, we extend God's peace to those around us.

Now, we are ready to hear the good news of how much God loves us. This comes from both our scripture lessons and the day's sermon.

Next, we respond to God's good news. We respond by observing the sacraments (baptism and communion), praying with and for the world, and sharing our offerings to further God's ministries.

Finally, with both a charge and a blessing ringing in our ears, we leave the church to go out into the mission field of the world. We carry God's goodness and love out with us, giving it freely to all and sundry until we can gather together again.

It's unrealistic to expect a totally unchurched person to walk into one of our services and know exactly what's happening and why. Every organization has some knowledge or does something that is unique to them and can only be learned by time and experience. But nevertheless, we want our seekers to find what they are looking for. The way we worship can make it easier to do that.

Thank you for helping us have orderly services where God is truly worshipped, and we learn how much God loves us. I believe that God is pleased with our worship. And I believe that Paul would be, as well.

Looking forward to worshipping God with you. ~ Pastor Ken.

Upcoming Events

Women Build - Saturday, August 14

Westminster Women - Join us for a day of fun and fellowship while helping a local family. We will work from 8:30 am - 3:00 pm. No construction experience necessary. We will be assisted and supervised by an experienced Habitat for Humanity construction supervisor.



If you aren't able to help work on the home but would like to help out in another way, we are also looking for volunteers to provide an easy lunch for us. Please call the church office to sign up to volunteer to work on the home or provide lunch. Kassy Grosser can be contacted with any questions.



Women's Book Club

The Westminster Women's Book Club meets via Zoom on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 6:00 pm. This group is open to all women! If you would like to be added to the Zoom invite list contact Sandy Lewis at sandycnm@cfu.net or 319-504-2802 or Vicki Grimes at vicki.grimes@uni.edu or 319-240-5296.

August 15 - "American Dirt" by Jeanine Cummins

September 19 - "American Sherlock" by Kate Winkler Dawson

All Church Event at Palmer's Family Fun

Join us on Wednesday, **August 18 at 5:30 pm** for dinner and tons of fun! We will provide walking tacos and drinks, bring a dish or dessert to share.

\$6 per person. This includes: 2 Go Kart Tickets, 18 Holes of Mini Golf, Jumping Pillow, 3 Batting Cage Tokens



Sign up in the Welcome Center or email jodi@wpcw.org and let us know what you are bringing and how many are coming. **Must reserve by Thursday, August 12.** Pay when you arrive at Palmer's.



Backpack Blessing

On **Sunday, August 22**, at our 10:00 worship service, all students, teachers and educators are encouraged to bring your backpacks to be blessed for the new school year!

Card Making Class

All are invited to join this class that meets next on **Thursday, August 26** from 2:00 – 4:00 pm in Room 216. Cost is \$15 for 4 kits, which include craft instruction and supplies. Bring a friend for a time of fun and fellowship. Must sign up ahead of time.



Christian Education

Wes Pres Wednesday

We cannot wait for WPW to begin on **Wednesday, September 8**. Be on the lookout for all the details, but we do encourage you to get your kiddos registered now! This will be helpful with our planning! We are happy to be able to offer dinner this year. However, we will not be able to provide the after school pick ups. We will go back to our 5:00-More will be coming very soon, but to register, please go to wpcw.org/wpwreg.

Adult Journey Opportunity

The fall Journey class begins **Sunday, September 26**. This class is an uncommon, faith-deepening and life-transforming experience where together we will discover a richer, deeper relationship with God and each other. This world needs “deep” people; people who will live faithfully from the inside out. Do you ever wonder if there is more to this life with Christ? Have you been called to something greater? We all want a deeper relationship with God but we don’t always know how to get there. I invite you to join me for this 15 week JOURNEY.



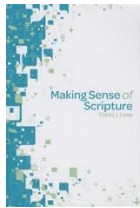
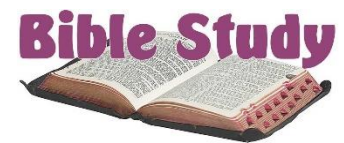
The class size is limited to 8 so save your spot by calling the church office. If you have any questions concerning the class, please call Troyce Vich at 319-240-8605. This class will be offered during the Sunday School time, September 26 - January 23.

Facilitator: Troyce Vich, held in the Children's library

Cost: \$150 which includes all workbooks and secondary books.

Monday Morning Bible Studies

Women's Bible Study: Meets Monday mornings at 9:00 am in the Shared Life Center. They are gathering in-person and on Zoom. They are asking participants to be fully vaccinated to attend the in-person class.



Men's Bible Study: Meeting in the Coffee House Monday's at 9:00 am. All men are invited to join this group.

The Men's Bible study will be reading: Making Sense of Scripture: Big Questions About the Book of Faith by David Lose. Books are available in the office for \$13.47 or you can order your own book or just come for the discussion.

Finance

Finance – Monthly Recap

For June Westminster received \$40,125 in pledges and revenue versus last year's \$37,861. Year-to-date, we show giving at \$287,979 or 43 percent of the budget receipts which is about \$45,102 behind last year, the majority of this decrease is due to lower collected pledges.

Total expenses stood at \$49,455 for the month versus \$49,211 last year. Year-to-date expenses are at \$264,499 or 40% of budget and lower than last year's \$330,745. As you remember current expenses for the music program are running lower than budget due to the open music director position, however the personnel and music/worship committees have posted transitional positions to gear up for the Fall.

From a historical view, revenues typically run lighter in the Summer months as people are on vacation and the Church pares back on services.

As a reminder, Westminster's budget for 2021 is \$665,681 which includes \$73,156 in reserves and \$77,710 in endowment support. 2020 budget was \$775,505.

John Speas
Finance Chair

BUDGET SUMMARY						
	JUNE	JUNE	YTD	YTD	BUDGET	BUDGET
	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 40,125.31	\$ 37,861.06	\$ 287,979.81	\$ 331,854.77	\$ 665,681.00	\$ 775,505.00
ADMINISTRATION	\$ 2,276.28	\$ 2,144.23	\$ 14,709.39	\$ 16,109.44	\$ 26,200.00	\$ 35,700.00
OPER & MAINT	\$ 3,842.59	\$ 3,357.63	\$ 43,741.87	\$ 36,494.84	\$ 86,000.00	\$ 94,750.00
CHRISTIAN ED	\$ 2,802.75	\$ 242.46	\$ 5,438.48	\$ 2,432.80	\$ 14,550.00	\$ 24,100.00
PERSONNEL	\$ 32,436.10	\$ 36,106.16	\$ 164,840.22	\$ 234,796.49	\$ 462,125.00	\$ 511,221.00
MISSION	\$ 5,774.19	\$ 5,600.00	\$ 23,571.93	\$ 28,277.56	\$ 47,000.00	\$ 63,000.00
MUSIC & WORSHIP	\$ 269.12	\$ 103.52	\$ 551.81	\$ 1,377.05	\$ 4,023.00	\$ 15,800.00
STEWARDSHIP	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33.52	\$ 59.31	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,500.00
HOSPITALITY & DEACONS	\$ 193.88	\$ 16.03	\$ 1,256.55	\$ 788.57	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
MEMBERSHIP & OUTREACH	\$ 245.51	\$ 80.00	\$ 664.21	\$ 1,042.54	\$ 3,400.00	\$ 5,700.00
PER CAPITA	\$ 1,615.25	\$ 1,561.14	\$ 9,691.50	\$ 9,366.84	\$ 19,383.00	\$ 18,734.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 49,455.67	\$ 49,211.17	\$ 264,499.48	\$ 330,745.44	\$ 665,681.00	\$ 775,505.00
REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$ (9,330.36)	\$ (11,350.11)	\$ 23,480.33	\$ 1,109.33		



Giving

Please support the ministries of Westminster at wpcw.org/giving or by using the Kiosk on Sunday mornings..

How Can You Help?

Scrip

The Scrip tables are open this summer. Look for us on **August 1, 15 and 29**. Supporting this program supports Westminster's budget! You can also purchase cards in the church office during the week. Help give back to your church by purchasing Scrip cards before you run to the grocery store or fill up the tank. Great for those going off to college!

Presbyterian Pantry

The pantry is open on the 1st Saturday of the month and the 3rd Thursday. We are always needing volunteers to help pass out food on these days but we also need help pre-packing the food the day or two prior. You can call the church office at 234-5501 if you want to come in and help pack. Go to wpcw.org/volunteer to help when the pantry is open. **We currently need 6 people to sign up for August 7.**

We have distributed food boxes to 221 individual households in our first year! In July we served 51 and 47 households.



Another way you can help is by providing items that we cannot get from the Food Bank such as paper products and personal care items. Below is a list of products needed. You can drop them off on Sunday morning in the Welcome Center or to the church office during the week!

- paper towels
 - toilet paper
 - Kleenex
 - bar soap
 - toothbrushes & toothpaste
 - feminine hygiene products (tampons, pads, pantyliners)
 - men's & women's disposable razors
 - women's shampoo & conditioner
 - men's shampoo
 - kids' 3 in 1 body wash, shampoo, conditioner
 - deodorant
 - shaving cream
 - diapers
 - diaper wipes
 - adult diapers
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Worship In Person or Live Stream

We worship in person each Sunday at 10:00 am or you can view 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/worship.



On Sunday, August 29 we will be worshipping outside on the north lawn. Bring your favorite lawn chair or blanket and a drink if you wish.



I want to thank those of you who thought of me while I was healing from my sickness.

Vince Cutler

Coming up in September

So much is happening in September! Be on the lookout for more information soon! We are excited for Fall 2021 at Westminster to begin!!

- September 8 - Wes Pres Wednesday begins
- September 12 - Return to 2 services and enjoy a Back to Church Picnic
- September 19 Sunday School for all ages starts
- September 25 - Fall Fest at Barn Stahl Farms

To view the church calendar, go to wpcw.org/calendar