

# November, 2021 Messenger

Worship with us Sundays in person or online:  
9:00 am Traditional  
11:15 am Contemporary (Facebook Live)  
Sunday School at 10:10 am  
or watch later at [wpcw.org/worship](http://wpcw.org/worship)

## Stewardship 2022 - Growing Our Faith Through Generosity



In the gospel of Luke, the disciples beg Jesus to increase their faith. Jesus responds, *“If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.”* According to New Testament scholar Yon-Gyong Kwong, the tree in questions was famously difficult to dig up because of its long taproot. Planting a tree in the sea is plainly impossible. But disciples do not need more faith to do the impossible. All that we need is to exercise whatever faith we do have.

One way to exercise our faith here at Westminster is to be generous with our time and money. How we use and share the blessings that God has provided are tangible expressions of our response when Christ says to us, “Follow me!” Our gratitude and generosity are indicators of a healthy and balanced spiritual life.

We will be mailing out the 2022 Stewardship packet in early November. I would ask that you look through the material and give thoughtful consideration for what you will give towards the work of God here at Westminster for the next year.

Your pledge provides our leaders with the financial information needed to discern God’s call to ministry and translate it into an annual budget using our resources and pledges. Every pledge counts and every gift is an invaluable part of our ministry together.

As you pray for the Church and discern how you will participate in 2022, I ask that you do so remembering God’s faithfulness shown throughout the recent years. Consider how your giving might be an opportunity to grow in faith and generosity this year.

Blessings,

John Speas  
Finance/Stewardship Chair

## Kick Off Celebration

This Sunday, October 31 will be Westminster’s Stewardship kickoff celebration to celebrate the generosity of our church members and attenders. Because of COVID, there will be a **GRAB & GO Breakfast** in the coffee house between services for anyone who would like some coffee, juice, rolls, muffins and fresh fruit. Rolls and muffins will be prepackaged for everyone’s safety and you can serve yourself your own coffee if you like. Hope to see you there!



## From Pastor Ken

Most of us would say we want our loving relationships to grow. It's only natural. When we love someone, we don't want the relationship to remain static. We want to grow more and more in love with them.

With God, we call this 'growing in faith'. God has given us so much – meaning and purpose in this life and the promise of eternal peace and joy in the life to come – we can't help but want to love God more. The more we realize how much God loves us, the more we want to grow in faith. The more we grow in faith, the more we realize how much God loves us. It's a delightfully self-perpetuating cycle!

There are many things that we can do to help us grow in faith. Regular prayer, Bible study and worship come readily to mind. Caring for others, caring for the environment, forgiving our enemies and honoring our bodies are also good ways to grow in faith.

One important way, one that is often overlooked, is by practicing financial stewardship through generous pledging.

Generous pledging re-orientes our life. When we pledge so much that it influences where we can afford to go on vacation, how many times we eat out, where we buy new clothes or when we trade-in our car, we have moved God from the periphery to closer to the center of our life. When so much of our money is being used to further God's ministries then thinking about God, and the ministries we are supporting, becomes much more important to us.

Also, generous pledging focuses our minds. It is true that where our treasure is there our hearts are as well. When we spend a lot of our annual budget on our vacation, we spend a lot of time planning and preparing for it. If most of our income goes to our children's education, then we are more likely to keep up with their progress and ask them how they like school. When we spend a large amount of money on season tickets for our favorite sports team, we are more likely to know the players and their relative strengths and weaknesses.

Likewise, when we make a generous pledge we are more likely to worship, take part in a ministry, pray for God's guidance and study our Bible more faithfully. These will all help us grow in faith.

There are many good reasons to make a generous pledge during this Stewardship season, especially now during this time of transition and change. One of the best reasons, though perhaps least talked about, is because it helps us grow in faith.

Our relationship with God is too wonderful to let it remain static. Growing in faith should be an important part of our faith. There are many ways to do so; one of the most important, though most overlooked, is through generous giving.

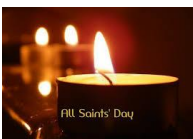
May we all take every opportunity to grow in faith. ~ Pastor Ken.

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## Upcoming Events

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### All Saints' Day

This year All Saints' Day is Sunday, November 7. All Saints' Day is a time to give thanks for the life of our loved ones who have preceded us in death.

You will be invited to light a candle in memory of a loved one during both services.

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### **New Member Class**

On **Sunday Nov. 7** we will be having a new member class during our Sunday School hour and we are inviting all to attend. Pastors Ken and Dan will talk about Presbyterianism, the History of Westminster, and current ministries happening here. It should be informative for all. Whether you are interested in becoming a member or you already are one. You may learn something new about your church!

If you desire to join Westminster, you will be invited to a lunch on **Sunday, November 14** at 12:30 pm, and then will be welcomed into membership on **November 21** during worship. If you have any questions or would like to sign up, please contact Pastor Dan at [dan@wpcw.org](mailto:dan@wpcw.org).



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### **Card Making Class**

All are invited to join this class that meets next on **November 18** 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.

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### **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](mailto:sandycnm@cfu.net) or 319-504-2802 or Vicki Grimes at [vicki.grimes@uni.edu](mailto:vicki.grimes@uni.edu) or 319-240-5296.

November 21 - share something you have read in addition to our book club selections

December - the group will not be meeting

January 16, 2022 - bring your ideas of books to read

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## **Christian Education**

### **Leaning into Difficult Conversations, Session 1 - Religion and Politics**

Over the last couple years our country has gotten more politically divisive. That divisiveness has even spilled over into disagreements in the church - even at Westminster. One of the comments I've heard many times is to, "keep politics out of the church." This sentiment is, I hope, meant for good, perhaps coming from wanting to make sure all are welcome, but in reality, is an impossible thing to do. Our faith will always inform how we live our lives and make decisions, which will inevitably create overlap with our political points of view. Yet, the interaction between our faith and politics is full of many traps and the place of the church in that conversation can be tricky.

Join Pastors Dan and Ken in a conversation, we, as church, really need to have on the interaction of faith and politics. Together we will look at the history of how they have interacted, and also read essays from well-known politicians and faith leaders. Sundays at 10:10 am in the Chapel.

Nov. 14 – History of Religion and Politics part I

Nov. 21 – History of Religion and Politics part II

Nov. 28 – Politicians on their interaction with Religion

Dec. 5 – Faith Leaders on their Interaction with Politics

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## As part of our Leaning into Difficult Conversations: Religion and Politics

Join us Wednesday, November 17 from 6-7pm  
to hear from Rev. Lindsay James  
State Representative of Iowa House District 99  
PCUSA pastor and chaplain

Lindsay James is the State Representative for Iowa House District 99, Dubuque. Following a career as a college chaplain in the San Francisco Bay Area and Boston, James relocated to Dubuque where she quickly stepped into positions of leadership. James served as a city commissioner, elected official with ISU Extension and Outreach, active leader in the NAACP, and the co-founding Director of the Loras College Peace Institute. In 2018, James' impressive grassroots campaign garnered state-wide

attention, several national endorsements, and a featured appearance in a European documentary. Buoyed by an enthusiastic volunteer team, James went on to a resounding win.

In her two terms as a State Representative, James Co-founded Iowa's first bi-cameral, bi-partisan caucus. Led the charge for mobile home protections, and in 2020 passed historic racial justice reform. Lindsay has worked on issues related to affordable housing, food security, children's mental health, and pharmaceutical costs. Representative James is appointed to the Mental Health and Disability Service statewide commission. She is known for being passionate and principled as well as for forging friendships across the aisle.

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### **Sunday School**

Most weeks kids and adults will be doing studies based on the texts used in worship that morning.

3yr – 1st grade: First Floor Kindergarten Rm

2nd- 5th grade: First Floor Rm 101

### Middle School

Confirmation Class in Third Floor Jr. High Rm

### HS - Adult

See above.

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### **Wes Pres Youth**

Wes Pres Youth has loved being back together and being able to have meaningful lessons and running around the church for our games. Our kids have enjoyed participating in our Wednesday Worship services, which the middle school students are tasked with dressing up in costumes and acting out the scripture. This year our lessons have been centered around things that Jesus said, we have loved learning and discussing these ideas that Jesus left us with.

Our Sr. High participated in a highly successful "2nd Annual Ultimate Pong Tournament." Ultimate Pong is a favorite among the youth which is played by hitting a ping pong ball onto a round table and the next person in line returning the ball to the next player around-the-world style. It's a high intensity game where too many mistakes leads to elimination! This year's winner was Benjamin Ritter!



This month we look forward to traveling to Lakeshore Center at Okoboji from November 12-14. While at the Lakeshore Center we will be doing mission work around the camp, such as raking leaves and cleaning up outdoor areas. The trip is open to both Jr. and Sr. High which has been a great way to develop bonds between the two groups. We are looking forward to the van ride, the hard work, and the undeniable belly aching laughs that await us.

Steven Jordan, Youth Leader

### **WPW Dinner**

Hey Friends! We are still on the hunt for 2-3 more volunteers to help ONCE per month to cook and serve the Wednesday night meal. The menu will be planned, all the supplies will be bought and you will be teamed with another volunteer!



Please call Dee with your interest to help! 234-5501.

The Wednesday night meal is free, however, if you would like to make a donation to help offset the costs, you can do so via the office, at the Kiosk or there is a donation box on the wall outside of the Social Hall.

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**JOIN US WEDNESDAY EVENINGS  
6-7PM DURING WESPRES!**

**Women of  
Westminster  
all are welcome!**

We will begin our our next book  
discussion  
October 20th!

**Order your own copy  
Faith Unraveled by Rachel Held Evans**

**Available in paperback, e-book and  
audio! Consider using Amazon Smile to  
give back to Westminster**

Our general schedule will include:  
10 minutes of catching up  
35 minutes of book discussion  
Don't have time to read? Join us for  
fellowship!  
10 minutes of devotion, celebration, needs  
and prayers

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## Monday Morning Bible Studies

Women's Bible Study: Meets Monday mornings at 9:00 am on Zoom only. This class is led by Cathy Young. All women are invited! If you would like to be added to the email list to Zoom in with them, send a message to [cathyyoung4@gmail.com](mailto:cathyyoung4@gmail.com)

Men's Bible Study: Meets in the Coffee House Monday's at 9:00 am. All men are invited to join this group. The Men's Bible study is discussing Bible text.

Talk to Pastor Dan if you want to learn more about joining these groups.

## Finance

### Finance – Monthly Recap

Westminster received \$38,464 in pledges and other revenue versus \$40,625 last year. Year-to-date through September, we show giving at \$415,512 or 63% of the budgeted receipts which is about \$46,149 behind last year, the majority of this decrease is due to lower pledges (which was somewhat expected by the lowered budgeted pledges for this year). On a positive note, we have not needed to ask for any financial support from the Endowment funds so far this year, this support was budgeted for \$77,710 in 2021.

Total expenses paid were \$43,090 for the month versus \$59,261 last year. Year-to-date expenses were \$395,619 or 59% of budget and lower than last year's \$506,582. As you may remember year to date expenses have been lower, in part, due to several open staff positions during the year and periods of reduced programming due to Covid. The Church has filled several "transitional" positions in Music and Youth programs and those expense areas will start to be recognized going forward. However, we do anticipate some savings as a result of these targeted hires.

As a reminder, Westminster's budget for 2021 is \$665,681 which includes \$73,156 in reserves and the afore mentioned \$77,710 in endowment support. 2020 budget was \$775,505. As you can see this year's budget was reduced by over \$109,000. Committees have started the budgeting process for 2022 and are working with the Elders Seeking Wisdom Taskforce to discern a sustainable path forward for Westminster. Please continue to pray for these dedicated volunteers.

John Speas  
Finance Chair

BUDGET SUMMARY						
	SEPTEMBER	SEPTEMBER	YTD	YTD	BUDGET	BUDGET
	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 38,464.15	\$ 40,825.06	\$ 420,917.60	\$ 497,679.06	\$ 665,681.00	\$ 775,505.00
ADMINISTRATION	\$ 1,798.06	\$ 2,742.03	\$ 20,196.31	\$ 23,012.69	\$ 26,200.00	\$ 35,700.00
OPER & MAINT	\$ 3,859.69	\$ 4,642.26	\$ 58,647.51	\$ 52,716.28	\$ 86,000.00	\$ 94,750.00
CHRISTIAN ED	\$ 253.61	\$ 1,186.37	\$ 6,443.76	\$ 5,795.65	\$ 14,550.00	\$ 24,100.00
PERSONNEL	\$ 30,141.43	\$ 40,323.69	\$ 258,121.60	\$ 352,338.82	\$ 462,125.00	\$ 511,221.00
MISSION	\$ 4,221.11	\$ 6,209.00	\$ 33,643.04	\$ 46,267.53	\$ 47,000.00	\$ 63,000.00
MUSIC & WORSHIP	\$ 11.89	\$ 2,381.26	\$ 594.16	\$ 10,173.68	\$ 4,023.00	\$ 15,800.00
STEWARDSHIP	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33.52	\$ 59.31	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,500.00
HOSPITALITY & DEACONS	\$ 341.22	\$ 125.42	\$ 1,800.13	\$ 1,035.16	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
MEMBERSHIP & OUTREACH	\$ 847.33	\$ 90.00	\$ 1,601.54	\$ 1,132.54	\$ 3,400.00	\$ 5,700.00
PER CAPITA	\$ 1,615.25	\$ 1,561.14	\$ 14,537.25	\$ 14,050.26	\$ 19,383.00	\$ 18,734.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 43,089.59	\$ 59,261.17	\$ 395,618.82	\$ 506,581.92	\$ 665,681.00	\$ 775,505.00
	\$ (4,625.44)	\$ (18,436.11)	\$ 25,298.78	\$ (8,902.86)		

## Mission

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### **\$7,000 Blessing**

The deadline to submit all nominations is November 1. Download the form by clicking [Here](#) The Mission committee will then select three finalists and announce them ahead of the vote on Sunday, November 21.

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## Deacons

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### **Westminster Labyrinth comes Alive**

It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye." — Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, [The Little Prince](#)

Our Chartres labyrinth experience held October 13, 2021 actively entranced over 60 participants at Westminster including choir members, all ages of children, young parents and older adults. Marion Patterson of Winding Pathways in Cedar Rapids led her team members, Lynda and Lisa, to make the labyrinth come alive and involved walking, listening, performing yoga movements, and creating artistic renditions of the ageless labyrinth tool that has been used over the centuries around the world. As Lynda (Black-Smith) said that night, "This is a beginning." for Westminster...

Pastor Dan Voigt led the dedication of the Westminster's Chelsea a la Chartres labyrinth that night in a ceremony to a large crowd of mixed age groups to start the night. All present were invited to take part. COVID had delayed the dedication since it was finished in 2020.

Westminster has long had a labyrinth. In fact, several labyrinths exist in the Cedar Valley, one at Hawkeye Community College. In the beginning, reported as well-used and loved by the congregation, the taped pathway was prayed on by many members. As it wore down, it was determined that with the renovations going on within the church, the labyrinth would get a "new face" inlaid into the social hall floor, in part in memory of D. Berkeley and Helen Smith, active members of the church for many years with the hope of their family that the labyrinth continue to serve the members and community as well.

Now the Deacons and other members of the church have put loving care into helping it come alive at various times of the year. A labyrinth can be used for different events from vigils to weddings and beyond. Resource books for members can be checked out in the church library such as Helen Curry's "The Way of the Labyrinth". A visitor or member can call the church to find out when it is available for walking.



**Thank you from Marion Patterson**

To Pastor Dan, Staff, Volunteers, Children and Parents - THANK YOU! for welcoming us and the attention to details, handouts, materials tables, candles and flowers, chairs and tidying up and placing our personal items in a secure place. Everyone showed such a cheerful willingness to help make your dedication and experience a success. We appreciated the tech support and teacher roles joining in. Lisa especially enjoyed the children's enthusiasm; Lynda the creative ways people drew & colored; Kathleen the sound system and interest. I loved how everyone took to the processional and ending walks.

**How Can You Help?**

**Recycling at Westminster**

We now have an All-In-One recycling service. (Except glass and special items). The flyer below shows the items we can now put into ONE bin out back by our waste container. The smaller container is marked as recycling material with a list of acceptable items and the larger container is for garbage. They may both look like they are recycling containers, but that is just our new waste disposal company's logo. Please note, that there are recycling tubs in all the kitchens, office copy room and the coffee house. Everything can go in one bin, but you MUST rinse food containers before tossing them away.

**What can be recycled?**

<p><b>Recyclable</b> These items can be recycled in one container with All-in-One Recycling™</p> <p><b>Paper</b> Newspaper Envelopes Junk mail Phone books Brochures Magazines</p> <p><b>Cardboard</b> Ream wrappers File folders Poster board Frozen food boxes Corrugated boxes Milk cartons</p> <p><b>Plastic</b> Water bottles Take out containers Soda bottles</p> <p><b>Aluminum/Metal</b> Aluminum beverage cans Food cans Scrap metal</p> <p><b>Glass</b> Beverage containers Glass and jars *Glass recycling varies by location</p>	<p><b>Special handling</b> These items should never be mixed with regular recycling and require special handling. Learn more at RepublicServices.com</p> <p>Incandescent light bulbs Fluorescent tubes Computers &amp; electronics Needles or syringes Hazardous waste Paint Loose material containers Yard waste</p> <p><b>Non-recyclable</b></p> <p>Aerosol cans Aluminum foil Batteries Clothing Food waste Napkins Mirrors Ceramic</p> <p>Plastic bags Shredded paper Stickers/address labels Tissue Styrofoam Paper towels Glass windows Pyrex</p> <p>For more information on recyclables, visit <a href="http://RepublicServices.com">RepublicServices.com</a></p> <p><b>REPUBLIC SERVICES</b> We'll handle it from here.™</p> <p><small>©2018 Republic Services, Inc.</small></p>
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## Decorating for Advent

We are looking for volunteers to help decorate the church for Advent. We will gather right after second service on Sunday, November 21. This group will be led by our Chancel Guild. We need a few people who can help put the big wreath on the outside/front of the church, someone to put the trees up on the ledges in the sanctuary, help hang wreaths around the church, etc. We will provide a light lunch during this time. Please contact the church with your offer to help. [jodi@wpcw.org](mailto:jodi@wpcw.org) or [dee@wpcw.org](mailto:dee@wpcw.org)

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## Dance Chaperones are needed

We are hoping to be able to hold our community Jr. High Dance next on December 10. Due to Black Hawk County still being at elevated levels for Covid, we did cancel the October dance. Please think about chaperoning the December 10 event. To provide the most safe environment, we need approximately 20-25 chaperones; selling snacks, presence at the doors, keeping an eye out in the SLC, etc. There will be a sign up sheet in the Welcome Center this month. We'd love your help and support so we can keep this ministry going! You can also contact Pastor Dan at [dan@wpcw.org](mailto:dan@wpcw.org).

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## Scrip

The Scrip tables will be open on the following Sunday's. 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. *Do not forget Scrip when doing your Christmas shopping ... it is right around the corner!*

Nov 7, Nov 21 and Nov 28  
Dec 5, Dec 12 and Dec 19

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## Presbyterian Pantry

The pantry is open on the 1st Saturday and the 3rd Thursday of the month. 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](http://wpcw.org/volunteer) to help when the pantry is open. **We currently need 5 people to sign up for November 4 and 6 for November 16.**

In October we served 49 and 49 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 and online each Sunday at 9:00 am for our Traditional worship and at 11:15 for our Contemporary worship. Watch the Contemporary service at 11:15 on Facebook Live! You can also view online any time after by visiting [wpcw.org/worship](http://wpcw.org/worship).

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### **A quick look at what's coming up in December:**

- Dec. 4 Presbyterian Pantry
- Dec. 5 Cocoa & Carols
- Dec. 10 Youth Dance
- Dec. 12 One service at 10am Bell Festival, Congregational Meeting to Elect Officers
- Dec. 16 Card Class, Pantry
- Dec. 19 One service at 10am, Adult/Children Cantata, Women's Book Club at 6pm
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Services at 5pm & 7pm
- Dec. 25 Free Christmas Dinner - TBD
- Dec. 26 One Service at 10am
- Dec. 27 - 30 Office Open limited hours 9am-12pm
- Dec. 31 Office Closed



To view the church calendar, go to [wpcw.org/calendar](http://wpcw.org/calendar)