

January 2022 Messenger



Happy New Year! We are back to having 2 services on Sunday mornings! 9:00 am for our Traditional worship service and at 11:15 am for our Contemporary worship service.

Sunday School resumes on Sunday, January 9 at 10:10 am.

Annual Meeting - Sunday, January 30 immediately following worship.

My Beloved – as I hope you know; this is my last Messenger article for you. My last day as your Interim Senior Pastor & Head of Staff is Friday, January 7th. By the time many of you read this, I may be already gone! While I would like to stay a few more months in this position, I enjoy being your interim pastor, I believe that our session is making the right decision and moving in the right direction. I fully support what they are doing.

I've said it many times before but let me say it again: Westminster Presbyterian Church is a good church. We are doing good ministry here. But a church is an organic creature. Over time, all organic creatures evolve. As needs and resources change, so must we. Our message is the same as ever, but how we share that message, and the resources at our disposal, are never constant. No one drives model Ts anymore. No one preaches in Latin. Ladies haven't worn hats and gloves to worship in years. Give it long enough and things change.

Granted, moving from two pastors to a solo-pastor is a structural change and that will be hard. To leave that pastor free to write sermons and be pastoral the elders and deacons may need to make more hospital visits. Committees will need to be more self-guided. Volunteers must do more of the teaching, organizing and double-checking. And that's just the beginning!

The good news is that Pastor Dan will be with us for at least a few more months. He has been a solo pastor before. He can guide us into that mindset.

But now, it is time for me to go. This is the normal lot of Interim Pastors, and we expect it. Our names are 'writ on water' and that is a good thing.

Over the last several months I have preached and taught and moderated. I have visited with you (though not as much as I wanted because of Covid). I have buried a few. I have facilitated the work of the Congregational Mission Study Team and the Elders Seeking Wisdom and am proud of my contributions.

Most importantly, I have done my best to share with you how much God loves us. I am honored to have been your Interim Pastor.

I leave you with two songs for the occasion. "A Summer Song" was a hit (decades ago) for the English duo Chad and Jeremy. This video shows them on the Dick Clark Show. (Ask your grandparents about that one.)

The second is Christian singer-songwriter Kendall Payne's "Pray". The video is from a live performance at a church. It is the best prayer for leave-taking I have ever heard, and I offer it to you as my prayer for us all.

May God grant us peace, Pastor Ken.

[Chad & Jeremy "A Summer Song" - YouTube](#); [Kendall Payne "Pray" live w/ lyrics - YouTube](#)

Upcoming Events

Labyrinth Event

The Labyrinth will be open on Saturday, January 8 from 9am - noon. Walk-in as individuals or families anytime to its peace and serenity with beautiful meditative music and soft lights decorating the labyrinth. Simple instruction sheets and deacons will be available to instruct.



The Labyrinth will also be available to anyone to stop in from 9am-12pm on Sat., February 12 and Sat., March 12. Should you wish to access the Labyrinth at a different time, contact the church office.



Carnival

Wednesday, January 12

Come for an evening of winter games!

Please bring a toy for the toy swap prize area.

5:00 - 6:00 Meal

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Carnival Game in the Shared Life Center.

If you are willing to bake cookies for the Cookie Walk, please email Dee Jordan at dee@wpcw.org



Card Making Class

All are invited to join this class that meets next on **January 13** 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

Hello Wes Pres Parents!

Next weekend, January 14-16 we will be holding our Winter Retreat! We will be packing into our beloved church van and headed to a farm house in Jewell, Iowa where we will be playing games, building connections within our students and taking a well-deserved break from school. The weekend of the 14th falls between the first and second semesters of school so we don't have to worry about anyone doing homework all weekend!

The van will be departing the church on Friday the 14th at 4pm and we will return to the church on Sunday 16th at 1pm.

We will be cooking our own meals on our retreat and we are asking for \$25 to cover the cost.

Things that you will need to bring: Warm winter clothes for possible outdoor activities, toiletries (soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste), bedding/sleeping bag, and an air mattress if you have one!

We can't wait for our fun weekend!

Steven Jordan

steven@wpcw.org

Sunday School - Resumes January 9, 10:10am

All ages will be doing Bible Studies based on Lectionary Texts.

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

In the Chapel with Pastor Dan



WPW resumes January 12!

Menu: grilled cheese, soup, canned fruit, salad and dessert

Wes Pres Wednesday Schedule	
Time	Event
5:00 - 6:00	Dinner
5:30 - 6:00	Messenger Choir (2nd - 5th)
6:00 - 7:00	Wes Pres Kids (2nd - 5th) Rotation of games, craft and story
6:00 - 6:20	Church Mice Choir (3 yr olds - 1st)
6:20 - 7:00	Wes Pres Kids (3 yr olds - 1st) Rotation of games, craft and story
6:30 - 7:00	Centering Prayer
6:00 - 7:00	Men's and Women's Adult Groups
6:30 - 7:30	Adult Choir
6:00 - 7:00	Wes Pres Youth (6th - 8th)
7:30 - 8:30	Wes Pres Sr. High (9th - 12th)
7:30 - 8:30	Meisteringers Adult Bell Choir

JOIN US WEDNESDAY EVENINGS
6-7PM DURING WESPRES!

Women of Westminster all are welcome!

in the New Year 2022 WOW will continue
with our book discussion.

**Desire to read along with us? Order your
own copy of Faith Unraveled by Rachel
Held Evans**

Our general schedule will include:
10 minutes of catching up
35 minutes of book discussion
10 minutes of devotion, celebration, needs
and prayers

Don't have time to read? Join us for
fellowship and conversation anyway!

LAKESHORE CENTER AT OKOBOJI
FEBRUARY
25-27

MEN'S RETREAT

Becoming better men

What does it mean to be a better man? How do you want to live in this world as a man? What is getting in the way of living out what is most important to you? Lakeshore Center is partnering up with Presbytery of North Central Iowa to bring a unique opportunity for men to rest, reflect, and connect with other men who are interested in pursuing meaningful, purpose-driven lives.

Danny Elenz, PsyD, LP (he/him/his) is a psychologist with a non-profit called LeaderWise in Minneapolis, MN. He works with male-identified individuals in helping them live out more meaningful, connected lives. Danny is passionate about connecting with people through therapy, retreats/workshops, mental health, and consultation to assist them in their development.



Prices include 2 nights of lodging and 5 meals:

Bunk room- \$100 per person
(dorm style rooms with bunk beds, bedding NOT provided)

Lodge room shared: \$175

Lodge room single: \$225

Meals only (staying elsewhere or just coming for the day):
\$50 or \$10 per meal



Register today by calling 712-337-3313 or register online by scanning this QR code:

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

This group will meet every other Monday beginning January 10.

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 \$36,140 in pledges and other revenue versus the previous November total of \$43,915. Year-to-date through November, we have received support of \$495,398 which is 96% of budgeted receipts (not including budgeted support from endowment and carry forward reserves). We have not needed to ask for any general budget financial support from the Endowment funds and by all projections we should not need to in December. We certainly should end the year in a solid financial position due in part to targeted expense control and staffing decisions.

Total expenses paid for the month were \$42,272 versus \$ 40,148 last year. Year-to-date expenses were \$481,868 or 72% of budget and lower than last year's \$598,118. 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 Finance Committee will continue to be good stewards over the funds you have provided to Westminster. Session has and will continue to seek your input as we begin 2022.

Respectfully,
John Speas
Finance Chair

BUDGET SUMMARY						
	NOVEMBER	NOVEMBER	YTD	YTD	BUDGET	BUDGET
	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 36,140.92	\$ 43,914.74	\$ 495,398.04	\$ 581,637.03	\$ 665,681.00	\$ 775,505.00
ADMINISTRATION	\$ 2,326.02	\$ 1,902.04	\$ 25,000.58	\$ 29,161.70	\$ 26,200.00	\$ 35,700.00
OPER & MAINT	\$ 2,000.11	\$ 3,544.74	\$ 65,202.70	\$ 63,046.66	\$ 86,000.00	\$ 94,750.00
CHRISTIAN ED	\$ 1,151.89	\$ 502.13	\$ 8,135.83	\$ 6,569.55	\$ 14,550.00	\$ 24,100.00
PERSONNEL	\$ 34,506.44	\$ 31,493.42	\$ 325,961.61	\$ 416,034.86	\$ 462,125.00	\$ 511,221.00
MISSION	\$ (471.00)	\$ -	\$ 33,172.04	\$ 51,463.05	\$ 47,000.00	\$ 63,000.00
MUSIC & WORSHIP	\$ 621.99	\$ 646.16	\$ 2,248.96	\$ 11,499.02	\$ 4,023.00	\$ 15,800.00
STEWARDSHIP	\$ 122.20	\$ 114.95	\$ 248.97	\$ 336.45	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,500.00
HOSPITALITY & DEACONS	\$ 117.65	\$ 293.41	\$ 2,196.05	\$ 1,516.94	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
MEMBERSHIP & OUTREACH	\$ 281.82	\$ 90.00	\$ 1,933.36	\$ 1,317.54	\$ 3,400.00	\$ 5,700.00
PER CAPITA	\$ 1,615.25	\$ 1,561.14	\$ 17,767.75	\$ 17,172.54	\$ 19,383.00	\$ 18,734.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 42,272.37	\$ 40,147.99	\$ 481,867.85	\$ 598,118.31	\$ 665,681.00	\$ 775,505.00
	\$ (6,131.45)	\$ 3,766.75	\$ 13,530.19	\$ (16,481.28)		

Mission



MISSION STUDY
Israel-Palestine

March 3-16, 2022

Join Presbyterians from across Iowa as we visit biblical sites, meet local Christians and church leaders as well as representatives from the Jewish and Muslim communities and learn about the Israel-Palestine conflict and peacemaking and reconciliation efforts.

\$2,750 for double occupancy include 11 nights of lodging, most meals, guides, tips, and on the ground transportation. Airline travel not included. Scholarships available.

Register online at <https://presbynciowa.org/israel-palestine/>

For more information, contact Amgad Beblawi at amgad@presbyteries.org or 502-592-3223.

PROSPECT HILL PRESBYTERY • DES MOINES PRESBYTERY • NORTH CENTRAL IOWA PRESBYTERY

How Can You Help?

Scrip

Update on Scrip Program – I'm hoping this information will help those who don't know about the Scrip program and will also update our congregation on the wonderful progress the committee has made.



In April 2010, a Scrip Committee was formed and the program started up with \$5,000 to purchase and sell scrip cards beginning in November 2010. A member of the congregation loaned the money to Scrip and was paid \$2,000 in December 2014 and the remainder was a gift from that individual.

WHAT IS SCRIP?

Scrip gift cards are the same gift cards you can purchase from a retailer. How does scrip make money? Scrip is Fundraising While You Shop. The church raises money instantly when families purchase gift cards to pay for everyday purchases, like gas and groceries, instead of credit or debit cards, cash, or checks. Every card purchased, earns a rebate for our church. The rebates range from 2-15% or more on each card depending on the retailer. These cards do not expire.

Scrip Committee was able to put \$6,000 towards the 2016 Operating Budget and to put \$4,000 to the 2020 Operating Budget. The Committee is excited to report that they will be able to put \$4,000 towards the 2022 Operating Budget. That is a total of \$14,000 in Revenue or \$1,275 per year or an

average of \$106 per month that the program has provided. The Committee's Goal is to give back \$5,000 at the end of 2022; a little higher than years previous and hopefully a good year to try and get more folks involved!

Thanks to everyone for supporting this fundraiser.

Becky Dietz
Financial Secretary

The Scrip tables will be open on the 1st and 3rd Sunday's of the month.

To view or download the Scrip form, click [HERE](#)

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 to help when the pantry is open. **We currently need 5 more people to sign up for January 8 and 6 for January 20.**



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

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.





A huge THANK YOU to all who took part in the Christmas Pageant!! I think it was the most outstanding Christmas concert ever! The Sound/AV system was outstanding, so well miked and with the huge words on the screen, it was a blessed event! A special thanks to Charissa and Dr. Morita.
Nancy Shirey

A quick look at what's coming up in February:

- Feb. 5 Presbyterian Pantry
- Feb. 7 Mission, Christian Ed
- Feb. 10 Card Class
- Feb. 11 Youth Dance - TBD
- Feb. 12 Labyrinth Walk
- Feb. 14 Finance
- Feb. 17 Presbyterian Pantry
- Feb. 20 Chili/Soup Cook Off, Women's Book Club
- Feb. 21 Deacons, Property
- Feb. 22 Session



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



Free Tax Assistance!

Due to Covid-19, we have modified our free tax service to protect the health of our clients and volunteers. Appointments are required at all sites. Clients will make a first appointment to confirm ID, complete the intake questionnaire and to drop-off your tax documents. A second appointment will be made at the first appointment to pick-up the completed tax return. Masks are required and please do not bring extra people to the appointment – only you, and your spouse if filing jointly, or an interpreter if needed.

To make your first appointment, call **319-334-1019** beginning January 17 (weekdays between 9 and 5) to schedule a free AARP/RSVP Tax-Aide appointment at the following locations:

- Waterloo – Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1301 Kimball Ave (rear entrance)
- Waterloo – Salvation Army (appts only; no walk-ins), 207 Logan Ave (rear entrance)
- Cedar Falls – First United Methodist Church, 718 Clay St
- Oelwein – First Baptist Church, 31 First Ave NE
- Waverly – Waverly Public Library, 1500 W Bremer Ave

Clients can also schedule their own appointment at www.vccv.org/taxaide beginning January 17.

