

April 2022 Messenger

Waiting, Spring, and Acorns

Is it just me, or is Spring a test in patience? I mean it was here weeks ago, and yet today, it feels like it still hasn't arrived. I usually think of myself as a very even keeled, patient person, but even I have to admit – I'm done waiting. I want warm weather and sunshine mixed with the perfect amount of nice showers, and not too windy either. When will those days come? Shouldn't it be here already?



In this way, spring can serve as a wonderful spiritual metaphor. Often, when we think of spring we think of new, fresh, rejuvenated, and abundant life. But that really isn't spring. That is what spring brings. Instead, spring, especially early spring, is gross. At its best you get a few beautiful days, but mostly it's full of tiny, barely noticeable signs that progress is being made toward the future we long for. And it is not a comfortable place to be.

Spiritual folks will often refer to this as the liminal space. The time in between. It is an extraordinarily difficult place to be in. It can make us itch, and feel like we have to do something – and quickly. But the secret in those times, when the future cannot be rushed, is to do the thing you least want to do....wait. It is counter intuitive, like learning to stop moving in quicksand, but it is, in the end, the only thing you can do. But if you can manage to surrender to the slow process that is waiting for new life to emerge (especially when we don't know what the future will be), only then will you be able to reduce your anxiety and await the future with excitement rather than disappointment. Because the truth is, any good growth takes time to develop.

What is that for you? What are you struggling to be patient for? Can you do something to move closer to that reality, or, do you need to surrender, and simply allow for the slow process needed for the good to emerge? Especially if you find yourself anxious these days, I encourage you to sit with these questions and ponder them for a while. (Seriously, pause now if you want, or can).

As you do, it may also be helpful to think about this Buddhist parable:

There once was an acorn, that more than anything else in the world wants to be a grand piano. It hoped and hoped that tomorrow that day would come. But the truth is, it is impossible for an acorn to become a piano. First, it has to be planted, and be watered, and grow for decades. Then it needs to be cut down, and milled, and handled by a master carpenter that can build from the wood, the gorgeous grand piano the acorn always wanted to be.

So it is with many things in life. Building up your skills in your career, watching children mature, trying to get an organization to a certain place, or becoming who you want to be. There is a day/moment/event we are waiting for, but it takes a tediously amount of time for it to develop. As we wait, for whatever it is we are waiting for - may we do what we can (certainly), but may we also learn to slow down and notice the little moments of progress, and ultimately live with trust that good growth is happening. Often, that is all we can do.

Be well, do good, and we'll see you around.
Pastor Dan

Pastor Dan's Sabbatical

Dan will begin his sabbatical Sunday, May 15, 2022.

Holy Week with Cedar Valley Presbyterians, PC(USA)

Palm Sunday (4/10): Chancel Choir Cantata "The Last Week" at 9:00 am, Contemporary at 11:15

Maundy Thursday (4/14): 6:00 pm

Hosted at First Presbyterian Church of Cedar Falls - 902 Main Street, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613. Join us for a service

of contemplation in three movements. We will open ourselves to the radical possibilities of grace as we: *remember* God's claim on us through baptism, *share* at Christ's table through communion, and *respond with love* through the Spirit's prompting. Encounter, connect, and be transformed!

*All are welcome to partake in communion. Childcare will be available.

Good Friday (4/15) 6:00 pm

Hosted at First Presbyterian Church of Waterloo - 505 Franklin Street, Waterloo, Iowa 50703. This service will feature a joint choir that blends together voices from our churches. The pastors will share brief mediations from the Iona community of Scotland and read the seven last words of Christ from the gospels. The congregation will have opportunity to come forward and place nails in the cross. Childcare will be available.

Easter (4/17): Sunrise at 6:15 am, Traditional at 9:00 am, Contemporary at 11:00 am

Participating Congregations: Cedar Heights Community CF, First Presbyterian CF, First Presbyterian W'loo, Unity Presbyterian W'loo, Westminster W'loo.

Easter Lilies

We will have live lilies in the Sanctuary and Shared Life Center on Easter. If you would like to purchase a lily in memory or honor of someone, fill out the information below.

You may take your lily home with you after either service.

Cost of the lilies will be **\$13.00 each**, and **payment should be made when your order is placed**. Make checks payable to Westminster, write *Easter Lily* in the MEMO line. You can also pay at the Kiosk.

Place your order by April 10 and fill out the following information:

PLEASE PRINT

Name of person or group to be (circle one) **remembered** or **honored**:

Check one:

I will take mine home with me Please give to someone in need

Your name as you would like it to appear in bulletin insert:



A Report from the PNC

Our MIF has been submitted to the CLC and accepted! The PNC has received our first group of PIFS and have been busy reading, researching, watching/listening to sermons and evaluating each PIF.

This committee continues to be dedicated and working hard in our search for our next Pastor. We appreciate your continued prayers.

Membership Outreach Task Group

The Session is seeking volunteers to serve on a Membership Outreach Task Group. They will look at the current membership list and determine a plan to invite people back to church who have been absent. Please let us know if you are interested in being part of the group.



Coffee Host

We are looking for people to make/serve coffee on Sunday mornings. Sign up to be a coffee host in the Welcome Center for either service or email jodi@wpcw.org with your interest in helping once per month.

Women Build Workday

If you are interested in helping with this year's Women Build, contact Kassy Grosser, the church office or sign up in the Welcome Center. The workday is Saturday, May 14, but registration deadline is April 1.



Card Making Class

On Thursday, April 7 at 2:00 pm, we will hold our monthly card making class. Cost is \$15 and that includes all the materials needed to make 4 cards. Please sign up in the Welcome Center or email dee@wpcw.org or jodi@wpcw.org so the teacher knows how many kits to make up! This class is open to anyone who would enjoy an hour or so of fellowship!



Spring Cleanup Day

Our annual spring yard cleanup will be Saturday, April 9 from 9am-noon. Bring gloves and a rake. Rain date will be April 23.

Labyrinth Open

On Sunday, April 10 Pastor Dan will have a Sunday School class at the labyrinth in the social hall from 10-11am.

From the Kids Table

Here are the lessons this week in the Youth and Children's Ministry:

Wes Pres Kids -

The Greatest Commandment

Matthew 22:34-40

Wes Pres Youth - Things Jesus Said

Jr. High 6-7pm and Sr. High 7:30pm-8:30

Sunday School - Mary Anoints Jesus; John 12:1-8

Please contact Dan dan@wpcw.org or Steven steven@wpcw.org with questions



Easter Joy Celebration

Join us Saturday, April 16 for loads of fun Easter festivities. We will have bouncy houses, treats, crafts, bunnies you can pet and an egg hunt!

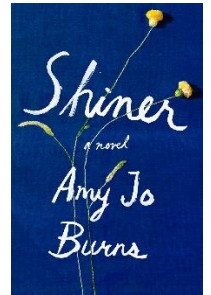
The fun begins at 10:00 am!!

Wes Pres Youth Calendar

- April 14 - Jr. High Lock in
- April 22 - Senior Celebration Lock in (High School)
- April 24 - Confirmation Sunday
- May 1 - Graduation Sunday

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.



- On **April 17** - "Shiner" by Amy Jo Burns
- On **May 15** - "Chains" by Laurie Halse Anderson

Prayer Vigil

The Deacons will host a prayer vigil on Wednesday, May 4 from 4pm - 8pm. Details will be shared soon.

Mother's Day Brunch Fundraiser

The Youth are hosting a brunch fundraiser – Sunday, May 8 at 10:00 am in the Social Hall. Tickets can be purchased in the office, email Dee Jordan at dee@wpcw.org or call to reserve your tickets at 234-5501. Cost is \$5 per person or \$20 per household.



Volunteer & Teacher Appreciation

We will honor teachers and our volunteers who have helped throughout the year on Sunday mornings and Wes Pres Wednesdays at both services on Sunday, May 8.

Announcements

- To watch previous worship services, go to wpcw.org/worship.
- LIKE and view what we are doing on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/wpcw.org>
- Presbyterian Pantry will be open next on Saturday, April 2, from 9am-11. **We need 4 volunteers for this Saturday.** Please sign up to help with the pantry at wpcw.org/volunteer. Our Presbyterian Pantry served 52 households on 3/17.
- Piecemakers are meeting every Thursday 9:00 am to noon. Non-sewers are welcome!

- Zumba classes are being held in the SLC on Tuesdays @ 5:30 pm. All are welcome; donations accepted.
 - Daily devotional books, *These Days* and *Our Daily Bread*, are available in the Welcome Center next to the prayer shawl cart.
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April

6th: Wednesday Worship at 6:30 pm.
14th: Maundy Thursday service at First Pres, CF, Jr. High Lock-in
15th: Good Friday service at First Pres, W'loo
16th: Easter Joy Celebration
17th: Easter Services at 6:15am, 9am and 11:00am
22nd: Senior Celebration Lock-in (H.S.)
24th: Confirmation
27th: Last WPW

May

1st: Senior Sunday, last Sunday School
8th: Mother's Day Brunch, Volunteer Appreciation

June

20th - 24th: Vacation Bible School

July

11th - 16th: Great Escape
16th - 24th: Sr. High Trip



VBS 2022!
June 20-24

Volunteers are needed - please email Dee at dee@wpcw.org to help!

Summer Camp at Lakeshore Center at Okoboji

Hey, if your kids would be interesting in attending camp this summer, check out this link.

www.lakeshorecenteratokoboji.org/summer-camp





Save the Date!

Westminster will once again host a packing event for Feed My Starving Children. The dates are: October 17 - 19!

	FEBRUARY 2022	FEBRUARY 2021	YTD 2022	YTD 2021	BUDGET 2022	BUDGET 2021
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 40,384.05	\$ 29,137.46	\$ 102,448.02	\$ 94,529.04	\$ 595,484.00	\$ 665,681.00
ADMINISTRATION	\$ 2,018.49	\$ 691.77	\$ 3,935.00	\$ 3,493.17	\$ 29,500.00	\$ 26,200.00
OPER & MAINT	\$ 9,580.24	\$ 4,285.93	\$ 19,464.27	\$ 10,990.87	\$ 95,000.00	\$ 86,000.00
CHRISTIAN ED	\$ 79.47	\$ 501.79	\$ 613.55	\$ 783.22	\$ 15,550.00	\$ 14,550.00
PERSONNEL	\$ 23,824.85	\$ 26,936.45	\$ 58,306.80	\$ 53,347.28	\$ 366,877.00	\$ 462,125.00
MISSION	\$ 5,100.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 5,100.00	\$ 7,697.74	\$ 48,500.00	\$ 47,000.00
MUSIC & WORSHIP	\$ 507.92	\$ 165.20	\$ 946.32	\$ 232.41	\$ 14,600.00	\$ 4,023.00
STEWARDSHIP	\$ -	\$ 33.52	\$ -	\$ 33.52	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
HOSPITALITY & DEACONS	\$ 155.99	\$ 326.60	\$ 184.93	\$ 366.39	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
MEMBERSHIP & OUTREACH	\$ 131.00	\$ 125.00	\$ 181.00	\$ 175.00	\$ 3,400.00	\$ 3,400.00
PER CAPITA	\$ 1,504.75	\$ 1,615.25	\$ 3,009.50	\$ 3,230.50	\$ 18,057.00	\$ 19,383.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 42,902.71	\$ 38,681.51	\$ 91,741.37	\$ 80,350.10	\$ 595,484.00	\$ 665,681.00
REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$ (2,518.66)	\$ (9,544.05)	\$ 10,706.65	\$ 14,178.94		

Are you looking for a way to support Westminster? Check out the options at wpcw.org/giving

Broadcast Techs Needed!

Sound and broadcast techs are needed for both 9:00 am and 11:15 am services. If you are willing to learn and help, please contact Jodi at jodi@wpcw.org.

Free Tax Service

AARP is offering free tax service. Appointments are required; to sign up call 319-334-1019 (weekdays between 9 and 5) to schedule.

Prayer Requests

Cindy Harmon - passed away Wednesday 3/30. Visitation will be Sunday, 4/3 from 2pm-4 at Locke's Funeral Home on 4th St, service will be Monday 4/4 at 10:30 am at Westminster..

(Daughter: Jessica Nauholz, 6421 Viking Rd., CF 50613, jess.nauholz@hotmail.com, 230-6508)
Granddaughter: Clare Williams, Swanson Hall Creighton University, 789418 California Plaza, Omaha, NE 68178-9418)

Thieleane Raecker – passed away Friday, 3/25. Services will be held at Locke at Tower Park; visitation Monday, 4/4 3:00-7:00pm, memorial service Tuesday, 4/5 11:00 am.

(Son: Steve & Marijo Raecker, 276 Prospect Blvd., W'loo '01)

Darlene Peterson – prayers for healing as she fell and has a lot of bruising.
(3720 Village Pl #6212, W'loo '02; 291-8525)

Bev Crawford – prayers as she was in the hospital and has been moved
to a skilled facility.
(1050 Flammang Dr. #323, W'loo '02; 319-883-5814; beverlyrose46@gmail.com)

Prayers for patience as we continue to consider COVID challenges while preparing safe ministries.

Joys

Prayers to all our beloved church members.

If you would like to send a birthday card, here is a list of special birthdays to those 80+ years this week:

Margaret Michaels, 3266 E. Shaulis Rd., Waterloo, IA 50702,
birthday is April 3

Larry Skeries, 426 Campbell Ave, Waterloo, IA 50701,
birthday is April 4

Don Ubben, 5323 Meadowlark Ln, Cedar Falls, IA 50613,
birthday is April 4

Larry Courtney, 2453 Edgemont Ave., Waterloo, IA 50702,
birthday is April 7