

December 2022 Messenger

Welcome Pastor Jonny Craig

Session is pleased to welcome Pastor Jonny Craig to Westminster. Session approved hiring Pastor Jonny as its Designated Pastor at its meeting on Tuesday, November 29th. 110 ballots were cast at the Informational Meeting held on November 27th – all votes cast were supportive of Session hiring Pastor Jonny. Please take the time to introduce yourselves to Pastor Jonny and his family (wife - Kayla and children – Joseph, Asher, Eliza and Abram) as he begins his ministry at WPC.

December Worship Schedule

Worship with us Sundays in person or online:

December 4

9:00 am Traditional

11:15 am Contemporary

Sunday School at 10:10 am for kids and adults
or watch later at wpcw.org/worship

NOTE: We will have just ONE service:
at 10:00 am on December 11, 18, 25 and January 1.
There will not be Sunday School on these days.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services:

5:00 pm & 7:00 pm

From Pastor Jonny

It was such a joy to be at Westminster last Sunday as a "guest preacher" for the final time and I am beyond excited to get to work as your pastor and am looking forward to getting to know you in the coming weeks, months, and years! My family and I have felt so loved and welcomed so far and I want to extend our gratitude for the warm reception we have received from the Westminster family.

As I reflect on the past months I am overwhelmed by the faithfulness and goodness of God. And so, it seems fitting that our time together would begin during the season of Advent--the ultimate example of that goodness and faithfulness--so that we can both celebrate what God has done as we look forward with anticipation toward Christmas morning together.

Prayer Requests

Wally & Becky Dietz – prayers to the family and his sister Karen, as his brother-in-law Bill Bergan, passed away in Ames 11/22/22. (1982 Kamille Ct., W'loo '01, 319-231-4164, becky@wpcw.org)

Skip & Shelly Smith – prayers to the family as Skip's mother, Audrey Smith, passed away 11/24/22. Visitation is 11/29/22 from 5-7pm at Richardson Funeral Service, CF, Funeral service is 11/30 at 10:00 am at Richardson's. (216 Oakwood Dr. Evansdale, '07, 319-232-6662, shelly2306307@gmail.com, skip3476@gmail.com)

Richard Pierce - prayers to his wife Connie and their family on his passing 11/19/22. A celebration of Life will be held in the Spring. (www.hagartywaychoffgrarup.com)

Prayers for:

Our homebound church members who are unable to join us in person

All of our beloved church members and for our entire community

Prayer Requests – if you know of someone who could use prayers, a call or visit, please call the church office and let them know.

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 celebrating 80+ years this week:

Jo Ann Weatherly, FV Wellspring Health Center, #4019, 580 Park Lane, W'loo '02, birthday is 12/6

Shirley VanWyngharden, 4940 William Dr., W'loo '01, birthday is 12/8



Cocoa & Carols

This Sunday, December 4 we will enjoy all the wonderful sounds of Christmas music from our children and adult choirs and Meisteringers. Join us at 5:00 pm in the Shared Life Center for fellowship, lots of joyous music, cookies and hot cocoa!

G-Love Tree

In keeping with the Deacons tradition to provide NEW THICK and WARM gloves, mittens and hats to our area elementary schools, there is a tree up in the Welcome Center where you can place your gifts through December 11.



The Blessing Finalists

Below is a synopsis of each of the three community organizations the Mission Committee has selected to be considered for this year's Blessing. **Voting will be in person at both services on Sunday, Dec. 4**, with the results being announced at the single service at 10am on Sunday, December 11. For those members unable to attend on the 4th, call the church office at 234-5501 or email jodi@wpcw.org with your vote.

Hospitality House of the Cedar Valley

Hospitality House of the Cedar Valley is a daytime homeless shelter in the Cedar Valley providing shelter, meals, showers and laundry, clothing, social advocacy and more to those who are in a homeless situation. The Warming Center provides overnight shelter to those who are not otherwise shelter appropriate giving them a safe and warm place to be nightly from January through March. They provide cots, sleeping bags, blankets, mats, pillows and a to-go meal for each guest. The \$7,000 blessing would be used for general expenses for the Warming Center including Peer Support. Hospitality House has 20 regular volunteers and 3 peer support. The organization is about making sure that everyone has a place to be that is warm, safe and secure. They provide for the homeless and marginalized.

Cedar Valley Angels

Cedar Valley Angels is an organization in Waterloo whose mission is to walk alongside children, youth and families in the foster care community. They do this by offering consistent support through intentional giving, relationship building and mentorship. The Love Box program matches local families with volunteers based on location, compatibility and scope of needs. Those volunteers show up monthly to support parents and children. The Dare to Dream program provides 1:1 mentorship to youth in care who are 11-22 years of age. The \$7,000 blessing would be used for additional funds within the Love Box and Dare to Dream programs. This funding

would allow for volunteers to partner with case managers to meet needs for families such as meals, registration for extra curriculums, educational materials, household needs, birthday/holiday items and much more. It can also be spent for community education and events for the families that Cedar Valley Angels serves as well as educational opportunities for the staff. Cedar Valley Angels has 5 full-time employees, 1 paid intern, and 55 regular volunteers.

The Job Foundation

The Job Foundation is an organization in Cedar Falls that works to provide financial literacy to kids in low-income families. They work with children and provide financial incentive to kids by tying earnings to good grades, behaviors, and attendance at school. 60% of earnings must be held in savings and are able to be accessed when a student graduates high school with no criminal record. The other 40% may be spent during supervised shopping trips that provide hands on learning of budgeting, comparison shopping, balancing checkbooks, giving charitably, providing for their families, and much more. The Job Foundation also provides financial stewardship classes. The Job Foundation would use the \$7,000 blessing to support the conditional cash earnings component of The Job Foundation's program. These earnings are tied to securing financial stability for children growing up in low-income households with the goal of a student having at least \$3,400 in their savings account at graduation to help launch them into independent living with the tools and knowledge to manage their funds.

Adult Sunday School

On the second Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of Peace. But peace of heart can be hard to find. We are a country polarized by disagreements that spill into our closest relationships with friends and family. How do we heal these divides? Can we heal these divides? Join us this Sunday, December 4 as we explore the path of reconciliation and forgiveness. Harrison and Felicia Cass will lead a class discussion and inward look at the trails open to us to discover the peace of heart promised by the coming birth of Christ. Join us at **10:10 am in the Chapel.**



Would you like to lead an Adult Sunday School Class?

We are looking for someone to lead a class for us on January 8. If you have an interest, please contact the church office or CE Chair, Rebecca Hoffman.



From the Heart

The **From the Heart** project involves buying Christmas gifts for CINA Children (Children in Need of Assistance). These children are generally in foster care after being removed from their homes because of abuse or neglect.

We will distribute hearts this coming Sunday (Dec. 4) for the younger kid's gifts (ages birth - 9 years old)! You will purchase one clothing item and one fun/toy item. There will be a table in the Welcome Center.

Please return your wrapped gift with the heart securely taped to the top by December 11. Including your receipt/gift receipt also would be a great idea.

For the older kids (10 years old and up), we will be giving them a \$25 gift Scrip card. We will collect money for this, so if you would like to help in that way, you can let them know at the table, or drop off a check.

The children as well as the adults who support them are very appreciative of our generous and caring support.

Bell Festival

Sunday, December 11 our wonderful adult bell choir, the Meisteringers, will be leading us in worship. Ringing joyful Christmas songs all throughout the service! We will have just ONE service this day at 10am.



Christmas Cantata

Join us on **Sunday, December 18** at our 10:00 am worship service when our choir leads us with the sounds of Christmas.

Christmas Day Dinner

Westminster will be hosting our 42nd Annual Christmas Day Dinner on December 25th. Our goal is to have the majority of our guests join us at the church for this celebration for a sit-down meal. A refrigerated cold dinner will be available for pick up from 10:00 - 11:00 for homebound individuals with up to 8 person per household. We will have two seating times.

Local transportation to the church will also be available. Per tradition, there is no cost for our guests. Through the added support of HyVee, our full holiday meal will be served. We ask that all reservations are made by **Thursday, December 22nd**. You may reserve your meals by signing up at the display board in the Welcome Center or calling the office (319-234-5501).

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Drive Through Pick Up

12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. First Seating

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Second Seating

Lots of volunteers will be needed in many areas. Please consider volunteering by signing up at the display board in the Welcome Center or calling the office.

The Village Inn has donated 25 of our needed pies. We are asking congregation members to donate an additional 50 pies. This year's cost is \$15. Sign up and pay for a pie at the display board, through the kiosk or stop by the office.

Jr. High Youth Dance

Our next Jr. High dance will be Friday, December 16. We are asking for your help to volunteer as a chaperone. The dance begins at 7pm (volunteers arrive at 6:30). There is a sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center!

Card Making Class

On Thursday, December 8 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 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!

Feed My Starving Children

Thank you to all of you who helped us pack for FMSC. We packed 101,088 meals which will feed 276 kids one meal a day for an entire year!

There were 676 volunteers and we have been notified that the boxes were shipped to Somalia, The Czech Republic, and Nicaragua.

October 2022 Budget Summary

	OCTOBER	OCTOBER	YTD	YTD	BUDGET	BUDGET
	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 39,114.82	\$ 38,339.52	\$ 448,553.50	\$ 459,257.12	\$ 595,484.00	\$ 665,681.00
ADMINISTRATION	\$ 2,219.57	\$ 2,478.25	\$ 18,976.89	\$ 22,674.56	\$ 29,500.00	\$ 26,200.00
OPER & MAINT	\$ 7,147.46	\$ 4,555.08	\$ 85,806.79	\$ 63,202.59	\$ 95,000.00	\$ 86,000.00
CHRISTIAN ED	\$ 352.12	\$ 540.18	\$ 7,819.31	\$ 6,983.94	\$ 15,550.00	\$ 14,550.00
PERSONNEL	\$ 21,316.81	\$ 33,333.57	\$ 263,089.80	\$ 291,455.17	\$ 366,877.00	\$ 462,125.00
MISSION	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	\$ 33,227.59	\$ 33,643.04	\$ 48,500.00	\$ 47,000.00
MUSIC & WORSHIP	\$ 442.18	\$ 1,032.81	\$ 5,310.82	\$ 1,626.97	\$ 14,600.00	\$ 4,023.00
STEWARDSHIP	\$ -	\$ 93.25		\$ 126.77	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
HOSPITALITY & DEACONS	\$ 161.19	\$ 278.27	\$ 1,396.75	\$ 2,078.40	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
MEMBERSHIP & OUTREACH	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 656.08	\$ 1,651.54	\$ 3,400.00	\$ 3,400.00
PER CAPITA	\$ 1,504.75	\$ 1,615.25	\$ 15,047.50	\$ 16,152.50	\$ 18,057.00	\$ 19,383.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 36,194.08	\$ 43,976.66	\$ 431,331.53	\$ 439,595.48	\$ 595,484.00	\$ 665,681.00
REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$ 2,920.74	\$ (5,637.14)	\$ 17,221.97	\$ 19,661.64		

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

Scrip

A reminder that the Scrip tables will be open every Sunday through Christmas. 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.



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, December 3, from 9am-11. Please sign up to help with the pantry at wpcw.org/volunteer.
- Piecemakers are meeting every Thursday 9:00 am to noon. Non-sewers are welcome!
- Women's Bible Study meets via Zoom every other Monday at 9am. Contact Cathy Young if you would like to join the class.
- Men's Bible Study is meeting Tuesday mornings at 9am in the Coffee House. All men are invited to attend. William Kay and John Butler are facilitating.
- 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.