



The Voice of Westminster

We are a servant church, nurturing each other's spiritual journey and personal gifts. All are welcome!

September 2021

Proper Equipment

I can remember back in the '70s when fall approached; it meant the football season was upon us. We had been training for several weeks in the summer, all in preparation for the "real deal" on Friday nights. Even though we were a public school (Oskaloosa Indians), before entering the field we would get suited up ready for the game, then turn the lights out in the locker room, and pray, ending in the Lord's Prayer. This was radical even then, but no one objected; one could just take it as a moment of silence.

There was something exhilarating about running onto the field, particularly at home games. After introductions and the national anthem, it was game time. I happened to start as the left offensive tackle (one of the smallest in the league at 182 lbs). I cringe in thinking what it would be like being in that position today at that weight.

What was critical, no matter what the position, was heading out with the proper equipment. It would have been unthinkable to head out on the field without the big things like pads and a helmet, as well as some of the small things like a mouthpiece. I have learned that mouthpieces can not only protect what is in our mouth, but that they can play a huge role in eliminating or mitigating concussions.

Of much more importance than sports equipment is the spiritual armor that Paul describes in detail in Ephesians 6:10-18—armor to prepare us for the spiritual battle we are engaged in each and every day. Paul accentuates to be strong in the *Lord*, and the strength of His power before commanding us to put on the *whole* armor of God. Why? "So that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil (vs. 11)."

The belt of truth, the body armor of righteousness the shoes of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God are key pieces of the equipment he provides. Once outfitted, Paul says to pray constantly, staying alert and persistent. God has given us what we need, but to be able to prevail offensively and defensively we need to put on the equipment.

The good news is that in the very end, God wins. However, in the meantime, we have work to do for and through him.

- Pastor Roger

August Session Notes

The Westminster Session met on Tuesday, Aug. 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the Atrium. Rev. Grandia's devotional from the book "Prayer-Care-Share-Lifestyle" referenced Ezekiel 22:30-31 and intercessory prayer. He led in a period of guided prayer.

Session took the following actions:

- ◆ The schedule was reviewed for the Sunday School hour, and it was recommended to change the time to 9-to-10 a.m., rather than 11:10 a.m.–to-noon. A motion was made and approved to change the Sunday School hour to 9-to-10 am. Confirmation classes were discussed regarding the busy schedules of potential participants. Options will be investigated.
- ◆ Reviewed a proposed contract with Big Bang Foundation to fund two classes from Easter Iowa Arts Academy (EIAA): 8 hours (8 weeks) of instruction time at \$135=\$2,160. In addition to these funds, Westminster would fund background checks for four teachers and four assistants in each class, plus two substitutes, at \$45 per person X 10 people = \$450. Total cost was set at \$2,610. It was proposed that the money would come from Westminster's Christian Ed program. Big Bang Foundation has indicated that after this round, they would cover the costs. A fee for building use was discussed, however Big Bang Foundation indicated it does not have a stream of income to pay at this point. After much discussion, Session decided it needed further clarification before taking a vote. Rev Grandia will be discussing this with the Big Bang Foundation.
- ◆ Heard from Warren Feerer who reported we are in a negative cash flow trend right now. We do have a good cash reserve but we hope to change to positive soon.
- ◆ Heard from Gale Smetana who discussed meeting via Zoom with Vanco to discuss online giving through an app and/or websites. The accounts have been set up for the Church and Loaves and Fishes. Test runs will be the next step in the process before it will go live, hopefully in early September.
- ◆ Discussed janitorial service. A Westminster employee is currently handling this. Session reviewed a bid from a local cleaning service, but decided to explore other options.

Session closed with The Lord's Prayer. The next Session meeting will be Sept. 21 at 6:30 p.m.

Calling All Knitters!

Now that fall is fast approaching, it is a good time to start curling up with your knitting needles or crochet hooks, especially if you're inside more. It's also a great opportunity to join Westminster's Prayer Shawl Ministry! The group meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 9:30 in the small parlor.

People work on individual projects, share ideas and have great fellowship (and treats).

If you are unable to attend in person and want to work on projects at home, you still can be an important member of the group and share your talent with others. We can even teach you how to knit! For more information contact Karol Cooper at 393-2569 or the church office.



True
friendship :
Helping
someone
to untangle
her YARN



Christian Education to Start Up in September

After last year's void due to the pandemic, Westminster will start Christian Education the Sunday after Labor Day, Sept. 12. Both Adult Ed and Sunday School will be held at 9 a.m., before our worship service.

Ed and Barb Mumford have agreed to lead one adult Sunday School class focusing on "Survey of the Bible" by Bruce Wilkinson. The series will use Right Now Media. This is an eight-week series. The Mumfords have agreed to lead the first four weeks focusing on the Old Testament. Adult Ed will meet in the Atrium.

Sunday School Director, Val Neubauer, has put together a fun and informative curriculum for Sunday School. Some classes will focus on "Finding God's Purpose", "Animals in the Old Testament" and "Children Serving God".

Sunday school is taught in teams by instructors and assistants who have been through the "Safe Gatherings" online course that helps to ensure that we create a safe environment for our young people. While several people have stepped forward to teach, Val could still use a few more. A rotation schedule will be coming out soon. In the meantime, Val will cover the three Sundays in September, along with an assistant.

We have two young people who are of confirmation age. Confirmation class has been discussed, but Pastor Roger is still working on finding a common time when the students can meet, as all of them have extracurricular activities limiting their free time.

What's Up at Westminster?



As we have reported in weekly announcements, groups have started coming back at Westminster. Most of them, like the Prayer Shawl Ministry, would love to have new members (see p.3). Here's a list of what Westminster groups are back and who to contact if you're interested in joining.

Kindred Sisters—Meets the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 9:30 a.m. The group focuses on multimedia faith-based topics of interest to women. Contact is Joyce Sedlacek at 393-7858 or you can call the office at 366-7185..

Men's Breakfast Group—Meets Wednesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. The group strives to have guest speakers of interest including not-for-profit directors. Contact Pastor Roger 366-7185.

We will try to keep you updated as additional groups resume in-person meetings.

Westminster to Offer Online Giving Via Vanco

In the coming weeks, Westminster will be adding an online or e-giving link to its website, social media, livestream and a smartphone app. As virtual worship flooded the Internet during the pandemic, research shows that online giving became more popular, among all demographic groups.

According to Vanco, the company Westminster is working with on this project, as of 2020, 51-percent of churchgoers nationwide, actually prefer e-giving to writing checks or giving cash. That percentage varies based on age groups, but even the 54+ groups show between 24-percent and 38-percent preferring e-giving.



People contributing online will have the option to give to the church and/or to Loaves & Fishes. We will add additional options as we move along. Once the system is set up and tested on the Westminster website, we will announcement in church bulletins and online.

Don't like the idea of giving online? Not to worry. We will still pass the plate and collect our offerings the current way. E-giving just gives people another option, including people who might not come to church frequently, but still want to give to Westminster and its ministries. As our "digital disciples" grow on YouTube, we also will be able to provide those worshipers with a quick way to make a contribution.

Look for updates in our weekly announcements.

PROPERTY REPORT

This summer has been full of maintenance projects of all kinds. In one week alone there was ongoing work with the air conditioning in the adult Sunday School room on the second floor, where Kindred Sisters also meets. The boiler room flooded again. This time the water heater was leaking and had to be replaced.

We had our stained glass inspected. We got a clean bill of health on the stained glass, for which we are grateful. Our Brothers and Sisters at Olivet Presbyterian Church are having to do nearly \$50,000 worth of repairs on the plexiglass protective covering which was damaged in the derecho. Another derecho-damaged project involved getting a new garage door. That has been completed.

As we look forward to fall we have a couple of projects on tap. We have contracted with Pate to repair our 4th Ave. lot, resurface both the 4th Ave. and 3rd Ave. lots and have lines painted in both lots.

- *The Property Committee*



September Birthdays

| | |
|------------------|----|
| Dorothy Benesh | 4 |
| Marcia Elhart | 4 |
| Bryan Hawkins | 4 |
| Kathie Lane | 6 |
| Becky Ranck | 6 |
| Barb Mumford | 8 |
| Janalee Kosowski | 9 |
| Gary Teig | 14 |
| Beth Roof | 22 |
| Alice Crosier | 27 |
| Bob Moore | 27 |
| Marilyn Alford | 29 |
| Bob Allsop | 29 |
| Mike Canning | 29 |



September Food List for Loaves & Fishes

Following are items needed
at L&F this month.

Spaghetti-os

Crackers

Toothbrushes

The Month of September Thank You Volunteers! Liturgists

Sept. 5—Rachel Kongshaug

Sept. 12—Val Neubauer

Sept. 19—Brian Read

Sept. 26—Lemi Tilahun

Greeters (at Front Door)

Sept. 5—Jim Fine

Sept. 12—Bob Moore

Sept. 19—Brian Read

Sept. 20—Terry Perkins

Sept. 27—Val/Loren Neubauer

If you are unable to cover your Sunday, please make
arrangements with a substitute. Thank you!

Meme of the Month...



Westminster Calendar- September 2021

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|---|---|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| | | | 1 7:30 am – Men's Breakfast | 2 Nothing Scheduled | 3 Office Closed 8 pm - NA | 4 8 pm - NA |
| 5 Communion Sunday 10 am – Worship-Sanctuary* 1 pm – Beacon of Light-Chapel | 6 Labor Day Office Closed 7 pm - AA | 7 2:30 pm - L&F Pantry 6:30 pm - NA | 8 7:30 am – Men's Breakfast 9:30 am-Prayer Shawl Ministry | 9 9:30 am-Kindred Sisters 5:30 pm-Personnel | 10 Church Closed 8 pm - NA | 11 8 pm - NA |
| 12 9 am-Sunday School & Adult Ed 10 am – Worship-Sanctuary* 1 pm – Beacon of Light-Chapel 3:30 pm -Chorale Midwest 6 pm-Cedar Singers | 13 11 am-Build Better Bridge 1 pm-Property Committee 6 pm-Deacons 6:30 pm-Mission Committee 7 pm-AA | 14 2:30 pm - L&F Pantry 6:30 pm - NA | 15 7:30 am-Men's Breakfast | 16 Newsletter Deadline | 17 Office Closed 8 pm - NA | 18 8 pm - NA |
| 19 9 am-Sunday School & Adult Ed 10 am – Worship 1 pm – Beacon of Light 3:30 pm-Chorale Midwest 6 pm-Cedar Singers | 20 11 am-Build Better Bridge 4:30 pm-Finance Committee 7pm-AA | 21 2:30 pm - L&F Pantry 6:30 pm – NA 6:30 pm-Session | 22 7:30 am – Men's Breakfast 9:30 am-Prayer Shawl Ministry | 23 Newsletter Assemblage 9:30 am-Kindred Sisters | 24 Church Closed 8pm-NA | 25 8 pm - NA |
| 26 9 am-Sunday School & Adult Ed 10 am – Worship 1 pm – Beacon of Light 3:30 pm-Chorale Midwest 6 pm-Cedar Singers | 27 11 am-Build Better Bridge 7pm-AA | 28 2:30 pm - L&F Pantry 6:30 pm - NA | 29 7:30 am – Men's Breakfast | 30 | | |
| *Note: All Sunday services will also be livestreamed on YouTube | | | | | | |

Please visit www.crwpc.org/calendar to stay informed of changes to this month's calendar.

Westminster Presbyterian Church
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Cedar Rapids
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Return Service Requested

The Voice of Westminster
September 2021

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Sunday Worship

10 a.m.—Sanctuary
Online on our YouTube Channel

Visit us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Twitter or at www.crwpc.org

PHONE: 319-366-7185

Church Staff

Pastor, Rev. Roger D. Grandia
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Gale Smetana
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Damon Cole
A.J. Plummer, Praise Band Leader
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