



The Voice of Westminster

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

January 2018

Surprise!

"Three days later there was a wedding in the village of Cana in Galilee." John 2:1-5 (MSG)

Epiphany is the first Christian holiday of the new year, and it takes its name from a Greek word which means to make an appearance. The Christians who wrote the New Testament reserved this word for talking about the appearance of God's Messiah in the person of Jesus Christ and the moments when people should have been able to see the signs. But Jesus didn't really match people's expectations when he appeared on earth – he was a complete surprise as a Savior. He still is.

The wedding at Cana, where Jesus turned water into wine, is one of the more familiar stories about him, and you've got to admit, that's a pretty surprising thing, turning water into wine. You'd expect a miracle like that to capture everybody's attention, but surprisingly, it didn't. The party went on without disruption, both the hosts and the guests unaware that anything unusual had occurred. But then, that happens in our world. We move through the day mostly unaware of all the things that just "work themselves out" through the quiet intervention of others. John says this act in Cana was the first glimpse that someone extraordinary had made an appearance in Jesus.

There are lots of surprising things about Jesus, but one that fascinates me is that he never sought center stage, never purposely stepped into the spotlight. What made Jesus tick was serving other people, quietly and simply. For a long time, that perplexed me, how to follow Jesus' lead to love and serve other people without leaving oneself behind. It quite surprised me to discover you don't have to - in fact, you can't. Love requires you to bring your whole self into the moment – head, hands and heart – to "work things out" for the good of all.

In this new year, as Westminster moves forward to embrace many new things, I hope you will re-discover the surprising truth that Christ lives and moves in the world through people like you, people willing to turn over their heads, their hands, and their hearts to the surprising power of love. It can change the world.

Praising God always, in all ways!

Annual Meeting

Westminster will hold its Annual Meeting on Jan. 25 at 10 a.m. in the Family Life Center. On the agenda are approval of vacancies that need to be filled on the Session, Deacons, Foundation Trustees and Nominating Committee. Below are the candidate slates.

Session

Class of 2021 (3-yr term)

Jim Shanklin

Doug Horton

Scott Olson

Class of 2019 (1-yr term)

Val Neubauer

Deacons

Class of 2021 (3-yr term)

Leeanne Leeper

Don Hoepfner

Linda Smith

Shuna Tosa

Foundation Trustees

Class of 2021 (3-yr term)

Doug Horton

Steve Allsop

Ann Buckheister

Class of 2020 (2-yr term)

John Henderson

Nominating Committee Members

Class of 2021 (3-yr term)

Bob Richardson

John Henderson

Report Reminder

If you're responsible for preparing a committee or mission report for the Annual Meeting, please make sure you submit it to Pastor Randi no later than Jan. 15.

PNC Update



Westminster's Pastoral Nominating Committee has completed its ministry information form (MIF) and gained Session approval. The next step will be place the information online with the actual search beginning after that.

New Neighbors

P R E S B Y T E R Y
OF EAST IOWA



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

If you've noticed extra activity in the old pastor's suite including items moving in and out and walls being painted, don't be alarmed. The Presbytery of Eastern Iowa will be fixing up the area to relocate its offices to Westminster. While we don't have exact dates as the newsletter goes out, we expect it to be sometime in January. The move made good economic sense for both parties.

Attitude of Gratitude



It was a season of giving, in so many ways, here at Westminster. Thanks to your caring and some of

the new partnerships we're forming, many people had a brighter Christmas. Loaves & Fishes gave out holiday breakfast food like ham, pancakes and syrup, some of which was provided by the Cranksgiving benefit bike ride organized by Goldfinch Cyclery. Hibü marketing company held a food and personal care item drive for Loaves & Fishes. This year, the pantry gave out stuffed animals, too—part of Lois and Ted Kahler's "Lois's Loveables" campaign. Other stuffed animals contributed went to folks in area nursing homes. Our Prayer Shawl Ministry tied their hand-knit scarves onto the porch rails at Loaves & Fishes to give to our clients and they went quickly! Others gave gift cards as part of our gift tree campaign for Foundation Two, a not-for-profit human services agency that has a youth shelter and focuses on crisis prevention and intervention. Westminster makes a difference in many, many ways. Thank all of you for sharing Christ's love with your neighbors.

LOAVES & FISHES 2018

JAN	Mac N Cheese Canned fruit Shampoo
FEB	Creamed soup Rice Cooking oil Toothpaste
MAR	Spaghetti Canned tomatoes - diced / sauce Toothbrush
APR	Hamburger helper Taco mix Deodorant
MAY	Ketchup Mustard Pork and beans Kleenex
JUN	Peanut butter & jelly Marshmallows Graham crackers Bar soap
JUL	Canned tuna or chicken Mayo BBQ sauce Shampoo
AUG	Salad dressing Kool-aid mix Noodles Toothpaste
SEP	Beef stew Cornbread mix Toothbrush
OCT	Canned chicken Gravy mix Deodorant
NOV	Canned tuna Tuna helper Kleenex
DEC	Soup & crackers Sugar Bar soap

Guest Pastor

The Rev. Mark Martin will be filling in for Pastor Randi on Sunday, Jan. 7 at the joint service at 10 a.m. in the Family Life Center. Rev. Martin will speak on "Mind Only or Heart's Embrace."

Check Out Our Prayer Stations

In an effort to help teach our Sunday School students about thoughtful prayer, Val Neubauer has placed prayer stations on the landing between the first and second floors. But, "big kids" can use them, too. The interactive stations include a prayer for the world which includes a map with pins, a prayer of light and confession, a Scrabble prayer and an M & M prayer, which we had to hide the candy since it was disappearing for some reason.

Please check out and use the prayer stations . It's a good way to help a child or grandchild learn to pray. (((more to come)))

Adult and Children's Sunday School Returns January 7

Westminster Sunday School will resume on January 7. Adult Education will continue its study of Martin Luther with historian Mike Bryant leading the sessions. This will run through Feb. 11. Our youngsters will be studying the "four things that matter most," on this 10th anniversary of the best selling book. The four things are: thank you, please forgive me, I forgive you and I love you.

Students will also work on a mission project being pursued by the Hospitality and Outreach Committee to provide necessities for children who have to be removed from their homes because of incidents like domestic violence. The Sunday School kids will be sewing the bags for the items we've collected via Loaves and Fishes-things like toothbrushes and toothpaste. Sunday School teachers will have a more detailed curriculum later in January.

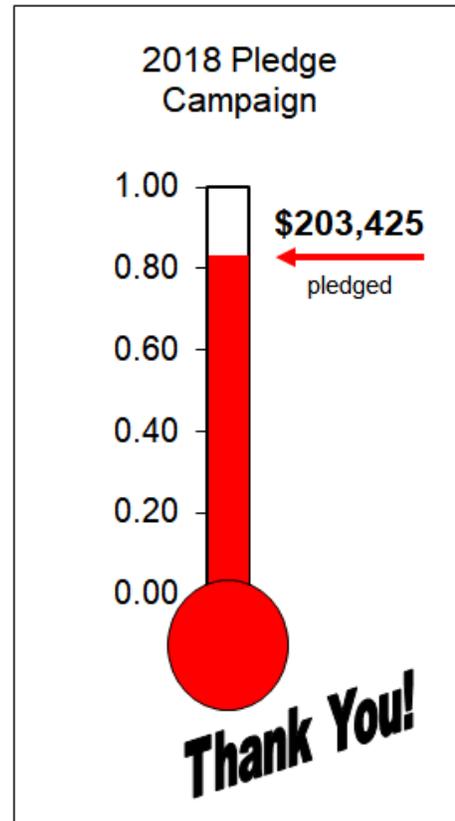
Sunday School is held in the second floor classrooms at 10:10 a.m. to give the kids time to get breakfast before class begins.

It's Never Too Late

The 2018 Pledge Campaign is still a bit shy of its goal, but it's never too late to fill out a pledge card. We've printed a few more and placed them outside the Sanctuary and the Family Life Center. At newsletter publication time, pledges were up to \$203,425. Thank you!

Get Your Offering Envelopes

If you haven't already, please remember to pick up your offering envelopes. The plan is to have them on a cart outside the office. If you don't find an envelope box with your name, please let Pastor Randi know and she'll get one for you.



Men's Breakfast Group Returns

After taking a break for the holidays, the Men's Breakfast Group resumes on Jan. 10. The group meets Wednesdays at 7:30 a.m. in the atrium for fellowship and guest speakers. All are welcome.



Blood Pressure Screenings

The next free blood pressure screening will be Sunday, Jan. 7. There will be a table set up outside the office area between the 9:00 and 11:00 services as we did last year. We'll see you then!

Voice of Westminster

Offering Stewards

- Jan. 2* - Warren Feerer & Tom Read
 Jan. 8—Barb & Bill Moss
 Jan. 16* - Pat Teig & Mark Tyler
 Jan. 22—Maggie York & Warren Feerer
 Jan. 29—Warren Feerer & Tom Read
 * Indicates a Tuesday due to a holiday

11:00 a.m. Ushers/Greeters

- Jan. 7 —Joan Charters, Dick Trotter
 Jan. 14—Flora Kitzman, Jim & Cheryl Shanklin
 Jan. 21—Jean Kenison, John & Signe Henderson
 Jan. 28—Claudia Warfel, Barb Schultz

9 a.m. Liturgists

- Jan. 7—Leslie Wright
 Jan. 14—Don Damsteegt
 Jan. 21—Val Neubauer
 Jan. 28—Audrey Fashimpaur

11 a.m. Liturgists

- Jan. 7—Joe Lisieski
 Jan. 14—Signe Henderson
 Jan. 21—Barb Read
 Jan. 28—Butch Hataway



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Prince Ngoga	1
Ken Ngombwa	1
Josiane Uwera	1
Luman Colton	2
Antoinette Mukakabanda	4
Roxi McCrane	6
Shelby Leeper	9
Karol Cooper	10
Sherry Cornish	10
Signe Henderson	11
Lorraine Worsfold	14
Leanne Leeper	15
Brenden McLean	18
Ann Buckheister	19
Sara Vancura	20
Linda Smith	21
Mary Sturbaum	25
Jackie Alff	28
Jack Haney	28
Val Neubauer	30
Tim Winegarden	30
Jan Kupka	31

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Jan 2018 (Central Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Happy birthday! Office Closed RLH - Vacation Wk 1	RLH - Vacation Wk 1 3pm - L & F Pantry @ 6pm - Deacons Meeting	RLH - Vacation Wk 1 7:30am - Men's Brkfst 7pm - Chancel Choir	RLH - Vacation Wk 1 5:30pm - Personnel	RLH - Vacation Wk 1	RLH - Vacation Wk 1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Communion Sunday RLH - Vacation Wk 1 8:30am - Breakfast @ 9am - FUEL Worship 10am - Adult Christian 11am - Traditional 4pm - Chorale Midwest	12:30pm - Property 1pm - Pastor Randi	3pm - L & F Pantry @	7:30am - Men's Brkfst 9:30am - Shawl 7pm - Chancel Choir	9:15am - Kindred 1pm - Pastor Randi		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
8:30am - Breakfast @ 9am - FUEL Worship 10am - Adult Christian 11am - Traditional 4pm - Chorale Midwest 7pm - Cedar Singers @	1pm - Pastor Randi 4:30pm - Finance	Newsletter Deadline! 3pm - L & F Pantry @ 6:30pm - Session	7:30am - Men's Brkfst 7pm - Chancel Choir	1pm - Pastor Randi		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
8:30am - Breakfast @ 9am - FUEL Worship 10am - Adult Christian 11am - Traditional 4pm - Chorale Midwest	1pm - Pastor Randi	3pm - L & F Pantry @	7:30am - Men's Brkfst 1pm - Shawl Ministry @ 7pm - Chancel Choir	9:15am - Kindred 1pm - Pastor Randi		
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
8:30am - Breakfast @ 9am - FUEL Worship 10am - Adult Christian 10am - Annual Meeting 11am - Traditional 4pm - Chorale Midwest	1pm - Pastor Randi	3pm - L & F Pantry @	7:30am - Men's Brkfst 7pm - Chancel Choir			

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

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Office Hours

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

Sunday Worship Times

9:00 a.m. Blended service in the Family Life Center
11:00 a.m. Traditional service in the Sanctuary

Visit us on Facebook or at www.crwpc.org

Church Office

Intentional Interim Pastor, **Randi Henderson**
Communications & Shared Ministry Coord.
Gale Smetana
Choir Director & Church Musician,
Damon Cole
Contemporary Worship Leader, **Jason Wright**

westmin@crwpc.org
pastorrandi@crwpc.org
gale@crwpc.org
cole1350@gmail.com
jason@historycenter.org

Bookkeeper, **Tina Mueller**
Nursery Attendant, **Lindsay Meade**

bookkeeper@crwpc.org
lindsay_meade@hotmail.com

Newsletter Editor, **Gale Smetana**
Newsletter Proofreader, **Barb Moss**

gale@crwpc.org

Custodian, **Gary Mohomes**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Westminster Presbyterian Church
1285 Third Avenue South East
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403-4084
PHONE: 319-366-7185
Fax: 319-366-7187
E-Mail: westmin@crwpc.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Cedar Rapids
Iowa
PERMIT NO. 139

