

¡La Luz!

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Santa Fe

QUERIDO WESTMINSTER:

There is something very wonderful about the slow turn to fall. The aspens are turning the mountains gold; the days have a crispness to them. The farmers market is full of end of summer crops: root vegetables and apples, squash and corn and beans.

In the church season, we begin and end this month with two special Sundays. We begin with World Communion Sunday, celebrating the breadth and diversity of Christ's church, and we end with Reformation Sunday, when we honor and remember the start of the Reformed tradition.

We are also in the midst of our Stewardship season - with the theme Love for Others. On the sanctuary wall, the Stewardship committee has hung a heart, creating space for all of us to write or post a picture of the people and activities at Westminster that remind us of our love for others, of the way we show God's love through our actions and relationships. All are invited to help fill in the heart, using images and words to remind us all of the stories that make up this congregation and our witness to the world. If you see an unfamiliar face in the heart, I encourage you to ask around - someone will be able to tell you all about the person pictured and their part in the story of Westminster.

This fall, I invite you to remember the many ways we show our love for others, and the way we share God's love with the world!

Bendiciones,

Rev. Madeline

MADELINE'S SCHEDULE:

October 5-6, Presbyterian Historical Society Board Meeting, Philadelphia

Prayers for Our Congregation

Sylvia Brown
Gerzain Chavez, Grace Nadell, Maya Chavez, Aissa Chavez, and Isabel Chavez
Pauline Chavez
Rey Chavez
Jan and Bob Chestnut

Over the course of the year, all members and friends of Westminster will appear on this list. Please hold them in prayer.

Joys & Concerns

Isabel and Emma
Margi Coxwell
Joe Miracle
Ellie, friend of Donna O.
Jim Williams
The Ibrahimi family

Birthdays!

10/10: David Ytuarte
10/11: Naomi Salazar
10/16: Sylvia Brown
10/28: Rachele Guzman
10/30: John Burnett
10/31: Esther Griego

Updates from the August Session Meeting

Westminster’s Session meets on the fourth Thursday of each month. We met on August , 2022 at 6:30pm via Zoom. These are some highlights from that meeting; full meeting minutes are generally available in a binder in the church library.

Committee Updates:

- Stewardship Theme: Love for Others; campaign will include two letters and an article in La Luz
- Report from the Treasurer:
 - Total pledged income through July was \$79,086, 57% of annual budget
 - Total expenses through July were \$79,021, 48% of annual budget
 - Two offerings: Cuba - \$1,215; Noisy Coin Toss - \$122
- Creation Care: WPC hosted the Presbytery Earth Care Cmte meeting 9/6!
- B&G: mini-splits were not working; they have been repaired
- Personnel: created a Sick Leave policy to comply with NM State law; Session approved unanimously
- Nominating: creating a pool of nominees for serving as officers - any nominations should be sent to Kent DeYoung

From the Clerk’s Report: WPC membership is 68

From the Pastor’s Report: creating a faith formation schedule for the upcoming year, including fall Bible study. First La Luz went out; how do we continue to tell WPC’s story effectively?

(For full minutes, check the church library!)

WPC Committee Meetings

Session: 6:30pm; 4th Thursdays

Deacons: as needed

Nominating: as needed beginning in summer

Building and Grounds:

Money Cares: 6:30pm; 1st Wednesdays

Creation Care: 7pm; 3rd Wednesdays

Mission Dei: 9:45am; 2nd Sunday

Worship: 12pm; 2nd Sunday

Personnel: as needed

WHY WE SERVE: WESTMINSTER'S OFFICERS ON WHY THIS SERVICE MATTERS TO THEM AND TO THE CHURCH

Every summer, Westminster's Nominating Committee begins meeting to determine who will be asked to serve as elders and deacons. Elders and deacons help govern and nurture the congregation. Throughout the fall, different elders and deacons will be offering "Minutes for Nominating" at the start of worship, discussing their reasons for serving the congregation in their respective roles. In September, we heard from elders Kent DeYoung and Jackie Tway. Here's what they had to say about why they serve!

When and where were you ordained?

Kent: I was ordained as a Deacon in 1988 and as an elder in 1992 or 1993. Both ordinations occurred at Celebration of Life Presbyterian Church in Mesa, Arizona.

Jackie: I was first ordained as an elder at our Ohio church, Bath Presbyterian,

How many times have you been installed?

Kent: I was only elected to serve as a Deacon once, but I have been elected to serve as an elder five or six times.

Jackie: I was an elder at Bath Presbyterian for 7 years (including a partial term) and have served on session at Westminster for 3 years.

Why did you agree to serve as an elder at Westminster?

Kent: I see serving as an officer as a privilege but also a responsibility. When we become members of Westminster, we make a promise to support and be involved in the ministry of the church. Serving as an elder is one way for me to fulfill that promise.

Contemplative Worship

Taizé: A brief prayer service in the style of the Taizé Brothers in France is held the first Thursday of each month 5:30 - 6:00 by Zoom only. It is a time of scripture, prayer, chants and silence. To receive the link to join this prayer service, please contact the church office at wpcsantafe@gmail.com.

Second Saturday Quiet Space: On the second Saturday of the month, we gather at 10am for a creative, contemplative gathering. We will read Scripture, pray together, and hold a time of silence. Within that structure, Quiet Space is a time for creativity and contemplation; every month will be a different experience.

WHY WE SERVE

(cont'd from previous page)

Jackie: I agreed to serve as a Ruling Elder at Westminster after the Need and Deed program ended. I felt I could put time into another area to support the mission of the church. I feel it is important to support programs around social justice, human suffering, changing how we treat Mother Earth and each other. As a member of Westminster, I have felt part of the church family from the beginning. Everyone is welcoming, has a good heart and a sense of humor.

What do you find most rewarding about being an elder?

Kent: Besides feeling a sense of mutual respect and camaraderie with Madeline and those serving on the Session or Board of Deacons, I really enjoy being involved in the discussion, planning, and decision-making about how we at Westminster live out our call to be a welcoming congregation to those who may not feel welcomed. I enjoy hearing reports

If you or someone you know would be interested in serving as a Deacon or an Elder, please reach out to a member of the Nominating Committee (Kent DeYoung, Michael Brinegar, Elizabeth Roghair, and Sylvia Graft) or Rev. Madeline. Any of us would be delighted to speak with you about what it means to serve the church in this way!

We invite you to prayerfully consider if you are being called to this important service in the life of the church!

from other committee chairpersons every month about how their respective committees are carrying out their mission and fulfilling their role, either within the church or in the larger community. Being an officer brings a much deeper dimension to being a church member.

Jackie: Being an elder has helped to open my eyes. Serving as chair of the Money Cares committee I am learning how to make a budget, stick to a budget, and get enough pledges to support the budget. The members of the Westminster community support programs and outreach of the church with their energy and money. Their support makes doing the job that much more rewarding.

What advice would you give someone thinking about serving Westminster as an elder?

Kent: Don't be afraid or intimidated or feel like other members could do it better. The Board of Deacons and the Session and Madeline will bring you up to speed on whatever it is you don't know or are unsure of, and you'll receive on-the-job training. You are not alone. We're all in this together.

Jackie: I think serving as an elder is one important way to support Westminster, operationally and spiritually. You get an idea of how issues are decided, you are part of the process, and vote how to run the church.

Thank you Kent and Jackie for taking the time to tell us about why you serve on the Session of Westminster!

CHILDREN'S SPACE UNDERWAY

Have you noticed that the back of the sanctuary feels a little off, recently? Like there's something missing? That's because there is!

The Worship Committee is delighted to announce that we are creating a space for kiddos in our sanctuary! We have removed a pew (a huge thank you to the Guthries, who are giving it a new home) and will be doing some rearranging and organizing in the back of the sanctuary over the next month. We will put down a rug so there's a soft space for little ones to play, and create a space of quiet activities - books and soft toys. For older kiddos, we've already added children's bulletins and coloring pages related to the lectionary texts.

If you have recommendations for books or any quiet toys you would like to donate, please email Madeline or Keri to arrange a time to drop them off. Suggestions for the space are welcome! Westminster has long been a family friendly congregation; this new space makes it clear children and little ones are welcome in worship and our life as a congregation.

We look forward to dedicating the space later this fall!

CHURCH LIBRARY

Did you know we have a church library?

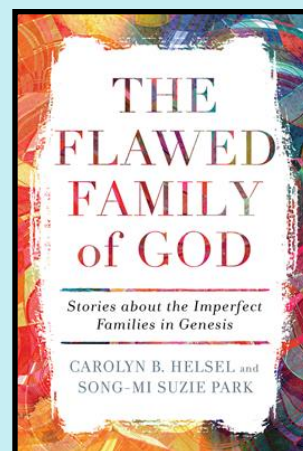
By definition, a library is meant to give you access to books. However, our library is so full of books that you can't really access any of them! We have books stacked on books, books in front of books, and books completely hidden from sight.

What we don't have is shelf space. If you or someone you knows has bookshelves in need of a good home, please let us know! We will put them to good use, with the hope of making our library an accessible, comfortable place where you can find books to encourage, inspire, and inform you!

Please reach out to Michael Brinegar if you have bookshelves to donate. If you have books you would like to donate to the church library, please wait until we have more shelf space - we will happily take your books once we are sure we have a place for them!

FALL BIBLE STUDY

The best stories in the book of Genesis involve families. This fall, we'll use *The Flawed Family of God* as our study guide as we dig into issues the familiar stories of Genesis raise – married vs. single life, sibling rivalry, infertility, family relocation, blended families, and others. A copy of the book is not necessary for participation; we do have four copies in the church library! We'll meet Tuesdays at 6pm via Zoom or Wednesdays at 9am in person through November 16, reassessing our twice-a-week schedule in early October.



MISSION SPOTLIGHT: IMAGINE NO HUNGER AND AFGHAN 225 INITIATIVE

We all watched last August as the Afghan government collapsed and the Taliban rose once again to power. We saw, broadcast to the world, the crowds of people at military posts, trying to get out of their home country, which had suddenly become inhospitable. As soon as we learned that Santa Fe would be a resettlement location for those evacuees, Westminster stepped up to co-sponsor a family, knowing our support would be critical for them.

But our concern for Afghanistan did not stop there. We knew those who remained in Afghanistan were suffering from widespread hunger as their country entered a food crisis. We wanted to support people who remained in-country, doing what we could to help ensure their access to the funds needed to purchase food and other basic necessities. So we got creative!

In partnership with a local Afghan family, Missio Dei created a special fund under our Imagine No Hunger fund to get money into Afghanistan and to individuals and families in need last year, and that work continues this year, directly supporting those in need.

Each month, we wire transfer between \$225 - \$300 (depending on the exchange rate) to a trusted family in Kabul who then distributes the money among members of the community who need it most. The distribution among the community varies depending upon the need.

As an example of the type of people and need we are supporting, last month we supported:

- A young 20-year old man battling cancer
- A 50-year old widow who supports 5 orphaned children
- A 60-year old crippled man and cobbler who sews people's shoes
- A 44-year old man with little income from his work

We keep our funds transfers limited so that they do not draw the attention of the Taliban government. The money we send goes directly to the people of Kabul.

If you are interested in supporting this initiative, you can write a check to WPC, with "INH - Afghan 225 Initiative" on the memo line.

Please contact Jenny Lasley or Diane McGaha if you are interested in more information.

COVID-19 AND WESTMINSTER

CDC Levels

The CDC Community Level for Santa Fe County is posted on our website every Friday. Please check our website or [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) on Friday or Saturday to learn the current level!

Masking

CDC Community Level

High: **Masks required**

Medium: **Masks required**

Low: **Masks encouraged; required if not vaccinated**

Vaccination

At all levels, we encourage members, friends, and visitors to get vaccinated and boosted!

CDC Community Level

High: **Proof required**

Medium: –

Low: **Vaccination status asked; if not vaccinated, masking is required.**

During this season of pandemic, we continue to be the church, worshiping God together even though we are not all together in one space. In God, we are made one church, bigger than any building might contain. Our [COVID-19 Safe Protocols](#) are part of our response to God's call to care for the vulnerable among us. As Christians, we believe it is important to live out our care for one another and the wider community by following our protocols.

Our matrix is an easy-to-use guideline for where we are in our COVID-19 restrictions. You will find an announcement bar on our website, updated weekly, with the current CDC Community Levels. Our COVID-19 Safe Protocols will be communicated to the congregation on the website, in *El Semanario*, and via signage.

If you have previously downloaded a copy of our guidelines, and are unsure if it is the most recent version, you can check the "approval" date directly below the title. The current version, [accessible here](#), has an approval date of 7/28/22. If substantive changes are made to the guidelines or matrix, we will notify the congregation via email. In addition, an email will go out on any Friday when we are moving from one level to another so that worship attendees can be prepared for any changes to Sunday's worship!

If you cannot abide by our protocols, you do not feel safe attending in-person worship at this time, you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or have tested positive for COVID-19, (or if you don't feel up to coming in to church this Sunday!) you are welcome to join our online congregation! Every Sunday at 11am, as people are gathering in person at the church building, we are also streaming via Facebook Live. A bulletin can be accessed in the comments of the Live video so that you can participate fully with us! All are welcome to worship with us, whichever way feels most appropriate for you!

October Calendar

2: Worship, 11 am
 4: Bible Study, 6pm
 AA, 7-9pm
 5: Bible Study, 9am
 Bell Choir, 4pm
 MoneyCares, 6:30pm
 7: AA, 7-9pm
 8: Quiet Space Gathering, 10am
 9: Missio Dei, 9:45am
 Worship, 11 am
 11: Bible Study, 6pm
 AA, 7-9pm
 12: Bible Study, 9am
 Bell Choir, 4pm
 Nominating Committee, 5pm
 14: NNM Quilt Guild, 9am-1pm

AA, 7-9pm
 16: Worship, 11 am
 18: Bible Study, 6pm
 AA, 7-9pm
 19: Bible Study, 9am
 Bell Choir, 4pm
 21: AA, 7-9pm
 23: Worship, 11 am
 25: Bible Study, 6pm
 AA, 7-9pm
 26: Bible Study, 9am
 Bell Choir, 4pm
 27: Session, 6:30pm
 28: AA, 7-9pm
 30: Worship, 11 am

WESTMINSTER'S STAFF AND LEADERS

Pastor: Rev. Madeline Hart-Andersen: rev.madeline.wpcsantafe@gmail.com
 Office Administrator: Vickie Ortega: wpc.santafe@gmail.com
 Clerk of Session: Keri Brinegar: clerk.wpcsantafe@gmail.com
 Moderator of Deacons: Sylvia Graft: sylviadgraft@gmail.com
 Chair, Nominating Committee: Kent DeYoung: DeMiracle@comcast.net
 Chair, Building & Grounds: Michael Brinegar: mkbrinegar@netzero.net
 Chair, Money Cares: Jackie Tway: moneycares.wpcsantafe@gmail.com
 Treasurer: Elizabeth Roghair: churchtreas.wpcsantafe@gmail.com
 Chair, Creation Care: Consuelo Walker: conejitalinda1@comcast.net
 Chair, Missio Dei: Jenny Lasley: jlasleywpcsf@gmail.com
 Chair, Worship: Keri Brinegar: mkbrinegar@netzero.net
 Chair, Personnel: Margi Coxwell: mokeysan@outlook.com