

# ¡La Luz!

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Santa Fe

## QUERIDO WESTMINSTER:

November will be a busy month here!

We begin with All Saint's Sunday, when we remember those who have died in the last year. All of you are invited to submit the name of your loved ones who have died, whether friends and members of Westminster or not. We'll read their names in worship and ring the bell, announcing both our grief at their deaths and gratitude for their lives to the whole community. Everyone is also invited to bring a photo or a flower for their loved ones, and we will decorate our front table with them.

November 13 is Pledge Dedication Sunday, when we will dedicate the pledges for 2023. Stewardship is about far more than just the operating budget; it's about our commitment to God and to each other as the body of Christ. All are invited to join us after worship for a simple lunch together as we dedicate our commitment and support. Thank you for your generosity!

Advent begins on Sunday, November 27 - the Sunday following Thanksgiving. We'll work our way through the familiar texts of Advent as we make our way toward the manger in Bethlehem. You can find a full calendar of our Advent season on the last page of *La Luz*.

And last, but certainly not least, we will begin our pre-worship coffee and pastries starting November 6, every Sunday when the CDC COVID levels are low. We are delighted to restart this fellowship time for the first time since COVID - a space for us to gather and share conversation. I look forward to sharing this time with you!

Bendiciones,

Rev. Madeline

### MADELINE'S SCHEDULE:

November 11: Vacation

November 15: Vacation

November 20: Vacation

## Prayers for Our Congregation

Donna Clark  
Margi Coxwell  
Fred Dennis  
Kent DeYoung and Joe Miracle  
Linda Dillman  
Jim and Kris Dorris  
Suzanne Dreith

*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!

11/1: Gerald Garcia  
11/1: Herald Garcia  
11/24: Johanna Medina  
11/25: Jackie Tway  
11/27: Jim Muirhead

## Love for Others Stewardship 2023

Greetings in the Name of Christ!

The 2023 Stewardship campaign is off to a good start. Thank you to everyone who has turned in their pledge cards. We are so grateful for your support and commitment!

We (Kathleen and Sylvia) have shared the stories of our individual searches for a church home, searches that led us to WPC. Here at Westminster, we found friendship, acceptance, and a true spiritual home. We are sure that most of you have similar stories.

As a congregation, we work hard to make sure our welcome is for all! Aside from our Pride flag and our “Immigrants and Refugees Welcome” sign, we’ve made our bathrooms gender neutral. In the sanctuary, we’re creating a “children’s space” – a place where children and their families know they are welcome in worship with us. We’ve already added a rocking chair, rug, and coloring materials – we look forward to seeing the space evolve! We’re also reimagining our library space, working together to make it feel welcoming and cozy – a good place to sit and read.

During COVID, the way we communicate with each other has changed! We stream worship on Facebook Live every Sunday. We’ve created a new website, with vibrant colors and images. We use Zoom and other online meeting tools to allow us to gather when we can’t be in-person. Our new monthly newsletter, *La Luz* is designed to communicate our involvement in our community – both at Westminster and in

### ‘LOVE FOR OTHERS’ ART PROJECT



On the wall in the sanctuary hangs our “Love for Others” artwork. Throughout this season, members have been invited to put photos of the ways Westminster has shown our love for others: our loved ones and our mission work. This poster is a testament to the work Westminster already does to share our love of God, and we encourage you to bring in your photos, newspaper articles, or other mementos so we can fill in our heart!

## Love for Others, cont'd

Santa Fe and beyond. All of this is part of an effort to stay in touch with our present community and reach out to the greater community.

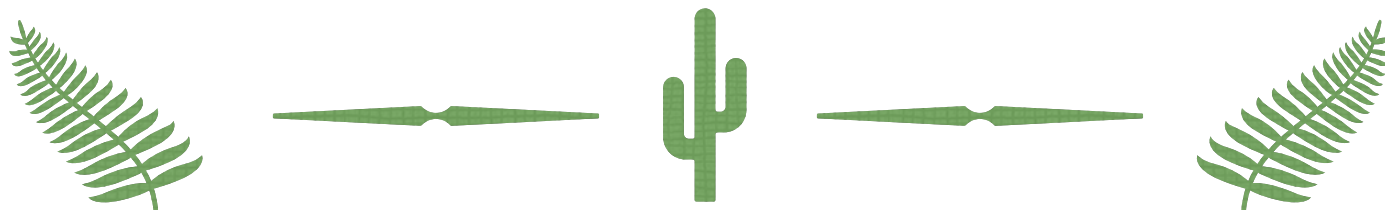
All of these changes are aimed at sharing our message, as relevant today as ever: If we love others, God will remain in us.

We invite you to pledge your support and commitment to Westminster, giving what you can so we continue to be a spiritual home to all who find their way to our loving community. Our pledges and gifts ensure we can share God's love with each other and the world. Pledge cards, which arrived with the previous mailings, are also available at the church. You can return them to the church by mail or placing it in the offering plate. You can also give online, where you can set up a recurring gift. If you use our online giving, please consider giving an additional 2%, to cover the administrative fee for our online giving portal.

We will dedicate our pledges on November 13. After worship, the Stewardship committee will be hosting a lunch in Koinonia hall, COVID permitting. Please join us!

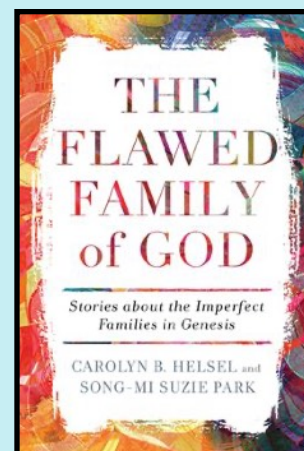
In Christ,

Sylvia Graft and Kathleen Watson Nadler



## 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 meet Wednesdays at 9am in person through November 16 - all are welcome. You can find each week's topics on our website under "Grow" in the menu bar.



# Updates from the September Session Meeting

<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;"><b>WPC Committee Meetings</b></p> <p>Session: 6:30pm; 4th Thursdays</p> <p>Deacons: as needed</p> <p>Nominating: as needed beginning in summer</p> <p>Building and Grounds: 6:30pm; 1st Thursdays</p> <p>Money Cares: 6:30pm; 1st Wednesdays</p> <p>Creation Care: 7pm; 3rd Wednesdays</p> <p>Mission Dei: 9:45am; 2nd Sunday</p> <p>Worship: 12pm; 2nd Sunday</p> <p>Personnel: as needed</p>	<p>Westminster's Session meets on the fourth Thursday of each month. We met on September 22, 2022 at 6:30pm via Zoom. These are some highlights from that meeting; full meeting minutes are available in a binder in the church library.</p> <p>Committee Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deacons: will be restarting pre-worship Coffee Hour and Imagine No Hunger lunches in November, presuming low COVID</li> <li>• B&amp;G: agreed on a new contract for the office copier with Southwest Copy Systems</li> <li>• Money Cares: September revenues were up; 2023 pledges beginning to come in</li> <li>• Creation Care: hoping to place worm boxes and rain barrels at the church next spring; will be speaking to City Historical Review Board</li> <li>• Nominating: on its way; asking nominees to serve. Minutes for Nominating on Sundays throughout Sept/Oct</li> <li>• Personnel: preparing a provisional Terms of Call, with intent to bring to congregation in December</li> </ul> <p>Presbytery of Santa Fe meets Oct. 15; Keri Brinegar will be WPC's ruling elder commissioner</p> <p>WPC's Session will have a Triennial Visit from COM on November 3</p> <p>(For full minutes, check the church library!)</p>
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## 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 October, we heard from elders Margi Coxwell and Keri Brinegar. Here's what they had to say about why they serve!

### **When and where were you ordained?**

MC: I was ordained as an elder in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Billings, MT in the eighties.

KB: I was first ordained at Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Albuquerque in 2006.

### **How many times have you been installed?**

MC: Once in Billings, once in Aberdeen, and twice here.

KB: I have been installed twice as an elder and once as a deacon.

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

MC: I had a number of reasons. My father's always very active in the church - he was an elder, and he was a clerk of the presbytery. When I was asked, I was so honored and felt like it was following in my dad's footsteps. I also thought about everything God has done for me and it would be a chance to give back.

## 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](mailto: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)

KB: There's four reasons, not in any particular order. I was asked to serve. I believe in who and what Westminster Presbyterian is. With the exception of one congregation in my Presbyterian church life, all the congregations I've been a part of have been very small. And small churches, in my experience, always need help with leadership. They seem to get great participation in projects and committees and those sorts of things. But they always seem to really struggle with leadership. And finally, to those who are given much, much is required. And I and my family have been richly blessed. Serving as an elder is a way to say thank you to God and to my family here.

### **What do you find most rewarding about being an elder?**

MC: The long meetings! I'm just kidding. I enjoyed the interactions with the other elders. I appreciate everything we try to do to serve God

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!

KB: Supporting a family that I love - and I do consider this church my second family. Sometimes I love this church more than my real family! Also, getting closer to members of this family. If its someone who is new to Westminster or who I haven't necessarily gotten to know in any other context but I get to work with him or her on Session? It's justice, wow, I really get to know each other and share each other's gifts and share each other's passions and so it's been a delight.

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

MC: Say yes! Just remember what a spiritual experience it is to be a leader in church and keep an open mind about the various things that are discussed. We all have different opinions about things. Try not to take things personally if somebody disagrees with you.

KB: Don't overwhelm yourself with the what-ifs. What if this happens? What if that happens? Oh no. Don't overwhelm yourself with the "I'm not"s - I'm not smart enough, I'm not whatever. Don't go down those roads too much. Because this Session - this church - we're a group. It's a team effort. We're never alone - we have each other, we have God's help and guidance and the Holy Spirit's presence. All of these things help the Session guide the church into even more ways Westminster can be 'the little church with a big heart.'

**Thank you Margi and Keri for taking the time to tell us about why you serve on the Session of Westminster!**

## It Takes a Village: Four Churches Support Afghan Evacuee Family

When the Afghan government collapsed and the Taliban seized power in August 2021, the US airlifted thousands of vulnerable Afghans and their families to the United States. Many of those families came to Santa Fe. Organizations and churches were encouraged to support these evacuees, and Westminster quickly mobilized to do so!

We were connected with the Ibrahimis, a family of 8, including 6 children. The family was especially vulnerable because the dad was in the Afghan military and volunteered to serve with American forces as they fought against the Taliban. The family did not speak English when they arrived, so their support needs have been great.

As the size of the task became apparent, Westminster was approached by several area churches offering support and wanting to help. Quickly, what had been Westminster's effort became a co-operative effort, and our team expanded to include:

- Westminster Presbyterian Church, Santa Fe
- First Presbyterian Church, Santa Fe
- White Rock Presbyterian Church
- White Rock United Methodist Church

The congregations jointly raised funds to help resettle the family, and church volunteers are helping the Ibrahimis integrate into our community. The volunteers have given many hours of their time to:

- Move the family into a rental apartment and furnish it completely
- Tutor the parents and children in English and all school subjects
- Serve as liaisons to school administrators and teachers to address unmet needs
- Find and purchase a vehicle for the family and help the father get a drivers' license
- Help find a good job in a safe environment for the father of the family
- Coordinate medical and dental appointments for the family
- Transportation to cultural enrichment events in Santa Fe and Albuquerque
- Mentor the family on financial issues
- Assist with immigration requirements
- Become friends with the family

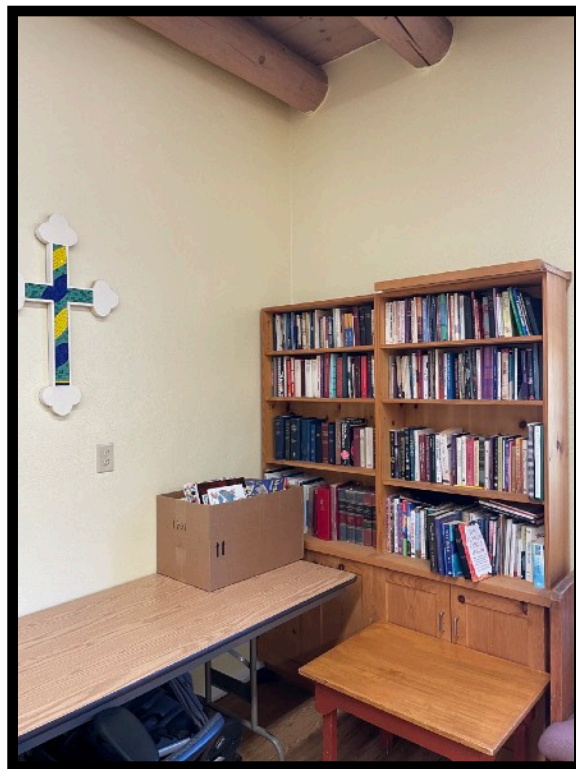
And the list is likely longer. Over the last nine months, volunteers from all four congregations have spent hundreds of hours working together to support the Ibrahimis family. No single congregation could have supplied enough funds or volunteers to help a family of this size with such need. Instead, God has provided a unique opportunity for our church partnership to help them settle into a new country, one in which the five Ibrahimis girls can attend school for the first time and choose any profession they wish. Praise God for that and for the many hands across four churches who

## Our Library Nook

As we move out of COVID, we have been thinking hard about how to make sure our building is welcoming. One space we've decided to work on is our library, tucked into the corner of Koinonia Hall. 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.

In our vision, we've added more shelving space, an armchair or two, a reading lamp, and a rug! But we'll start with the 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, 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 or other library supplies 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!



Consuelo Walker Ochoa and friends at the Earth Care table at the October 15 Presbytery meeting! She and Fred Dennis (not pictured) represented our congregation's Creation Care Committee within the Presbytery-wide committee. Thank you to Consuelo and Fred for caring for God's creation and representing us at Presbytery!



## CHILDREN'S SPACE: WELCOMING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES INTO OUR SANCTUARY

In the back of the sanctuary, changes are taking place!

The Worship Committee is delighted to announce that we are creating a space for kiddos in our sanctuary! We pride ourselves on our welcome, and so changing up the back of the sanctuary to create a space for children and their families seemed like a clear next step to ensure that everyone who enters knows little ones and their families are welcome here. While this space is not yet complete, we are excited about what we have already accomplished! A pew has been



removed, and we have added a rocking chair and a rug in its place. A small table and floor cushions offer a space for coloring for older kids, and we hope to add a soft, washable rug for the littlest ones.

Suggestions for the space are welcome! If you have children's books or quiet toys you would like to donate, please email Madeline or Keri Brinegar to arrange a time to drop them off. 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!

## 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!

## November Calendar

1: All Saint's Day  
 2: Bible Study, 9am  
 Money Cares, 6:30pm  
 6: Worship, 11am  
 Worship Committee, 12pm  
 8: Election Day - Vote!  
 9: Bible Study, 9am  
 12: Quiet Space Gathering, 10am  
 13: Worship, 11am  
 16: Bible Study, 9am  
 19: Session Meeting, 9am  
 20: Worship, 11am  
 23: Worship, 11am  
 27: Worship, 11am

## Advent and Christmas 2022

11/27: 1st Sunday in Advent, 11 am  
 12/4: 2nd Sunday in Advent, 11 am  
 12/11: 3rd Sunday in Advent, 11 am  
 12/18: 4th Sunday in Advent, 11 am  
 12/21: Longest Night, 6pm  
 12/24: Christmas Eve, 4pm  
 12/25: Christmas Sunday Lessons and  
 Carols, 11 am  
 1/6: Epiphany



## WESTMINSTER'S STAFF AND LEADERS

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