

# ¡La Luz!

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Santa Fe



**seeking:**  
honest questions  
for deeper faith

## Prayers for Our Congregation

Jackie Kenley  
Jenny Lasley  
Jim Williams  
Marianne Lewis  
Wyn Lewis  
Linda Loving  
Arvid and Mary Jo Lundy

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

## This Lent, what are you seeking?

The past few years have been messy and hard, and many of us are asking big questions about our lives and our faith. We are seeking many things: clarity, connection, wonder, justice, balance. As we continue our Lenten journey together, our questions and seeking are ever present as we wonder:

What am I seeking?

What is God seeking?

This Lent and Holy Week, Westminster is partnering with two local congregations, using stories of Jesus encountering seekers and asking honest questions for deeper faith together: The Open Circle (645 Webber Street) during Lent, and Christ Lutheran Church (1701 Arroyo Chamiso) during Holy Week.

## Birthdays!

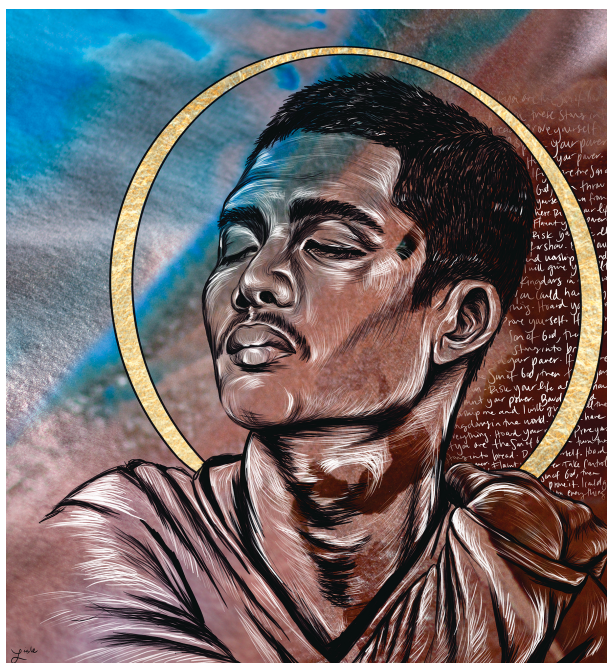
3/8: Jim Williams  
3/9: Traisie Topple,  
Dwight Walker  
3/10: Carol Lujan  
3/19: Suzanne Dreith  
3/22: Aissa Chavez  
3/24: Megan Naranjo  
3/26: Scarlett Padilla  
3/27: Karen Mosier  
3/29: Fred Dennis  
3/30: Pauline Chavez

# QUERIDO WESTMINSTER:

Welcome to Lent!

This is one of my favorite seasons of life in the church year, as we spend time in reflection, contemplation, and confession. It is a season of growth, as we tend our lives - reshaping and pruning, preparing for Easter joy. Lent feels very attuned to the time of year - as we spend time reflecting and growing, the whole creation (at least here in New Mexico) is slowly waking up. The early spring bulbs are coming up and trees tips are budding. At my house, the crocuses had just started blooming when we gathered for Ash Wednesday worship on February 22, a good reminder that even deep underground, in the cold earth, life was stirring. The days are getting longer; the soil is soft with water and the potential for new life.

This Lent, our theme comes from *A Sanctified Art*. We have been using their words in worship and using their questions to frame our Lenten devotional life. Our theme, *Seeking: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith* speaks to the questions that arise in our life of faith - questions about God, about community, about Scripture, about ourselves. During Lent, we'll gather weekly for contemplative time together, using the devotional booklet (see page 4 for a link),



*Tune In*, Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Scripture, and poetry to continue our seeking. We're joining with The Open Circle for these gatherings; I hope you join in person or online as we build community together!

This season of life in the church is the perfect time to ask questions like these - a time set aside in the year for deepening our faith. I invite you to a season of seeking - a season of contemplation and growing and deepening faith.

Bendiciones,  
Rev. Madeline

## MADELINE'S SCHEDULE:

Office hours: Tuesday - Thursday, 9:30-1:30; Fridays by appointment  
Saturday and Monday are my days off!

## New Committee Seeks Members!

Did you hear? At its February meeting, the Session approved the formation of a new committee at Westminster: **Evangelism and Outreach!** The genesis of this action can be traced back to the Revitalize Our Church (ROC) task force which began over a year ago and, more recently, the conversations many of us engaged in last December. Many of the ideas and suggestions discussed by the ROC task force and brought forward through our conversations will be overseen by, or brought to fruition through, the new Evangelism & Outreach Committee.

We are currently seeking committee members, so please let chairperson Kent DeYoung know if you are interested. You can let him know the next time you see him in church, or by sending an email to [DeMiracle@comcast.net](mailto:DeMiracle@comcast.net) or giving him a call at (505) 467-8810. The purposes and responsibilities of this committee are listed below, but keep in mind that the list will likely evolve over time.

Please consider being a part of this vital, fun committee. With your help we fulfill the plans to revitalize our church, enhance our visibility, and grow into our future!

### PURPOSES:

1. To raise the greater Santa Fe community's awareness of Westminster Presbyterian Church, its mission and vision, and its involvement in the local and global community.
2. To reach out to the greater Santa Fe community by sharing the love of Jesus Christ and, through our words and actions, welcoming and encouraging others to begin or continue their faith journey with us.
3. To assist WPC's pastor, committees, and boards enhance our shared mission and sense of belonging within our own congregation.

### RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Work with the pastor to establish or enhance our social media presence over an array of platforms and help ensure that our website is inviting, up-to-date, easy to navigate, and content-rich.
2. Explore ways to increase Westminster's visibility on various organizations' printed and digital listings, both locally and globally.
3. Oversee the church's advertising and marketing programs and methods.
4. Organize the church's involvement with, or participation in, community events (such as the Pride Parade, the Women's March for Equality) and work with the pastor, committees, and boards to participate in any gatherings advocating for social or environmental justice, peacemaking, etc.
5. Expand the ways our building, grounds, and facilities can be more fully utilized by various community groups and organizations.
6. Assist the pastor and board of deacons in maintaining our connection with members and friends.
7. Explore opportunities for equipping our members with skills for sharing the love of Jesus Christ with others and how Westminster is a reflection of that love.

# Lent at Westminster

DURING LENT, THERE WILL BE MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPLORING OUR QUESTIONS AS WE SEEK TO DEEPEN OUR FAITH:

The Third Week of Lent

Luke 4:5-42

[Sunday March 12 at 11am](#)

Wednesday March 15 at 6pm at the Open Circle



**seeking:**  
*Will you give  
me a drink?*

The Fourth Week of Lent

John 9:1-41

[Sunday March 19 at 11am](#)

Wednesday March 22 at 6pm at the Open Circle



**seeking:**  
*Who sinned?*

The Fifth Week of Lent

John 11:1-45 | Ezekiel 37:1-14

[Sunday March 26 at 11am](#)

Wednesday March 29 at 6pm at the Open Circle



**seeking:**  
*Can these  
bones live?*

Each week's contemplative Wednesday gathering can be accessed online here: <https://nbacares-org.zoom.us/j/695604926?pwd=NWpBTEF2Z1k0QUUp1cXRMRXNvRkNDUT09>, Meeting ID: 695 604 926, Passcode: 024674.

You can access an online version of the Lenten Devotional [here](#), or if you would prefer to print your own copy, please email [Madeline](#) or [Vickie](#)!

# Holy Week at Westminster



**seeking:**  
*Where are you headed?*

Palm Sunday

[Sunday April 2, 11am](#)



**seeking:**  
*Will you wash my feet?*

Maundy Thursday

Thursday April 6, 6pm

Christ Lutheran Church,  
1701 Arroyo Chamiso



**seeking:**  
*Why have you forsaken me?*

Good Friday

[Friday April 7, 6pm](#)

## **Holy Saturday Contemplative Worship**

Saturday April 8, 10am

Join us for Quiet Space contemplative worship as we pause between the crucifixion and the resurrection.

## **Easter Vigil**

Saturday April 8, 7:30pm

We will gather at Christ Lutheran Church for an Easter Vigil - an ancient Church ritual welcoming the return of the light, and celebrating Christ's resurrection!



**seeking:**  
*Who are you looking for?*

Easter Sunday

[Sunday April 9, 11am](#)

## Updates from the November, December, and January Session Meetings

### WPC Committee Meetings

Session: 6:30pm; 4th Thursdays

Deacons: as needed

Nominating: as needed, beginning in summer

Building and Grounds: 6:30pm; 1st Thursdays

Money Cares: 6:30pm; 1st Wednesdays

Creation Care: 7pm; 3rd Wednesdays

Mission Dei: 9:45am; 2nd Sunday

Worship: 12pm; 2nd Sunday

Personnel: as needed

Westminster's Session meets on the fourth Thursday of each month - usually. We met November 19, December 18, and January 26. These are some highlights from those meetings; full meeting minutes are available in a binder in the church library.

In November, the Session:

- Examined Elfie Nadell for membership and joyfully accepted her as a new member!
- Paid \$2,400 on our Presbyterian Investment Loan Program Loan (taken in the 1950's to build our church!); \$2,400 remains. 75% of what we repay is recycled into grants for other congregations like us!

In December, the Session:

- Re-elected Elizabeth Roghair to serve as Treasurer for 2023, with gratitude for her service in 2022!
- Moved 9 members to Inactive rolls, and removed 2 members from the rolls, following our annual 'clearing of the rolls'. (See the full meeting minutes for these two lists).
- Changed our COVID-19 Restriction Matrix as follows: beginning the third Sunday in January, communion will be served from the front, unless COVID-19 levels return to High.

In January, the session:

- Re-elected Keri Brinegar as Clerk of Session, with gratitude for her service as clerk in 2022!
- Scheduled the Annual Congregational Meeting for February 19, 2023

(For full minutes, check the church library!)

## February Presbytery Meeting Recap

The Presbytery of Santa Fe met for our February meeting on February 18 at First Presbyterian Church here in Santa Fe. Madeline and Keri Brinegar represented Westminster as voting members of that body - but we were far from the only WPC people there! Consuelo Walker, Fred Dennis, and Jim Roghair were also there, making presentations and speaking to the Presbytery as part of the Presbytery Earth Care Team.



Highlights of the meeting included:

- An Earthcare focused worship service where we heard from Sister Joan Brown, director of NM-Interfaith Power and Light. Liturgy for the service was arranged by the Presbytery's Earthcare Team.
- A message from Rev. Andrew Black about Earthkeepers360's work to protect the Caja del Rio and how church's can become climate smart congregations.
- Commission on Preparation for Ministry recognized the 10 leaders that completed the Preaching Seminar for Lay Leaders. Congratulations to these faithful preachers!
- The Presbytery approved all 33 proposed amendments to the *Book of Order*. You can view the results of the [GA Amendment votes here](#).
- The Presbytery approved a [Family and Health Needs Leave Policy for Ministers](#). The policy requires calls to include sick leave and parental leave.
- Tiffany Lo-Finch announced that the Medical Debt Relief Fund raised over \$38,700, which will forgive over \$550,000 of medical debt in New Mexico, and read a thank-you letter from one recipient.



PRESBYTERY OF SANTA FE  
**MEDICAL DEBT RELIEF FUND**  
 JOIN US TO EASE THE MEDICAL DEBT CRISIS FACING MANY NEW MEXICANS




DONATE AT [SANTAFEPRESBYTERY.ORG](https://SANTAFEPRESBYTERY.ORG)

## TAIZÉ RESUMES IN PERSON WORSHIP THURSDAY APRIL 13 AT 5:30!

Our Taizé worship group, ably coordinated by Marianne Lewis, and led by a rotation of leaders including Michael Brinegar, Bill Humphreys, and Georgia Ortiz, has been gathering online via Zoom since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Their group has expanded to include people who join from out-of-state. They have worked together to figure out how to best share the sung prayers that are the foundation of Taizé - they now know that Marianne's home phone provides the best sound quality!

As COVID-19 is turning from pandemic to endemic, the leadership team has been having conversations about how to continue the community they have built online *and* how to transition back to some in-person gathering. Local members of the Taizé group long to be in person; members who join from far-away worry about losing this important weekly spiritual practice.

Westminster's Taizé worship group will begin gathering in-person once a month, on Thursday April 13 at 5:30 pm in our sanctuary! They will continue to gather via Zoom on the other Thursdays of the month at 5:30pm.

If you are interested in joining the group, please email the church office and we will get you connected!

## Contemplative Worship

**Taizé:** A brief prayer service in the style of the Taizé Brothers in France is held each Thursday from 5:30 - 6:00 pm by Zoom only. Beginning April 13, the group will meet in-person on the second Thursdays in Westminster's sanctuary. 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.







VERLI FRANCOIS, ALAMY STOCK

# You shall be called Repairers of the breach

— ISAIAH 58



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

02.22.23 - 04.9.23

## One Great Hour of Sharing to be received Easter Sunday!

In Isaiah 58, the prophet exclaims, “Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in” (Isaiah 58:12). As the people of Israel returned from the cloud of exile and struggled to rebuild their lives, Isaiah questioned their efforts: [Are you not called] “to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them?” (Isaiah 58:7).

Then in Matthew 25, we hear Jesus calling to us, “For I was hungry and you gave me food ... I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing. ... As you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me” (Matthew 25:35-40).

Isaiah and Jesus are making an important theological point: Faithfulness to God leads to fixing things that are broken – broken lives, broken spirits, broken hearts, broken relationships, and broken breaches of faith and trust.

When we give to the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering on Easter Day, we are helping repair peoples’ lives – people who are hurting, broken, oppressed, lost or in need. The people about whom Isaiah and Jesus spoke. The people we are invited to connect with, today. Please consider increasing your gift to OGHS this year, as we work together to be repairers of the breach.

Providing **RELIEF** from natural disasters, **FOOD** for the hungry, and **SUPPORT** for the poor and oppressed.

 Three photographs are arranged in a grid. The top-left photo shows a woman in a white shirt holding a long-handled tool. The top-right photo shows a woman in a pink headwrap operating a pink sewing machine. The bottom-left photo shows a woman in a yellow shirt with "JUSTICE FARMWORKERS" printed on it.

PHOTOS COURTESY FROM TOP LEFT: TERESA BIDANTO/IBEL, KATHY MELVIN, ALLIANCE FOR FAIR FOOD



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

02.22.23 - 04.09.23

**If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!**

## Creation Care Corner

Our Creation Care Committee recently completed an application for our congregation to become an Earth Care Congregation, through the Presbyterians for Earth Care! The application was submitted in mid-February, and we hope to hear back from them soon.



### Do you recognize this bird? Orioles on the Caja del Rio

In the arid Southwest, few birds stand out as brightly as the male Scott's Oriole, which lights up the desert's earth tones with rich lemon-and-black plumage. This gifted and frequent singer inhabits high deserts and the mountain slopes adjacent to them, where it nests and forages in tall yuccas, palms, junipers, and pinyon pines, restlessly moving about in pairs or small groups in search of invertebrates, nectar, and fruit. It's particularly closely associated with yuccas, where it forages for insects and nectar and gathers fibers for its nests. Scott's Orioles are relatively easy to find. Males begin singing well before sunrise and sing frequently during the day, even when foraging and during

### 2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Creation Care Committee has been spending time at the Roundhouse during this legislative session! There are many business items before the Legislature about creation care.

In particular, our committee is interested in the efforts of the Sierra Club and others to encourage our government to use our \$3.6 billion budget surplus to invest in 'a livable planet for our families and high-quality jobs for ALL New Mexico communities.' The Creation Care Committee encourages the congregation to look into the following legislative efforts that will be voted on this session:

HB412/SB22: Credits to purchase or lease electric vehicles

SB45: Credits for efficient ground-source heat pumps

HB32: Tax credits for energy storage systems

SB173: Credits for geothermal electricity production

HB67: Energy storage bonds

the non-breeding season. When foraging, Scott's Orioles do spend time "buried" in yucca plants and other desert and mountain vegetation, but their bright plumage tends to make them easy to spot when they come up for air. In mountain woodlands, they may forage with warblers, vireos, woodpeckers, and kinglets. Uniquely, Scott's Oriole, Black-backed Oriole, and Black-headed Grosbeak are predators of monarch butterflies on the wintering grounds in Mexico. Many monarchs concentrate toxins from milkweed plants in their bodies, and most bird species avoid eating them. However, a few species have learned to taste individual butterflies and eat only the abdomens of the less noxious ones.

*(From Earthkeepers 360 February 6 Newsletter)*

## 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 12/18/22. 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 YouTube. 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!

## March Calendar

11: Quiet Space, 10am  
 12: Missio Dei, 9:45am  
 Coffee Hour, 10am  
 Worship, 11am  
 15: Lenten Gathering, 6pm  
 at the Open Circle  
 16: Taizé, 5:30pm Zoom  
 19: Coffee Hour, 10am  
 Worship, 11am  
 22: Lenten Gathering, 6pm  
 at the Open Circle  
 23: Taizé, 5:30pm Zoom  
 Session Meeting, 6:30pm Zoom  
 26: Coffee Hour, 10am  
 Worship, 11am  
 29: Lenten Gathering, 6pm  
 at the Open Circle  
 30: Taizé, 5:30pm Zoom

## Holy Week

April 2: Palm Sunday, 11am  
 Westminster

April 6: Maundy Thursday, 6pm  
 Christ Lutheran Church  
 1701 Arroyo Chamiso

April 7: Good Friday, 6pm  
 Westminster

April 8: Holy Saturday Quiet Space, 10am  
 Westminster  
 Easter Vigil, 7:30pm  
 Christ Lutheran Church

April 9: Easter Sunday, 11am  
 Westminster

## 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: Margi Coxwell: [mokeysan@outlook.com](mailto:mokeysan@outlook.com)

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: VACANT

Chair, Evangelism and Outreach: Kent DeYoung: [DeMiracle@comcast.net](mailto:DeMiracle@comcast.net)