

¡La Luz!

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Santa Fe



On Monday April 3rd, we welcomed six juniors from Menaul School in Albuquerque during their Mission Week! They spent three and a half hours with a group of Westminster members cleaning the grounds and organizing a few storage spaces. If you haven't taken a peek at the stage storage closet in Koinonia Hall, all of us who were there on the 3rd strongly encourage you to do so!

It was wonderful to spend time with these students, who hail from places as near as Albuquerque and as far as South Korea. We learned much from them as they shared with us about how they landed at Menaul.

A huge thank you to Menaul's chaplain, the Rev. Hannah Scanlon, who worked closely with us to arrange this work trip!

Menaul School is a faith-based, college preparatory day and boarding school for students in grades 6-12, rooted in developing excellence, confidence, and integrity and providing the foundation for life-long learning and ethical leadership.

Prayers for Our Congregation

Elfie Nadell
Kathleen Watson Nadler
Libby Naranjo
Maria Naranjo
Megan Naranjo
Donna Ormerod

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.

Birthdays!

5/1: Monica Brugger
5/4: Navie Baca
5/6: Kathy Ytuarte
5/11: Reyes Naranjo
5/15: Cheyenne Padilla
5/16: Dick Fallis
5/18: Gigi Garcia
5/31: Brad Tway; Rachel Johnson

QUERIDO WESTMINSTER:

Spring is truly here in New Mexico, despite an April 28 snowstorm! Our spring bulbs are just about finished blooming, the lilacs are starting to bloom, and our fruit trees have a flush of buds. What a wonderful time of year - this season makes it easy to remember God's blessings in our lives!

Last month was a busy one for us as a congregation - Holy Week and Easter, Creation Care Sunday, and a work trip from Menaul students all were special events in April! The building's woodwork received a fresh coat of blue paint in time for Easter, and of course our indomitable committees continued their work. We launched a new committee, Evangelism and Outreach, who had their inaugural meeting on April 11.

Also on April 11, a major milestone passed us by - the anniversary of our commissioning as a congregation by this Presbytery. We officially met as a congregation on July 15, 1893, but it was this April 11 commissioning that helped form us as a body! At the time, this church was named *La Iglesia Segunda Presbiteriana (Hispanola) de Santa Fe*. From 1893 through the 1930s, the congregation was Spanish-speaking in all aspects of life together. In the middle part of the 20th century, the congregation was bilingual, with two Spanish-language services and two English-language services a month. By the late 20th century, we had shifted to a primarily English-speaking congregation.

We adopted Westminster Presbyterian Church as our name in January of 1951, just a few years before the purchase of our current property (for \$3,000! Can you imagine?!) and the subsequent construction of our building, dedicated December 4, 1955. We celebrated our centennial in 1993. At that time, Libby Naranjo compiled a little history book, *Un Siglo de Recuerdos*, telling our history in brief. Over the summer, look for portions of this book here in *La Luz*, and on our website, as we continue to tell our story and remember our history as we move into the future.

We have been an active presence in Santa Fe for one hundred and thirty years - and look forward to many more years of work and mission in this city!

Bendiciones,
Rev. Madeline

MADELINE'S SCHEDULE:

Office hours: Tuesday - Thursday, 9:30-1:30; Fridays by appointment
Saturday and Monday are my days off! If you have an emergency on my days off, please call my cell phone or send me a text.

New Committee Starts Work!

The Evangelism and Outreach committee has had their first meeting and have jumped right in to the work ahead! Using the ideas generated in our small group conversations, E&O has created some short-term priorities - things to be accomplished (or at least well under way!) by the end of the summer. These include:

- Establishing a relationship with the Santa Fe Reporter and start advertising with them; regularly updating our ad in the New Mexican
- Research what other congregations are doing in their outreach (social media, website, advertising, mailings, etc)
- Create a team of photographers who take photos of events etc that can be used on our website
- Brainstorm an event we could host and invite the community to; host that event
- In conjunction with Missio Dei, Pride Parade!

At the next meeting, we'll take a look at some longer-term priorities: ideas we think are worth pursuing but will take longer than the end of summer!

If you were involved in the small group discussions we had in late November and December, you'll have noted some changes already! We've created name-tags for our members and regular visitors. We've added a 5th Sunday Guest Musician program for the 5th Sundays. We had the woodwork on the exterior painting, creating a crisp, clean, and welcoming building. The committee is looking seriously at the full list of ideas from those conversations, and focusing on ideas that don't have a home with another committee. If you have ideas for evangelism or outreach you'd like to share, please do by connecting with Kent DeYoung! You can catch him the next time you see him in church, send an email to DeMiracle@comcast.net or give him a call at (505) 467-8810. 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!



Jicarita Cluster meeting on April 25

Westminster is a member of the Jicarita Cluster, a consortium of PC(USA) congregations in Northern New Mexico. These congregations were once called 'mission churches' - congregations who received mission work from others. Now we better understand ourselves to have much to offer each other, our Presbytery, and even the national church - not to mention our communities. The cluster met for our biannual meeting to have fellowship and do a bit of business. We support Loma Verde Camp, a Presbyterian camp outside Taos, and look forward to our work day there Memorial Day weekend.

The cluster includes congregations from Santa Fe, White Rock, Los Alamos, Mora, Truchas, Chimayo, Dixon, and Peñasco.



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.

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.

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!



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

Updates from the March Session Meetings

WPC Committee Meetings

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

Money Cares: 6:30pm; 1st Wednesday

Missio Dei: 9:45am; 2nd Sunday

Worship: 12pm; 2nd Sunday

Evangelism and Outreach: 6:30pm; 2nd Tuesday

Creation Care: 7pm; 3rd Wednesday

Session: 6:30pm; 4th Thursdays

Personnel: as needed

Deacons: as needed

Nominating: as needed, beginning in summer

Westminster's Session meets on the fourth Thursday of each month - usually. We met March 23 at 6:30pm. The Session heard reports from committees, and had robust discussions about those reports!

From B&G:

- Re-evaluating kitchen counter project - replace all counters vs sink counter?
- Several ongoing potential projects/repairs: xeriscaping the front grounds; stucco repair; bathroom water heaters
- Potential joint project with Creation Care Committee for worm box

From Money Cares:

- Opened a new savings account at DNCU to purchase 17-month CD at 4.05% return - approved by Session
- WPC received semi-restricted gift of \$10,000 - session intends to use these funds to update our sound system, including live-stream components, hybrid meeting set-up, and an updated hearing loop. Session members researching components!

From Creation Care:

- On-going/up-coming projects/proposals: can we convert to an all-electric church?; conduct an energy audit; purchasing rain barrels and/or other water reduction opportunities

The Session also voted on an amendment to our Bylaws. Any amendment to the bylaws must be approved by the congregation in a congregational meeting; look for this when we have our Annual Meeting next year! The revision is intended to allow the congregation some flexibility by allowing for 4th quarter terms of call revision, election of church officers, and election of Congregational Nominating Committee.

(For full minutes, check the church library!)



PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

join us!
WHEN WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!
April 10 – May 28, 2023

PHOTOS: ANCHORAGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEERS, GOOD SUCCESS ACADEMIES, BRYANNA DONALD

How many times have we seen a modern building, an historic landmark, a great cathedral or a monument and thought, "How did they do that?" Regardless of when it was built, the skill and craftsmanship needed to not only imagine it, but to make it sturdy enough to safely and securely withstand the test of time, boggles the mind.

But what of people? We watch, listen and read as sports legends, great orators, talented musicians of every style of performance and brilliant writers astound us with their skills. And even though we know that the raw talent that leads to great skill is honed through years of practice, patience and persistence, we still look with awe at these accomplishments and say, "How did/do they do that?"

They did it because someone saw a spark. A spark that with the right teaching, coaching, leadership and practice could lead to great things.

Someone working with Good Success Academies in New Jersey recognized Tariq's academic potential and helped him pursue his dream of studying computer science. A Young Adult Volunteer named Yuriko, which means "lily girl" in Japanese, blossomed in Peru, while a shy teenager named Grace boldly connected with her peers at a statewide youth conference.

How did they do that? They were lifted up, they were mentored and they were encouraged to grow into the person God was calling them to be. Fanning that spark, the raw talents and abilities within young people throughout the church and beyond builds strong and gifted leaders that God can use.

Your gifts to the Pentecost Offering assure that these young people of God have opportunities to participate in programs as varied as the Young Adult Volunteer Program, Presbyterian Youth Triennium and other ministries with youth, and the Educate a Child, Transform the World national initiative. Each leads to interacting with educators, mentors and leaders committed to building these youngest members of the body of Christ into the people God would have them become. Thank you for your generosity. Thank you for participating in building up the body of Christ.

We will dedicate our Pentecost Offering on Sunday May 28! The offering is split in the following manner: 40% remains at Westminster for local support of at-risk youth; 25% to the Young Adult Volunteer Program; 25% to ministries with youth; and 10% to support at-risk children.

Farewell to Louise Singleton!

Westminster said a fond farewell to Louise Singleton during and following worship on Sunday April 23! Louise has moved to Salt Lake City, UT to be nearer to her son Rob. We sent her off in style and with much love - she will be dearly missed here in Santa Fe.

During worship, the following blessing was offered;

Louise is a beloved part of this congregation, and today we send her off to Salt Lake City as she moves to be near to family, with deep joy and gratitude for her years among us, and grief that she will no longer be a presence here with us.

So today, as you leave, Louise, we wanted to send you with the blessing of this community who loves you. God's church transcends time and space, but of course we are mere mortals who cannot do the same. This is a parting of ways that stretches but does not sever our relationships.

Louise, child of the covenant, you are a beloved part of this congregation. You have nurtured us and we have nurtured you in turn, teaching each other what it is to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

We send you to Salt Lake City knowing that the grace of God travels with you, the Holy Spirit accompanies you, and Jesus Christ loves you as we do.

Go forth, therefore, with the blessing of God and the love of this congregation. Let that blessing and our love buoy you. Share that blessing and our love with your family and your new community. Know that nothing will separate you from us or from God. Amen.

Traveling mercies to you, Louise! We will miss you!



SAVE THE DATE: SANTA FE PRIDE PARADE SATURDAY, JUNE 24 at 11:00 A.M.

Join your Westminster family as we march in the Santa Fe Pride Parade on Saturday, June 24th! The parade is scheduled to step off at 11:00 a.m. from the PERA Building (across from the Roundhouse) down Old Santa Fe Trail past the San Miguel Chapel and the Loretto Chapel toward the Plaza. One could say it has potential to be a religious experience!

Around twenty-five Westminster folks have already signed up to march, and there's plenty of room for more! We'll meet at the church around 10:00-ish that morning, decorate the vehicle (the Brinegar truck?), we'll drive down the parade route, and carpool to the PERA Building.

Join us for what promises to be a feast for the eyes! You never know what you might see or who you might meet. And you never know who might visit Westminster for Sunday worship afterward because all of us were there!





One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Received on Easter Sunday!

On Sunday May 9, Easter Sunday, Westminster dedicated our One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. One Great Hour of Sharing provides relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. We had an amazing response to this offering, which helps repair people's lives. The total received (as of April 20, 2023) was \$2,279. This is an increase of 85% over last year!

The monies received in this offering are shared between three programs in the PC(USA): Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP), and the Self-Development of Peoples (SDOP). PDA works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters, and support for refugees, and receives 32% of funds raised. PHP takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation, and address the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed, and receives 36% of funds raised. SDOP invests in communities responding to their experiences of oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues, and receives 32% of funds raised.

A huge thank you to all who supported One Great Hour of Sharing this year. Our gifts will make tangible differences in peoples lives, locally, nationally, and internationally. Thank you.

Let us pray: Restoring God, you have called us to repair what in this world you love so much that has been broken. May the repairs made through our gifts bring life to communities in need and bring praise to your holy name. Amen.

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

Creation Care Corner

Are you interested in Creation Care? Please reach out to Consuelo Walker, or any of the members of the Creation Care Committee to learn more about what we do! Members are: Consuelo Walker, Fred Dennis, and Jim Roghair.



River Otters on the Caja del Rio!

Did you know: Between 2008 and 2010, 33 river otters were released into the upper Rio Grande. Since then, there have been many sightings of these intelligent and playful animals, some as far south as Cochiti Lake!

The playful North American river otter is well adapted for semi-aquatic living. The mammals have thick, protective fur to help them keep warm while swimming in cold waters. They have short legs, webbed feet for faster swimming, and a long, narrow body and flattened head for streamlined movement in the water. On land a river otter can run at speeds of up to 15 miles an hour—they can slide even faster. Their playful snow and mud

PRESBYTERY OF SANTA FE'S EARTHCARE RESOURCE PACKET - WAYS YOU CAN BE A STRONGER STEWARD OF CREATION!

1. Want interesting and inspirational quotes? On pages 34-38, there are 30 quotations from famous leaders about Climate Change.
2. Want to conduct an energy audit of your church? See pages 10-11
3. Want to contact others doing good work about Climate Change? Some suggestions for getting started can be found on pages 18-23.
4. Want to start a discussion about Climate Change? The Resource Packet includes a section from the Presbyterian Mission Agency. On page 12 there are two posters you can download and discuss: 'Climate and Food' and 'Climate and Water'.
5. Would you like to start reading to your children, grandchildren, children of friends about Climate Change? Find a children's booklist on pages 38-40.

Access the Packet here on the Presbytery's website:

<https://www.santafepresbytery.org/resources-2/earth-care>

sliding, tail chasing, water play, and snow burrowing activities also serve other purposes—they help strengthen social bonds and let young otters practice hunting techniques.

A river otter can grow three to four feet long including its tail and weigh between 11 and 30 pounds. River otters eat a variety of aquatic wildlife, such as fish, crayfish, crabs, frogs, birds' eggs, birds and reptiles such as turtles. They have also been known to eat aquatic plants and to prey on other small mammals, such as muskrats or rabbits. They have a very high metabolism, so they need to eat frequently. In the 19th century, the animals were trapped out of existence in much of their historic range.

(From Earthkeepers 360 April 2 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 regularly, with the current CDC Community Levels. Our COVID-19 Safe Protocols will be communicated to the congregation on the website and in *El Semanario*. The current version of the matrix, [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. An email will go out on any Friday when we move from one level to another, so that worship attendees can be prepared for any changes to Sunday's worship!

If 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!

NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY TO END MAY 11. AT THAT TIME, MANY HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANIES WILL END THEIR COVID-19 AT HOME TEST REIMBURSEMENTS. DON'T FORGET TO STOCK UP BEFORE MAY 11!

May Calendar

3: Money Cares, 6:30pm, Zoom
 4: Taizé, 5:30pm, Zoom
 Building and Grounds, 6:30, Zoom
 7: Coffee Hour, 10am
 Worship with Communion, 11am
 Worship Committee, after worship
 9: Evangelism & Outreach, 6:30, Zoom
 11: Taizé, 5:30pm
 13: Quiet Space, 10am
 14: Missio Dei, 9:45am
 Coffee Hour, 10am
 Worship, 11am
 17: Creation Care, 7pm, Zoom
 18: Taizé, 5:30pm, Zoom
 21: Coffee Hour, 10am
 Worship with Communion, 11am
 25: Taizé, 5:30pm, Zoom
 Session Meeting, 6:30pm, Zoom
 28: Coffee Hour, 10am
 Pentecost Worship, 11am

WESTMINSTER'S STAFF AND LEADERS

Pastor: Rev. Madeline Hart-Andersen: rev.madeline.wpcsantafe@gmail.com
 Office Administrator: Vickie Ortega: wpc.santafe@gmail.com
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 Chair, Building & Grounds: Michael Brinegar: mkbrinegar@netzero.net
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 Chair, Worship: Keri Brinegar: mkbrinegar@netzero.net
 Chair, Personnel: Nancy Guthrie: nancybguthrie@gmail.com
 Chair, Evangelism and Outreach: Kent DeYoung: DeMiracle@comcast.net