

# ¡La Luz!

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Santa Fe



## Prayers for Our Congregation

Louise Singleton  
Bill Taylor  
The Topple Family  
Alan and Jackie Tway  
Brad Tway  
Consuelo and Dwight Walker  
Lee Walters  
Lis Wise  
David, Kathy, and Eric Ytuarte

*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.*

## Gospel at Westminster!

Westminster was delighted to welcome Rev. Todd O'Neal back to our sanctuary to lead our worship music on July 23rd! The music was Spirit-filled and lively, and we had a number of friends and visitors who joined together into a gospel choir up on the chancel. Thank you Todd for your music leadership, and thank you to all in worship that Sunday for your energy and enthusiasm as we sang together!



## Birthdays!

8/1: Diane Ransom  
8/8: Marianne Lewis  
8/10: Marissa Ytuarte  
8/12: Steve Brugger  
8/19: Victor Baca  
8/28: Libby Naranjo  
9/8: Desiree Burnett  
9/12: Gabriel Rotunno  
9/25: Keri Brinegar

## QUERIDO WESTMINSTER:

I love this time of year, as the nights cool off and the days begin to shorten but remain sunny and warm. Thunderstorms roll in, and even if your neighborhood doesn't get any rain, there's something wonderful about knowing that someone, somewhere nearby is getting drenched. And though people tend to think of spring as a time of renewal, there's something to be said for this time of year as well. Children have just headed back to school; program calendars are ramping up. It feels like a time for fresh notebooks and pointy pencils, for new shoes and the beginning of pumpkin-spice-latte season.

At Westminster, we're wrapping up our summer sermon series on the Older Testament, as we read through Genesis and the very beginning of Exodus. These ancient stories are the backbone of our faith, and we can glean much about God - and our relationship to God - from them. We started with creation, and then moved through the patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. We were reminded of God's care for the outsider and the cast-aside; of God's unexpected choices in heroes. And we were reminded that from the very beginning, God has called us into ministry; has called us into working together with God to bring about God's beloved community.

This summer also saw a number of fun congregational events - from Pride in mid-June to multiple guest musicians in July to attending a baseball game in Albuquerque in August! We also packed lunches for Chaplain Joe and spent much time sprucing up the church grounds. In many ways, this summer was really our first opportunity to do all the community events we have been missing, now that our COVID-19 restrictions have lifted. I hope all of you enjoyed it as much as I did!

Of course, wrapping up summer means kicking off fall! We'll begin the program year with worship in the mountains on September 10 as we celebrate 130 years of ministry in Santa Fe (see page 6 for more details). During the fall, I'll be working with the Creation Care Committee on an environmentally focused educational series. I'll also be working with some of you who have expressed interest in having a Sunday morning educational offering. We'll be launching a new section on our website, which will focus on our outreach - Missio Dei and Creation Care. After the summer break on our Agape Fast, we'll begin gathering on the fourth Sunday of the month for a simple meal to raise money and awareness for hunger in Santa Fe and around the world. And before you know it, we'll be in Advent!

Bendiciones,  
Rev. Madeline

### MADELINE'S SCHEDULE:

Study Leave: September 26-October 2; October 19-20

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.



*Gospel music worship leaders - thanks to all who helped lead!*

## Contemplative Worship

**Taizé:** A brief prayer service in the style of the Taizé Brothers in France is held on Thursdays at 5:30pm. It is a time of scripture, prayer, chants and silence. If you'd like the link for the livestream, or to be added to the Taizé email list, 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.

## Westminster Commissions Photographers on August 20

In the life of the church, we understand that all members are active participants in Christ's ministry - in what we call "the priesthood of all believers." Each of us, from the day we are born until the day we die, is part of Christ's ministry in the world. None of the forms of ministry are more important than any other, and yet it is also true that some are called to particular forms of ministry. The forms we think of are 'ordered ministries' - minister of word and sacrament, elder, deacon, and yet there are others. For those specific ministries that are determined by the needs of a particular congregation, instead of ordination we have commissioning. Commissioning is how we, as a congregation, recognize the call of God on particular persons within our congregation who are called to particular service and mission in the church and in the world.

Today we commission Susanne Hinkle, Kent DeYoung, and Alan Tway as Westminster's photographers, recognizing the call God has placed on them to serve the church in that role. As photographers, Susanne, Kent, and Alan are responsible for capturing the life of Westminster so that we can expand our witness to ourselves and to the world.





## **Matthew 25 Update: Westminster working with First Pres!**

As WPC and First Presbyterian have sought ways to work together on mission-related projects, we recently agreed to partner on our Matthew 25 Fund to help those in our Santa Fe community struggling with life issues. Members from both churches are now voting on applications received from the community and vetted through Santa Fe Connect Navigators and other non-profit organizations. We have provided financial assistance to nearly 50 individuals and families since the beginning of 2023.

Who in our community have we helped recently with Matthew 25 Funds? A few highlights:

- A mother of three children whose partner - the primary breadwinner - suddenly passed away recently, leaving the family with a minimal income. The mother can only find part time work, cleaning a box store at night. They are in financial crisis. We paid her rent for one month and provided a Walmart gift card for groceries and other needs. We are also looking for other ways to help this family.
- A 98-year-old grandmother living on \$500 a month from Social Security. She had to install a new heating system in her small adobe home and is now behind in paying her gas bill. We paid her NM Gas bill.
- A female cancer patient undergoing treatment who cannot pay her rent due to her health challenges. Her landlords have been threatening to take legal action if she cannot pay rent on time. We helped pay her part of her past-due amount.
- An elderly man diagnosed with stage 4 emphysema, is unable to work, and is on hospice. He has received public assistance before and so is not eligible for additional assistance until 2024. We helped pay his past due utility bill.

One of our recent Matthew 25 applicants wrote a hand-written note to WPC, thanking us for our help. His note read: *"I thank [you for] all the help you can give me. I believe in Jesus Christ the Lord Almighty and the kindness in all your hearts for trying to help me. Your generosity is a beacon of light for all to see."*

We do this work through your generous contributions to the Matthew 25 Fund. If you would like to donate, please make checks payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church, with "Matthew 25" on the memo line. Your contributions matter to our community.

## Afghan 225 Initiative Update

WPC continues to wire transfer approximately \$300 into Kabul each month to help Afghan families experiencing food and living insecurity. The funds go directly to the family of WPC friends living in Kabul; they, in turn, distribute the funds to individuals and families in dire need. This month, there were two recipients:

- A widow, unable to work, and trying to support and feed five children
- A father of three children, also unable to work because he is battling Leukemia

Your donations into this special WPC fund bypass the Taliban government and go directly to those in need. If you would like to contribute to the fund, you may write a check to WPC, with "Afghan 225 Initiative" on the memo line.

### HAVE YOU WONDERED WHY WE CALL IT AFGHAN 225?

When we first began to wire funds into Afghanistan in 2021, \$225 was the dollar limit of what could be sent into the country in a wire transaction. Although the current limit of monthly fund transfers has increased to \$300, we retain the fund name of 'Afghan 225'.

## Per Capita and Westminster

We've said goodbye to our Afghan family as they moved to Baltimore in late July, and are working out what our team of four congregations will do next. For many of our volunteers, being part of a team was a huge part of what they loved about supporting the family. That feeling of being part of a team, of a larger whole - that's what being Presbyterian means and where per capita comes from. Each head, each one, does a small part so that huge projects can be accomplished and wonderful things can happen for all.

We Presbyterians are big believers in "it takes a village"! Our annual budget includes paying our per capita and we, as WPC, pay our portion to the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly. Our support ensures that the larger bodies have the resources needed to provide the necessary support, ideas, and oversight to share our faith with the wider world, wider country, wider area of our state, and to each individual congregation as needed. The good old saying that it takes a village is so true. With each contributing, however able, we are creating connections - that's what Presbyterians strive to do in all our layers of being church - TOGETHER.

For 2023, each individual portion is **\$37**. If you are able to contribute this along with your pledge one week, it will go a long way to easing the total budget line of thousands of dollars that WPC will pay to the Presbytery - allowing us to stay connected and continue to do great things. \$37 is a small price to pay for such great benefits. Thank you!

## Worship in the mountains for WPC's 130th!

Join us for worship and celebration at Hyde Memorial State Park on September 10 at 11am

**What:** Worship and a bring-your-own picnic!

**Where:** Hyde Memorial State Park, Group Shelter #3, .5 miles on the right after the visitor center. Hyde Memorial State Park is on NM 475, the road you take to the Santa Fe Ski Area, about 9 miles from WPC

**When:** Sunday September 10 at 11am

**Parking:** a carpool caravan will leave from the WPC parking lot at 10am; very limited parking in the park itself

**Additional Info:** We will be about 1,000 feet higher than Santa Fe - low enough that we shouldn't experience any terribly swift weather swings, but please check the forecast, wear sunscreen, bring plenty of water, and have a layer just in case!



**I can't worship in the mountains - what will my Sunday look like?** We will still have a worship service in the sanctuary at our usual 11am time! Rev. Jim and Elizabeth Roghair will lead a simple service of daily prayer, and we will share hymns with those gathered at Hyde Memorial. If you are concerned about accessibility, the shelter is ADA accessible and well-paved; you can check out photos on our Facebook page!



**I usually attend via live-stream - can I do that on September 10?** Unfortunately, our usual live-streamed service will be cancelled on the 10th. You are welcome to worship with one of the services in our YouTube archives, or to join another local church livestreams for the morning. We will be glad to have you back with us on September 17, when our live-streamed service will resume!

Please reach out to Rev. Madeline with any questions and [sign up for the carpool here!](#)

## Updates from the June Session Meeting

### 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 June 22 at 6:30pm.

- MOTION made and 2nd to suspend COVID-19 protocols until at which time they become necessary again and to also make mask wearing and self-reporting optional; unanimously carried.
- The Session has been researching updated our sound system and livestream set up, as well as adding aids for hearing assistance
- B&G is soliciting bids for countertop replacement in kitchen (as of August session meeting, have contractor and repairs should be completed soon)
- Pentecost donations are still coming in, with \$875 received to date; 37% higher than 2022.
- As of 6/21/23, WPC and First Presbyterian are official mission partners in the Matthew 25 program!
- Nominating Committee: Send any potential names for Elders and Deacons to Margi. The cmte. will start meeting in August.
- Summary from 6/17/23 Presbytery meeting: Overture written and approved from the Presbytery re. small worshipping communities. 2024 Presbytery meetings: 2/24/24 - Rio Rancho Presbyterian; 7/20/24 - First Presbyterian, Taos NOTE: This mtg. will be hosted by La Jicarita Cluster, which includes WPC. More details in Spring of 2024; 10/19 - 20/24 - Ghost Ranch
- Potential 2024 Stewardship theme: Hospitality
- Three guest musician Sundays in July - July 9, July 23, and July 30!

(For full minutes, check the church library!)



## COVID-19 PROCEDURES SUSPENDED!!

At our June meeting, the Session voted unanimously to suspend our COVID-19 procedures, until such time as we need them again. (We all hope we don't need them again!) Of course, anyone who feels most comfortable and safe wearing a mask is certainly welcome to do so, and we do still encourage anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 and has been in worship or at a church event to let the office know so we can be in communication with others who were present.

The Session and I would like to extend our deep gratitude to all of you for taking such care of one another during this season of pandemic. The lifting of the public health emergency and our own WPC procedures marks a turning point in this season of pandemic. We know COVID-19 is not 'over' or gone and some of you may feel deeply uneasy with this shift. Please know that you are always welcome to mask and maintain social distance if that is what makes you feel safe! We know we all deeply yearn for a return to 'normal' even as we recognize that there is no going back; our lives have been forever changed. You have all weathered this season with grace and kindness. You have abided by our protocols, you have masked, you have stayed at home when unwell, you have been vaccinated and boosted and boosted again. This season has been a testament to Westminster's commitment to each other and to the community! Thank you, thank you, thank you.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to Madeline or to any members of Session - Keri, Kent, Jackie T., Margi, Consuelo, or Jenny. We'll be happy to hear from you!



L-R: Rev. Georgia Ortiz, Rev. Todd O'Neal, and friend following July 23rd gospel worship service!





### Homebound Communion

Do you or someone you know have difficulty making it to church? Are you missing communion? Rev. Madeline and the Deacons would be delighted to bring communion to you! Reach out to Madeline or to Sylvia Graft for details and to make sure you are on our list. We look forward to sharing the Joyful Feast with you!

## WESTMINSTER'S STAFF AND LEADERS

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