

¡La Luz!

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Santa Fe



Singing our opening hymn; making a joyful noise to the Lord!

Worship in the Mountains!

We had a wonderful celebration at Hyde Memorial State Park! It was a near-perfect day for worship and celebration in God's creation. Our youngest attendee was delighted to discover the playground just over the bridge from the Group Shelter, and all of us enjoyed the easy-to-access location, with a small creek running alongside. The Brinegars provided our worship music, which added to the glorious scenery. After worship, we settled in to enjoy our bring-your-own-picnic and delicious 'birthday' cake! Thank you to all who joined us - we look forward to gathering again next year.

You'll find photos throughout this edition of *La Luz!*

Prayers for Our Congregation

Jake, Ricky, and Rico Adams-Bejarano
Tony and Loyda Aja
David Anderson and Phoebe Girard
Navie and Victor Baca
Bill Robinson
Keri and Michael Brinegar

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!

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

QUERIDO WESTMINSTER:

One of my great fascinations in life is outer space. I have watched innumerable television shows exploring space; I can still clearly remember the first time I understood that light is not instantaneous, that it travels - and so whatever light I see from the night sky comes from minutes, days, years, centuries, or even millennia ago. Recently, I have been enchanted by the images from the James Webb Space Telescope, like the recent images of Jupiter's moon, Europa. At first glance, it's simply a pixelated blur of blues and whites, but it's an image of a moon that is 390.4 million miles away, which is astonishing all on its own, and this image was able to definitively prove that Europa contains carbon, which means it may in fact be conducive to life! Of course, the Webb Telescope has produced far more appealing images, including one they say may look like a much younger version of our sun: "the Supersonic Outflow of Young Star." Other images include a supernova, multiple galaxies, and a dying star. The telescope has even captured images of Earendel, the most distant star ever detected, at 28 billion light-years away.

Some people have suggested science and faith cannot coexist; that by learning about the natural laws and scientific explanations, we must forgo our faith-based understanding of creation. And of course that is true for some people of faith, for whom the 6 days of creation are fact and the universe cannot be more than 6,000 years old. And if that were my understanding of the world, I too might have a hard time making my faith and science coexist. Luckily, I find that my belief in God's creation and the scientific explanations of the world move hand-in-hand. My understanding of science has only ever increased my belief that the fact that we exist - that there is life here on earth at all - is miraculous. A statistical anomaly. The beauty of the images produced by the Webb Telescope; the wonder of the statistical improbabilities that led evolution to our current iteration; the delicate and crystalline structures of the universe - all of these increase my wonder in and awe of God's creation. How marvelous are thy works, indeed!

And so you can imagine my excitement when I realized that there is an annular solar eclipse happening right smack in the middle of our October Quiet Space. I must have at least triple checked my sources to be sure I wasn't just imagining things. This eclipse is what is called a "ring of fire" eclipse, so called because the moon is too small to block out the sun entirely, instead leaving a ring of light all around the edges. Please join me on October 14 at 10am as we create pinhole viewers so that we can (safely) view at this display of creation, as the sun dims, the moon takes precedence, and God's marvelous work is so clearly on display.

Bendiciones,
Rev. Madeline

MADELINE'S SCHEDULE:

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

Time Away: October 27-31

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.

Weekly Taizé Returns!

With the start of the program year, Taizé has returned to their weekly schedule, meeting on Thursdays at 5:30pm in the sanctuary. We are grateful for the chance to be together in person once again as we share this time of reflection together. Taizé leaders are working on a hybrid option for those not able to join us in person; please look for more information in the Taizé emails.



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.

Second Saturday Quiet Space: On the second Saturday of the month, we gather at 10am for a creative and contemplative gathering. Quiet Space is a time for creativity and contemplation; every month will be a different experience.

OCTOBER QUIET SPACE: ANNULAR SOLAR ECLIPSE VIEWING

On October 14, we will experience an annular solar eclipse - peaking at 10:37, during our Quiet Space gathering! Prior to the 'full' eclipse, we'll use our crafting skills to create pinhole projectors and viewers to safely view the eclipse. If you have an empty shoe box (or similarly sized box), you are welcome to bring it along, though we should have plenty of supplies.

Wondering what an annular solar eclipse is? NASA says, "An annular solar eclipse happens when the Moon passes between the Sun and Earth, but when it is at or near its farthest point from Earth. Because the Moon is farther away from Earth, it appears smaller than the Sun and does not completely cover the Sun. As a result, the Moon appears as a dark disk on top of a larger, bright disk, creating what looks like a ring around the Moon." To learn more, visit <https://solarsystem.nasa.gov/eclipses/2023/oct-14-annular/where-when/>



Join the Stewardship Committee in Celebrating Stewardship Season!

We kick off Stewardship 2024 on Sunday October 8, celebrating the joyful hospitality we receive in Christ.

As we give thanks for all the ways Westminster shares that joyful hospitality, we invite you to prayerfully consider your commitment for the year 2024, including increasing your gift if you can. Your gifts enable Westminster to practice hospitality, joyfully expressing God's love toward us and the world beyond our doors. We and the world need all the love and prayers we can share. Through our gifts and deeds we practice hospitality with joy.

November 12 is Stewardship Sunday, when we will dedicate our commitments for 2024. Stewardship is about far more than the operating budget; it is about our commitment to God and each other as the body of Christ. All are invited to join us following worship on the 12th for a simple lunch as we celebrate our commitments. Thank you for your generosity!

If you have any questions, or would like to speak to someone about Stewardship, please reach out to any member of the Stewardship Committee: Elfie Nadell, Jackie Tway, Emma Treu-Chavez, and Elizabeth Roghair.



The Chavez Nadell household and Fred Denis warm up in the sun before worship!



The Medinas and Cindy Piatt chat before the picnic lunch

Vermiculture

Westminster Members and Friends, you are invited to join in coffee and a Sunday-morning discussion of **worms** on October 8, 2023, 9:45 a.m.

James E Roghair, for the Creation Care Committee

You may wonder, why on earth *worms*? Well, it is for the earth! Worms provide an important part of the natural cycle of life. They turn plant waste into fertilizer for the next round of growth. The Creation Care Committee, with approval of the Session and the co-operation of the Building and Grounds Committee, is proposing that Westminster become a demonstration site for worm composting—vermiculture. With a little food and water—also known as loving care—our worms will provide valuable fertilizer. We have chosen a spot behind the building and are preparing the necessary equipment to develop a composting project before winter. By setting up a small project on the church premises, we will demonstrate our commitment to the world’s natural processes and give members and friends of the church the opportunity to participate and learn how the worms work.



One of Jim’s worm boxes; the red worms can be seen in the bottom third of the photo



A worm box, ready to be delivered and welcome its new inhabitants!

After our discussion we hope a few of you will be interested in the possibilities and opportunities of this project and will commit to participate in the project. It may not be for everyone, but everyone is invited to this initial discussion.

Please join us for our information session and discussion in Koinonia Hall on the second Sunday of October, 10/8/2023, at 9:45.

Nominating Committee Kicks into Gear!

Each year, the Nominating Committee (elected by you!) gathers to think about those we feel might be called to service as Deacons and Ruling Elders! We look over the membership list, noting who has served recently, who hasn't served, who might be interested in serving - and we also reach out to the congregation for your nominations! If you are interested in serving as a church officer, or have a suggestion the Nominating Committee might look into, please reach out to any of the 'Nom-Com' members listed below.

Serving as a church officer is one of the privileges and responsibilities of our Presbyterian form of government. Those who have been called by God to serve as officers serve in particular forms of ministry which are essential for the life of Westminster. Church officers are responsible for the care and nurture of the congregation, from serving home communion to acting as the Board of Trustees. Officers serve for three year terms, with the option to 're-up' for a second three year term. Ruling Elders serve on Session, meeting once a month to 'do the business of the church,' and Deacons met on an ad-hoc basis, serving the congregation as needed. Those called to serve as Elders and Deacons need to have demonstrated leadership skills, with maturity of faith and wisdom. Officers support each other and all members of the congregation, setting an example of compassion and love, as Christ would have us do.

Margi Coxwell (chair), Michael Brinegar, Sylvia Graft, Elizabeth Roghair, Rev. Madeline Hart-Andersen

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!

WHEN UNCERTAINTY IS A SURE THING



**"The face of God shines forth in all His creatures."
--Martin Luther**



**"Creation is quite like a spacious and splendid house, provided and filled with the most exquisite, and at the same time, the most abundant furnishings. Everything in it tells of God."
--John Calvin**



**"Among the many acts of gratitude we owe to God, it may be accounted one to study and contemplate the perfection and beauties of God's work of creation. Every new discovery must necessarily raise in us a fresh sense of the greatness, wisdom, and power of God."
--Jonathan Edwards**

REFORMATION SUNDAY

October 29, 2023

3:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church of Santa Fe

208 Grant Avenue

Santa Fe, NM 87505

Livestream at: fpcsantafe.org

WORSHIP

A brief liturgy of word and song to celebrate the beauty, wonder, and fragility of God's creation.

REFLECTION

"Climate Change through the Lens of the Reformation"

Dr. Larry Rasmussen

Reinhold Niebuhr Professor Emeritus of Social Ethics, Union Theological Seminary in NYC

CALL TO ACTION

Join us to rally the faith community in support of the Green Amendment.



Sponsored by: The Earth Care Team of Santa Fe Presbytery and EarthKeepers 360



Updates from the July and August 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. Our July meeting took place August 10 as we completed a budget 'check-in'. We met for our August meeting on the 24th at 6:30pm.

- Child Protection Policy presented for review prior to Sept. meeting
- Researching sound system, including vendor conversations. Rough estimates range \$2-\$5K; hearing assistance would be additional
- B&G: kitchen countertop replacement scheduled; looking into repairing/replacing instant water heaters in bathrooms; researching front landscaping options
- Creation Care/B&G: motion approved to educate congregation on worm composting and gauge interest in a church set-up; if enough interest, will proceed with worm box
- Stewardship cmte will meet 9/1/23 for first meeting
- Evangelism and Outreach: 2023 budget approved by Session (\$2,650); working on outreach, particularly via social media; budget approval means E&O will work on soliciting new logo options from designers
- Worship: excited for Hyde Park worship!

(For full minutes, check the church library!)



Joe Miracle and Kent DeYoung at Hyde Memorial State Park Group Shelter #3

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: Margi Coxwell: mokeysan@outlook.com

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: jasleywpcsf@gmail.com

Chair, Worship: Keri Brinegar: mkbrinegar@netzero.net

Chair, Personnel: Nancy Guthrie: nancybguthrie@gmail.com

Chair, Evangelism and Outreach: Kent DeYoung: DeMiracle@comcast.net