

¡La Luz!

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Santa Fe



Prayers for Our Congregation

Sylvia M. Brown
 Gerzain Chavez and
 Grace Nadell
 Maya Chavez
 Aissa Chavez
 Isabel and Emma Treu
 Chavez
 Pauline Chavez
 Rey Chavez
 Jan and Bob Chestnut

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.

Welcoming our new member!

On Sunday, October 8, Keri Brinegar, on behalf of the Session of Westminster, presented Emma Treu Chavez, who was received into membership by reaffirmation of faith on September 28, 2023. You may recognize Emma as our guest musician for July 2023!

We welcome new members not because we are worried about the budget or the numbers present in worship, but because we are the body of Christ and each member brings distinct and valuable gifts to the work of the Church, and so we are delighted to welcome Emma into this particular community of faith and excited to learn the distinct and valuable gifts she brings.

As we say to each new member: remember your baptism and be thankful, and know that the Holy Spirit is at work within you. Welcome to this ministry in Jesus Christ.

Birthdays!

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

Q UERIDO WESTMINSTER:

As I write this letter, we have officially arrived at fall - the mornings are crisp and smell like it might possibly have rained overnight; the afternoons are sunny and clear and warm with just a hint of chill. Up in the mountains, the aspens have gone gold already and are now their winter tawny-grey. Down here in Santa Fe, cottonwoods and aspens are in a variety of stages of gold, and other trees are turning a variety of reds and oranges. All of it stands out sharply against our blue, blue sky. It's a glorious season!

In the church calendar, we are nearly at the end of our liturgical year. Sunday November 5 we will celebrate All Saints' Sunday (please send me the names of those you have loved and lost in this last year you would like read during worship that day). The last day of our year is Christ the King Sunday on November 26. In the midst, we'll celebrate Stewardship Sunday on November 12 in worship and with lunch following. (I encourage you to prayerfully consider your financial commitment to Westminster prior to that service; I know I am!) On November 19, we'll celebrate Welcome Sunday - inviting friends and neighbors to worship with us and experience the warmth and hospitality of this community. This is all a very good way to end our year, and a wonderful start to the next.

This time of year is always a good time to practice gratitude; as the season turns and the days grow shorter, it's good for us to remember all we have to be thankful for. I know this year I am grateful for you - the people who make up the congregation: for your presence in worship, for your support of our mission, for your care for one another. I am grateful to the donors who make our Matthew 25 Fund possible - and to those who administer the fund, making the decision week after week to be generous even when the fund runs low. I am grateful for the leaders of the congregation - Session members and Deacons and Committee Chairs and Officers - who give so generously of their time and energy and talents. Mid-way through this month, I will have been among you for three years, and I am grateful for that as well - for this shared call and ministry, for your enthusiastic support, for all the ways this community has become home. Thank you.

Bendiciones,
Rev. Madeline

P.S. Advent begins on December 3 this year. We'll use A Sanctified Art's liturgy, wondering together "How does a weary world rejoice?" An accompanying devotional booklet will be available, both in hard copy and digitally. In addition to the four Sundays of Advent, we'll also gather for a Longest Night service on December 21 at 5:30pm. Christmas Eve services will be held at 4pm on Sunday, December 24th (and yes, there will also be worship at 11am for the Fourth Sunday of Advent!)

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.

November Quiet Space

Early November can feel a bit like a last breath of quiet before the rush of holidays - between Thanksgiving and New Years, many people find their social calendars very full, with little time for quiet and reflection. We'll gather on November 11 at 10am in the sanctuary to hold space for quiet; to reflect on the upcoming season; and to breathe. We'll read scripture and poetry, we'll do a bit of writing, and we'll hold a time of silence. Come join us to carve out space for ourselves before this busy season starts!

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.



Join the Stewardship Committee in Celebrating Stewardship Season!

We celebrate Stewardship 2024 following worship on November 12 with a luncheon, recognizing 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.

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

Vermiculture at Westminster!

James E Roghair, for the Creation Care Committee

Following a successful information and discussion session on Sunday October 8, the Creation Care Committee is delighted to announce that we are moving forward with our worm box at Westminster. We had a lot of interest from our congregation, and look forward to sharing our progress with you.

We have already had sign-ups for those who will bring their kitchen scraps for worm composting - they are as follows:

Sunday October 29:

Dwight and Consuelo; Fred

Sunday November 5:

Jenny and Jim; OPEN

Sunday November 12:

Sylvia; OPEN

Sunday November 19:

Dwight and Consuelo; OPEN

Sunday November 26:

OPEN, OPEN

If you are interested in signing up, the sign-up sheet is on the table in the hallway at the church, you can email a member of the Creation Care Committee, or call the church office to sign up. Any questions about what you should bring should be addressed to members of the Creation Care Committee - Consuelo Walker, Rev. Jim Roghair, or Fred Dennis.



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

October Quiet Space: Annular Solar Eclipse!

On October 14, we gathered for Quiet Space and for an annular solar eclipse - peaking at 10:37! Prior to the 'full' eclipse, we built pinhole projectors and viewers to safely view the eclipse - and the Tways' brought solar eclipse glasses so we could safely look up at the eclipse. We were all startled by how dim the light got, and how quickly the temperature dropped - Fred Dennis noted that it dropped 7 degrees as the eclipse reached its apex!

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/>



A closeup of the pinhole projection shown above



Watching the eclipse!

Back row, L-R: Keri Brinegar, Fred Denis, and Larry Hinkle
Front row, L-R: Cindy Piatt, Ben Tway, and Donna Ormerod



The eclipse through leaves in our parking lot.

Westminster has a new logo!



Perhaps you've seen it on our webpage or on the back cover of our Sunday worship bulletin or in the upper left-hand corner of a recent *El Semanario*. Or maybe you've seen it on Facebook or Instagram. But just in case you haven't seen or noticed it yet, here it is!

A discussion of potential logos Westminster had or could use came up at the very first meeting of the newly-formed Evangelism & Outreach Committee last April. In July we decided to use a temporary logo (the PCUSA logo in rainbow colors) until such time as we had a budget and found a graphic artist to design one that was uniquely ours. Our goal was to have a new logo by the end of the year.

In mid-September we set up an account with the online company 99designs.com. It's a place where freelance graphic artists from across the world can go to find work. In our profile we had to identify our industry, provide a brief description of who we are and who our target market is, and summarize what we needed a graphic artist to do. Lastly, we had to identify the amount we were willing to spend.

In our description, we said "We are a progressive, mainline Presbyterian church in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Most of our members identify as heterosexual but we are fully inclusive and welcoming of the LGBTQIA+ community. We are active in the local community by serving meals at the homeless shelter, marching in the Pride Parade, and involving ourselves in causes supporting women, immigrants and refugees. We seek ways to help restore creation and the environment, and we work for justice and peace in our community and internationally."

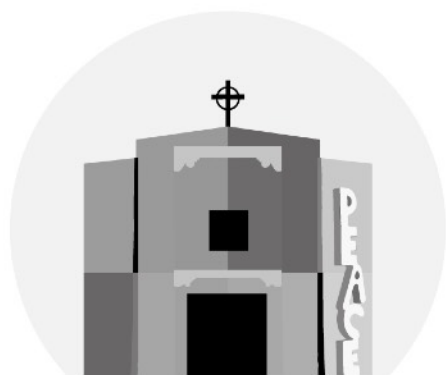
We said our need was for a logo "that is attractive to younger as well as older adults from a variety of backgrounds and diverse experiences." We also uploaded half a dozen of our own pics to help the artists get to know us a little better, including our temporary logo, our "Draw the

Circle Wide” postcard, the front of our building, and an *“Every One Is Welcome Here”* rainbow flag.

Once our profile was complete and we submitted our request, the logo-designing “contest” began. Artists had four days to submit their designs. By the end of that period we had received over 30 different designs from a dozen different artists, and it was time to select our Top 6 finalists. Once they were chosen, the finalists had four more days to work on variations of their previously-submitted designs. After that, it was time to select a winner.

Once the logo was chosen, we asked the artist to swap out the navy blue “WESTMINSTER” with other colors he used in his design, so sometimes you may see our name in orange or in raspberry or in green. We also asked him to use all the colors in one single graphic. And because we may occasionally need a black and white version or just an outline, he gave us those, too.

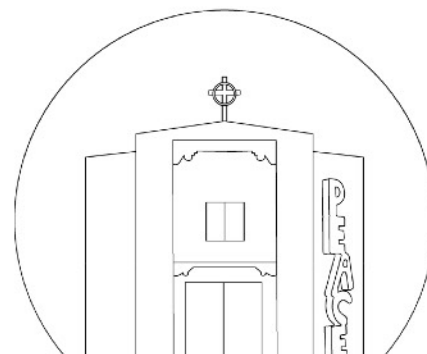
The logo we selected was designed by an artist in France. It is fresh and vibrant, it is inviting and youthful, and we think it is one that will get noticed. If you’ve spent any time online looking at church logos, you have likely observed that it is fairly common for them to depict some portion of a congregation’s building. This particular artist’s use of a rainbow of colors reflects our diversity. And by including our outdoor PEACE sculpture, this artist captured something that makes this logo uniquely and exclusively Westminster’s. We couldn’t be happier!



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SANTA FE



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Updates from the September 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. In September, we met on September 28 at 6:30pm via Zoom, and it was a busy meeting! We took a number of important votes for the life of the congregation:

The Session voted unanimously to approve Emma Treu Chavez for membership at Westminster Presbyterian Church!

The Session also voted unanimously to adopt the [Child and Youth Protection Policy](#), which is required by the *Book of Order*. Additional policies required by the *Book of Order* will be adopted in 2024. These policies fulfill a requirement for us, but more importantly, they demonstrate our care for the vulnerable among us - and our hopes that we will have children and youth in our midst in the future! Click on the link above to read the policy, and look for an article in the December *La Luz*.

Though we took other actions, the final really big action the Session took was to approve the purchase of an upgrade to our audio/visual set up in the sanctuary, including upgrades to the sound system and three cameras for the live stream. We hope to have the new system in place by Christmas Eve.

These three actions together show the ways we are looking to the future - welcoming new members, providing a safe place for children and youth to grow and learn, and improving our sound and visual set up, helping us be more accessible and inclusive!

(These updates come from the draft minutes; they will be approved at the October Session meeting)

(For full minutes, check the church library!)



Our new counters, in use on a Sunday morning coffee hour!

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