

¡La Luz!

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Santa Fe



Prayers for Our Congregation

Donna Clark
Margi Coxwell
Fred Dennis
Kent DeYoung and Joe Miracle
Linda Dillman
Jim and Kris Doris
Suzanne Dreith

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.

Welcome Sunday

Kent DeYoung, Chair, E&O

If you were in worship on November 19, you know that “Welcome Sunday” brought a good number of first-time visitors to Westminster. All the pews weren’t necessarily packed, but many were fuller than we have seen in a while, perhaps not since last Christmas or Easter!

So, on behalf of the Evangelism & Outreach Committee, I have a long list of people to thank! They include:

- Everyone who brought a friend to church! Thank You! Thank You!! Thank you!!!
- Anyone who invited a friend even though the invitation may have been declined. Thank You!
- Sylvia and the Board of Deacons for providing refreshments. Thank You!
- Grace for her prelude, postlude, and all the music in between. Thank You!

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Birthdays!

12/10: Eric Ytuarte

Q UERIDO WESTMINSTER:

Welcome to December and to Advent! We've just had amazing snowfalls here in Santa Fe - what a gift to have all this moisture as we enter winter.

The snow has been a moment of joy in a season that is very heavy for many of us. Continued war in Ukraine, new outbreaks of violence in Israel and Gaza, COVID-19 resurgence, political turmoil, environmental disasters. . . Many of us carry our own, personal burdens this season as well: a new diagnosis, a treatment not working as expected, loss of family members and friends, estrangement, the short days and long nights, work that feels never-ending, the discovery of new limitations. All of this in a season that calls relentlessly for cheer and joy and also to buy buy buy.

I am not a proponent of putting "Christ" back into "Christmas" in the traditional sense we see in the media, one that ignores religious pluralism and imagines the United States as a Christian nation. Yet as a Christian, as a pastor, I do have some sympathy for that complaint - I just think their solution is wrong. Putting Christ into Christmas means reminding ourselves of the whole of this season - from Gabriel appearing to Zechariah all the way to the arrival of the magi. It means remembering what turn-of-the-millennium Judea was like for the Jewish people living there. It means going back to the ancient prophets and reminding ourselves of their defiant hope for the future, in the face of a destructive present. It means remembering that Christ came to bring hope to a weary world, and it is our job, as that weary world, to learn how to rejoice even in the midst of our weariness. We are meant to be a place and a people who proclaim the Good News to all those who are hurting, who are marginalized, who are hopeless. And that means we have to acknowledge the hard places and things - our weariness, others' weariness. We are called to meet people in the reality of where they are and let that place be our starting point on the journey.

Our Advent and Christmastide theme is "How does a weary world rejoice?" We'll explore answers to that question and strategies for responding in joy in worship and through the Advent devotional (see page 4 for a link). We'll face our own weariness, and the weariness of the world - and we will hope for renewal, for peace, for hope, for joy. We will be reminded on the promise made in the Christ-child's arrival, words reimaged by hymn-writer Mary Louise Bringle: "Light dawns on a weary world when eyes begin to see all people's dignity; light dawns on a weary world, the promised day of justice comes."

Bendiciones,
Rev. Madeline

P.S. Beginning in January, my schedule is changing. After discussion with Personnel and Session, I will be taking Mondays and Tuesdays off and working Wednesday-Sunday, in-office Weds-Fri. This will allow me to have a full 'weekend' for rest, recreation, and restoration, which in turn will help me be a better pastor!

MADELINE'S SCHEDULE:

Office hours, beginning in January: Wednesday - Friday, 9:30-1:30; Saturdays by appointment. Monday and Tuesday are my days off!

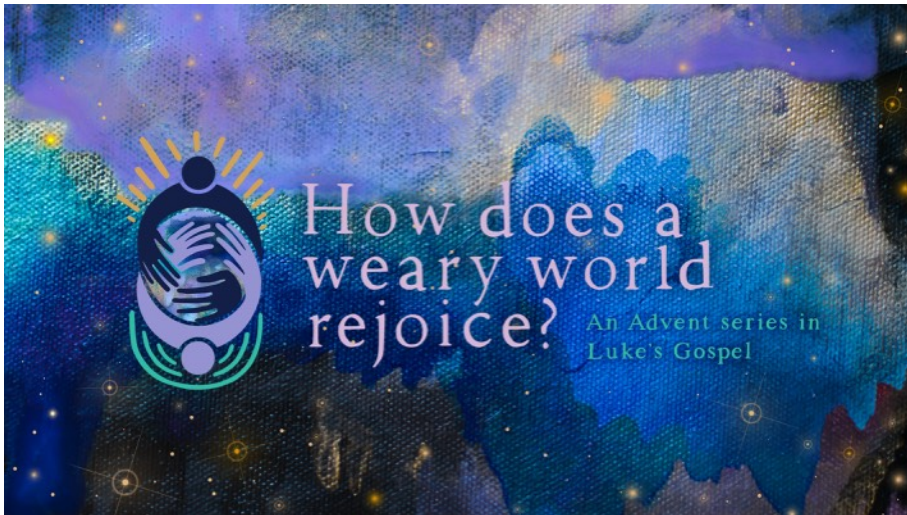
If you have an emergency on my days off, please call my cell phone or send me a text.

- Consuelo and Keri for assisting Madeline by serving Communion. Thank You!
- Sylvia and Jim for making heartfelt announcements in the Sundays leading up to Welcome Sunday. Thank You!
- Michael for being the liturgist, and Cindy for greeting everyone as they arrived. Thank You!
- Everyone who entered the NM Gay Men’s Chorus concert ticket drawing, and to Cindy, our winner. Thank You!
- Fred, Larry, Sylvia, and Cindy for folding brochures and/or helping stuff envelopes for our visitors. Thank You!
- Vickie for making copies of bulletin inserts and brochures and visitor cards and welcome notes. Thank You!
- Madeline for signing 50+ welcome notes and weaving together a welcoming worship experience. Thank You!



In Jim’s announcement on November 12 he mentioned that Westminster had not had a “Bring a Friend to Church Sunday” during the whole time he and Jenny have been here. While there may be a few reasons for that, least of which may have been the pandemic, you can see from the list above that it takes planning and a lot of people to make it happen. But now that we have a little bit of recent experience under our collective belts, we should probably think about having another one sometime in 2024. Think of ways we can enhance what we did and who you may invite!

In case you missed it, to the left is the ad that ran in the *Santa Fe Reporter* on November 15. We also used this ad to promote our “Welcome Sunday” on Facebook, Instagram, and Nextdoor. And while we may never know all the people who saw the ad or in which forum they saw it, I like to think of it and all our efforts as planting seeds. Some seeds may germinate right away, and some may lie dormant, perhaps waiting for another growing season. As gardeners, we have faith that most of the seeds will eventually take root. May God bless each of us, individually and collectively, and all the things we do to cultivate our garden and share the Good News with those in our community.



Christ was born into a weary world.

King Herod ruled the land with a legacy of ruthlessness. The Romans treated the people of Israel with contempt, imposing harsh taxes and land seizures that forced many into subsistence farming. Poverty and destitution were pervasive. And yet, Christ was born, bringing good news of great joy for all people.

Joy is often a companion to many other emotions. We can feel joy in addition to feeling many other things at once: grief, anticipation, anxiety, excitement, disappointment, exhaustion. Perhaps many of us live with the myth that joy is not something we deserve—or that it is wholly out of reach. But our joy is rooted in the truth that we belong to God. Can you tether yourself to that deep truth? You deserve to feel joy—fully. The world needs your joy, even if you are weary. Our joy is better when it is shared.

This theme of course alludes to a line in the familiar Christmas hymn, “O Holy Night,” which has an interesting history. The song was originally written by a French poet who was atheist, and the music was supplied by a Jewish composer. The hymn was later translated into English by an American Unitarian minister. In the 1800s, it became a popular hymn for Christian abolitionists due to its justice-focused language in verse 3. Like Mary’s song, the hymn reminds us that justice and joy belong together. Sometimes our joy is an act of resistance.

And so, this Advent, we will hold space for our weariness and our joy. We will seek a “thrill of hope” in our hurting world. We will welcome joy—even and especially if, like the prophet Isaiah, we cry out for comfort (Isaiah 40:1). In this weary world, may we find many ways to rejoice.

Join us as we explore ways to rejoice:

Dec 3: We acknowledge our weariness

Dec 10: We find joy in connection

Dec 17: We allow ourselves to be amazed

5:30p, Dec 21: A Worship Service for the Weary

Dec 24: We sing stories of hope

4p, Christmas Eve: We make room

Dec 31: We root ourselves in ritual

Jan 7: We trust our belovedness

Our friends at A Sanctified Art have provided an e-reader version of this year’s Advent devotional, accessible on your computer and mobile devices: online.flippingbook.com/view/136123036/. To protect their work, please refrain from sharing this link or posting it on social media.

Weekly Taizé

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.

DECEMBER QUIET SPACE

We'll gather on December 9 at 10am in the sanctuary for reflection based on the Advent devotional by A Sanctified Art. If you haven't been using the devotional, you'll still be able to follow along and participate! If you would like to use the devotional, you can certainly start now - our friends at A Sanctified Art have provided an e-reader version of this year's Advent devotional, accessible on your computer and mobile devices: online.flippingbook.com/view/136123036/. To protect their work, please refrain from sharing this link or posting it on social media.

Meet Karla Koll, PC(USA) Mission Co-Worker!

6pm Wednesday December 13, at First Presbyterian

First Presbyterian and Westminster are delighted to host Karla Koll, a Presbyterian mission co-worker on Wednesday December 13th for an evening of conversation and information about her work on behalf of the denomination - and Christ - in Costa Rica. Karla will be sharing stories about her work at the Latin American Biblical University (UBL), an ecumenical university located in San Jose, where she is a professor of history, mission, and religion teaching students from all over Latin American and the Caribbean.

Come join us at 6:00 December 13th for a light supper to learn more about her work for the Presbyterian church. First Presbyterian is supplying the soup and bread; Westminster has been asked to bring salad and dessert. Please contact Madeline, Consuelo, or Jenny if you would like to sign up to bring something to this event!

P.S. Madeline has some connection to the Latin American Bible University! She spent the summer of 2010 living in their student housing and helping prepare their library for digitization, while exploring Costa Rica on the weekends. Her experience with the students and professors of the UBL was deeply formative in her journey to ministry!

2024 FRIDGE MAGNET CALENDARS

A reminder that we have 2024 Fridge Magnet Calendars available for all members and friends of Westminster. You can put them on your refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, oven, metal file cabinet, or any other magnetized surface.

If you haven't already picked one up, we will have some at the greeter's kiosk on Sunday mornings and on the table in the hallway near Koinonia Hall. And remember, once 2024 is in the history books, simply cut off the calendar portion and you'll have a Westminster magnet to display for years to come.



Vermiculture

Westminster Members and Friends, you are invited bring your kitchen scraps for worm composting!

James E Roghair, for the Creation Care Committee

Following a successful information and discussion session on Sunday October 8, the Creation Care Committee has set up a worm box in the back patio area of the church. If you want to take a peek at it, you can go out the door to the back in Koinonia hall, hang a right, and past the shed, you'll find our worm box! (Please be careful - with all the snow, the back patio is quite slippery)

The sign-up days for bringing kitchen scraps are:

Sunday December 10:

Fred; OPEN

Sunday December 17:

OPEN; OPEN



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

Sunday December 24:

OPEN; OPEN

Sunday December 31:

OPEN; OPEN

Sunday January 7:

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!

Called Congregational Meeting: December 10

The Session of Westminster calls a congregational meeting for the purposes of electing the 2024 slate of church officers and approving the 2024 Pastoral Terms of Call. If no quorum is present on December 10, the call for this congregational meeting will continue on consecutive Sundays until a quorum is established. A quorum, per our bylaws, is 15% of the membership of the congregation.

The slate of officers nominated by the committee is:

Deacons, class of 2026: Fred Dennis

Ruling Elders, class of 2026: Cindy Piatt and Michael Brinegar

Terms of Call will be available at the meeting.

We are delighted to note that we will also be gathering for Agape Fast on December 10, so the meeting will take place in Koinonia Hall with a light lunch of soup and bread - we look forward to seeing you there!

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!

Updates from the 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. The Session did not have a quorum for its October meeting.

(For full minutes, check the church library!)



Jenny Lasley lights the first Advent Candle on December 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