

¡La Luz!

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Santa Fe



Prayers for Our Congregation

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.

Jackie Benson Kenley
Jenny Lasley and Jim Williams
Marianne Lewis
Linda Loving
Mary Jo and Arvid Lundy
Carol and Ralph Lujan
Ed and Anne Maglisceau
Robert McDonald
Leasa, Johanna, and Milo Medina
Diane McGaha and Rich Mintz
Lois Morton

WESTMINSTER WELL REPRESENTED AT PRESBYTERY!

The February Presbytery meeting took place at Rio Ranch Presbyterian Church, and in addition to our Ruling Elder Commissioner Kent DeYoung, Westminster also send Consuelo Walker and Fred Dennis, both members of the Creation Care Committee of Westminster and the Presbytery's Earth Care Team.

Kent posted the following on Facebook:

"It was a privilege to serve as Westminster's commissioner at today's Presbytery meeting in Rio Rancho, and an honor to receive a certificate on behalf of Westminster (from our own Creation Care leaders Fred and Consuelo) for being named an Earth Care Congregation. The two of them, and indeed the entire Creation Care Committee, are doing amazing work, not just at Westminster, but also in the Presbytery as well as in the state legislature."

Birthdays!

3/8: Jim Williams
3/9: Dwight Walker
3/10: Carol Lujan
3/19: Suzanne Dreith
3/22: Aissa Chavez
3/24: Megan Naranjo
3/26: Scarlett Padilla
3/29: Fred Dennis
3/30: Pauline Chavez
4/5: Cindy Piatt
4/7: Patrick Kiptum

QUERIDO WESTMINSTER:

Welcome to spring! Of a sort, at any rate. As I write this note, we had hail and a dusting of snow yesterday, and a meeting in Taos tomorrow was just moved to Zoom due to the winter storm watch many of my colleagues will be under. But! My crocus have bloomed, waves of white and yellow and purple along the edges of my front patio, and the tulips and daffodils have poked their leaves up and will bloom soon. Trees are beginning to bud, and the chamisa are starting to put out their earliest leaves as their stems begin to flush green after the winter's grey. And last weekend, we 'sprang forward,' and are now enjoying sunlight all the way into the 7 o'clock hour, which is a blessing beyond counting!

This time of year, it seems like Easter can't get here fast enough - we've moved out of the dreariness of winter into the flush of spring, and we long for our liturgical calendar to catch up. Yet I encourage all of you to take the remaining season of Lent seriously - as Jesus reminds us in John's gospel, the wheat seed must fall to the earth and die in order to bring forth new life and nourishment! Lent is a dedicated time for reflection and repentance and rejuvenation; a season that comes just once a year but that prefaces the most Holy Week in our entire liturgical calendar. Even as the desert blooms into life around us, linger in Lent just a few weeks longer!

Like many clergy, I both long for and dread Holy Week each year - it's an extraordinarily busy time and yet so deeply important to our faith and the rhythm of our year. This year, as we did last year, we are sharing our Holy Week remembrances and celebrations with Christ Lutheran Church. Pastor Joene and I are delighted to again be working together on the planning, worship, and celebration of Holy Week - and we look forward to seeing you all in worship with us for the Triduum, the Great Three Days, which begin on Maundy Thursday and extend through the Easter Vigil on Saturday night. We'll gather at Christ Lutheran for Maundy Thursday, at 6 pm on March 28th, for a service of communion and foot washing. We'll gather at Westminster on Good Friday, March 29th, at 6 pm, for a service of music, encroaching darkness, and repentance. And then, on March 30th, we'll gather at Christ Lutheran for the Easter Vigil, at 7:30pm, when we will light the new fire, hear our sacred story retold, remember our baptism, and share in the Joyful Feast! It's a worship marathon - and one that is deeply meaningful for all who attend. In our understanding, the Triduum is one worship service spread out over many days - taking in all three services is the best way to prepare for Easter Sunday.

Of course, we will gather on Easter Sunday, March 31, for our regular 11am worship, where we will sing familiar hymns, celebrate the Joyful Feast, remember our baptisms, and shout for the world to hear "Christ is risen! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!"

Bendiciones,
Rev. Madeline

MADELINE'S SCHEDULE:

April Schedule: 4/8-10: General Assembly Committee Leadership Training, Louisville, KY; 4/17-19: Presbyterian Historical Society Board Meeting, Philadelphia, PA; 4/23-24: Season of Rebuilding Gathering for Mid-council Leaders, Denver, CO

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

Creation Care Meditations for the New Year

January and February have been busy for our Committee!

We've been keeping up with our new residents in the back of the church (the worms): feeding them, giving more cover with the shredded paper that Vickie provides from the office, making sure they are protected from the cold, and that they are reproducing well. Thanks to those of you that bring kitchen leftovers and help care for them. Whenever you want to visit and become acquainted with these wonderful creatures, please ask a member of the committee.



The Little Library is being kept with reading material for church members and our neighborhood. We now have neighbors that are contributing to it! We try to supply it with Environmental readings and Nature oriented books and magazines. You are also welcome to contribute to it.

We attend Presbytery Earth Care Committee meetings and follow up on actions informative to our Churches in our State and El Paso, related to the Mitigation of Climate Change. At the February 24th Presbytery meeting, we received a certificate celebrating the work we are doing at WPC!

We also participated during the Legislative Session at the RoundHouse! We gave testimony on The Green Amendment in The Senate Rules Committee in the name of WPC, the Presbytery Earth Care Committee and the Sierra Club with the backing of all its members. The 43 signed petitions from our church and the Presbytery Representatives were also given to Senator Sedillo Lopez who is one of the Sponsors for the Bill. The bill was tabled, but the Green Coalition of the State organizations was not defeated. We'll bring the Amendment again next year and are gathering more signed petitions during the rest of the year. And, we participated during the Environmental and Bilingual day on Feb 9, networking and supporting all the other organizations present that day.

The Solar Array for our church is doing well, contributing to savings and diminishing our Carbon Footprint.

Things to come for 2024 are exciting! and we thank all of you for your support and changes in your habits and life, towards a future of humans and Creation walking side by side as God inspires us!

Your Committee members: Rev Jim Roghair, Fred Dennis, Julie Shelton Snyder and Consuelo O Walker.



Why the change in colors in the sanctuary? (in case you were wondering)

Cindy Piatt, Worship Chair

Liturgical colors show us which season of the church year we are in and add to the understanding of those services. White and **gold** symbolize days and seasons of joy and mark pivotal events in the life of Christ. **Red** symbolizes the work of the Holy Spirit and the sacrifices of martyrs. **Purple** designates a season of penitence and preparation, such as Advent or Lent.

This was not always the case. For the first thousand years of the church's history, little thought was given to liturgical color. White vestments were most common, with more elaborate colors used for important festivals. The 12th through 16th centuries brought localized experiments with liturgical color, but no standard practices prevailed until 1570, when the Roman Catholic Church established a normative sequence of colors to accompany the church calendar. Calvinists in the sixteenth century, however, preferred black vestments! Ah, how dull!!

The past two centuries have seen a resurgence in the use of liturgical colors, with a new appreciation for the aesthetic dimensions of worship.

Here is the typical schedule that WPC uses for our liturgical colors:

- Advent season: **purple** (did you know the church calendar begins on Advent 1?)
- Christmas Eve and the Christmas season (the 12 days of Christmas!) to Epiphany (Jan. 6): white and **gold**
- Season of Epiphany (Jan. 7 through the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday): **green**, with the exception of Baptism of the Lord and Transfiguration of the Lord, both white
- Ash Wednesday through the first five weeks of Lent, Palm Sunday through Maundy Thursday: **purple**
- Maundy Thursday: **purple** (until the church is stripped bare)
- Good Friday: no color; church remains stripped bare (sometimes black is used)
- Easter Season (including Ascension of the Lord): white and **gold**
- Day of Pentecost: **red** (Clergy may also wear **red** for ordinations and installations, though the sanctuary may remain in the color of that particular season).
- Ordinary Time (Monday after Pentecost through Saturday before the First Sunday of Advent): **green**, with the exception of Trinity Sunday, All Saints' Day (celebrated on the first Sunday in November), and Christ the King, all white

Adapted from the PC(USA) website.

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.



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.

Job opportunity at Christ Lutheran Santa Fe: Part-Time Site Coordinator for Safe Outdoor Spaces

Christ Lutheran is seeking a dedicated and compassionate individual to join our team as a Part-Time Site Coordinator for our Safe Outdoor Space Program. The Site Coordinator will play a crucial role in ensuring the smooth operation of the program, collaborating with partnering entities, managing administrative tasks, and facilitating day-to-day functions on-site. For full job description, please email Rev. Madeline.

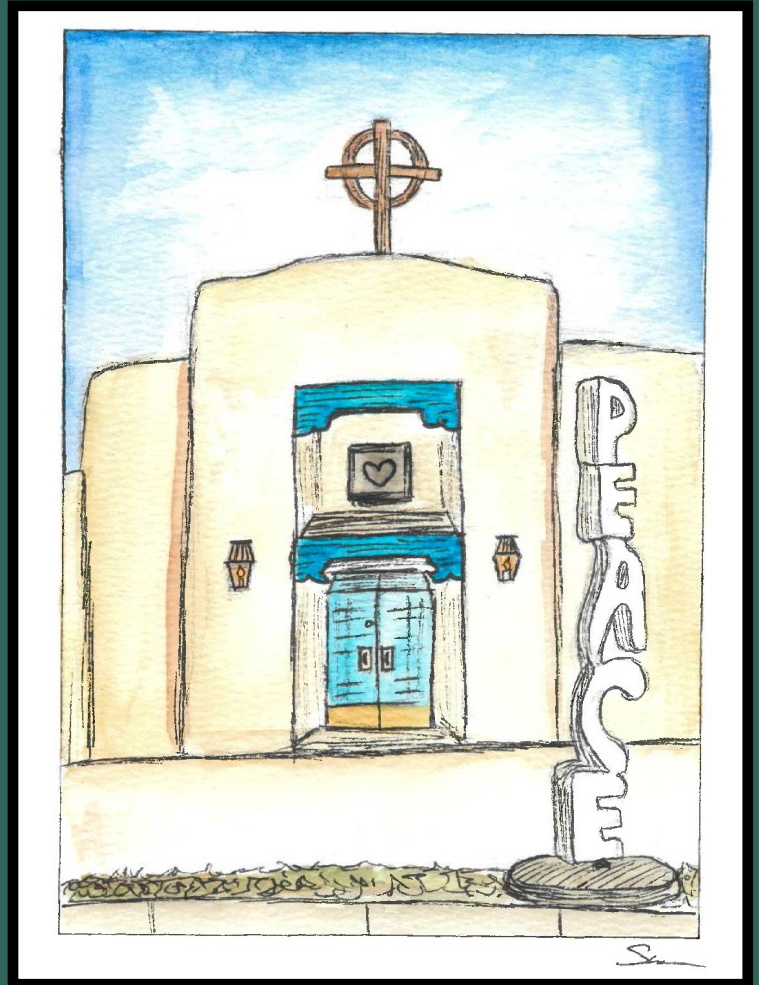
To learn more about Safe Outdoor Spaces, read [the press release from the city](#) or check out [Santa Fe Safe Outdoor Spaces](#).

Christ Lutheran is also always interested in volunteers for this project! Contact Christ Lutheran Church if you are interested in learning more about how you can help.

An Amazing Thank You from Santa Fe Youth Shelters and Family Services

Missio Dei has been partnering with the Santa Fe Youth Shelters and Family Services for some time - including with this last December's Angel Tree. We've also supported them with our 2023 Noisy Coin Toss funds - a gift of over \$1,000. The Santa Fe Youth Shelters and Family Services support around 80 young individuals and families who are at or below the poverty line, many of whom are experiencing homelessness. Knowing we are supporting such a vital and effective program brought us great joy!

And so did an amazing thank you they sent us. Jenny and Jim, who met with the Director of SFYSFS, received a beautiful watercolor of our church in the mail just a few weeks later. You can see the original on the cabinet in the hallway, nicely framed!



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!

Ghost Ranch Gospel Choir: Union and Reunion

at Ghost Ranch July 21-27, 2024



"Gospel music is far more than the soundtrack of the African American experience; it is its beating heart and soul...While styles have changed, there's one sound that has remained a constant source of strength and courage, comfort and wisdom - Gospel." Henry Louis Gates

Join Bishop Todd and Pastor Linda O'Neal for a week of gospel singing! From his teen years as a co-leader of Lively Word-Lively Worship (with the legendary composers, Avery and Marsh) and later joined by his wife, Linda, Bishop Todd has brought the deep joy of Gospel to Ghost Ranch for almost half a century. This summer they will be joined by Grammy-Award winning vocalist Pastor Nathaniel "Nathan" Best, (Walter Hawkins Family, The O'Jays and The Fairfield Four in the movie *O, Brother, Where Art Thou*). This celebration will truly raise the roof!

Whether you are brand new to gospel music or have been returning every year to nourish your soul, come make a joyful noise in July! Ghost Ranch Gospel is glorious music and "spirit-inspired worship that challenges, teaches, transforms, convicts and energizes us - so when we are sent out, we have experienced the wonder of God and are changed for the better from when we arrived." (PCUSA Matthew 25 Initiative)



Pastor Todd O'Neal and his wife Linda share responsibilities at the House of Joy Christian Ministry in Cincinnati. Pastor Todd received his Master of Divinity from Methodist Theological School and a Bachelor of Art and Music from Kentucky State University.. Linda O'Neal graduated Kentucky State University with a BS in Music Education.



Nathaniel "Nathan" Best is a Grammy Award winning vocalist and pastor. He has worked with The O'Jays and The Fairfield Four and was a featured on the soundtrack for the film "*O Brother, Where Art Thou?*".

Scan the QR code below or visit ghostranch.org for more information on Ghost Ranch Gospel Choir: Union and Reunion



Abiquiu, New Mexico



ghostranch.org | 877.804.4678

About Ghost Ranch

Ghost Ranch is a 21,000 acre, 501(c)3 non-profit, education and retreat center located in Abiquiu, New Mexico. Every year Ghost Ranch provides exceptional programming in the areas of Art, Science, Spirituality, Social Issues, Meditation, Metal Arts, and personal growth. The ranch also hosts reunions, weddings, business conferences, and other groups outside of its programming.

In addition, the ranch provides overnight accommodations in a rustic southwest setting. The ranch is home to two world renowned museums, a library, and is home to the New Mexico State Fossil, Coelophysis.

Lent 2024

We will gather with Christ Lutheran Church again during Lent this year, including with a mid-week devotional gathering! During Lent, we'll read from the gospels of Matthew and John on Sundays, and during the week, we'll move through an offering from the Congregational Ministry Committee of the Rocky Mountain Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (Christ Lutheran's regional body!) called "Why Church? A Discussion Series for Congregations." While this resource is aimed at ELCA congregations, us PC(USA) folks will also get a lot out of it!

Sundays in Lent

11am at Westminster
Presbyterian,
in person and online

Mid-Week Lenten Gathering

Wednesday evenings at Westminster Presbyterian
Light supper and discussion from "Why Church?" Resource
(time TBD; look for an email by the end of the month)

Maundy Thursday

Christ Lutheran Church
time TBD, Mar. 28

Good Friday

Westminster
6pm, Mar. 29

Easter Vigil

Christ Lutheran
Church
Time TBD, Mar. 30

Christ is risen! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
Easter Sunday Worship at Westminster
11am, March 31, in person and online

Updates from the Session's 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 Thursday

Creation Care: 1pm; 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 on January 18 and February 22. Below are highlights from each meeting!

January 18th

- Westminster signed on in support of the Green Amendment in New Mexico, at the encouragement of our Creation Care Committee. The vote was unanimous in favor!
- Worship committee reported that funds had been donated to cover the purchase of a new piano for the sanctuary - a Yamaha baby grand!
- WPC's Presbytery Commissioners for 2024 are: Kent DeYoung (2/24), Cindy Piatt (7/20), and Keri Brinegar (10/19)
- In 2024, the Session will meet on the 4th Thursday with the following exceptions: March, November, and December, when the meeting will be the 3rd Thursday

February 22nd

- We said a final, official farewell to Louise Singleton, approving her transfer of membership to a Salt Lake City congregation
- Missio Dei reports that \$14,000 was raised at the fundraising event held jointly with First Presbyterian, in support of Afghan girls and young women. Additionally, \$2,768 was disbursed from Matthew 25 in January alone!
- Creation Care reported that WPC will be recognized at the Feb 24 meeting as an Earth Care Church (see certificate pg3)

(For full minutes, check the church library!)



Imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday

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: Michael Brinegar: mkbrinegar@netzero.net
 Chair, Building & Grounds: Alan Tway: alantway@gmail.com
 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: Cindy : cindypiatt2004@gmail.com
 Chair, Personnel: Nancy Guthrie: nancybguthrie@gmail.com
 Chair, Evangelism and Outreach: Kent DeYoung: DeMiracle@comcast.net