SEPTEMBER 13, 2015

CELEBRATION SUNDAY

Fall Program Issue

www.westminstergr.org
Celebration Sunday, September 13
We return to two services 8:30 and 11:00a
Celebration Breakfast 9:40 - 10:40a

The Chimes is changing...

For some time the staff and the Communications Committee and a number of you have been thinking about the “best way to do the Chimes.” Many have wanted to do more “articles” and less “information” that becomes dated and obsolete almost before the Chimes is mailed out. We have wanted to emphasize the electronic side of our media – web page, Facebook page, “Westminster Weekly” and other emails, etc. – for information on a more timely basis as well as in less expensive ways than paper and mailing costs demand.

So, as those of you who receive Chimes only in hard copy by mail already know, beginning in mid-September, the Chimes will become a magazine-format publication issued four times a year. A “News & Notes” flyer with announcements and dates and times is being sent regularly to all print folks with the same information that the “Westminster Weekly” email folks now receive.

We hope you all will enjoy reading the content of the new Chimes and that the timeliness with which you receive information will be helpful. There’s more of what we hope to do on Page 6 of this issue.

Let me encourage you to sign up for the electronic format – send Becky an email (beckyw@westminstergr.org) or (717-5532) to replace the print version if you are able to do so.
Coming this fall...

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Grace and peace to you in the Lord Jesus Christ and in God our Creator.

As we look ahead to the coming of fall and the winding down of the summer, we thought we would try to help you out with some of the new names and faces on the staff. You’ll find photos and very brief bios of the staff in this issue of Chimes. Even with all of our recent changes, the staff is a coherent group that enjoys one another’s company, and the privilege of working for Westminster. On their behalf, I thank you for your care and encouragement, as we continue to support your ministry in and through Westminster.

You’ll also find an introduction to the Confirmation/Preaching plan for this fall. I have very much enjoyed working with Kyle Nolan, our Minister to Youth and Their Families, in preparing the confirmation process this year. Our ninth graders are in for a deep and enriching time, under his leadership.

In American life these days are the persistent reminders of racial inequality. The violent actions against African-Americans (from Michael Brown to Eric Garner to Freddie Gray to Rev. Clementa Pinckney and his eight parishioners, to Sandra Bland, and too many others) have been particularly wrenching. Tragically, these crimes are too typical of life for racial minorities. These recent horrors should serve as a harsh prompt to our predominantly white congregation to be on the alert for ways that equality, justice, and reconciliation may become real in our own community. Understanding white privilege is a good place to begin. If you have not yet participated in one of the Race Awareness programs that we have offered through Westminster, we strongly encourage you to do so. Please contact our Minister for Mission, Heather Colletto, at heatherc@westminstergr.org, for information.

On a personal note, Karen, my wife, has finished her interim pastorate in Northport and has moved back to Grand Rapids! Good news all ‘round. After serving three different interims for the United Church of Christ here in Michigan, she began her next interim position on August 4 at Parkwood Presbyterian Church in Jenison. We are looking forward to sharing one house again!

Grace and peace,

Rev. Chandler Stokes

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE AUG. 30 - SEPT. 6, 10:00A / SEPT. 13, 8:30 & 11:00A

**THE VOCABULARY OF FAITH**

**AUGUST 30: “RE-CREATION”**
The Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Rev. David Baak preaching
Scripture: James 1:17-27
Music: Cheri Reid, Soprano at 10:00a

**SEPTEMBER 6: “JUBILEE”**
The Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper
Kyle Kooyers, Seminary Intern preaching
Scripture: Leviticus 25:8-12 and Luke 4:14-20
Music: Al Exoo, Soloist at 10:00a

**SEPTEMBER 6: CAMP HENRY WORSHIP 10:00A**
Rev. Jen Porter preaching
Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper
Music: Sanctuary Choir
Picnic following worship

**CONFIRMATION SERIES FALL 2015 - BEGINS SEPT. 13**

**CELEBRATION SUNDAY 8:30A AND 11:00A**

**SEPTEMBER 13: “WELCOME TO WORSHIP”**
The Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Commissioning Teachers
Rev. Chandler Stokes preaching
Scripture: Psalm 148 and Matthew 11:28-30
Music: Sanctuary Choir at 8:30a & 11:00a

**SEPTEMBER 20: “LET US PRAY”**
The Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Commissioning Camp Henry Staff
Rev. Chandler Stokes preaching
Scripture: Luke 11:1-4
Music: Eric Tanner, Violin, Helen Hofmeister, Harpsichord at 8:30a; Sanctuary Choir at 11:00a

**SEPTEMBER 27: “THE ARCHITECTURE OF WORSHIP”**
The Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Commissioning WCDC Teachers
Rev. Chandler Stokes preaching
Music: Viviana Kloostra, Soprano at 8:30a; Sanctuary Choir at 11:00a

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Westminster Presbyterian Church | Chimes
Focus on Worship

Confirmation Series Fall 2015 - Pray and Work: The People at Worship

Since 2012, we have arranged the preaching schedule to align with confirmation. It is a key way for the congregation to be all on the same page together. This year, confirmation will be taught through the lens of our order of worship. We begin the series PRAY & WORK: THE PEOPLE AT WORSHIP on September 13.

What lies behind the title of the series is the old word, liturgy. Liturgy—literally means the work of the people. Worship, in some sense is the work that most clearly defines us as God's people. Liturgy says a great deal about who we are and who God is.

The series runs for ten weeks, culminating in Confirmation Sunday on November 15. As we reflect on the basics of our faith, we will examine nearly every aspect of our worship. We will also look at the overall structure of our liturgy and what it means that we first gather and prepare to hear the word, then respond to the word, and finally go out to be the Church. We will also be asking what the point or the purpose of each part of the service is, including these elements:

- Westminster Welcome
- Call to Worship
- Prayer of Confession
- Assurance of God's Grace
- Summary of the Law
- Passing of the Peace
- Scripture
- Sermon
- Baptism
- Lord's Supper
- Prayer in its many forms
- Music in its many uses
- Offering
- Doxology
- Charge
- Benediction

And in covering that list, we will end up touching upon the basics of Christian faith. And, as last year, the confirmation series will include three weeks' reflection on Stewardship (of time, money, and life), which is central to the expression of our faith. It is also one of the many ways that our worship spills over into the world beyond Sunday.

The first question is why do we do this at all? Why do we worship? Our answers to that question will emerge throughout the series, and there are a lot of answers. Although you will hear this one on the first Sunday of our series, I really like this part of the answer that my colleague Doug King, Associate Pastor at Brick Presbyterian Church in New York, offers. And I give it to you in advance—Why do we worship?: Just because. We worship just because. We worship for the same reason that we breathe, it is what we do, it is who we are.... If you are a hammer all the world's a nail. If you are a part of creation, your every breath, your very existence is an opportunity to praise.

The second question is what exactly is worship? A constant refrain in our understanding of worship at Westminster is to remind ourselves what worship is not. I paraphrase Michael Lindvall here: Although we may learn something from worship, it is not education. Although we may be healed in worship, it is not therapy. Although we may be deeply engaged in worship, it is not entertainment. The vector of worship is toward God and not toward us. Worship is turning ourselves toward God, what follows for us in myriad ways are “collateral blessings” from our turning to God.

Is it not in someway presumptuous for us to suggest that we can even turn to God, who is so utterly transcendent, so unlike us? We lean on Scripture and tradition and our sense of the Spirit to guide us in that. As part of a further response, I also invite you to contemplate what Rowan Williams suggested in a recent interview, when he was asked about how we can communicate anything at all about the transcendent God: First of all, I think that God is witnessed to, and in that sense spoken of and communicated by lives that in their practice continually refer to him—lives that looks toward God for renewal and repentance, adoration. He suggests that our witness in worship is a means by which God enters the world meaningfully. In our tradition we have long called our gatherings on Sunday morning Public Worship. Worship is a public witness to God who is beyond us, and it is many, many more things than that. Please join us this fall as we partner with our ninth graders in their confirmation process and as we turn to public worship and anticipate the collateral blessings in seeking God's presence.
The devotions over these next three weeks are all sections of one long poem by Wendell Berry. The poem is *Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front*, published first in 1973 in a collection called *The Country of Marriage*. The poem is not divided into stanzas, but the first four sections stand alone fairly well. You may find it a better practice to use the entire poem as your meditation. I believe it endures easily for a full month’s reflection.

**Week of August 16**
Ask the questions that have no answers.
Invest in the millennium. Plant sequoias.
Say that your main crop is the forest that you did not plant, that you will not live to harvest.
Say that the leaves are harvested when they have rotted into the mold.
Call that profit. Prophecy such returns.
Put your faith in the two inches of humus that will build under the trees every thousand years.

*Holy God, give me the long view, the trust that allows me to give without undue restraint and live as a witness to your long love. Amen.*

**Week of August 23**
Listen to carrion – put your ear close, and hear the faith chattering of the songs that are to come.
Expect the end of the world. Laugh. Laughter is immeasurable. Be joyful though you have considered all the facts. So long as women do not go cheap for power, please women more than men.
Ask yourself: Will this satisfy a woman satisfied to bear a child?
Will this disturb the sleep of a woman near to giving birth?

*Holy God, teach me contentment that knows your love as the deepest and truest reality of all, beneath the passing foolish and acquisitive tenor of our times. Amen.*

**Week of August 30**
Go with your love to the fields.
Lie easy in the shade. Rest your head in her lap.
Swear allegiance to what is highest your thoughts.
As soon as the generals and the politicos can predict the motions of your mind, lose it.
Leave it as a sign to mark the false trail, the way you didn’t go. Be like the fox who makes more tracks than necessary, some in the wrong direction.

*Practice resurrection.*

*Holy God, inspire my best, inspire me to more than my best. Make my heart nimble, and open me to the insistent possibilities in your resurrection. Amen.*

The following devotions come from the books *Blessing Upon Blessing* or *Silver Linings*, both by Maxine Shonk, OP. They’re intended as daily blessings, but offer enough substance to think and pray about for several days.

**Week of September 6**
May you be blessed when you are forced into the darkness of the unknown, when answers elude you and you are paralyzed by anticipation or fear. At those times may you hear yourself being called into the mystery of God. May you entrust yourself into the hands of mystery and know that you are not alone or unprotected but loved and cared for. May the God of Mystery bless you.

*God of Mystery, help me to be strong and know that you are with me, no matter what lies ahead. I give myself to you. Amen.*

**Week of September 13**
May the God of Shepherd be with you, calling you by name, reaching out to you in your lost places and calling you back to the places from which you have strayed. May this God care for you when you are weary and run to meet you as you make your way home. May you, by your care, love, and wisdom, be a shepherd to the lost and a welcoming presence to those who stray. May the blessing of the Good Shepherd be on you.

*God, our shepherd, help me hear your loving voice. Show me once again your path and your way. Amen.*

**Week of September 20**
May the listening God embrace you. May your voice become true and clear in the presence of the God who listens. May you come close to the ear of God and entrust your deepest secrets, the unspeakable and the unresolved, the tender truth of your devotion and the fragile residue of the fear in your heart. May the Spirit pray in you as you open yourself up in God’s hearing. May God the Listener bless you.

*Listening God, I know you hear my secrets. Help me hand them over to you so that I may move forward with confidence and love. Amen.*
“This is who we are…”

How do we best say what we [congregation, committees, staff, all of us] need you [the rest of us] to know? This is a question that we as staff and the Communications Committee, among others, ask almost every time we discuss making sure that we get the word out about something. It may be a special event, or service, or a new program, or a mission or education, or youth opportunity, or any of the items that are important to the life of our congregational community. It is a question that helps shape what we say and helps us decide which of our media we use to say it.

The Chimes will take on a reflective role in this larger communications task, starting in mid-September. It will be a periodical; initially we expect to publish four issues a year. The mission of the Chimes publication will be to reflect to the congregation that “this is who we are.” The first issue, next month, will expand the discussion on Worship that Chandler begins on Page 4 of this issue.

The informational role of our communications task will be filled by our other in-house media vehicles. Continue to submit your announcements to Becky Wells (beckyw@westminstergr.org or 717-5532)—perhaps do so even a week or two earlier than you have been doing—and look for them in the bulletin, on the web page (www.westminstergr.org), and in the “Westminster Weekly” and “News & Notes.” The information will be available—in a more concise form—and, it will be there for you in a more timely manner than we have been able to do with the Chimes in the past.

We hope you will suggest articles and themes for the Chimes; we will regularly call on members of the congregation to do some of the writing. The “new” Chimes is intended to be a means for all of us to understand ourselves as a congregation more deeply. We trust that it will also help us all to think more clearly about our ministry and the faithfulness to which God calls us.

Rev. David Baak

Calling All High School Seniors - Who is Minnie Behl?

In the December 2003 Chimes, our beloved Al Weenink wrote (in part) the following message entitled “The Giving of Gifts.” “Minnie and Florence Behl were members of Westminster Church over 50 years ago. They were two maiden ladies who lived in Grand Rapids for a short time. At Westminster they found a warm welcome and received much joy and fulfillment from the gracious fellowship of the congregation. After a few years they moved to Louisiana and subsequently joined the Church Triumphant, but not before writing a will that included income in perpetuity from their estate.”

One-third of the income from this gift has been designated for a scholarship to support young people (members and relatives of members) from Westminster who attend Alma College. Up to ten percent of the costs each year may be covered. This wonderful gift has been appreciated by countless Alma College students over the years. If you are a high school senior interested in attending Alma, please contact the church office, attention: Mary Carrington, Representative to the Minnie Behl Scholarship Fund. Completed forms must be returned to the Financial Administrator, Cindy Hardy, or Mary Carrington, by May 1, 2016. We will keep reminding you of this wonderful opportunity over the next several months!
Educational Programs offered for all ages

FALL EDUCATION, FALL PROGRAMS, AND FALL FUN BEGINNING SOON

With the end of one season comes the beginning of another. As summer wanes, fall is already filling up with sporting events, outings, school activities, and work commitments. There is no shortage of things to do and things to get done—which is why we’re sharing all of this information on Education at Westminster now! Break out the calendars, friends, and gather with us to learn, discover, and serve together.

So It Begins

We’ll kick off the year in traditional Westminster style, with an intergenerational, all-church, everybody’s-welcome Celebration Sunday Brunch on Sunday, September 13 at 9:30a in the Dining Room. We’ll get an overview for the fall Education Hour offerings for all ages, and we’ll walk through the beginning of our fall series on Worship. Remember that our two-service schedule of 8:30a and 11:00a resumes on this day. Beginning on Sunday, September 20 our Education/Choir schedule will kick off as we’ll meet between the two services, at 9:30a - 10:40a.

Education Hour: Meets weekly from 9:30-10:40a

Church School for Pre-K through 5th Grade:

Our Preschoolers, Young 5’s and Kindergarteners will be using a new curriculum this year called Growing in Grace and Gratitude. This is a delightful opportunity for our youngest children to hear Bible stories, pray together, play together, and wonder together. These groups meet downstairs near the Worship Center.

Our 1st through 5th graders will gather upstairs, in the Multipurpose Room, meanwhile, for workshops. This year’s theme is Learning to be Faithful, and we’ll start the year with a series on the Words and Ways of Worship. Then, we’ll visit the stories of Adam & Eve in Genesis 1-3 and Elijah in 1st & 2nd Kings. Being faithful isn’t the easiest thing in the world, and we get to explore some great Bible stories to help us remember God’s faithfulness even in the midst of our hurt, chaos, and confusion.

Third Graders:

Third grade is a big deal at Westminster, because it’s the first time you’re joining the whole congregation for all of worship in the sanctuary! We’re excited to welcome you to the whole service of worship with us. We know there are some things you need to know so that you can enjoy worship and know what’s going on, so watch for letters, pictures, and workshops just for you this year. One of those is coming up soon:

Communion Workshop for 3rd Graders & Parents
September 27, 2015 – 9:30a in the Parlor

We’ll cover everything from what communion is and why we do it, to how to pass the trays down the pews.

Spiritual Life and Learning:

For everyone in high school and beyond, the Spiritual Life & Learning Committee would like to invite you to join us during Education Hour for learning and discussion together. We have quite the variety of topics and speakers this fall, including:

September 20, 27, and October 4
♦ Eboo Patel, the Interfaith Youth Core, and Interfaith Engagement with Douglas Kindschi, Director of the Kaufman Interfaith Institute at Grand Valley State University.

October 11 and 25
♦ Earth-Care with Dr. Matthew Halteman, Associate Professor of Philosophy at Calvin College.

October 18
♦ Biblical Perspectives on Earth-Care with Nancy Janisch.

Sessions will meet in the Chapel, 9:30-10:40a.

Watch future bulletins, the Westminster Weekly, the News & Notes, and www.westminstergr.org, for more on these offerings.
A Look Back and Planning Ahead

Since this year’s youth trip was a mystery, the kids didn’t know ahead of time where they would be singing. We left Grand Rapids at 6:30a on Saturday, June 20, and the first singing engagement was at Llanfair Presbyterian Retirement Home in Cincinnati. We have sung there several times before, and they are always very gracious and appreciative.

On Sunday morning, June 21 the Kirk Singers sang during the worship service at Maxwell Presbyterian Church in Lexington, Kentucky. The people at that church had many connections to South Carolina, and part of the service was a very moving tribute to each of the persons who had died in the recent tragedy at the church in Charleston.

On Tuesday, the kids all went to a Veterans Home in Wilmore, Kentucky. The choir ended their program there with “America the Beautiful.” Many of the residents were in tears as they sang along. After the singing, we stayed and mingled with the veterans. Some of the kids continued to sing with them; some played checkers; some played pool; and many of them looked at wedding pictures of a couple (the husband was the resident) who were celebrating their 64th wedding anniversary that day.

On Wednesday, the choir sang at an evening meal at Hope Center, which is a large organization whose mission is to care for the homeless and people-at-risk.

On Thursday, they sang at a church in Georgetown, Kentucky. The audience consisted of people with special needs who lived at Quest Farms, where they are helped to develop independent living skills.

All of us who participated in these singing engagements, whether by being in the choir, passing out programs, or carrying music stands, were enriched by these varied experiences. We all felt like we were making a difference in those people’s lives as we shared our music and our message with them.

—Helen Hofmeister, Minister of Music

Schedule of August 10:00a and September 8:30 & 11:00a
Worship Music

- August 16 Hannah Tripp, Soprano, at 10:00a
- August 23 Eric and Stacey Tanner, Violin and Cello, at 10:00a
- August 30 Cheri Reid, Soprano at 10:00a
- September 6 Al Exoo, Soloist at 10:00a
- September 13 Celebration Sunday, two services
  Sanctuary Choir at 8:30 & 11:00a
- September 20 Eric Tanner, Violin and Helen Hofmeister, Harpsichord at 8:30a; Sanctuary Choir at 11:00a
- September 27 Viviana Kloostra, Soprano at 8:30a; Sanctuary Choir at 11:00a

Weekly Choir Rehearsal Schedule

CANTUS CHOIR: (ages 3–5) Sundays 10:15–10:40a, Director: Cara Hyink, begins September 13

CHERUB CHOIR: (grades 1–2) Sundays 10:10–10:40a, Director: Luanne K. Barnes, begins September 13

CAROL CHOIR: (grades 3–5) Sundays 9:30–10:05a, Director: Luanne K. Barnes, begins September 13

CHAPEL SINGERS: (grades 6–8) Sundays at 6:00p, Director: Helen Hofmeister, begins September 13

KIRK SINGERS: (grades 9–12) Sundays at 4:00p, Director: Helen Hofmeister, begins September 13

SANCTUARY CHOIR: Thursdays at 7:30p, college age and up. No audition required. Director: Helen Hofmeister, begins September 3
Recap of summer 2015 WPC Youth Trips
Summer Service Trips 2015

June and early July were a busy time for WPC Youth as our high schoolers and middle schoolers traveled near and far to serve, learn, worship, and grow together.

From June 20 to 25, 31 youth and eight adult leaders travelled to Wilmore, KY to spend a week with AdventureServe Ministries. Early in the week, on our “adventure day,” we rafted the class III and IV rapids of the Ocoee river, just downriver from where the 1996 Olympic kayaking events were held! The trip, which was combined with our 2015 Kirk Singers Tour, provided opportunities for Westminster’s youth to work at Asbury University’s Mission Farm, where international missionaries develop the skills to grow produce in even the most challenging conditions. The youth also served at some of Lexington’s local ministries, and spent time with the people they served.

From June 29 to July 3 our partner congregation, First Presbyterian Church of Benton Harbor, welcomed eight of our middle school youth and four leaders to participate in their Summer Service-Learning program. With the help of FPBH’s fantastic program intern, Evan Ziebart, our youth served at a local cafe and resale shop run by the Mosaic Christian Community Development Association that hires and trains local people at a livable wage. We also planted and weeded at the local Fresh Start Childrens’ Garden, and hung out with hundreds of fantastic kids at the Boys and Girls Club of Benton Harbor.

Special thanks go to all of our wonderful volunteer leaders, as well as the staff of First Presbyterian of Benton Harbor and AdventureServe Ministries in Wilmore, KY.

Confirmation 2015
Pray and Work: The People at Worship

“The work of the people.” That’s one translation of leitourgēia, the Greek word from which we get the word liturgy, which we use to refer to the structure and content of public worship. Another option is “the work for the people,” that is, work done on behalf of the people. So liturgy can be understood as the work we do in worship, or alternately as the work God does on our behalf.

In each case, this work is done in relationship—a particular relationship between a particular God and a particular people who share a past, present, and future. This fall our 9th grade confirmation class will explore the way that ancient and modern worship invite us into this relationship, and what that has to do with our identity and vocation as followers of Jesus Christ.

Confirmands and their parents will be invited to move from the dining room to the chapel for an informational meeting during the second half of the Celebration Sunday breakfast on September 13.

Confirmation Classes & Events
► September 27
► October 4, 11, 18, & 25
► November 1
► November 7-8: Confirmation Retreat (Camp Henry)
► November 14, 5:00p: Confirmation Feast
► November 15: Confirmation Sunday

Confirmation Classes will be held from 9:40a to 10:40a in the Youth Lounge.

Fall 2015: A Look Ahead
► September 13, 4:00p: Meeting for All Parents in WPC Chapel
► September 19-20: Fall Retreat at Camp Henry
► October 4 after worship: WPC Deli Middle School Fundraiser

Fall Small Groups (5:00p-7:00p in Leaders’ homes)
► September 27
► October 25
► November 22
Westminster Missions looking for help

Did you know Westminster has four mission committees that each focus on a different area of service? This month, all four mission committees will attend a first-ever kick-off event to celebrate our church's rich legacy of service, as well as brainstorm how we can empower the people of Westminster to participate even more deeply in our city and beyond.

**Community Ministries**
*Meets the third Monday of the month at 7:00p*

The Community Ministries Committee helps move the people of Westminster into relationship with the surrounding community through financial support and, more importantly, congregational participation. This group identifies opportunities for the congregation to serve and also explore how the work we do says something about the nature of our relationship with God.

**Health and Wholeness**
*Meets the fourth Monday of the month at 5:30p*

The Health and Wholeness Committee seeks to explore and share with our community of faith ways to promote physical, emotional, social, and spiritual wholeness. Based on information and experience, we will allow ourselves to be catalysts for expanded engagement of our membership in holistic, relational ministries within the broader community.

**Justice and Peace**
*Meets the fourth Monday of the month at 7:00p*

The Justice and Peace Committee strives to seek justice and love mercy while walking humbly. Recognizing our personal knowledge is limited, it is our duty to educate ourselves and the whole congregation about issues of justice and peacemaking in our neighborhood, city, nation, and world. Once our understanding has increased, our advocacy on these issues should follow.

**Worldwide Ministries**
*Meets the third Monday of the month at 5:30p*

The Worldwide Ministries Committee addresses mission needs outside of Kent County through financial aid and volunteer support, including Westminster’s ongoing partnership with First Presbyterian Church in Benton Harbor. This assistance also includes trips to Cuba, a work trip to a South Dakota reservation, a nurse visiting Haiti to teach about fetal alcohol syndrome, Camp Henry scholarships, and more.

Interested in learning more about joining a committee? Contact Heather Colletto, Minister for Mission, at 616-717-5536 or heatherc@westminstergr.org.

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**Emerging Westminster**

The Emerging Westminster group is made up of those ages 18—40—young adults committed to being faithful in this generation. We seek to create thoughtful opportunities for participation, meaningful ways for connections, and intentional practice to challenge us and our congregation and to bear witness as people of God.

This year, Emerging Westminster is excited to serve as an ‘idea garden’ for small (or sometimes large!) activities that might not fit comfortably or obviously within the church’s existing ministries. We kicked off this process in late spring with a think tank session. Committee members discussed a variety of projects which included:

- partnering with HQGR, a center for runaway and homeless youth in the city,
- working with Criminal Justice Chaplains on prisoner reintegration, and
- beginning a conversation within the church and community on end-of-life care

In addition, Emerging Westminster continues to support the young adults of our faith community with bi-monthly HappyOUR and Sunday Brunch social gatherings, participating in a church softball team, and helping to host Westminster’s booth at the Grand Rapids Gay Pride Festival.

All in all, 2015-2016 promises to be an exciting and transformative program year!

For more information and schedule of upcoming events, check our Facebook page, ([https://www.facebook.com/groups/emergingwestminster/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/emergingwestminster/)) bulletin announcements, or contact Kyle Kooyers at kylek@westminstergr.org.
Westminster Supports FASD Families

International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders
Awareness and Prevention Day
September 9

The first observance of this day occurred at the ninth moment, of the ninth hour, of the ninth day, of the ninth month in 1999 to emphasize the extreme need to avoid drinking alcohol during the entire nine months of pregnancy.

At least four families in our congregation have adopted children who have this life-long disability. They want you to help spread the message that there is No Safe Time to drink during pregnancy, No Safe Amount, and No Safe Kind of alcohol, including wine coolers and beer.

Westminster has been a part of this mission since approximately 2002. The first ever Conference/Camp for teens and adults with an FASD, was held at Camp Henry. Attendees came from as far away as Alaska, California, and even Canada. In addition, a Midwest Regional Town Hall Meeting was part of the agenda. Parents, professionals, and young people with an FASD testified to the lack of treatment, interventions, and supports.

Westminster has provided classrooms for parent education, a social skills training for children 8 to 12 years of age and a parent class as well. The church also supported two parents attending a three day training in Ohio. Now these parents are providing a six-week class for parents from Grand Rapids, Muskegon and Holland. A parent support group and a young adult support group meet monthly at the same time. Two social workers facilitate the young adult group with financial support from Westminster. None of these needs were being met anywhere else in the community. Some are members of our church but others are members of our community family and are so grateful.

For the first time five teens and adults participated in Camp Sunshine held in July, again at Camp Henry. Parents and Campers both were delighted with their experiences. The one-on-one friendly, caring, and knowledgeable support provided a trusting relationship in which campers could grow in self confidence. Some parents had the first night out together that they had had in at least ten years. What a special gift, one that most of us take for granted.

Heather Colletto, Westminster Minister for Missions, is working to fill some of the gaps: The following needs are listed here.

♦ One young man would love to have someone to pass the football to him.

♦ Several young adults are interested in a volunteer job. Another is looking for a paying job but is afraid of failing.

♦ Parents would appreciate having a mentor for their son or daughter who would be willing to do an activity once a month.

♦ A four hour training will be provided on a week night or a Saturday morning, so that all can feel comfortable. We realize that your days are very complex and we will try to be as flexible and accommodating as possible.

If you would like more information or simply want to ask a question, please call Barb Wybrecht at 241-9126, or contact Heather Colletto at 717-5536, or heatherc@westminstergr.org.
Downtown Pantry

Simply Give!

Last year, Meijer’s Simply Give program provided over $16,000 to the Westminster Pantry, a windfall for the pantry budget and our clients. The good news is that Meijer has included the Westminster Food Pantry once again, and the time is now. This is a partnership we can’t ignore.

From now until **September 12, 2015**, each $10 donation made at the Meijer on Kalamazoo and 28th Street will be doubled by Meijer and given directly to the pantry. **On September 3 (Hunger Action Day), 4, and 5**, donations to the Meijer on Kalamazoo and 28th will be tripled!

Details:

- You must make your donation at the Meijer on Kalamazoo and 28th Street;
- If you can’t make it to that Meijer, get a check to Director Angie Kelley, prior to September 3;
- **From now to September 12**, each $10 donation will provide $20 to the pantry;
- **On September 3, 4, & 5**, a $10 donation will provide $30;
- In a year where prices are escalating beyond the budget: We need this!

Please take your tens, twenties, fifties, and hundreds to Simply Give. Meijer has made the promise, we must make the commitment. Thank you!

Angie Kelley, Food Pantry Director

Help us bring meat to our neighbors!

Meat: $ .18/lb. That’s 18 cents. A dime, a nickel, and three pennies. Nothing is that inexpensive anymore accept tap water.

Yet, that’s the price we pay for meat when we visit Feeding America and shop. However, there is no longer meat in the Feeding America freezer. For whatever reason: Better inventory planning by the supermarkets, more agencies seeking meat through Feeding America, who knows—there is seldom, if ever, any meat anymore at Feeding America.

This has really affected our pantry finances. What used to be the most inexpensive (and most desired) choice among clients has now become the most expensive. We are getting to the point where we can’t afford it, and that is a shame. Our clients only visit us once a month, and as we try to give respect, dignity, and treat all as friends and neighbors, we can’t afford to buy meat any longer. Meat along with instant mashed potatoes, canned soup, and fruit seems like the least we should do.

Some would call meat at a pantry a luxury item, but how often do we enjoy that luxury each week and our clients only visit monthly?

Please consider a contribution to the pantry to allow us to continue to buy meat for our clients, our shelves are pretty bare!

Steve Pastoor, Food Pantry Treasurer
Fun with Zoo-Phonics...

At Westminster Child Development Center (WCDC) it is our goal to help children become independent, self-confident, enthusiastic, and inquisitive learners. All children are encouraged to think for themselves, develop problem-solving skills, make decisions, and communicate their ideas.

The teachers at WCDC organize and plan the environment and curriculum to support specific educational goals. This is done with a blend of both play based and structured activities. Over the past year, the teachers at WCDC have introduced Zoo-Phonics as an added curriculum piece for the preschool-aged students.

Zoo-Phonics is a method developed to make children strong readers and spellers using a “phono” (hearing), “oral” (speaking), “visual” (seeing), “kinesthetic” (moving), and “tactile” (touching) – whole brain approach. Students actually learn the sounds of the alphabet and advanced phonemic concepts through an easily understood, concrete method of presentation.

Zoo-Phonics uses animals drawn in the shapes of the letters for ease in memory. A related body movement is given for each letter. This concrete approach cements the sounds to the shapes of the letters.

Over the past year of using the Zoo-Phonics program we have seen a significant improvement with letter and sound recognition with our preschool aged students. We have had wonderful and positive feedback from parents about their children’s success.

— Amber Marz-Momany, Director

Learning made fun at WCDC!

WCDC teacher, Katie Prince teaching the children interactive Zoo-Phonics.
Small group news and events

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN ADULTS
Providing spiritual, educational, and social opportunities for adults 55 and up

Westminster Older Adults will resume their monthly luncheon schedule on Thursday, September 10 when Tom Buettner will present his latest slideshow program entitled “Lincoln’s Illinois,” which he made to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Lincoln’s assassination. Tom does a thorough and exhaustive research of all his programs, and this one should prove to be as exciting as last year’s 1893 Chicago World’s Fair program.

Plan ahead so you can join us on Thursday, October 8 as we journey to the Yankee Air Museum at Willow Run Airport.

Willow Run Airport was built in 1941 by the Ford Motor Company as the airfield for their B-24 bomber plant. This was the first aircraft manufacturing complex to us Ford’s automotive mass production technique, a leading technological innovation at the time. In 1981 a group of aviation enthusiasts, sharing a desire to preserve the facts of southwest Michigan's aviation history, began the task of researching, restoring, and preserving the all-but-forgotten history of Willow Run. We will tour the facility and view a documentary entitled “The History of the Willow Run Bomber Plant.” After our tour, we will enjoy a turkey dinner with all the trimmings at the nearby Cracker Barrel restaurant.

Flyers and reservation forms are available at the greeters desk in the Gathering Place. A $10.00 per person non-refundable offering will secure your reservation.

Questions: contact Jeanne Marshall at 453-4738 or jmars13@comcast.net.

WESTMINSTER WORKS (EARN Work Search Roundtable)
Persons interested in career and job transition coaching and skill building are urged to attend the weekly Thursday discussion workshops held in the Westminster Conference room, 9:00-11:00a Each EaRN Work Search Roundtable discussion begins with the reading of a spiritual reflection and Bible verse. Open enrollment or drop-in attendance is also the pattern. Anyone from the community is welcome. A modest $5 donation is suggested, but not mandatory.

This ministry is also supported by the six times a year NetWork 2 NeWork (NW2NW) early evening networking, speakers, and program events in the Grand Rapids area (5:00-8:00). Up-to-date information on both events is available at http://www.earn-network.org/events.

Persons interested may contact Larry Bratschie, Westminster Works Ministry Coordinator at 616-676-4191, or Ken Soper through EaRN (Employment and Resource Network) office, 616-528-0443 or ksoper@earn-network.org.

The next Network 2 New Work is scheduled for September 22, 2015 in Grand Rapids. Watch www.nw2nw.org for updates.

SPECIAL THANK YOU
Thank you all from the bottom of my heart for the cards, gifts, good wishes, and hugs that helped to smooth my way through that last month and into retirement. It has been a great privilege to work among you, and you will all be in my heart and in my prayers for always! —Sherrill Vore

SUPPORT FOR THE TEAM!
On July 14, Westminster softball players and fans got together for a delicious potluck picnic and softball game at Manhattan Park. It was a night of great fellowship and ball-playing. Stay tuned for more events in the fall and come join us!

— Jen Kotchenruther, Elder for Family Life Ministries
MIDWEEK CHURCHMEN’S LUNCHEON
Weekly buffet luncheon **Wednesdays at 11:30a**, followed by fellowship and meditation, led by Rev. Don Gordon. In the Westminster Dining Room.

**Aug. 10**: Dr. John Knapp, President of Hope College, Holland, and former Director of the Center for Ethics, Stanford University, Birmingham, AL. **Topic**: “Hope for the World: 2015.”


**Sept. 2**: Becky McDonald, Director of Women at Risk International, Wyoming, MI. **Topic**: “Women at Risk.”

**Sept. 9**: Tony Blair, Luncheon attender, and graduate of Westminster Seminary in Glenside, PA. **Topic**: “The Puritans.”

**Sept. 16**: Tom Post, Director of Asian World Renew Christian Reformed Church, Grand Rapids. **Topic**: “Renewing the World.”

**Sept. 23**: Dr. George Marsden is the Francis A. McAnaney Professor of History (Emeritus) at the University of Notre Dame, also taught at Calvin. **Topic**: “Mere Christianity.”

ELISABETH CIRCLE
The Elisabeth Circle always welcomes new members and visitors. Join us for lunch on **Tuesday, August 18, at 11:30** at the Cherie Inn. This is a great way to meet new people and enjoy a delicious lunch. Our first fall meeting is **Tuesday, September 15 at 1:00p** in the Church Parlor. We begin our fall schedule with a potluck, and will discuss Chapter 1 of the book, *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*, by Marcus J. Borg. Contact Lois Waldecker at 784-0900 to add your name to the reservation list for lunch at Cherie Inn.

WOMEN’S RETREAT 2015/SHORT STORIES WITH A LONG REACH
Please join us for our annual Women’s retreat at Camp Henry, **Friday, October 2 - Saturday, October 3**. This year the program will be lead by Sherrill Vore, retired teacher and director of Christian Education. Here’s an idea of what we will be exploring together:

**Short Stories With a Long Reach**
Jesus didn’t have much time and he wasn’t given to lengthy explanations. His teaching style relied on example and, often, on the telling of stories. During our retreat this year we’ll explore some parables, listening for the ways in which they reach across time and into our own lives. But parables are designed to invite us to enter into the little world they describe and they are best heard aloud--so be ready to play! We’ll read, act, and try out some creative ways of reflecting together.

Registration forms will be available in the Gathering Place starting Sunday, August 16. Questions? Please contact Mary Jane Lamse 204-1691, mjlamse@gmail.com, or Jane Hedges 450-8117, janehedges@comcast.net.

LISTENING POST VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
True North hosts The Listening Post, an on-campus ministry at GRCC offering a safe, interfaith space for students to be heard and accepted. Students are invited to talk, and volunteers simply listen, offering a safe space to clarify thinking, express joy or sorrow, or talk through decisions with a friendly face.

“All this requires is hospitality and listening,” says a volunteer. A two-hour training is offered this month. Volunteers sign up online for Tuesday lunchtime shifts during the school year. To learn more, contact Nancy Janisch at nancy@truenorthonline.org, or 616-821-0351.

WPC FICTION BOOK GROUP
After a lovely summer of reading and relaxation, the WPC Fiction Book Group will meet at **7:00p, Sunday September 20** to discuss *The Human Stain* by Philip Roth. This story unfolds against a backdrop of the Clinton impeachment hearings. The chief protagonist of the book is Coleman Silk, a 71 year old former professor of Classics and Dean of a small New England College. Silk has resigned from the college as a result of an investigation over a classroom remark that some found racist.

One reviewer for Amazon comments: “Philip Roth’s serious indictment of late twentieth-century America, *The Human Stain*, is much more than a novel. Roth examines the devastating impact of a false accusation on an exemplary man’s character. Yet, Roth spends considerable time weighing in on other compelling issues of this era: race, Vietnam, feminism, sexual expression, and identity.

A wealth of topics and themes for lively and thoughtful discussion! All are welcome. Please come and join us for good talk and fellowship.

Questions: contact Marcie Beck at beckmarcella7@gmail.com.
Mission Matters Update

Westminster members and friends have pledged $2,000,000 for Mission Matters. We are so grateful for your support! Help us get to our goal of $2,500,000 by sending a pledge card or pledging online at westminstergr.org/blog/entry/missionmatters-pledge.

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