

JANUARY

2017



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WINDOW



Issue 1
Volume 15

Sunday Service Times: 10 AM Worship and 4 PM Jazz Vespers



JANUARY LECTIONARY READINGS

1st - First Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148;
Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23

6th - Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14;
Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

8th - Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43;
Matthew 3:15-17

15th - Second Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11;
1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

22nd - Third Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9;
1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

29th - 4th Sunday after Epiphany

Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians
1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12



Monday mornings are special when Pastor Denise Clark-Jones, brings books to share with the WICC children.

CONGREGATIONAL LUNCHEON & MEETING JANUARY 22, 2017

All are welcome. All members are requested to be in attendance. Mark your calendars and plan to attend the Annual Congregational Luncheon and Meeting after worship on January 22, 2017. Copies of the annual report will be mailed out soon. Please remember to bring this report with you to the luncheon and meeting.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Westminster Presbyterian's Circle of Friends meets nine times a year on the first Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. We meet in homes, at the church, and occasionally in public places. As we join in this time of fellowship, we bring things to the group that challenge our thinking and are of a spiritual nature. Call the church office at 309-673-8501 for meeting details and location.

BI-MONTHLY BIBLE CLASS

Marilyn Luman

In the past, we have ended up cancelling our January meetings due to bad weather, so this year we are not scheduling any meetings in January. We are starting out the year with a NEW LOCATION & TIME so hopefully our attendance will increase. Mark your calendar for our next meeting on TUESDAY, February 14, at 10 a.m. in the church parlor. Bring a sack lunch if you want to stay after our class for a "fellowship lunch."

Marge will lead our discussion on Lesson 6 "A Hope to Live By" (Isaiah 11-12) on Feb 14. We will continue meeting the 2nd & 4th Tuesday and on February 28 we will study Lesson 7 "Our Spoiled World" (Isaiah 24). Please join us!

WRAPPED IN GOD'S LOVE (WIGL)

Marilyn Luman

This is a mission to make comfort covers for anyone who needs the warmth of comfort. Our supply of knitted and crochet items is down to a very few. With the bad weather during the winter months, please consider making a prayer shawl to give. These are made by anyone and handed out by our pastor and deacons when they are needed by our members to show that "we care." If you have any questions, call Marilyn or go online to get pattern ideas.

WINDOW DEADLINE:

Do you have information that you would like to submit in the next newsletter? Email to: wpc@westminsterpeoria.org

Deadline for February WINDOW will be Thursday, January 19, 2017.

The **Window** Newsletter is a monthly publication of



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 Email wpc@westminsterpeoria.org
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Phone 309-673-8501 Ext. 6

Hours Monday-Friday 11 to 1 PM

Email music@westminsterpeoria.org

ON-SITE MISSIONS

WestMark Food Pantry Elizabeth Richmond

Phone 309-673-8501 Ext. 7

Hours Weekly Monday 9 to 11 AM

Email wpc@westminsterpeoria.org

Westminster Infant Care Center

Director Valerie Sager

Phone 309-674-6701

Hours Monday-Friday 6:30 to 3 PM

in accordance with Peoria school calendar

Email WICC1973@gmail.org

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Editing/Proofing

Peggy Carter

Collating/Securing

Dick and Norma Helfrich, Pat Wagner,
 Monte and JoAnn Gibson, Alice Nash,
 Marilyn Luman, Adele Fleming and
 Peggy Carter.

WESTMARK FOOD PANTRY

Elizabeth Richmond

During the month of November, the WestMark Food Pantry provided food to **2318** individuals. The partnership we have with St. Mark's Church creates an amazing opportunity to help those who might otherwise be hungry. This makes for lots of work for our volunteers but it is great to help hungry, grateful folks.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Elizabeth Richmond

Come help unload deliveries: every first and third Tuesday, January 3 and January 17, at 11:30 a.m., Thursday, January 12, at 1:00 p.m., and on the fourth Thursday delivery, January 26, at 11:00 a.m.

THANK YOU!

Elizabeth Richmond

Thanks all for your generous support of our Christmas Giving Tree. We were able to provide wonderful gifts to both our WICC Moms and their children and children involved with Common Place.

DO YOU HAVE EXTRAS?

If you receive more calendars than you know what to do with, then we have your solution. Our food pantry participants request calendars, as many do not receive any and need one for the new year. Please bring your extra calendars to the church and place them in the green tubs in the Narthex. We can put them to good use.

2017 OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE

Your 2017 offering envelopes are available for you to pick up in the Narthex. Those who have requested offering envelopes have been assigned a number. If you did not request offering envelopes but you would like to have them, they are also in the Narthex. If you would like 2017 offering envelopes and there are none left, please contact Denise Wirth, Financial Secretary, at the church office. Her direct line is 309-439-9740, or email her at financesecy@westminsterpeoria.org. Denise is available to take your calls Tuesday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thank you.

THE MEANING OF EPIPHANY

Epiphany begins on January 6 each year. It gets its name from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, meaning "to appear, to show or to manifest." The ending date of the Epiphany season is determined by Ash Wednesday, which is determined by the date of Easter. Traditionally, Epiphany Day marks the coming of the Magi to worship the infant Jesus. The significance of Epiphany for Christians is that it symbolizes the first recognition of Christ by non-Jews. The season of Epiphany emphasizes the divine nature of Jesus - a truth that justifies his perfection as the model of real life. The color of Epiphany is green to symbolize life, growth, hope and eternity, which are all characteristics of the Epiphany emphasis.

SESSION NOTES - DECEMBER 13 MEETING

Brian Hakes

- Received thank you letters from:
 - South Side Mission for our mission gift of \$1,100 towards the Culinary Arts School.
 - Common Place for our mission gift of \$2,400
- A Called Congregational Meeting for the election of church officers will be after service Sunday, December 18.
- The Slate of Deacons and Elders to be elected, to office, are:
 - Deacons: Kim Mitchell, Alice Nash, Edna Nugent, and Jeanie Olson.
 - Elders: Dorothy Crozier, Bonnie Jackson, Gary Leonard, Jan Leonard, and Oliver Woodman.
- Rev. Clark-Jones is participating in a group of Black and White Clergy which will facilitate a dialogue regarding racial reconciliation in Peoria.
- The convection oven and the gas ovens need to be calibrated.
- In the kitchen, one of the two discontinued dishwashers is beyond repair and needs to be replaced.
- The expense for the Islam event was \$476.91 and only \$110 was not covered by the free will offering.
- Membership recognition Sunday is December 18 and 24 members will be acknowledged.
- Letters will be sent to 24 individuals asking if they want to continue their membership.
- Parker Richmond asked to be removed from the membership roll. The session approved his request.
- The food pantry served 2,318 in November.
- Caterpillar will provide boxes of food to the food pantry on December 22.
- WICC reported that 7 children are currently enrolled and another infant will begin in January.
- Food baskets will be given to 17 families.
- The WICC Christmas tree fund is at \$807.
- There are two work study students from ICC assisting in the WICC nursery.
- The session agreed to recommend that the congregation approve the terms of call for Rev. Clark-Jones. The terms of call will be the same as last year except that the salary will include an salary increase of 1 1/2%.
- Our insurance company will raise premiums by 38%, but our general agent will search for another carrier.
- Maintenance needed to be performed on the sewage pump system has been done by Dillon Plumbing and Foster Jacobs Electrical contractors.
- Touch-up painting on the water damage on the front wall of the Sanctuary will be done before the Christmas

Continued on page 4

2017 PLEDGES

Do we have your 2017 Pledge yet? If you haven't turned in your Pledge for 2017, please do it now.

Pledge at <http://westminsterpeoria.org/support> -OR- mail a pledge card to the church, -OR- drop one in the offering plate, -OR- send an email with your name, address and pledge amount to our financial secretary, Denise Wirth, at: financesecy@westminsterpeoria.org or if you have lost your pledge card and would like a new one, you may contact Denise Wirth at 439-9740 and one will be mailed to you.

Stewardship for 2017 Pledge Card

With a grateful heart for God's grace and as an expression of Christian stewardship, I/we make this commitment to the ministry and mission of Westminster Presbyterian Church.

I/we commit: \$ _____ per week
 \$ _____ per month
 \$ _____ per year

I understand that I may adjust this pledge at any time due to change in my circumstances by contacting the financial secretary, Denise Wirth.

☐ Check here if you do NOT want to receive envelopes. Envelope No. _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



Clip and mail this form to:

*Westminster Presbyterian Church,
 1420 W. Moss Avenue,
 Peoria, Illinois 61606*

....continued Session Notes

- service at an expense of \$150.
- An ad hoc committee to review the ideas and possible uses of the parish house has been formed and the first meeting will be the 8th of January.
- The Christmas Eve Service will take place December 24 at 4 p.m., and the Sunday, Christmas Morning Service will be at the regular time, 10:00 a.m.
- The new blue paraments cost \$930.50. The paraments will be present through the advent season.

FROM THE PASTOR

Pastor Denise Clark-Jones

I am sharing this poem written by Julia Mitchell-Hoffman, wife of our music leader for the Jazz Vespers service, David Hoffman. Julia wrote this poem for the children and the mothers at the Westminster Infant Care Center. Julia says that the poem is written for the child and the "inner child" of adults. Julia illustrated the poem with her artwork and gave it to Westminster in honor of the WICC program. It is hanging on the wall across from the door to the nursery.

I am reminded of this passage from the gospel of Mark:

"People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them." - Mark 10:13-16

For You My Child Are Loved
by Julia Mitchell-Hoffman

Sweet child cuddle your teddybear and
know that you are safe
For the moon and the stars provide the
light you need to rest at night
Come morning when the sun is bright
and sunbeams dance
May you take the time to watch the
splendor of the butterfly in flight
For you my child are loved...

Like a tree's branches may you stretch
in all directions to touch the souls of others
May you breathe in the beauty of the
earth and the sweetness of the wild flowers
May your heart sing, your soul dance
and never forget to play
May you swing high and never forget that
you are strong
For you my child are loved.

Continued on back page

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

3	Sarah Flannery
5	Helen Lagoda
5	Linda McDaniel
6	Marilyn Walker
6	Brian Hakes
6	Stephen Mitchell
7	Nancy Lindsey
8	Peggy Bragg
8	Holly Panetta
10	Cameron Randle
11	Jake Fisher
17	Gary Leonard
20	Ann Stinnett
21	Gary Dutro
21	Roger Leighty
29	Carole Willadsen
30	Sam Willadsen
31	JoAnne Gibson

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

There are no anniversaries in January.

WESTMINSTER SESSION

Clerk of Session	Brian Hakes
	Class of 2018
Christian Education	Bonnie Jackson
	Class of 2019
Church Life	Dorothy Crozier
	Class of 2019
Finance	Gary Leonard
	Class of 2019
Membership.....	Carol Carlson
	Class of 2017
Missions/Outreach.....	Jan Leonard
	Class of 2019
Personnel	Oliver Woodman
	Class of 2019
Properties.....	Don Bell
	Class of 2018
Worship.....	Suellen Kirkwood
	Class of 2017

**SESSION MEETS ON THE
SECOND TUESDAY, MONTHLY,
6:30 PM, IN THE PARLOR!**

**CONNECT WITH
US ON:**



December 2016							February 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	26	27	28				

JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 NEW YEAR'S DAY COMMUNION 10am Worship No Coffee Hour No Jazz Vespers	2 NY DAY OBSERVED Church office, WICC, & WestMark Food Pantry closed in observance of New Year's Day	3 9am Circle of Friends 11:30am Food delivery	4 7:30am Men's Coffee Hr. 10am Staff Meeting 7pm MBRA Meeting	5 9:30am Lectionary Bible S.	6	7
8 10am Worship 11am Coffee Hour 4pm Jazz Vespers Resumes	9 ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE 9-11am WestMark Food Pantry Open	10 4:30pm WICC Board Mtg 6:30pm Session Meeting	11 7:30am Men's Coffee Hr. 10am Staff Meeting No BiMthly Bible Study	12 9:30am Lectionary Bible S. 1:00pm Food Delivery	13	14
15 10am Worship 11am Coffee Hour 4pm Jazz Vespers	16 ML KING DAY Church office & WICC closed in observance of Martin King Luther Day 9-11am WestMark Food Pantry Open	17 11:30am Food Delivery	18 7:30am Men's Coffee Hr. 10am Staff Meeting 12pm Finance Meeting	19 WINDOW DEADLINE 9:30am Lectionary Bible S.	20	21
22 10am Worship 11am Congregational Luncheon & Meeting 4pm Jazz Vespers	23 9-11am WestMark Food Pantry Open	24 Committee on Missions Meeting. Pastor will be out of the office today.	25 7:30am Men's Coffee Hr. 10am Staff Meeting No BiMthly Bible Study	26 9:30am Lectionary Bible S. 11am Food Delivery	27	28
29 10am Worship 11am Coffee Hour 4pm Jazz Vespers	30 9-11am WestMark Food Pantry Open	31	FEBRUARY 1 7:30am Men's Coffee Hr. 10am Staff Meeting	FEBRUARY 2 9:30am Lectionary Bible S.	FEBRUARY 3	FEBRUARY 4

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Peoria, Illinois 61606

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JOIN US SUNDAYS

10 AM Traditional Worship
4 PM Jazz Vespers Service
With David Hoffman
and Friends Resumes
January 8, 2017



Our mission is to Serve God and
Others with Open Mind, Open
Hands and Open Heart.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Please Deliver to our Friends at

by Julia Mitchell-Hoffman

....*Pastor's Letter continued*

Matthew 18:1-7

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ²He called a child, whom he put among them, ³and said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. ⁶"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea. ⁷Woe to the world because of stumbling blocks!



Matthew's version of Jesus's words has more bite. Remember the words Jesus spoke in his final days on earth: 'Whatever you did to the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' - Matt. 25:40

Two inter-related statements are made with these verses. One has to do with our own humility before God. Do we follow God or do we follow the leaders who we believe will give us the most personal power and wealth? The second part of the statement makes a judgment about our actions. No matter what we say we believe, do our actions reflect Christ's teachings and divine directives?

The percentage of government expenditures for social services is at an all-time low and is predicted to go much lower in the coming year. How Christians respond to human need, especially to the most vulnerable in society is, and will continue to be, our witness to Jesus Christ in our community and throughout the world. We have just celebrated God's coming into the world as a vulnerable child. We have proclaimed the words of the prophets that a little child is the ultimate sign of hope for the world. God has placed the baby in our lap, will we nurture him or hand him back?

May you be blessed this new year and be a blessing for others! Pastor Denise