

Sunday Service Times: 10 AM Worship

## EXPERIENCING “HYGGE”

*Rev. Denise Clark-Jones*

Their secret is out, and they are very proud of it! I am talking about “hygge” and the Danes. I first learned about the concept of “hygge” when my oldest daughter put a New York Times best-seller, Meik



Wiking's "The Little Book of Hygge: Danish Secrets to Happy Living," on her Christmas list last year. It was not until I visited Denmark in June that I had a greater understanding of this philosophy of life.

What is “hygge?” First, in English the pronunciation is given as “hoo-ga.” However, I learned from my 14-year old Danish cousin that it is pronounced more like “hue – ga.” However, as you would expect from a young teenage boy who is an expert at everything, his

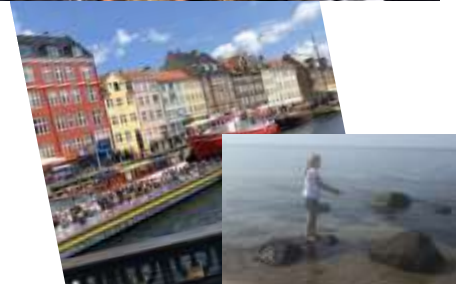
elder American “cousin” (I believe we are first cousins “once-removed” as his father is my first cousin) never quite got it right. Danish is a hard language. It has been described as sounding ‘like German with chopped potatoes in your mouth.’ Other than that, it bears little linguistic resemblance to German. My young cousin also informed me that “hygge” is uniquely Danish and has no accurate translation in English. He said the closest we English-speakers have come is “coziness,” but, of course, “It is much more than that.”

The New York Times Book Review describes “hygge” in these words:

*“The Danes are famously the happiest people in the world, and hygge is a cornerstone of their way of life. Hygge loosely translates as a sense of comfort, togetherness, and well-being. You know hygge when you feel it. It is when you are cuddled up on a sofa with a loved one, or sharing comfort food with your closest friends. It’s those crisp blue mornings when the light through your window is just right. It is about gratitude and savoring the simple pleasures in life. In short, it is the pursuit of everyday happiness.”*

Why is Denmark often rated as the happiest country in the world? Why are all the Scandinavian or Nordic countries listed in the top 10 of happiest countries? It certainly is not the weather! Perhaps, it is

*Continued on page 4 . . .*





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Phone ..... 309-673-8501 Ext. 5  
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Email ..... music@westminsterpeoria.org

#### ON-SITE MISSIONS

**WestMark Food Pantry** ..... **Elizabeth Richmond**  
Phone ..... 309-673-8501 Ext. 3  
Hours ..... Weekly Monday 9 to 11 AM  
Email ..... wpc@westminsterpeoria.org

**Westminster Infant Care Center**  
Director ..... **Valerie Sager**  
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Hours ..... Monday-Friday 6:30 to 3 PM  
*in accordance with Peoria school calendar*  
Email ..... WICC1973@gmail.com

#### THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

##### Editing/Proofing

Peggy Carter

##### Collating/Securing

Carol Borders, Marian Borders,  
Dick Helfrich, Gary Leonard, Alice Nash,  
Marge Willadsen, Pat Wagner

## PAUL, OUR EARLIEST CHRISTIAN AUTHOR

*Peggy Bragg*

Come One, Come All - and Bring A Friend!

Join us for a DVD study of "Paul, Our Earliest Christian Author." We will meet in the chapel after coffee hour every third Sunday for three months beginning with September 15, October 20, and end with November 17. A light lunch will be served. Please sign up in the Narthex if you will be attending this study. For questions, see Peggy Bragg or contact the church office. ✿

## SPOTLIGHT ON MISSIONS

### BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF GREAT PEORIA

*Janet Leonard*

The first Boys and Girls Club in Peoria was formed in 1960 with temporary headquarters in the Harrison Homes and 77 boys enrolled in the program. Soon there after a permanent building was erected at 2703 W. Grinnell Street. Today, there are two locations for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Peoria – one on Grinnell Street on Peoria's south side and one on East Kansas Street on the east bluff. Together they annually serve over 1,500 youth, ages 6-18.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Peoria, Inc. nurture young people's self-esteem by instilling in them a sense of belonging, usefulness, influence and competence. Clubs do this daily by providing young people with one-on-one relationships with caring adult professionals and fun, age-appropriate, well-rounded programming. Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Peoria offers tested, proven and nationally recognized programs in core program areas that closely align with the developmental needs of all young people.

For more information about Boys and Girls Clubs of Peoria, please go to <https://www.bgcpeoria.org/>. ✿

## 2nd QUARTER GIVING STATEMENTS

*Gary Leonard*

Giving Statements were issued in July for members or regular visitors who have either given to the church during the first six months of 2019 and/or submitted a pledge for 2019. If you did not receive your statement and would like to receive one, please contact our Financial Secretary, Denise Wirth at (309) 439- 9740 or email her at: [financesecy@westminsterpeoria.org](mailto:financesecy@westminsterpeoria.org). Also contact Denise if you have any questions about your statement.

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## 2nd Quarter Giving from page 2 . . . .

Your contributions are used to support the church's ministry, missions, properties, and operations. I encourage everyone to support the church by giving, cheerfully, of their time, talent, and financial gifts. If you have not yet pledged for 2019, and would like to do so, please be assured that pledge commitments are graciously accepted at any time of the year. ✱

### Financial Summary - JUNE YTD Operating Budget

Gary Leonard, Finance Chair

	June YTD Actual	June YTD Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
<b>Revenues</b>			
General Offering	\$ 131,365	\$ 97,500	\$ 33,865
WDFund	109,370	118,835	(9,465)
Other Revenues	7,804	3,850	3,954
	<u>\$ 248,539</u>	<u>\$ 220,185</u>	<u>\$ 28,354</u>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Operating Expense	\$ 210,132	\$ 211,135	\$ (1,003)
Major Prop. Improve.	20,099	9,050	11,049
	<u>\$ 230,231</u>	<u>\$ 220,185</u>	<u>\$ 10,046</u>
<b>Net: Rev. less Exp.</b>	<u>\$ 18,308</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 18,308</u>

#### Notes:

1. **Revenues** - General Offering includes \$42,979 of pre-paid pledges actually received in 2017 and 2018.
2. Most restricted contributions and the offsetting distributions like for WICC, Food Pantry, OGHS, etc., are **not** included.
3. Westminster Dev. Fund value as of 7/14/2019 = \$1.670 mil.

#### Tips:

1. You can monitor your Giving throughout the year by requesting access to the church's database (Realm) from the church office.
2. You may write "**WPC**" as the payee on checks payable to Westminster. ✱

## JAZZ IN CHURCH

*Thomas Clark-Jones*

Over the past few years, we have experimented with various services involving jazz as the musical vehicle for the expression of faith. It has been an interesting journey, learning a new musical language and how it can wonderfully express the faith.

David Hoffman has been no small part of this experiment. When first approached about the idea of Jazz Worship, he was most excited and ready to give it a go. It was something on his mind for a long time, and now, an opportunity to make it happen.

In this time we have done some three and a half years of Jazz Vespers on Sunday evenings at four. In some ways it has been a rousing success ... in others, not so much. We still struggle a bit in finding ways for the congregation to participate in some way other than passively. In our regular worship, hymns and re-

sponses are the meat of the liturgy for the worshipper. These are places to participate in the worship ... to give of one's self as best as one can. We find it's not so easy to make this happen in the jazz idiom. If we have a song leader, it helps, but still, it's not as effortless to sing hymns that are being improvised upon as it is to do so with the organ or piano, or even a capella.

Yet in many other ways, the success of the experiment is undeniable. The magnificent tunes written by Dave that express the ideas of the weekly scripture are a real inspiration, as are the quiet tunes suggestive of prayer. We even bridge the sacred/secular gap by using common jazz tunes in the context of worship. All this has given us a new and exciting experience in worship ... it has expanded the imagination and inspired us in faith.

Unfortunately, this has never become a large service. It would have been nice. But maybe it's just the nature of this music as being a specialty

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rather than the common pop music of America. Last season we cut back to once a month in the spring, and we will continue that pattern for the fall ... second Sunday's at four.

To kick off the jazz season at Westminster, we will have a concert ... just for fun. David and the Westminster Quartet, plus a few other eminent jazz musicians from our area will participate in an afternoon of joyous music with the great spontaneity of jazz and the inspiration of well-trained musical talent.

This opening concert of the Iben Series will be held on Sunday, August 25 at four in the afternoon. It will be a great celebration of jazz, led by David who will be assisted by the jazz greats of Central Illinois. We are most fortunate to be a 'happening' place in the jazz scene of America, and we hope you will come and bring some friends. After the concert, David and a group of 'regulars' at the vespers usually gather at a local restaurant and celebrate the music and enjoy food and grog. If you wish to join us in that time of fellowship and sharing around the table, just hang back after the concert, and we will let you know where we plan to gather. Come for a few minutes, or stay until everyone has left ... you are welcome for however long you have to share.

Then on Sunday afternoon, September 8<sup>th</sup> ... the first Jazz Vesper Service of the season begins a four o'clock. Come and worship with us. See the walls betwixt secular and sacred fall and these wonderful musicians bring their gifts before God as an offering worthy in His sight. Invite your friends. Gather a gang to come and celebrate with us. This has the potential to be an effective tool for evangelism, but only if we take the time to use it as such.

So Jazz at Westminster continues for another season. Come ... enjoy ... worship and be a part of this unusual worship opportunity. You won't find it anywhere else in Peoria, that's for sure! ❀

because of the long, dark winters these countries experience that has created the desire for finding ways to be happy. Each of these countries has a word similar to "hygge" in their vocabulary.

What strikes me most about the concept of "hygge" is that is intentional. It does not depend on happiness occurring unexpectedly or randomly. One must pay attention and even actively pursue it, even to the point of planning it. "Hygge" is also innately social. In that way it has many similarities to the word "peace" that appears so frequently in the Bible. The "peace" the Bible describes is also intentional and social. Peace is a state of being in harmony with God and one's neighbors and it creates a particular perspective on life and the world that allows us to be as God created us to be. This "peace" gives us the freedom to love as Christ loves.

The kind of happiness Danish "hygge" engenders is based on quality not quantity. Americans are far more concerned with quantity created by individual gains of wealth and power. The emphasis of "hygge" is on generating a sense of well-being for everyone in a group. This perspective can be seen in the importance of a clean environment, health care, and college education for all.

When you walk in the largest city in Denmark, Copenhagen, what you do not see is litter, homeless people sleeping on the streets or begging for money to buy food. You see more bicycles than cars, with safe areas for each as well as walking paths. Perhaps, that is the reason I did not see very many overweight people. It is hard to find a store open after 3:00 in the afternoon. Most people have left work for home by 4:00. Surprised to find no shops and few restaurants open on Saturday afternoon, I asked my cousin, an American who lives in Denmark, what people do on the weekends. He answered: "They like to be at home. They like to get together with friends and do things with their families." The Danes cherish their "hygge."

There is a downside to "hygge." Danes so enjoy having a close circle of friends to make their activities "hygge" that it is difficult to be a newcomer. Bringing someone new into one's community makes the in-group uncomfortable, thus dispelling



the sense of “hygge.” The person who can bring in a new person is the host and it must be done intentionally. This is true in Denmark and it is true in our country as well.

As more and more people flock to large American cities for job opportunities, our cities are filled with more people who are lonely in a crowd. The Bible has a lot to say about welcoming strangers. Jesus modeled bringing outsiders into community with others. In each of Jesus’ healing miracles the result was people who had been excluded by disease or disability were brought back into the community. The way of bringing outsiders into the social inside is for insiders to be intentional about welcoming them. We must actively take notice of who is not included and take deliberate actions to bring them into fellowship. This is a task of the church and it is the work of Christian disciples in our own communities.

If you notice the picture (on left side of the cover) of a gathering of people on the deck of a cottage in Gilleleje, Denmark, you might think this was a close-knit family gathering. It looks like a picture of “hygge” – and it is. Yet, each of these people were meeting at least one other person for the first time. The tie that bound us together was my cousin and his two children. We can always find a tie that binds us to another – we are all children of God. But, we must be intentional in seeing that connection. We must be intentional in our hospitality and in our Christian love. “Blest be the tie that binds!” 🌿

AUGUST SERVANT SCHEDULE			
USHERS	GREETER	SOUND	LITURGIST
4 8th Sunday of Pentecost			
Bonnie Jackson, Alice Nash	Dick	Alan	Laura
John Jackson, Kim Mitchell	Helfrich	Willadsen	Van Riper
Communion: Bread: Jeff Case & Suellen Kirkwood / Wine: Diane Case & Pastor Denise / Traveler: Dick Helfrich			
Preparing the elements: Jeff & Diane Case			
11 9th Sunday of Pentecost			
Gary Dutro, Marjorie Willadsen	Dick	Steve	Peggy
Gary Leonard, Jan Leonard	Helfrich	Sager	Bragg
18 10th Sunday of Pentecost			
Jeff Case, Laura Van Riper	Dick	Steve	John
Diane Case, Susan Leighty	Helfrich	Sager	Jackson
25 11th Sunday of Pentecost			
Linda Kupper, Dan Callahan	Dick	John	Bonnie
Alan Kupper, Janet Kelley	Helfrich	Grimes	Jackson



**CALLING  
ALL USHERS**  
*Suellen Kirkwood*

Those of you who wanted a review of the CPR training, there will be a showing on **AUGUST 22** at **10 a.m. | 1 p.m. | 7 p.m.**

There will also be a short ushers’ meeting on **AUGUST 25** immediately following the service to go over some new procedures to get ready for fall.

**WESTMARK FOOD PANTRY**  
*Elizabeth Richmond*

During the month of May we provided food to 903 individuals and in June 1,160. The partnership we have with St Mark’s Church creates an amazing opportunity to help those that 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? Come help unload deliveries; The first **Tuesday August 6, at 11:20 a.m.** (the third Tuesday delivery is cancelled this month), **Thursday, August 15 at 1:00 p.m.** and the **fourth Thursday August 22 at 11:00 a.m.** We also can use some help filling in for our regular volunteers on Monday morning. Questions call Elizabeth Richmond 309-697-9720 or the Church office. 🌿



## SESSION NOTES

### From the July 9 Meeting

Respectfully,  
Jim Burnham, Clerk of Session



## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR AUGUST

The Westminster Session has been having an ongoing discussion about how we can make better use of the space that is available in the Parish House. The large main-floor room is used quite a bit for dinners and meetings, but most of the rooms on the upper and lower floors are empty much of the time. You may not be aware of some of the things that are happening in the Parish House now: Choir Camp, Food Pantry, Storage and staging area for the WICC sale, and fall craft sale, Robotics Club storage and meeting space, Taiji classes, occasional overnight housing for groups that are passing through. I'm sure there are others. This being said, the session is in agreement that it would be better for the church and for our larger community to have more activities in our building. You might also be interested to know that we sometimes receive inquiries from groups outside the church about using space inside our buildings or our parking lots. I would like to emphasize that no decisions have been made on this matter at this time, but ideas are being brought forward and are being discussed.

CPR training sessions are being planned and will be scheduled for three times in August.

A Christian Education opportunity is being planned to include three sessions, one session monthly in September, October, and November. The topic will be The Apostle Paul. Details will be available soon.

Recent Food Pantry numbers are 903 people served during the month of May (the pantry was only open for three Mondays in May), and 1160 people served during the month of June.

Lastly, without going into detail, you should know that we have received some questions about recently completed maintenance work from The Peoria Historic Preservation Committee. The Session is anxious to resolve any issues that the committee has, and we want all interested parties to know that we will do everything that we can to satisfy all necessary ordinances and to be good neighbors to the Moss-Bradley area and to the entire community.

----- Update on the Historic Preservation . . .

Due to the diligent work of Elder John Jackson of the Properties Committee the Historic Preservation Commission has withdrawn their case regarding Westminster's maintenance work on the pillars. John went to City Hall and cited the regulations in Article I through IV of Chapter 16 of the City of Peoria Code:

*Peoria City Code, Chapter 16 Historic Preservation, Section 16-86.b*

*"No property or structure that is owned by a religious organization and is used primarily as a place for the conduct of religious ceremonies or to further the religious mission or business of the owner shall be subject to the regulations set forth in Articles I through IV of this chapter by reason of its location within a historic district."*

The case that was going to go before the July 24 meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission has been dropped. Pastor Denise.

### **August 4** **8th Sunday after** **Pentecost**

Hosea 11:1-11  
Psalm 107:1-9, 43  
Colossians 3:1-11  
Luke 12:13-21

### **August 11** **9th Sunday after** **Pentecost**

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20  
Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23  
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16  
Luke 12:32-40

### **August 18** **10th Sunday after** **Pentecost**

Isaiah 5:1-7  
Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19  
Hebrews 11:29-12:2  
Luke 12:49-56

### **August 25** **11th Sunday after** **Pentecost**

Jeremiah 1:4-10  
Psalm 71:1-6  
Hebrews 12:18-29  
Luke 13:10-17



**Peggy Carter has moved!**

**She has recently moved into  
an apartment at the  
Lutheran Hillside Village  
retirement homes.**

**Her new address is  
6901 N. Galena Road  
Apartment  
Peoria, IL 61614**

**Phone number will  
be the same.**

July 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

# August 2019

September 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

## SUNDAY

## MONDAY

## TUESDAY

## WEDNESDAY

## THURSDAY

## FRIDAY

## SATURDAY

4 10a Worship

COMMUNION



11 10a Worship

18 10a Worship

25 10a Worship

GRETCHEN R. IBENARTS



4p An Evening of Jazz

5 9-11a WestMark Food Pantry Open  
NO Taiji Class

12 9-11a WestMark Food Pantry Open  
NO Taiji Class

19 9-11a WestMark Food Pantry Open  
NO Taiji Class  
**PRESIDENTS' DAY**

26 9-11a WestMark Food Pantry Open  
NO Taiji Class

6 11:20a Food Delivery

13 6:30p Session Meeting



20 Food Delivery Cancelled

27 Committee on Ministry Meeting. Pastor will be out of the office today.

7 7:30a Men's Coffee Hr.  
10:00a Staff Meeting  
6:30p Taiji Summer Class Schedule

14 7:30a Men's Coffee Hr.  
10:00a Staff Meeting  
6:30p Taiji Summer

21 7:30a Men's Coffee Hr.  
10:00a Staff Meeting  
6:30p Taiji Summer Class Schedule

28 7:30a Men's Coffee Hr.  
10:00a Staff Meeting  
6:30p Taiji Summer

8 1p Food Delivery

15 1p Food Delivery



22 11a Food Delivery  
10p CPR Refresher Class  
1p CPR Refresher Class  
7p CPR Refresher Class

29

1

8

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22

2

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16

23

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10

17

24

16 WINDOW DEADLINE for September  
*DON'T MISS THE DEADLINE!*

17

24

31

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

2 Edna Nugent  
3 Hannah Willadsen  
6 Linda Kupper  
10 Joyce Hakes  
~11 Jean Schlesinger

12 Monte Gibson  
13 Ruby Picl  
17 Emily Stinnett  
20 Rosalie Youngman

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

4 Alan & Carole Willadsen  
6 Larry Hicks & Kim Hicks  
17 Robert Fisher & Kim Fisher  
23 Arthur Schlesinger & Jean Schlesinger



WESTMINSTER  
Presbyterian Church

1420 W. Moss Ave.  
Peoria, Illinois 61606

Rev. Denise  
Clark-Jones

JOIN US  
SUNDAYS

10 AM  
Traditional Worship

*Serving God with  
Open Mind,  
Hands, and Heart*

*Jesus Loves . . .*



**AUGUST 25**

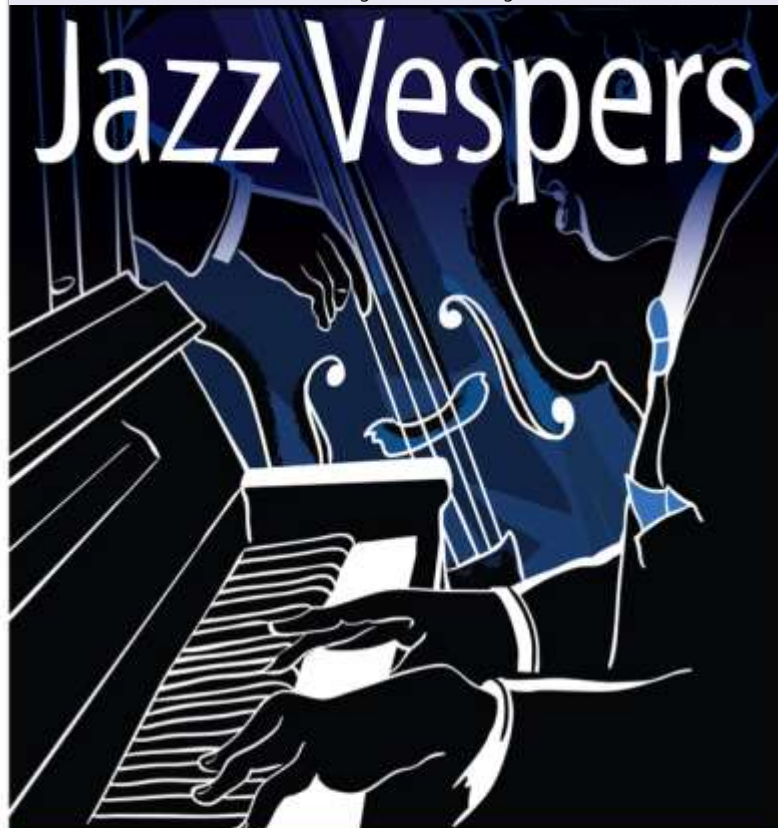
Last day to donate  
your unwanted shoes.



Kathi Jamieson Palmer has provided a gift of plants being used in the containers outside the church entrance. The plants are in memory of her mother Evelyn Jamison, a long-time member of Westminster.

Second Sunday monthly at 4 PM

# Jazz Vespers



**Beginning September 8, 2019**

**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**