

JANUARY 2020

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## Service TIMES

### WEEKLY

10:00 AM  
Sunday Mornings

### MONTHLY

4:00 PM  
2nd Sunday Jazz Vespers

A Publication of the Westminster Presbyterian Church

## A New Year

Reverend Denise Clark-Jones

On December 1 we celebrated the new year in the Christian calendar and on January 1 we celebrate the new year of our secular calendar. The word "new" sparkles with enticing possibilities. We associate new with improved because we have heard that phrase so often in advertisements. It seems we human creatures have always been attracted to the new, but also fearful. You will find the word "new" frequently in the New Testament. I checked my concordance and found the word "new" or "newness" 54 times.

The Bible begins, in the first chapter of Genesis, with something astoundingly new. In theological terms we say that God created the

world "ex nihilo," meaning "out of nothing." God created the world with newness built into the plan. New growth keeps all that is alive in a cycle of birth, death, and regrowth. So, perhaps it should not have been so surprising that God entered the world with an ultimate plan of salvation with a newborn baby. Yet, he was certainly not the Messiah God's people expected. How could one so vulnerable, so powerless be a Savior? Matthew and Luke tell us that even as an infant, people were drawn to the Christ child – some to worship, some to destroy. When he began his ministry, this unlikely rabbi, a teacher who was believed to be a simple carpenter, the son of

*Continued on page 2*

## An Event Not to Miss!

Reverend Denise Clark-Jones

This fall, a group of Westminster members have met several times with a group of residents of the Moss-Bradley neighborhood to improve our relationship and work together on projects of mutual concern. Our first joint project will be a soup and bread supper, beginning with wine and cheese, following the 4:00 p.m. Jazz Vespers service on Sunday, January 12. I cannot think of a better first joint effort than worship, music and breaking bread together! Even if you do not regularly attend the Jazz Vespers services, I implore you to



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Director ..... **Valerie Sager**  
Phone ..... 309-674-6701  
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*in accordance with Peoria school calendar*  
Email ..... [WICC1973@gmail.com](mailto:WICC1973@gmail.com)

## THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

**Editing/Proofing**  
Peggy Carter

**Collating/Securing**  
Dick Helfrich, Pat Wagner, Marian Borders,  
Alice Nash, and Carol Borders.

## A New Year continued...

Mary and Joseph, astounded his audiences with what the gospel of Mark describes as "a new teaching - with authority!" (*Mark 1:27*)

The gospel writers were careful to tell their audiences that the "new" in the "Good News" of Jesus Christ did not come ex nihilo. Jesus was informed by the Hebrew Scriptures he studied all his life. In Matthew, from which will come most of our gospel readings this year, Jesus is portrayed as the new Moses, deemed the greatest prophet of the Hebrew Scriptures, our Old Testament. Like Moses, the Messiah would free God's people from slavery. This time the slavery was sin which separates us from God and one another.

When the Pharisees asked Jesus to name the greatest of the Ten Commandments, he summed up them all with the two-part answer: *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."* He expressed what was foundational to his faith in a new way. In John's gospel Jesus expresses a similar directive: *"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."* (*John 13:34*)

Traditionally, we make New Year's resolutions to change something about ourselves or our lives that we believe will make us happier or healthier. What if, instead, we look at our relationship with God and with our sisters and brothers in the world and ask: 'How can I express love for God and neighbor in a new way?' We could start from where we are now in our faith and practice and nurture new growth. We could expand our loving by paying attention to the plight of those less fortunate, the ones about whom the Bible tells us we are to be most concerned and compassionate. What new way can we find to love them? We could grow in our relationships toward those with whom we disagree or judge negatively. Dying to our sins, like selfishness, envy, and hate, allows us to grow in our capacity to love.

One of my favorite quotes is from the legendary cellist Pablo Casals. When asked why he still practiced at age 92, he responded: 'I think I'm finally making progress.'

May this year bring you new growth in peace and love.

- Pastor Denise Clark-Jones ❄

## WPC ANNUAL REPORTS

It is that time to start thinking about what information you need to begin gathering for our Annual Report. We have just one month left of 2019 and December will go by quickly, with all of the family gatherings, festivities and shopping. 2020 is really just around the corner. ❄



## 2020 STEWARDSHIP NEWS

*"... Do Justice; Love Kindness;  
Walk Humbly with your God."  
- Micah 6:8*

### 2020 STEWARDSHIP

Gary Leonard

As of December 12, 2019, we had received 44 pledges representing a financial commitment of \$173,100. Pledge information was an important input into the preparation of the 2020 budget. We are within \$13,500 of the amount pledged for 2019.

It's never too late to make a pledge to Westminster. If you have not yet submitted a pledge, please prayerfully consider this expression of your Christian faith and your commitment to the church. You may mail it to the church or place it into the offering plate on any Sunday. If you do not have a pledge card, you may use the form below. There are also pledge cards available in the narthex. Thanks to all members and friends who contributed a portion of their time, talents, and/or financial resources to the ministry, missions, and operations of Westminster in 2019. ❄

- Gary Leonard

MICAH 6:8

ACT  
*justly*

LOVE  
*kindness*

WALK  
*humbly*  
WITH YOUR  
GOD

### FOOD PANTRY

During the month of **NOVEMBER** we provided food to **1687** individuals. 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 I HELP?

First, keep the food pantry volunteers and clients in your thoughts and prayers.

Second, come help unload deliveries:

The first and third Tuesday,  
January 7 and 21, at 11:20 a.m.  
Thursday, January 16, at 1 p.m.  
and the fourth Wednesday,  
January 22, at 11 a.m.

Third, we also can use some help filling in for our regular volunteers on Monday morning.

Questions?

Call Elizabeth Richmond  
at 309.697.9720. ❄

### 2020 Pledge Commitment to Westminster Presbyterian Church

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

I/we pledge: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per week or  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month or  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per year

☐ Check here if you do **NOT**  
want to receive envelopes.

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank You!*

*Please mail to the church or place into the offering plate at any worship.*

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ♦ 1420 W MOSS AVE ♦ PEORIA, IL 61606  
WestminsterPeoria.org ♦ 309.673.8501



come to this one and stay for dinner. Bonnie Jackson from Westminster and Joyce Bannon from the Moss-Bradley Residential Association are heading the team preparing the meal. If you are able to make some soup or help out in any way, please be in touch with Bonnie. In the event of bad weather, the event will be held on February 9 after Jazz Vespers. ❄

## REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS



**Wednesday, January 1, 2020**

**New Year's Day**

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

Psalms 8

Revelation 21:1-6a

Matthew 25:31-46

**Sunday, January 5, 2020**

**the Second Sunday after Christmas**

**Communion Service**

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalms 147:12-20

Ephesians 1:3-14

John 1:(1-9) 10-18

**Monday, January 6, 2020**

**the Epiphany of the Lord**

**Communion Service**

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

**Sunday, January 12, 2020**

**the Baptism of the Lord**

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalms 29

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

**Sunday, January 19, 2020,**

**the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalms 40:1-11

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

**Sunday, January 26, 2020,**

**the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalms 1, 4-9

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Gospel Matthew 4:12-23

## Lectionary Bible Study

Marilyn Luman

Lectionary class will meet January 9 and January 23, DEPENDING on the weather. Check with Marilyn or the church office IF we are canceling. ❄

## Session Notes

Jim Burnham

The session has adopted a tentative budget for 2020. The details will be published in the annual report which will be discussed at the annual meeting on January 26.

It should be noted that Pastor Denise spent quite a bit of time setting up the catered meal that followed the Lessons and Carols Service on December 8. With two more meals already in the planning stages, the Session hopes that someone will step forward to relieve Pastor of this responsibility. I'm sure you agree that, while important, this work is not the best use of our pastor's time. Catered meals involve no cooking and minimal cleanup.

The WestMark Food Pantry served 1687 people last month. We should all be grateful that Westminster is able to participate in this worthwhile mission. ❄

## Santa's Helpers

Elizabeth Richmond

A big thank you to all that helped the children of Common Place, the Westminster Infant Care Center teen moms, and their babies have a very merry Christmas. ❄

## Flower Donations

Mary Lee

The 2020 Flower Schedule has been placed in the Narthex. If you would like to give flowers that will decorate the sanctuary for a Sunday service, we use one arrangement each week. Please sign up for the Sunday of your choice. Flowers are usually given in memory of or/and in thanksgiving for loved ones or to commemorate special occasions in our lives. We ask that you sign up on the flower schedule at least one week in advance so your name will appear in the appropriate Sunday bulletin.

Westminster would like to thank those who donated flowers in 2019 for our Sunday worship services. As always, the Worship Team is thankful for the many ways in which friends and family of the Westminster congregation contribute to meaningful worship throughout the church year.

Also, thank you to anyone that we may have overlooked. Please contact

## WESTMINSTER SESSION

Clerk of Session .....	Jim Burnham Class of 2021
Christian Education .....	Peggy Bragg Class of 2021
Church Life .....	Vacant
Finance .....	Gary Leonard Class of 2019
Membership .....	Bonnie Jackson Class of 2019
Missions/Outreach .....	Jan Leonard Class of 2019
Personnel .....	Larry Hicks Class of 2019
Properties .....	John Jackson Class of 2021
Worship .....	Suellen Kirkwood Class of 2020

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

## DEACONS

Moderator .....	Jeanie Olson Class of 2019
Anna Bussian .....	Class of 2020
Sue Burnham .....	Class of 2020
Kim Mitchell .....	Class of 2019
Alice Nash .....	Class of 2019
Edna Nugent .....	Class of 2019
Phyllis Rafferty .....	Class of 2020
Marge Willadsen .....	Class of 2020
Laura Van Riper .....	Class of 2021

*flower donations continued . . .*

the church office to let us know, so we can update our information sheet. ❄

### January

Adele Fleming Family  
Cambridge Home Improvement

### February

Alice Nash  
Tom & Denise Clark-Jones  
Kent Nyblin & Dan Callahan

### March

Family of Bettye Thompson  
Kent Nyblin & Dan Callahan

### April

Peggy Carter  
Hettie Beers

### May

OLLI

### June

Dick & Norm Helfrich  
The Fleming Family

### August

Edna Nugent Family  
Mary Dill  
Peggy Bragg

### September

Kent Nyblin

### October

Suellen Kirkwood  
Anna Bussian  
Marge Willadsen

### November

OLLI  
Brian & Joyce Hakes

### December

Don & Jill Bell  
Virginia McNear ❄



## The Season of Epiphany

Reverend Denise Clark-Jones

We say we have an “epiphany” when we have an “aha moment” when what was puzzling is suddenly understood. We might also say “I have seen the light!” In ancient times, the word “epiphany,” from the Greek “epiphaneia” or “theophaneia,” meant either a visible manifestation of a god or the solemn visit of a ruler venerated as a god. (*Companion to the Book of Common Worship*, prepared by the Office of Theology and Worship for the Presbyterian Church (USA), Geneva Press, 2003, p.94)

In our Christian calendar we have a Feast of the Epiphany, which traditionally falls after the 12 days of Christmas. The story of the Magi following a star to worship the Christ child represents the revelation of God’s promise and purpose to all the nations of the world. We will celebrate the day in worship on Sunday, January 5, rather than the actual day, January 6. The season of Epiphany ends on Ash Wednesday, February 26.

The season is the celebration of God’s manifestation or self-revelation to the world in Jesus Christ. The symbolism of light is important in this season of Epiphany. You will notice references to light in our scripture readings, our hymns and choir anthems. With God’s self-revelation in Christ, God’s Word has appeared to us. ‘We who had walked in darkness, have seen a great light.’ We are called to be witnesses to God’s gift of grace and salvation for all people. We are called to let the light of Christ shine through us in our daily living. ❄

# POINSETTIA DONATIONS

*As in years past, the congregation was invited to honor or remember loved ones this Christmas with a donation of a poinsettia while also helping with the decorating of the sanctuary and various places throughout the church during this Advent Season. This year we were able to provide ten poinsettias to our homebound members. Thank you for the 2019 Christmas Poinsettia donations.*

## David & Jan Baker

In memory of their parents, Roy & Laurel Baker  
and John & Evelyn Spurny

## Peggy Bragg

In memory of her husband, Norm Bragg

## Anna Bussian

In memory of her husband, Horst Prohaska

## Margaret (Peggy) Carter

In memory of her son, Brian, and daughter-in-law,  
Carol Rooney Carter

## Richard & Norma Helfrich

In honor of their children, Karen, Lisa and Steve

## Gary & Jan Leonard

In memory of their parents, Larry & Kathleen  
Leonard and Wilbur & Irene Kirk

## Roger & Susan Leighty

In memory of their parents, Helena & Herb  
Schonewise and Belva & Clarence Leighty

## Marilyn Luman & Sons, David and Douglas

In memory of her husband and their father, Roger Luman

## Virginia McNear

In memory of her mother, Nancy McNear, and  
In memory of her sister, Nancy McNear

## Kim, Tom, and Sarah Mitchell

In memory of her husband and their father, Steve Mitchell

## Andrew and Mary Muir

In Honor of Hettie Beers  
In Honor of Alice Nash

## Alice Nash

In memory of her husband Arlo Nash and their parents

## Alan and Carole Willadsen

In memory of Bob and Barb Webber

## Karen, Lisa, and Steve

In honor of their parents, Richard and Norma Helfrich

## JANUARY SERVANT SCHEDULE

DATE	USHERS	GREETER	SOUND	LITURGIST
<b>5 - Sun / 10am</b>	<b>Epiphany of the Lord</b>			
	Bonnie Jackson, Alice Nash John Jackson, Kim Mitchell	Dick Helfrich	Pat Flynn	Laura Van Riper
	<i>Communion: Bread: Jeff Case &amp; Bonnie Jackson / Wine: Pastor Denise &amp; Diane Case / Traveler: John Jackson Preparing the Elements: Jeff &amp; Diane Case</i>			
<b>12 - Sun / 10am</b>	<b>Baptism of the Lord</b>			
	Gary Dutro, Marjorie Willadsen Linda Kupper, Alan Kupper	Dick Helfrich	Don Bell	Peggy Bragg
	<i>Communion: Bread: Bonnie Jackson &amp; Dick Helfrich / Wine: Pastor Denise &amp; Don Bell / Traveler: John Jackson Preparing the elements: Suellen Kirkwood</i>			
<b>12 - Sun / 4pm</b>	<b>2nd Sunday Jazz Vespers</b>			
	Dave & Jan Baker	Suellen Kirkwood	Tom Clark-Jones	Rev. Denise
<b>19 - Sun / 10am</b>	<b>2nd Sunday after the Epiphany</b>			
	Jeff Case, Laura Van Riper Diane Case, Suellen Kirkwood	Dick Helfrich	John Grimes	John Jackson
<b>26 - Sun / 10am</b>	<b>3rd Sunday after Epiphany</b>			
	Jan Leonard, Dan Callahan Gary Leonard, Janet Kelley	Dick Helfrich	John Grimes	Bonnie Jackson

December 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				

February 2020						
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



# JANUARY

SUNDAY

MONDAY






TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

		<b>Dec. 31</b> Church office open 8:30a.m. to 11:30a.m.	<b>1</b> <b>NEW YEARS DAY</b> 7:30a Men's Coffee Hr.	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> <b>COMMUNION</b> 10a Worship 	<b>6</b> <b>EPIPHANY</b> 9-11a WestMark Food Pantry Open	<b>7</b> 11:20a Food Delivery	<b>8</b> 7:30a Men's Coffee Hr. 10:00a Staff Meeting	<b>9</b> 1:00p Food Delivery <b>1:30p Lectionary Bible Study</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <b>BAPTISM OF THE LORD</b> 10a Worship <b>4p Jazz Vespers</b> <b>5p Soup &amp; Bread Dinner</b> 	<b>13</b> 9-11a WestMark Food Pantry Open	<b>14</b> 4:30p WICC Meeting 6:30p Session Meeting	<b>15</b> 7:30a Men's Coffee Hr. 10:00a Staff Meeting	<b>16</b> 1:00p Food Delivery 	<b>17</b> <b>WINDOW DEADLINE</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 10a Worship	<b>20</b> <b>MLK JR. DAY</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b> 9-11a WestMark Food Pantry Open 6:30p Taiji - Advanced 	<b>21</b> 11:20a Food Delivery	<b>22</b> 7:30a Men's Coffee Hr. 10:00a Staff Meeting 11:00a Food Delivery 6:30p Taiji - Beginner	<b>23</b> <b>1:30p Lectionary Bible Study</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 10a Worship <b>11a Annual Meeting</b>	<b>27</b> 9-11a WestMark Food Pantry Open 6:30p Taiji - Advanced	<b>28</b> Committee on Ministry Meeting. Pastor will be out of the office today.	<b>29</b> 7:30a Men's Coffee Hr. 10:00a Staff Meeting 6:30p Taiji - Beginner	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 	

5 Helen Lagoda

6 Marilyn Walker

11 Jake Fisher

20 Ann Stinnett

25 Tim Ashton

5 Linda McDaniel

8 Peggy Bragg

14 Dorothy Meyers

21 Gary Dutro

29 Carole Willadsen

6 Brian Hakes

10 Cameron Randle

17 Gary Leonard

21 Roger Leighty

31 JoAnne Gibson





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

*Happy New Year to*



## Spotlight on Missions

Jan Leonard

The 2019 Westminster mission budget included some discretionary funds for needs that arise during the year. The Partnership for a Healthy Community (<https://healthyhoi.org/>) recently reported that the 61605 zip code area is the most dis-

tressed in the state of Illinois. Roosevelt Magnet School is located in the 61605 zip code area. As a result, some discretionary mission dollars were sent to Roosevelt for snacks for students. Principal Cindy Clark reported that, "If students have a late lunch, we give them a snack in the morning. If they have an early lunch, they receive their snack in the afternoon. You

can't believe what a difference it's made in the kids."



ERPEORIA.ORG

## Thank You

Valerie Sager



I'd like to thank EVERYONE who contributed items and their time to move me into my new apartment. Your generosity and heartfelt concern enabled me to go from having absolutely nothing for my apartment, to realizing a furnished home. I will always remember what you did for me and my daughter TaN'nya. God bless you all!

Love, Tennishea Crawford ❄