

# the westminster WINDOW

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A Good-Bye



A Publication of the Westminster Presbyterian Church

## DONATIONS & VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

*Valerie Sager*

The annual Moss Avenue/Westminster Infant Care Center (WICC) Sale is scheduled for

**Saturday, September 11,  
8 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

Also, volunteers are needed to work the day of the sale. Interested parties should contact Val Sager (309) 224-6238 to coordinate your work schedule.

This year's sale is extremely important as WICC was unable to have their major 2020 fund-raiser due to COVID-19 restrictions. All proceeds used for WICC start-up costs for the new academic year.

## WICC MOSS AVENUE SALE

**SATURDAY  
SEPTEMBER 11  
8 AM TO 3 PM**

Mark your calendars now and plan to come.  
Great fun! Great Treasures! Music and Food and MORE!  
You won't want to miss this.

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



1420 W. Moss Avenue - Peoria, Illinois 61606

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### ON-SITE MISSIONS

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Hours ..... Mondays 9 to 11 AM

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**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.com](mailto:WICC1973@gmail.com)

### THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

**Editing/Proofing**

Peggy Carter

**ARTICLE  
DEADLINE**



**Friday, September 17, for  
the October newsletter.**

## SEPTEMBER REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS (RCLR)

RCLR for Sunday, September 5, 2021

[First Reading Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23](#)

[Psalm 125:1-5](#)

[Second Reading James 2:1-10 \(11-13\) 14-17](#)

[Gospel Mark 7:24-37](#)

RCLR for Sunday, September 12, 2021

[First Reading Proverbs 1:20-33](#)

[Psalm 19:1-14](#)

[Second Reading James 3:1-12](#)

[Gospel Mark 8:27-38](#)

RCLR for Sunday, September 19, 2021

[First Reading Proverbs 31:10-31](#)

[Psalm 1](#)

[Second Reading James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a](#)

[Gospel Mark 9:30-37](#)

RCLR for Sunday, September 26, 2021

[First Reading Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22](#)

[Psalm 124:1-8](#)

[Second Reading James 5:13-20](#)

[Gospel Mark 9:38-50](#)

## MATTHEW 25 & THE PANDEMIC

*Pastor Denise Clark-Jones*

By the time you read this, schools will be in session. While that may not usually affect your life, unless you are a student, teacher or the parent of a student, this year we hold our collective breaths. With children under 12 unable to receive a Covid vaccine, will the start of in-person school attendance affect our in-person worship services? Our elders all have computers to allow for Zoom meetings.

How sad that we have the knowledge and medical resources to stop the rampant spread of this deadly virus, but many refuse to do so. This is what is known as a "First World problem." The vaccines have all been created in wealthy nations, who had the resources for the intensive scientific research required for the quick development of vaccines. In poorer nations, people are desperate to receive the vaccine but do not have the opportunity. In addition to the lack of vaccines, there are limited hospital beds and ventilators for those that do get the virus. This desperate situation is not their choice but is affected by our choices.

In a recent Associated Press article, the authors reported: "When the race for coronavirus vaccines started, health officials

## WESTMINSTER SESSION

Clerk of Session .....	Jim Burnham
	Class of 2021
Christian Education .....	Peggy Bragg
	Class of 2021
Church Life .....	Open
Finance.....	Brian Hakes
	Class of 2022
Membership.....	Kim Mitchell
	Class of 2022
Missions/Outreach.....	Jan Leonard
	Class of 2022
Personnel .....	Larry Hicks
	Class of 2022
Properties .....	John Jackson
	Class of 2021
Worship .....	Open

## DEACONS

Moderator .....	Jeanie Olson
	Class of 2022
Sue Burnham.....	Class of 2021
Phyllis Rafferty .....	Class of 2021
Marge Willadsen .....	Class of 2021
Laura Van Riper .....	Class of 2021
Alice Nash .....	Class of 2022
Bonnie Jackson.....	Class of 2023

## SEPTEMBER COMMUNION



**The Sacrament  
of the  
Last Supper  
will be observed  
on  
Sunday,  
September 5, 2021**

knew the competition between rich and poor countries would be lopsided. But few expected poor countries to be at the mercy of donations from the rich, or that the inequity would be this bad for so long. Poor countries have vaccinated 1% of their population, compared with 55% in the United States and about 25% globally. The reasons for that gap return to decisions early on, in the initial bankrolling and distributing of the vaccines. Officials, primarily from the U.S. and Europe, have told The Associated Press they never thought to handle the situation globally. Instead, they jostled for domestic use.” (Lori Hinnant, Maria Cheng and Aniruddha Ghosal. “Inside the Cutthroat Race to Secure Vaccines.” Associated Press, July 18, 2021.)

The global transmission of the Covid virus reminds us that we are interdependent. The more rapidly the virus spreads in one part of the world affects its transmission to other parts of the world. We can also expect more economic consequences with the rise in cases, which always hurt the poor the most.

*‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ - Matthew 25:40*

## THANK YOU

*Marilyn Luman*

A very grateful THANK YOU for the many phone calls and get well cards. I am slowly recovering at home from my June 23 knee replacement surgery. My Deacon, Jeanie Olson asked Rev. Denise to surprise me with Schwan meals appearing in my freezer so I won't starve. Again, THANKS to everyone; very appreciated. -Marilyn

## LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY

*Pastor Denise Clark-Jones*

Bible Study will begin on September 9 at 1:00 p.m. My plan is to offer participants the option of in-person or Zoom. With the wonder of internet technology, we can meet together at the same time with participants at church in the parlor and at home.

The link to the Zoom site will be posted on the Westminster website: [www.westminsterpeoria.org/worship/bible-study/](http://www.westminsterpeoria.org/worship/bible-study/) and the church calendar, along with the scriptures for that week. Hope to see you there and invite friends!

For the reading schedule, see page 2...

**“May the God of Peace ... grant you peace at all times in all ways.”**

It was a daring prayer, all things considered, to ask the Thessalonians to pray — and it is also a daring one for us, I imagine. The second letter to the Thessalonians arrived at a time of turmoil, strife and confusion. The Christian community was experiencing persecutions so severe that some believed the time of judgment had come, while others took advantage of their doubt, spreading misinformation and sowing dissent. The letter ends with a benedictory prayer: for God’s peace to be granted at all times in all ways. It might have been daring enough to consider asking them to imagine peace at “any time,” much less at “all times,” or to imagine peace in some sort of way at all, much less in all of them. Have you ever felt so far from God’s peace that you couldn’t even imagine it?

Peace is so often a daring prayer and so often provoked in the imagination, first. Artistic expression and movements for justice and peace often dance together. In turmoil, strife and confusion, visual artists and theatrical performances can point us to God’s peace-creating presence in our midst. We can listen for God’s voice in lamenting or angry poems, and in songs of freedom from those most vulnerable to violence and oppression. And the Church can dance with all whom God loves.

Artistic expression can light up our imaginations and lift our spirits. Our own choir is a shining example of this, as I am sure you will agree. Art may help imagine peace, as it has in Lebanon where war has been a daily reality for far too long; or at the southern U.S. border, where Presbyterians are imagining a season of peace with those who flee from violence; or it might join in songs of hope and inner peace with those considering taking their own lives. The Church joins with those imagining a new world, so we can create it, together.

The Peace & Global Witness Offering helps us imagine and create in each of our individual expressions, and together as a whole Church, a witness to the God of Peace. Twenty-five percent of our collection will be used by our congregation to those in the Peoria community. Twenty-five percent is shared with our mid council region, and 50% is shared with our denominational partners so that our witness to peace is extended, and we help fulfill the daring prayer in 2nd

Thessalonians: that the God of Peace is known “at all times in all ways.”

There is so much peace we are only beginning to imagine, and so we pray hard, with our minds, our gifts, with our Church and all those who inspire a sense of God’s peace.

For when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

## WORLD COMMUNION

The first Sunday in October is designated as World Communion Sunday, which celebrates our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world. Paul tells us that we are to “discern the body” when we partake of Holy Communion, mindful that we note our relationship to all our brothers and sisters in Christ in the celebration. One is not to go hungry while another is drunk! (I Cor. 11:21). This is scandalous behavior opposed to the Way of Christ. Thus it is appropriate that World Communion Sunday is also a time when we receive the annual Peace and Global Witness Offering as a way of continuing the ancient Christian practice of sharing what we have with brothers and sisters in need.

### A Presbyterian Gift

World Communion Sunday (originally called World Wide Communion Sunday) is a gift of the Presbyterian Church to the larger ecumenical church. The first celebration occurred at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA, in 1933 where Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr served as pastor.

John A. Dalles, a PCUSA pastor who has researched the history of World Communion Sunday, notes this in his blog entry, reprinted from the October 7, 2002, issue of *Presbyterian Outlook*:

Davitt S. Bell (the late Clerk of Session and church historian at Shadyside) recalled that Dr. Kerr first conceived the notion of World Communion Sunday during his year as moderator of the General Assembly (1930). Dr. Kerr’s younger son, the Rev. Dr. Donald Craig Kerr, who is pastor emeritus of the Roland Park Presbyterian Church in Baltimore, was sixteen in 1933. He has related that World Communion Sunday grew out of the Division of Stewardship at Shadyside. It was their attempt to bring churches together in a service of Christian unity—in which everyone might receive both inspiration and information, and above all, to know how important the Church of Jesus Christ is, and how each congregation is interconnected one with another. When I asked Donald Kerr how the idea of World Communion Sun-



day spread from that first service to the world wide practice of today, this is what he replied,

“The concept spread very slowly at the start. People did not give it a whole lot of thought. It was during the Second World War that the spirit caught hold, because we were trying to hold the world together. World Wide Communion symbolized the effort to hold things together, in a spiritual sense. It emphasized that we are one in the Spirit and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

Celebration of World Wide Communion Sunday was adopted as a denominational practice in the Presbyterian Church (US) in 1936. Churches in other denominations were invited to celebrate with us from the beginning, but it wasn't until 1940 when the Department of Evangelism of the Federal Council of Churches (a predecessor body of the National Council of Churches) promoted extending the celebration to a number of churches around the world that the practice became widespread. Today, World Communion Sunday is celebrated around the world, demonstrating that the church founded on Jesus Christ peacefully shares God-given goods in a world increasingly destabilized by globalization and global market economies based on greed.

*Article was taken from the [Presbyterian Mission website](#).*

## **'READ-TO-ME' VERSION OF PRESBYTERIANS TODAY MAGAZINE**



As part of *Presbyterians Today's* newly-updated digital edition, you can now enjoy our audio technology on any computer or mobile device. Select any article from the magazine, press the sound icon, and the article will be read aloud. [Try 'Read-To-Me'](#)

Our digital edition also lets you read articles in a simple "contents view." This gives you a very clear black-type-on-white paper view of all our stories. Just double-click on any article to start reading. If the print seems too small, you can easily enlarge it. And it's easy to switch back to the magazine view if that's your preference.

[Try Contents View](#)

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- Bible studies and reflections
- Christian perspectives on contemporary issues and events
- Mission news from home and abroad
- Denominational news and updates

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[ORDER NOW](#)



# WHITTIER JUMPSTART PROGRAM

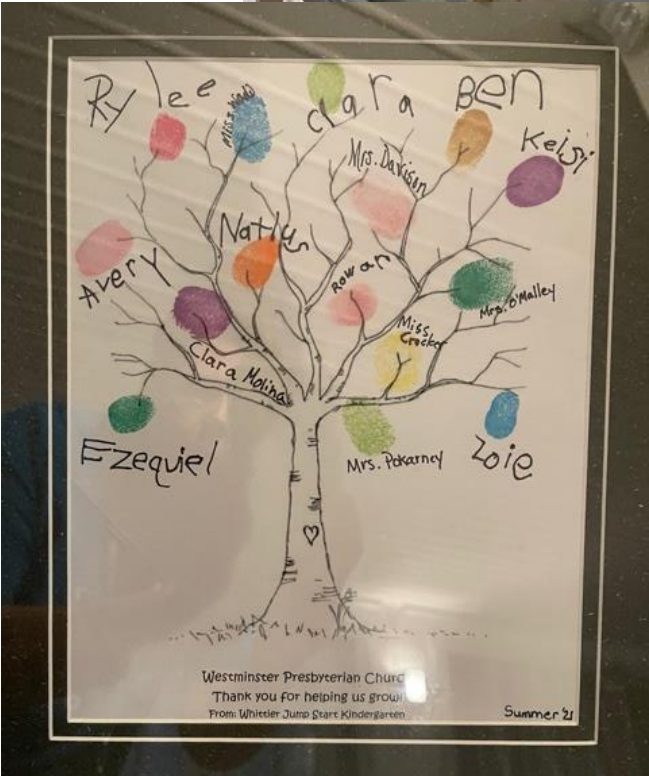
Jan Leonard

From July 26-August 12, Westminster's Parish House was home to a Whittier Jumpstart to Kindergarten program. Designed to familiarize incoming students to what kindergarten is all about, Whittier staff ran the program from 8:30-11:00 four days per week. In addition Whittier principal, Sarah Wadi, and her secretary, occupied additional parish house space while the final touches were put on the school's new air conditioning system.

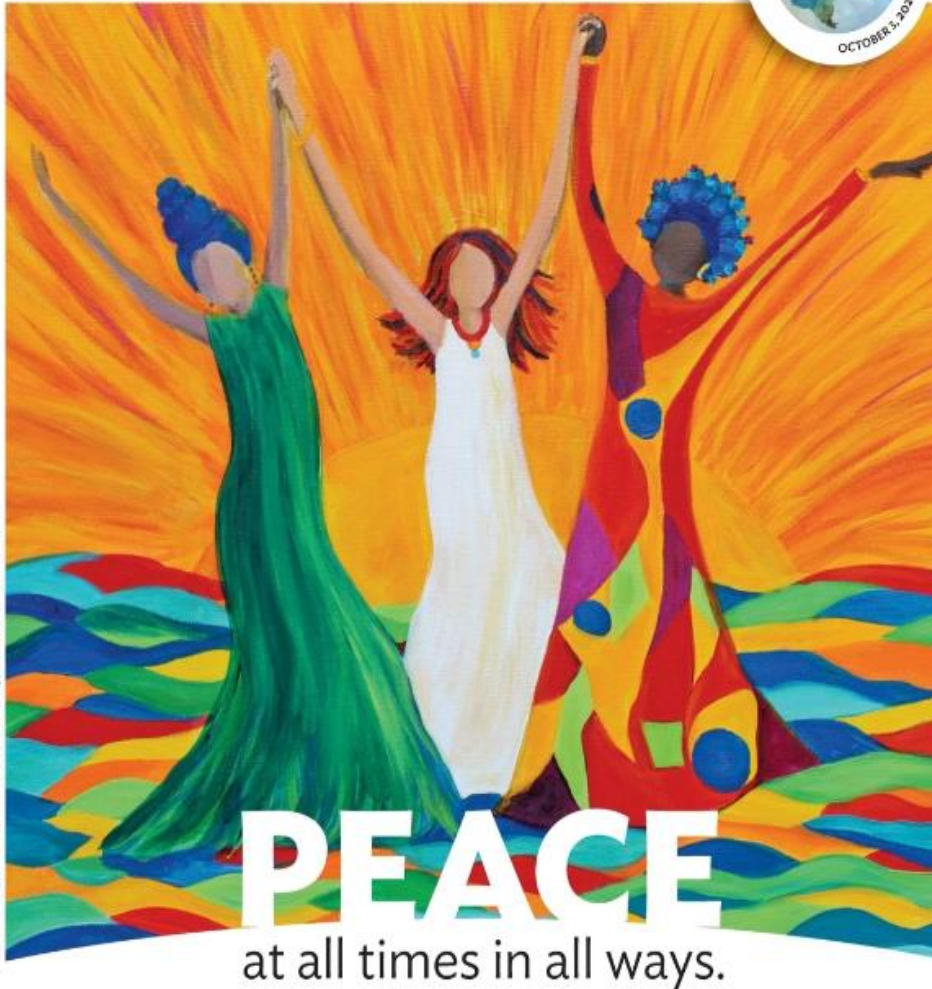
Lastly, Session voted to become an adopt a school partner to Whittier. Stay tuned for details as the school year begins.



Thursday, August 12, ten Whittier Elementary School new kindergarteners, and their three teachers, said good-bye to their classroom in Westminster's Fellowship Hall. For three weeks, while Whittier was closed to install air-conditioning, Westminster hosted their new kindergartner orientation program and provided office space for their principal and school secretary in the Morgan Room. The children thanked Westminster for the use of our building with window art and a group art project, which is on display in the Narthex.







at all times in all ways.

— 2 THESSALONIANS 3:16

On September 5, Peace and Global Witness season begins. This offering “encourages the church of our time to cast off anxiety and fear, discord and division, and embrace our reconciling God’s mission with those around the corner and around the world.” Your gift to Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world. **25% of the Offering stays with Westminster.** Mid councils retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness.



**PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS**  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS



☐ **YES!** I want to help more people experience the freedom and dignity that Christ wants for everyone. 25% of this Offering stays with our congregation to support peacemaking in our own city of Peoria. Enclosed you will find my donation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

***Clip and mail this form along with your contribution to:***

*Westminster Church  
Peace & Global Witness  
1420 W. Moss Avenue  
Peoria, Illinois 61606*

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

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

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

***Make checks payable to:***  
*WPC or Westminster Church*

Thank you for your participation in the Peace and Global Witness Offering.

# SEPTEMBER CALENDAR - AT A GLANCE -

01 - 04 and 07 - 10 | 9 am to 3 pm  
WICC preparing for sale (9/11)

## Sunday | Sept. 05

- Season of Peace begins
- Communion Service 10 am
- Coffee Fellowship 11 am

## Monday | Sept. 06

- Labor Day** - The church office and the WestMark Food Pantry will be closed in observance of Labor Day
- Rosh Hashanah | Begins at Sunset

## Saturday | Sept. 11

WICC Moss Ave. Sale Day  
8 am to 3 pm

## Sunday | Sept. 12

Grandparents Day

## Monday | Sept. 13 | 9-11 am

WestMark Food Open

## Tuesday | Sept 14 | 6:30 pm

Session Meeting via Zoom

## Wednesday | Sept. 15

Yom Kippur begins at Sunset

## Thursday | Sept 16 | 1 pm

Lectionary Bible Study via Zoom

## Friday | Sept 17

Newsletter deadline

## Sunday | Sept. 19 | 4 pm

Gretchen R. Iben Arts Series  
Jazz on Moss with David Hoffman  
& the Westminster Jazz Quartet

## Monday | Sept. 20 | 9-11 am

WestMark Food Open

## Tuesday | Sept. 21

International Day of Peace

## Wednesday | Sept. 22

First Day of Autumn

## Thursday | Sept 23 | 1 pm

Lectionary Bible Study via Zoom

## Monday | Sept. 27 | 9-11 am

WestMark Food Open

## Thursday | Sept 30 | 1 pm

Lectionary Bible Study via Zoom



Peacemakers who sow in \_\_\_\_\_ reap a harvest of righteousness. James 3:18, NIV

Let us not become \_\_\_\_\_ in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9, NIV

I tell you, open your eyes and look at the \_\_\_\_\_!  
They are ripe for harvest. John 4:35, NIV

Answer: peace, weary, fields

## The Books of the Bible Seek and Find

*All of the books of the Bible are hidden in this puzzle  
There are 39 from the Old Testament and 27 from the  
New Testament. Use your Bible to help you find the names.  
Circle each one. The names can go → ← ↓ ↑ ↘.*

T	F	I	R	S	T	J	O	H	N	A	N	H	O	J	D	N	O	C	E	S
H	P	H	I	L	I	P	P	I	A	N	S	P	H	I	L	E	M	O	N	C
I	S	E	C	O	N	D	T	I	M	O	T	H	Y	B	C	D	E	F	G	O
R	F	G	E	N	E	S	I	S	R	U	T	H	E	S	T	H	E	R	H	L
D	I	J	X	L	S	A	R	Z	E	J	N	E	H	E	M	I	A	H	E	O
J	R	O	O	D	E	U	T	E	R	O	N	O	M	Y	S	T	C	A	Z	S
O	S	B	D	S	C	V	F	I	R	S	T	S	A	M	U	E	L	I	E	S
H	T	S	U	E	O	D	I	I	J	H	K	L	M	I	C	A	H	A	K	I
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S	O	L	J	O	D	N	O	M	I	A	R	O	M	A	N	S	D	I	E	N
N	R	A	O	N	K	I	S	S	E	C	O	N	D	S	A	M	U	E	L	S
A	I	S	N	D	I	E	E	N	O	N	U	M	B	E	R	S	J	R	V	N
I	N	P	A	C	N	L	A	S	F	I	R	S	T	K	I	N	G	S	O	A
N	T	R	H	H	G	P	R	O	V	E	R	B	S	N	A	H	U	M	B	I
O	H	F	I	R	S	T	C	H	R	O	N	I	C	L	E	S	J	A	A	H
L	I	J	O	O	Z	E	P	H	A	N	I	A	H	T	U	V	O	T	D	T
A	A	E	S	N	O	I	T	A	T	N	E	M	A	L	A	S	H	T	I	N
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S	S	E	C	C	L	E	S	I	A	S	T	E	S	M	A	R	K	E	H	R
E	G	M	L	L	L	B	H	A	I	R	A	H	C	E	Z	C	D	W	C	O
H	A	I	U	E	E	L	O	M	E	P	H	E	S	I	A	N	S	H	M	C
T	L	A	K	S	O	N	G	O	F	S	O	N	G	S	Y	N	J	E	A	D
D	A	H	E	T	J	A	L	S	H	A	B	A	K	K	U	K	A	B	L	N
N	T	F	I	R	S	T	T	I	M	O	T	H	Y	A	D	G	M	R	A	O
O	I	F	I	R	S	T	P	E	T	E	R	E	T	H	J	Y	E	E	C	C
C	A	F	B	V	R	E	V	E	L	A	T	I	O	N	U	P	S	W	H	E
E	N	S	R	T	B	V	H	R	E	T	E	P	D	N	O	C	E	S	I	S
S	S	F	I	R	S	T	T	H	E	S	S	A	L	O	N	I	A	N	S	A



# BABY, IT'S COLD INSIDE

Steve Sager

Who can forget that classic popular song “Baby, It’s Cold Outside” written by Frank Loesser in 1944 and introduced in the 1949 film “Neptune’s Daughter” starring Esther William, Ricardo Montalban, Keenan Wynn and Red Skelton. The first stanza goes like this:

*I really can't stay,  
Baby it's cold outside.  
I gotta go away,  
Baby it's cold outside.  
This evening has been,  
Been hoping that you'd dropped in.  
So very nice,  
I'll hold your hands they're just like ice.*

You are asking yourself, “how is this song relevant during the heat of the Midwest summer”?

As the title of the article implies, we are referring to the cold “Inside” and specifically the cold inside the Sanctuary.

So why is the Sanctuary kept cold? It all has to do with keeping the humidity at a respectable level of 59% or lower.

The Sanctuary cathedral ceiling is a lovely component of architecture but a bear to heat and cool. During the summer months, heat and humidity rise to the uppermost heights of the cathedral ceiling. If left unchecked (60% or higher), it creates the perfect storm for the growth of mold. Mold needs three elements to grow. Heat... Humidity... and a Food Source (dust).

In an ongoing effort to mitigate the potential growth of mold, we have installed ceiling fans, barrel fans, and adjusted the Sanctuary temperature down because humidity does not like cold air.

In times past the Church has paid the price twice to have the Sanctuary remediated of mold... a costly venture... and one we do not want to experience again.

Accordingly, Buildings & Properties apologize for the frosty Sanctuary temperatures and the inconvenience and discomfort caused by the cold during services. We ask that you dress accordingly and remember this is only a temporary inconvenience.

The first stanza to our rendition of the song “Baby, It’s Cold Inside” goes something like this:

**We want you to stay,  
Baby it’s cold inside.  
And not go away.  
Baby it’s cold inside.  
And if your hands are like ice,  
Please dress accordingly...a warm sweater & gloves will suffice!**

## ANNIVERSARIES

**24 James Ashton  
Jean Ashton**

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**25 JoAnne Gibson  
Monte Gibson**

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**16 Michael Kupper**

**18 Sue Burnham**

[zupdoc2@yahoo.com](mailto:zupdoc2@yahoo.com)

**19 Cindy Baker**

**19 Wanda Grimes**

[jfgrimes@bigfoot.com](mailto:jfgrimes@bigfoot.com)

**21 Luanne Shay**

**23 Bill Rafferty**

**30 Deann Baker**

**30 Daniel (Dan) Callahan**

[callahan53@aol.com](mailto:callahan53@aol.com)



# IBEN SERIES OPENS THE NEW SEASON

Thomas Clark-Jones

The highly respected Gretchen R. Iben Arts Series resumes its activities for the 2021-2022 concert season in September. After more than a year and a half away from the music presentation activities, we are pleased that we can move forward into the new season with anticipation and excitement.

The opening concert of the series features the Westminster Jazz Ensemble in a concert of standards and specially composed tunes from our Jazz director, David Hoffman. David is a world class jazz musician who has, indeed, played all over the world. From the far reaches of China to the concert halls of Europe and the great venues here in the United States, David has been a serious presence in American jazz for the last forty years or more. His most famous gig, of course, was with the Ray Charles Orchestra where he played for nearly 15 seasons, appearing from Carnegie Hall in New York to the Hollywood Bowl. His expertise and talent bring a special glow to the jazz offerings here at Westminster Church, Peoria.

SO, on Sunday afternoon, September 19 at four in the afternoon, David and his gang of Central Illinois jazz luminaries will bring the swing back to Westminster. These are always joyous concerts prepared carefully and with dedication by David and the gang.

This concert (and most of the Iben Series) is free of charge. We will have an offering plate in the Narthex as you leave to give you a chance to help us defray expenses ... but whether you can give us a big donation, or none ... it's just right. It is our privilege as a congregation to share these events with the Peoria public.

Brochures for the fall season of the Iben Series are available in the Narthex. Please pick one up and give it to a friend. If you are reading this in "Windows", there is already a copy of that brochure in the mail for you. Keep it in a prominent place in your office so you will remember to join us for these great events.

The influence of the Covid-19 pandemic has been strong on our series. We hope that now there are a significant number of people vaccinated with more coming along every day ... that we will be able to present the full series without a lot of bother. The one thing we do ask is that everyone wear a mask. This is a precaution as recommended by the government, and for large gatherings where all may not be vaccinated. This is our way to show our caring for our fellow citizens. If you don't have a mask, we will provide one at the door as you enter!

SO ... set the date aside today. And plan to join your friends and fellow music-lovers in a journey into the best jazz and classical music ever. Come! Enjoy!

Serving God by  
Serving Others



- 09.05.21 - Suellen Kirkwood  
Dick Helfrich
- 09.12.21 - John & Bonnie Jackson  
Dick Helfrich
- 09.19.21 - Kim Mitchell  
Dick Helfrich
- 09.26.21 - Alice Nash  
Dick Helfrich
- 10.03.21 - Laura Van Riper  
Dick Helfrich
- 10.10.21 - Peggy Bragg  
Dick Helfrich
- 10.17.21 - Phyllis & Bill Rafferty  
Dick Helfrich
- 10.24.21 - Abbie Alexander  
Dick Helfrich
- 10.31.21 - Diane & Jeff Case  
Dick Helfrich

## Bible Quiz

How many times in the Old Testament do people cross a body of water on dry ground?

- A - once
- B - twice
- C - three times
- D - four times

ANSWER: C  
See Exodus 14; Joshua 3; 2 Kings 2

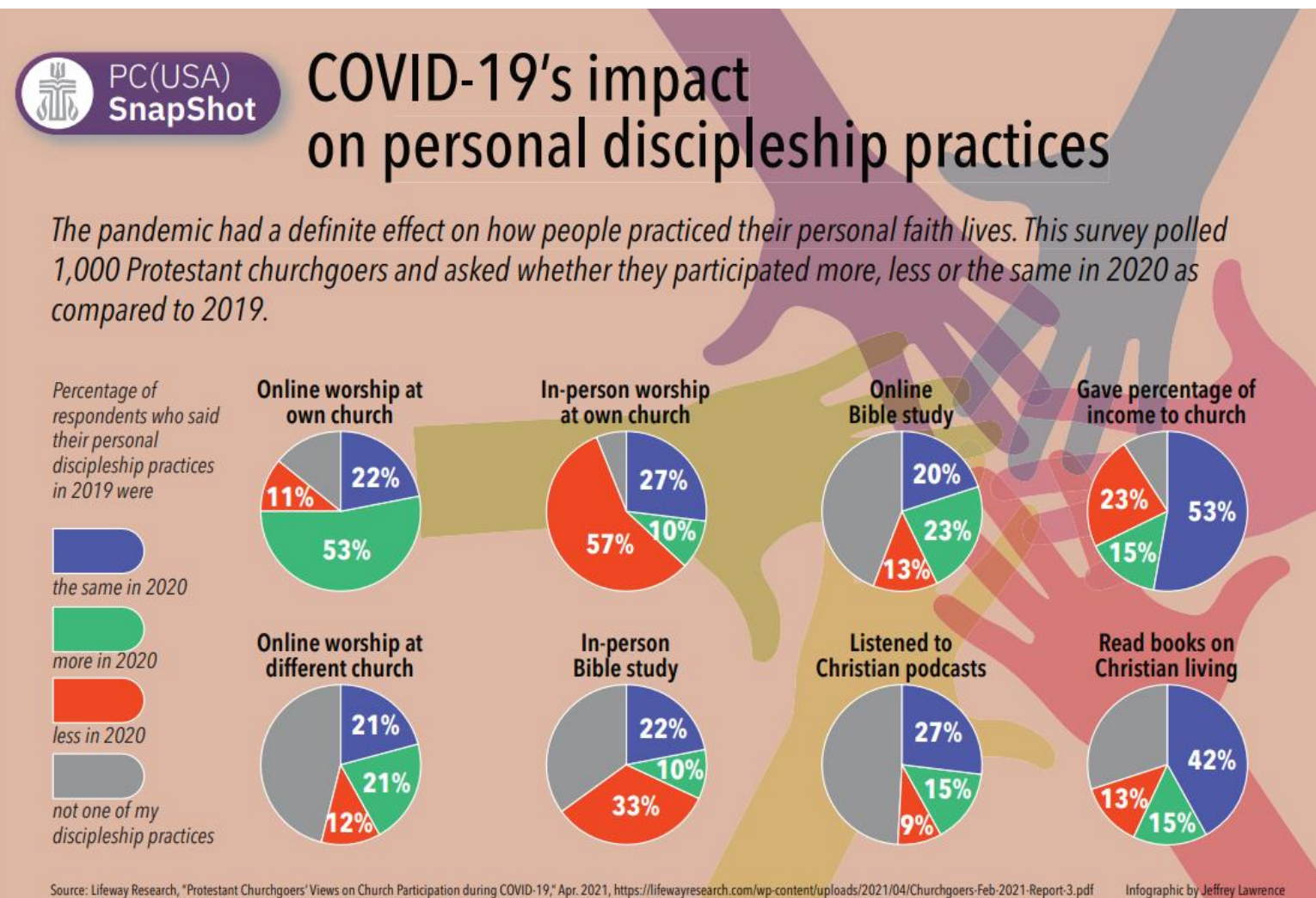
# RECLAIMING FELLOWSHIP

Pastor Denise Clark-Jones

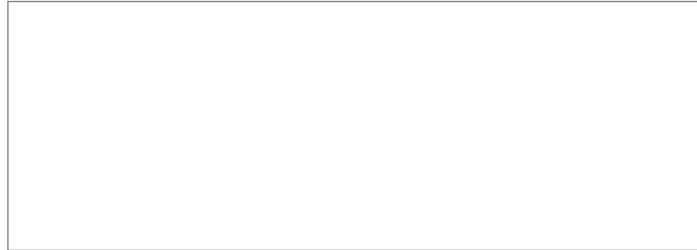
It is not surprising that church attendance is always higher on the Sundays we celebrate Holy Communion and host church lunches. It is not just that people like to eat, we like to have fellowship with one another. This was the hallmark of the early church where communal meals, at which the sacrament was a part, followed every worship service. The word 'communion' expresses the deep personal relationship followers of Jesus have with him and with one another. Quite simply, ours is a relational faith. Our relationship with God is based on God's first desiring a relationship with us in the act of creation and, in the course of time, God 'becoming flesh and walking among us.' Having that first in person worship service of 2021 on Palm Sunday was like coming out of a cocoon. We had virtual worship from the first Sunday after the lockdown in March of 2020, but it was not the same. Social distancing guidelines, as well as the divisive political climate of the election year strained relationships. It is my hope and prayer we are moving toward reconciliation and re-creation.

While I still must be aware of looking at the camera for virtual participants, being able to worship with a real flesh and blood congregation rather than a faceless lens, has been a welcome return to normalcy. By the time this issue of the Windows is published, the joyful sounds of the new school year will emanate from the rise in pedestrian traffic in the neighborhood -- Bradley students crossing University Ave, walkers and runners enjoying the cooler weather, and school buses making stops. This is a welcome change from last fall!

However, we do not know if our freedom to worship in person will last. It is the unvaccinated that are now fueling the spread of the Covid Delta variant and, probably, further mutations that are likely to be more formidable than the original Covid-19 virus. Therefore, we will need to continue to be vigilant with precautions, such as handwashing, wearing masks, and social distancing when indoors among people who may not be vaccinated. It was decided not to have a previously planned August Fourth Sunday Luncheon in order to allow more time to see what effect the start of the school year will have on the number of new Covid cases. Eating and mask-wearing are not compatible! Blessings!







## A GOOD-BYE TO THE HAKES... IN A WAY.

*Pastor Denise Clark-Jones*

Brian and Joyce Hakes have moved to Peewaukee, Wisconsin, but they still plan to be in touch with Westminster and participate in virtual worship. Brian will continue his duties as Finance Elder on Session until the end of his term, thanks to the wonder of technology. The session will continue to meet on Zoom until the threat of the Covid virus spread has lessened. Joyce and Brian have been tireless volunteers for Westminster since they joined in 1987. They will be close to their daughter Alison and her two children, but will continue to visit the Peoria area to visit their son, David, and his four children, and we hope they will be joining us when they do. You can find their new address on the Realm Directory or call the church office.

