



The
Westminster

WINDOW

BIBLE STUDY Thursdays at 1 p.m.

Join us as we dig deeper into the meaning of the scripture for Sundays. Each Thursday at 1 p.m., via Zoom we take an in-depth look of the scriptures for that Sunday. All are welcome to join us either at 1 p.m. via Zoom or those who can not make it at the scheduled time can watch at our website: <https://westminsterpeoria.org/worship/bible-study/>. These are usually available within a week of the study. Join Zoom Bible Study: <https://zoom.us/j/98673203228pwd=Tm5nc0JlTTlrRkxiSHg2VzNNdHNDz09> Meeting ID: 986 7320 3228

Passcode: BIBLESTUDY

OCTOBER LECTIONARY READINGS

October 4, 2020

First Reading [Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20](#)

Psalm [19:1-14](#)

Second Reading [Philippians 3:4b-14](#)

Gospel [Matthew 21:33-46](#)

October 11, 2020

First Reading [Exodus 32:1-14](#)

Psalm [106:1-6, 19-23](#)

Second Reading [Philippians 4:1-9](#)

Gospel [Matthew 22:1-14](#)

October 18, 2020

First Reading [Exodus 33:12-23](#)

Psalm [99:1-9](#)

Second Reading [1 Thessalonians 1:1-10](#)

Gospel [Matthew 22:15-22](#)

October 25, 2020

First Reading [Deuteronomy 34:1-12](#)

Psalm [90:1-6, 13-17](#)

Second Reading [1 Thessalonians 2:1-8](#)

Gospel [Matthew 22:34-46](#)

A Message from Your Pastor...

At the time I am writing this, there is a flurry of activity going on to get ready for our first in-person worship service and our first Gretchen R. Iben Art Series Concert since the lockdown last March. We have no idea how many people will come because registration has just begun for both events. Did you ever imagine you would be registering online to attend a worship service? With all the precautions recommended by the Center for Disease Control, there are so many details that have to be arranged. I know there are many people who are reticent to come to a public indoor gathering even with precautions taken, but the Session decided we should try to offer the opportunity to return to Westminster. We know that the situation could change quickly and we might have to close again.

Live streaming the service is new to us, especially for Larry Hicks, who is the one who is making this happen. He is working with new equipment and new technology. It will probably take a while to get it all worked out. If there are problems, those of you who will continue to participate in the service online may have to watch the recorded service after 10:00 on Sunday morning if there are technical difficulties with the live streaming.

Epidemiologists are warning us that the precautions we are all supposed to be taking now may be necessary through much of 2021. There is still no vaccine, and when there is, it may not be available to everyone initially. For now, we can only concentrate on what we can do and be thankful for those.

I am finding that the feeling of gratitude is coming more readily to me now. I am luxuriating in the spectacle of the tree leaves changing color and the air being a little crisper in the mornings and evenings. Last weekend Tom and I were able to spend a weekend with our grandchildren. They are doing virtual learning for now, my daughter is working from home and my son-in-law got a Covid-19 test, which was negative, just prior to our visit. Our grandchildren may be returning to school in another month, so we grabbed the opportunity when we could. I find I am not as fixated on the future as I was before. I am "living in the present" more fully.

For most people I talk to, it is the lack of in-person contact that is the most difficult to bear. Will we ever shake hands or give hugs again? Staying in touch by Zoom or FaceTime or our phones has become critical for our well-being. Even though we will have to wear masks

Continued next page...

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ON-SITE MISSIONS

WestMark Food Pantry **Elizabeth Richmond**
Phone 309-673-8501 Opt. 3
Hours Mondays 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.com

**THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR
VOLUNTEERS WHO HELP WITH
THE WESTMARK FOOD PANTRY
AND IN PREPARING THE
WESTMINSTER WINDOW. WE
COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!**

and keep a proper social distance at our worship services, I am looking forward to seeing people – “in the flesh.” The quarantine life has awakened me to the beautiful mystery of the Incarnation. The world needed to meet God “in the flesh” to begin the transformation to the Kingdom of God. I like this simple description by the late Rachel Held Evans:

“We could not become like God, so God became like us.
God showed us
how to heal instead of kill, how to mend instead of destroy,
how to love
instead of hate, how to live instead of long for more. When
we nailed God
to a tree, God forgave. And when we buried God in the
ground.
God got up.”

I look forward to the day when we can get together and see one another “in the flesh” without masks. Until then, I am grateful for every phone call from friends and family, Zoom chat, or socially-distanced, masked encounter!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Denise

2020 Per Capita Apportionment

By Brian Hakes

Connecting to church information using "OnRealm" is easy to do. To access information regarding the upcoming worship service, hit the tab button for "Community" and then the tab for communications to access the inbox and to view announcements. Looking for information of the upcoming service you would then right click on "Pre-Bulletin." This gives a brief preview of the upcoming sermon but it also has the lectionary for the Sunday service as well as the series for the remainder of the week.

A nice feature of the lectionary is holding the mouse pointer over the selected scripture passage and clicking on the right button of the mouse will access the Bible passage. What is generally not recognized is that this link is sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (USA). The general office is able to do this by providing the technology that connects us. This is achievable because of our support as part of the greater community of the Presbyterian Church.

Unlike our pledge commitment to Westminster, support to the PC (USA) general office is funded through our annual per-capita assessment. This is an annual fee of \$34.22 per member, which as most of us know, not only supports the general office but also the local presbytery and regional synod.

Each member contribution to the annual per capita assessment means Westminster avoids using monies designated for its mission and ministry to support the PC(U.S.A.). You can do this by sending your per capita contribution to the church or alternatively by making your contribution through Realm. Once you are connected to Realm, contributing is easy to do by simply hitting the "Give" button and then designating the "Per Capita" fund from the drop down menu.

If you are not already on Realm, you can get started by contacting Mary Lee at the church office, 673-8501.

Thank you for your consideration, Brian Hakes



SESSION NOTES

Jim Burnham
Clerk of Session



Notes from the September 8, 2020, Session Meeting

As you have probably already heard, the session officially acted to reopen the church for in-person services on September 27, and has agreed to host several Iben Series concerts this fall. Many of us have been anxious to hear this news. Sensible rules to protect the health of everyone involved will be in place.

In other news:

A special use permit has been obtained to allow District 150 to use the Fellowship Hall as a socially distanced site for select students from Whittier School on days when they are not in regular attendance. This permit required the cooperation of the Moss Bradley Residential Association as well as the City of Peoria. The special use permit was the subject of a very favorable article in the Peoria Journal Star on September 25.

Elder Jan Leonard and others are to be commended for the considerable time and effort they have devoted in directing these two projects.

We are in the process of upgrading the internet service to the Parish Hall. This has become necessary because, among other things, we need to have additional control over the heating and air conditioning systems.

At the September meeting, the Session raised the issue of the amount of money the church has recently spent on maintaining and upgrading our various properties. In addition to regular maintenance, there have been several expensive problems that needed to be addressed, including the mold abatement project in the sanctuary. While it may seem like a lot of money is being spent, the finance committee chairman, Elder Brian Hakes, stated that, considered as a percentage of the total budget, our properties expenditures are well within reason. Every so often we need to remind ourselves that Westminster has always been fortunate to have people like properties committee chairman, Elder John Jackson, and properties manager, Steve Sager, who have the knowledge and the willingness to keep everything in good condition.

Submitted by Jim Burnham, Clerk of Session

SERVING AS GREETER & USHERS

October 11 - Dick Helfrich, Suellen Kirkwood, Laura Van Riper

October 18 - Dick Helfrich, Suellen Kirkwood, Susan Leighty

October 25 - Dick Helfrich, Suellen Kirkwood, Open

There are dates available where Westminster needs ushers to help assist in the seating and checking in of members and guests. Click the button below to see where you can help.



OCTOBER 2020

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 2023
Membership	Open
Missions/Outreach	Jan Leonard Class of 2022
Personnel	Larry Hicks Class of 2022
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
Phyllis Rafferty	Class of 2020
Marge Willadsen	Class of 2020
Laura Van Riper	Class of 2021

WESTMINSTER Presbyterian Church

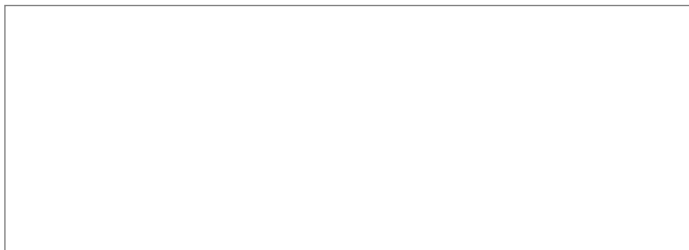
1420 W. Moss Ave.
Peoria, Illinois 61606

Rev. Denise
Clark-Jones

JOIN US
SUNDAYS

ONLINE
or
IN-PERSON

God Loves . . .



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

None this month

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

- 1 William Baker
- 3 Jean Ashton
jbashon@sbcglobal.net
- 5 John Jackson
j.jackson1954@yahoo.com
- 7 Marge Willadsen
marjorie9470@att.net
- 20 Elizabeth Richmond
homerichmond@yahoo.com
- 24 Nancy Larimore
larimore706@comcast.net
- 27 Bonnie Jackson
bon1jon2@yahoo.com

Give them a shout out. Click on their email address and send a birthday or anniversary wish. If you want to mail them a card and need an address, contact the church office.

Did we miss your birthday or your anniversary? Please let the office know (wpc@westminsterpeoria.org) so we can update Realm. Thank you.



As of September 27, a limited-capacity in-person 10 a.m. service has resumed. Advance registration is required due to limited space, and social distancing measures will be in place. Mask wearing is required. A live stream of this service on YouTube will continue indefinitely. To register for in-person services, visit the church website or click on the button below.

