

the westminster WINDOW

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A Publication of the Westminster Presbyterian Church

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Usher & Greeter Schedule

June 2021

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			

FOOD, FELLOWSHIP & FUN!

Sunday | June 27 | 11:00 AM

Do you feel like Sunday morning is just too rushed to catch up with friends at church, or to get to know that new person that you have been wanting to meet? Then this is the perfect time... A Church Picnic! This will be a great opportunity to have some relaxed and extended time together, eating, talking, and having fun. We can't wait to see you!

SESSION

Tuesday | June 8 | 6:30 PM

Session will meet this month in the Parlor.
Email (wpc@westminsterpeoria.org) your reports by noon, Tuesday, to be copied for the meeting.

WICC ACCEPTING DONATIONS

The Moss Avenue Sale is WICC's biggest fundraiser as most of you know. This year, we are accepting most everything with resale value except televisions, computers, office electronics, clothing, VHS tapes, infant playpens, cribs, car seats, bed sheets or linens.

For those of you eager to start donating now, Buildings Manager, Steve Sager, is available for drop-offs on Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Please call Steve at 309-224-6237 to let him know you are dropping off. Steve can also make other arrangements, if needed. To manage our limited storage space and get the most good from donations, we may donate some items that one of our mission partners could get better use from. If you have questions, please ask Elizabeth Richmond 309-697-9720 or Val Sager at WICC 309-674-6701.



PER CAPITA REMINDER

Brian Hakes

It is that time of the year when all congregations are committed to asking their members to contribute to the annual Per Capita fund drive. At Westminster many have already done so.

This year the breakdown of the per member assessment is: \$3.81 for the Synod of Lincoln Trails, \$8.98 for the General Assembly in Louisville and \$22.46 for the Presbytery of Great Rivers here in Peoria. The total assessment per church member is \$35.25.

This money is what sustains the operations of the PC(USA) and is the primary source of revenue. Westminster's apportionment will be in the vicinity of \$4,000. To help offset this expense each member is asked to contribute \$35.25. If there is a short fall, the balance comes out of our church general operating funds.

Our support of the PC(USA) is a testament of our seeing ourselves as a part of a larger body. So, if you have not already contributed, please remember your Per Capita share.

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Jessica Case
jxbell2@gmail.com
- 4 Karen Buenneke
- 4 Mary Dill
mndill@alumni.northwestern.edu
- 8 Jean Osterman
- 9 Dewey Fitch
deweyair@aol.com
- 12 Don Bell
donbell74@comcast.net
- 13 Larry Hicks
lhicks@netplatform.com
- 19 Alma Fassett
- 26 Hettie Beers
hbeers@att.com
- 26 Phyllis Rafferty
pnr1942@yahoo.com
- 26 Nancee Dykstra

ANNIVERSARIES

- 14 N. Lee Nugent
Edna Nugent
2son2-pia@comcast.net
- 18 John Jackson
j.jackson1954@yahoo.com
Bonnie Jackson
bon1jon2@yahoo.com
- 24 Dewey Fitch
Sally Fitch
deweyair@aol.com
- 29 Elizabeth Richmond
Tom Richmond
homerichmond@yahoo.com

WESTMINSTER SESSION

Clerk of Session	James 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

JUNE COMMUNION SERVICES

Sunday, June 6,

2nd Sunday after Pentecost



The *Window* Newsletter is a monthly publication of



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Email music@westminsterpeoria.org

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 OUR VOLUNTEERS

Editing/Proofing
Peggy Carter

MINISTRY UPDATES

NEW CHURCH HOURS

The church office will be closed on Fridays. See the side bar to your left for new staff hours.

GOING ELECTRONIC

Beginning with the August edition of the *Westminster Window*, the newsletter will be sent electronically only. If you would like to continue to receive a copy mailed to you, contact the church office and let Mary Lee know. Those who now receive the bulletin and sermon mailed to them weekly, will continue to receive the newsletter by mail as well.

BIBLE STUDY

We will not meet over the summer. If you would like to continue reading the scheduled lectionaries for each Sunday they can be found each week in your bulletin, as well as on the Westminster website, and below. We will resume Thursday, September 16, at 1:00 p.m. Enjoy your summer!

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for Sunday, June 6, 2021
First Reading 1 Samuel 8:4-11 (12-15) 16-20 (11:14-15)
Psalm 138:1-8 **Second Reading** 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1
Gospel Mark 3:20-35

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for Sunday, June 13, 2021
First Reading 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13 **Psalm** 20
Second Reading 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 (11-13) 14-17
Gospel Mark 4:26-34

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for Sunday, June 20, 2021
First Reading 1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23) 32-49
Or alternate First Reading 1 Samuel 17:57-18:5, 10-16
Psalm 9:9-20 **Or alternate Psalm** Psalm 133
Second Reading 2 Corinthians 6:1-13 **Gospel** Mark 4:35-41

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for Sunday, June 27, 2021, the Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

First Reading 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27 **Psalm** 130
Second Reading 2 Corinthians 8:7-15 **Gospel** Mark 5:21-43

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Sunday | June 18

The deadline to submit all articles and other information for the July edition of the *Window Newsletter* is by the end of day, Friday, June 18. If you have something that you would like to share or celebrate with the congregation, please email your information to the church office, wpc@westminsterpeoria.org

MOSS AVENUE SALE

Sunday | June 18

This year's date for the Moss Avenue Sale will not be in your usual month of June but rather has been set for Saturday, September 11, 2021. Mark your calendars now to come and have fun and find some great buys.

2020 ... A Covid Odyssey ...

Each of us has a Covid Odyssey to tell ... and the church is no different. We have found ourselves in a new world with new parameters and new technology ... and the everlasting Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The affair began rather quietly, but abruptly. All of us had heard a few words about this new virus that was causing havoc in Europe and Asia and hoping that we would be fortunate, as we had been with other breakouts of new diseases to be protected by our oceans that separate us from the rest of the world. It was not to be so, of course.

It was a Thursday evening that we heard there was to be a two week shutdown of everything except the most essential of services. We went to choir that evening thinking we might have a short break in rehearsals and that might even be welcome. We spoke after rehearsal that the 'social distancing' efforts might be OK even for the choir, since we are a relatively smaller group. We left that rehearsal not realizing that the Choir, as of March 2020, would not again be exactly the same. Denise and I went to Chili's after Choir to have an informal supper, as has been our tradition for a long time. Having time to decompress and reflect on choir practice and get ready for the next day was always a time of quiet enjoyment for us toward the end of a busy week. This tradition too would be stopped dead in its tracks the very next morning.

The extent of the shutdown was announced on the news programs of the following day. All but essential services cancelled. Even church was to take a furlough for a few weeks. It was hard to imagine that we would not reopen our doors again until fall, and even then, only for a few weeks before we closed again ... this time until Palm Sunday of 2021.

This was all new territory ... how could the church staff minister to the church without a congregation present and without the ability to visit and hold meetings in person? We were to find out ... it is possible, but not always easy. That first Sunday after the shutdown, Church was simply closed. No service ... no choir ... no congregation!

Then came the efforts made by virtually the entire Church to find ways in which to worship. Our pastor turned to one of our Session members for advise and counsel. Larry Hicks became someone we knew well and without whose expertise the services of Westminster might have gone away for the duration. Larry's professional life centers around creating web-platforms for various business entities. He knows computers, cameras, live-streaming and websites better than anyone in our congregation. So he became our lifeline to the congregation

Week two of the shutdown found Larry, Pastor Denise and me in the church recording a service for the following Sunday on Larry's I-phone! And you know, that little device did not do a bad job at all. We had some experience in this from the Jazz Service when various members of the congregation would record parts of the service and place them on Facebook or You Tube. It really was rather amazing that such a compact device could actually broadcast a service! So we produced a video with the help of Steve Sager who helped provide lighting and Dan Callahan who arranged the chancel as a television 'set' upon which we would bring a worship service to life. So it was organ ... preaching and recording ... the first day!

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From that point on, the quality and method of broadcast would improve each week until we were pleased with the results. Larry Hicks worked on finding new equipment and making it work for us in our 'studio'. After a few weeks of organ and preacher, we expanded a bit and invited a soloist to lead in song each week. David Kortemeier was the most active of the music leaders for us. He would sing the hymns, which were now printed in the service leaflet that was on the website to accompany the services, say the responses to the scriptures and bring a solo to brighten up the service. His faithful work got us through Easter when he sang a large part of the song cycle "Mystical Songs" by Ralph Vaughan Williams. Also helping in this endeavor was Matthew Winkler and his Saxophone and later, soprano Melissa Blain as another cantor.

In due time, we went from recording services to streaming them live on Sunday morning at ten. We would arrive at church at 8:45 or 9:00 as usual, and go do the service to an empty room. Just four of us working to bring the Gospel to our members and friends. This live stream was accompanied with a follow-up video of the service available all through the next few weeks.

As summer approached, and it was obvious that we were not going to change anything soon ... it was decided that if they were willing, the four paid singers in the choir who were still with us at the close-down of services would be asked to form a quartet and begin to offer anthems and responses and benedictions and hymns for these services. And so, one evening in late July, Melissa Blain, Kate and David Kortemeier and Doug McQueen met in the choir room to see what it would be like to have a choir of four who were socially distanced and masked! I took Denise along as another set of ears to be sure it was OK since I was really anxious to do some choral music again. Both of us realized quickly that this was a viable plan and set to it. By early August, the quartet was in rehearsals every week getting ready for the first Sunday of September when we went to a choir of four! We felt particularly good about this decision to have a quartet when at the funeral of Prince Phillip of England, they worshipped at St. George's Chapel, Windsor, with a similar quartet!

In the meantime, the Session had given the go-ahead for Larry Hicks to purchase some fresh broadcasting equipment including mixers and cameras and a host of microphones all to make the broadcast more realistic. At first on his own laptop, and later on the equipment he bought for the church the entire program came together as a cohesive whole in the fall of 2020. It was good to have 'real' church back, even if the congregation was spread over the metro Peoria area and not present on Moss Avenue.

As time has progressed, the Quartet has become more and more adept in adapting to being a 'chamber ensemble' with one on a part, and presenting not only nice music, but some quite ravishing anthems and even a short cantata in this manner. With our increasing time together, we found greater and greater pleasure and joy in making music for the congregation ... and for ourselves. This is a hoot! It is amazing what four dedicated singers can do!

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By now everyone is used to being able to tune in to WPC on the webpage on Sunday morning. By Palm Sunday, we were able to reopen for 'socially distanced' worship in the sanctuary. We were all happy to have some real worshippers back with us each week. And each week there are a few more.

The streaming gave us an unexpected boost. Over the week, often more than a hundred persons would tune in to our service. We don't know for how long, but we do know that people all over the country do join us from time to time. On average, we reach twice the congregation that we did in live worship in the church. This is a great outreach, and the Session has agreed that streaming is here to stay. Whether you are with us, or under the weather and at home, you can join us and worship with your church family here on Moss Avenue.

This whole thing has been an adventure and a time of creative thinking and working. We have missed our full congregation, but we have had the privilege of making worship happen, in spite of the difficulties. We've not only worshipped on line, but had on-line coffee hours (you have to bring your own coffee!) and even Thursday Bible Study and Session meetings have been held on line with real success.

God never told us it would be easy. But he did promise to be with us wherever life's journey takes us ... even through the shadow of death. So we come out on the other end, now ... slowly being able to resume normal activities and schedules. Yet we remain grateful for the lessons learned, and blessings received while confronting a health crisis like none of us have ever seen before. God is good, and provides blessing even in the most difficult of circumstances. See you in church ... or on line ...

Tom Clark-Jones, choirmaster

Welcome to Westminster, Bob!

On April 11, a day before his birthday, Bob Bark joined the Westminster congregation. Bob came to Peoria a few years ago from the Washington D.C. area. He grew up in the Episcopal Church in New Jersey and continued to be active as an adult member. He moved to the D.C. area to take care of his aging mother. After his mother died, he looked for a less expensive city to live. Having visited friends in Peoria in the past, he made the move here. Bob Began attending Westminster before the pandemic lockdown, but continued to participate in our virtual Lectionary Bible Study. For those of you attending in person, we hope you will take the opportunity to introduce yourself to Bob if you have not already done so.



Have you had the chance to take a trip since the Covid restrictions have eased? Tom and I had our first big excursion in May. Like many people, we were not interested in an adventure to a new destination – we wanted to see our family again!

We headed to a very familiar, but much-loved location, Asheville, North Carolina. Both of my parents grew up in a town about an hour away and two of my mother’s four siblings settled in Asheville.



Since both my mother and one brother died from cancer around age 50, Asheville has been my family reunion spot for many years. The newest addition to the family, our granddaughter, Amelia, was born there in



late March. My daughter, Jenna and her partner, both theater professionals, escaped New York City at the start of the pandemic when the theaters closed. He owns a house in his hometown in Asheville, so there they went. They live on top of a mountain overlooking the city on one side and Mt. Pisgah, part of the Blue Ridge Parkway, on the other. The top picture on this page is the view from their deck. I could sit out there for hours! The rhododendrons, which grow to be the size of some trees there, were in full bloom. The hills, mountains and lush greenery were a balm to my soul.



I hope you have enjoyed the spring reawakening as much as I have. New life abounds and hope is tangible. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

-Rev. Denise Clark-Jones

WESTMINSTER Presbyterian Church

1420 W. Moss Ave.
Peoria, Illinois 61606

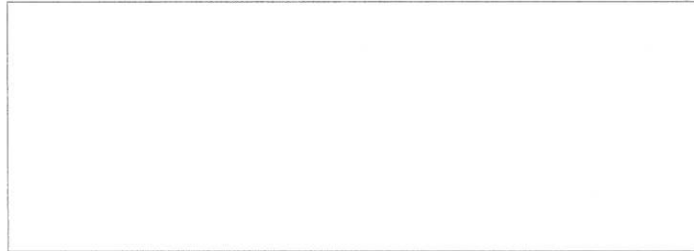
Rev. Denise
Clark-Jones

**JOIN US
SUNDAYS**

**IN-PERSON OR ONLINE
10 AM Morning Worship
No Registration Needed.**



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



USHER/GREETER SCHEDULE

Bonnie Jackson

Dear Westminster friends,

Since we do not have a worship committee chair at this time, I have volunteered to set up an usher schedule for the months of May and June. I have created a schedule that I hope works for all of you and that will get us through at least part of this ever-changing landscape. In the event that you cannot serve on the specified date, please find a substitute or trade dates with someone else.

The duties are simple: staff the two tables in the narthex and answer questions for people. Dick Helfrich will be there most Sundays to work the table that takes temperatures and keeps the contact tracing list. The other table has the bulletins, communion elements, and the hand sanitizer. Whoever staffs the table just needs to greet, and remind people to take a bulletin and a communion pod. A third usher should be available to help answer questions and usher people to their pews. After the service, look around and make sure all the bulletins are picked up from the pews and discarded into the recycle can. That is about all there is to it.

I thank you so much for being willing to help at this challenging time. Many hands make light work, and it is such a blessing to have people willing to pitch in. We will see what the future brings and what changes need to be made in weeks subsequent to the end of June. We are all in this together.

06.06.21 -	Alice Nash Kim Mitchell Dick Helfrich
06.13.21 -	Laura Van Riper Alan Willadsen Dick Helfrich
06.20.21 -	Brian & Joyce Hakes Dick Helfrich
06.27.21 -	Bill & Phyllis Rafferty Dick Helfrich

