

Westminster Weekly Window

September 1, 2024

Today's Message

"A Prophetic Voice"

Scripture Readings

Today: S. of Sol. 2:8-13, Ps. 45:1-2, 6-9; Deut. 4:1-2, 6-9, Ps. 15; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

September 8, 2024: Prov. 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23, Ps. 125; Isa. 35:4-7a, Ps. 146; James 2:1-10 (11-13), 14-17; Mark 7:24-37

Serving This Morning

Usher – Laura Van Riper

Greeter – Dick Helfrich

Coffee Hour – Open

Serving Next Sunday - Sept. 8

Usher – Jacksons

Greeter – Dick Helfrich

Coffee Hour – Open

Happening This Week - September 1-September 8, 2024

September 1 - Coffee Fellowship 10:00 a.m.; Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. – When you hear the chime, quietly and with a worshipful attitude, make your way to your seat.

September 2-18 - Pastor Tim will be out of the office, returning on Thursday, 9/19

September 2 - WestMark Food Pantry is closed due to Labor Day

September 2 - Labor Day – The church office is closed for the holiday and will return on Tuesday, 9/3

September 4 - Men's Coffee Group at Panera's at Westlake at 7:30a (**Wednesday of every week**)

September 4 - MBRA Monthly Meeting, Fellowship Hall, 7-9p

September 5 - Choir Rehearsal, 5p

September 8 - Coffee Fellowship 10:00 a.m.; Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. When you hear the chime, quietly and with a worshipful attitude, make your way to your seat.

September 8 - Rev. Kathy Mitchell will supply the Pulpit

LOST & FOUND - Eyeglasses in a brown case, please call the church office and claim - (309) 673-8501

Looking Ahead

September 9 - Greenway Monthly Meeting, Parlor, 7p

September 10 - Session via Zoom, 6:30p

September 15 - Rev. Chip Roland will supply the Pulpit

September 15 - IBEN Concert Solee Lee-Clark, Sanctuary, 4p

September 17 - CIRCLE OF FRIENDS - will meet at the home of Mary Dill, 10a; Books, books, books!

September 26 - Foster Parent - Relative Caregiver Support, Fellowship Hall, 6-8p

September Birthdays

10	Kim Hicks	21	Luanne Shay
18	Sue Burnham	23	Bill Rafferty
19	Cindy Baker	30	Dan Callahan
19	Wanda Grimes		

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Phone 309-673-8501

1420 W. Moss Avenue - Peoria, Illinois 61606

Website westminsterpeoria.org

Fax 309-673-6708

Office Hours

YouTube [WPC Channel](#)

Email office@westminsterpeoria.org

Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Facebook

[WPC Page](#)



Christian Nationalism Is A Grave Threat to America (pt.2)

Rev. Cathy F. Young of Waterloo is a retired pastor in the Presbyterian Church. The following is an abbreviated version of a sermon about Christian Nationalism.

The movement has been percolating for decades by a surprisingly large pool of white Christians who feel God calls them to rise up and defend themselves against anyone different. The January 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol was Christian Nationalism.

The most comprehensive research study of American religion was conducted by sociologists Andrew Whitehead and Samuel Perry, authors of [the 2020 book](#) *Taking America Back for God: Christian Nationalism in the United States*. Their study of more than 16,000 people noted Christian Nationalism paradoxically holds America as sacred in God's sight. It baptizes authoritarian rule. It sanctifies the preservation of order with righteous violence. It glorifies the patriarchal, heterosexual family as not only God's biblical standard but the cornerstone of all thriving civilizations.

Christian Nationalism is a political movement couched in religious language. Their ultimate goal is earthly power—control over people and issues they don't like—the mirrored opposite of what the gospels teach us. Jesus came as a suffering servant who gave his life for **all** of us, whether we're rich, poor, gay, straight, Black, white, brown, of any culture, of any creed, and any language.

Christian Nationalism doesn't reflect what Jesus taught and how he lived his life. The Bible's overarching theme is God's love for all of us—regardless of our skin color, political affiliation, economic status, or gender identity. While I'm a Christian, I believe God's love extends to everyone. The gospel ("good news") is always a gift. It should never be used as a weapon.

What can we do? Each of us must think carefully about where our greatest allegiance lies. Matthew 22:22 quotes Jesus saying, "give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." We can be Christian and still be patriotic, which, simply stated, is love for one's country. Nationalism is putting our highest allegiance to our country, especially its historically dominant ethnic, social, and cultural classes. Politics usurps what belongs only to our Creator.

Between now and November 5, Americans cannot be misled by self-serving politicians or Christian Nationalist clergy like most German Christians were. Christian Nationalism flagrantly distorts Christianity and purposely puts down people of color, disabled, LGBTQIA . . . just like Hitler did.

I pray that we, as Americans, will continue to respect democracy, non-violence, and the critical separation of religion and government as we demonstrate love for **all** our neighbors.