

WESTMINSTER NEWS

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

January at Westminster

- January 6 Epiphany of our Lord/Communion Sunday**
Lectionary: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7; Eph. 3:1-12; Matt. 2:1-12
Focus Text: Matthew 2:1-12
Sermon: The Magi's Greatest Gift
- January 13 Baptism of our Lord/Renewal of Baptismal Vows/Sunday School begins**
Lectionary: Isaiah 43:1-7; Ps. 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Focus Text: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Sermon: Putting those Vows into Practice
- January 20 2nd Sunday after Epiphany/Ordination and Installation of New Officers & Intergenerational Sunday School Event**
Lectionary: Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; I Cor. 12:1-11; John 2:1-11
Focus Text: I Corinthians 12:1-11
Sermon: The (Un)Common Good
- January 27 3rd Sunday after Epiphany. Annual Meeting of the Congregation**
Lectionary: Neh. 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; I Cor 12:12-31a, Luke 4:14-21
Focus Text: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Sermon: Your Source of Strength

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JANUARY

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Intergenerational Event January 20!

Project ♥ Linus



**Providing
Security
Through
Blankets**

The Education and Mission Committees are pleased to continue our intergenerational Sunday School sessions in the New Year. On January 20, we're planning a Blanket Sunday— an event where we'll be making blankets to donate to Project Linus in Madison. This organization provides blankets to children who are ill, seriously traumatized, or in need of warmth. In preparation for this event, we would welcome donations of fleece in 1 1/2 yard lengths, as well as some volunteers to prepare the fabric for making the blankets.

Fleece fabric may be put into the basket marked for Project Linus donations in the narthex. People who would like to prepare the fleece can take fabric lengths and instructions and do so. Fabric needs to be returned to the church by January 20 for people to make the blankets. Finishing the blankets requires being able to tie a simple overhand knot, so it's a fun activity for all. Completed blankets will be donated to Project Linus.

This is a simple and fun way to serve a good cause! We hope that you will consider making a fabric donation and/or preparing fabric— and please come to make blankets on January 20! Questions? Please contact Liane Kosaki or Amy Poland. Thank you!

January Adult Forum: Preparing for the End of Life

A two-week class with Rev. Scott Anderson, Minister of Music Joe Chrisman, and Attorney Bud Smith
January 13 and 27, 2018 11:00am in the Lounge

The process of aging prompts each of us to ask new questions about the quality of our lives as diminishment and death approaches. Join Scott Anderson, Joe Chrisman and Bud Smith for a conversation over two Sundays to help each of us deal in healthy, life-giving ways with the inevitable. The decisions each of us makes (or doesn't make) before we die will dramatically impact our spiritual, emotional, physical and financial health as well as the process of grief for our loved ones. Pastor Scott will address the issue of how to prepare for the disposition of your remains and planning for your memorial service to assure that your loved ones aren't burdened with these decisions after your death. Minister of Music Joe Chrisman will speak about the music that is appropriate for a Christian funeral or memorial service. Attorney Bud Smith will talk about how to do estate planning so that you can make good decisions about the disposition of your assets.

The January 13th class will be primarily presentation. On January 27th the three presenters will be available to meet with individuals to answer questions and to assist with customized planning.

This discussion is not only appropriate for those of us who are retired, but also for adults of any age. We hope you can join us!

Annual Fish Fry

Join us for our annual fish fry on Jan 25, 2019 at 5:30 pm at the Hilltop located at 4173 Co Hwy P, Cross Plains. Interested parties must sign up no later than Jan 17th. Sign up in the Narthex kiosk or contact Bob Bush.



Outreach Task Force

Pope Benedict once wrote, "Only if I serve my neighbor can my eyes be opened to what God does for me and how much he loves me." Westminster is called to serve our neighbors and community. The Westminster community includes not only church members, but residents of the Nakoma neighborhood to which our church belongs. Although we frequently know the needs of our church members, this is often not the case in regards to the Nakoma community at large.

In an effort to get to know the community to which the church belongs, members of the outreach task force will be interviewing church members who live in the Nakoma neighborhood along with community leaders and others from the greater Nakoma region. One purpose of the interviews will be to get to know our neighborhood and church members better. We would also like to find if they have concerns about the neighborhood, along with what things they like or take pride in with the neighborhood. Members of the task force will be starting these interviews after the holidays. When the interviews are done, the responses will be summarized, and this information will be passed along to session.

Members of the task force are: Meg Adamson, Sandy Curran, Kurt Hermsen, John Koeppe, and Erin Nass

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Session convened on November 27th for a productive hour-long meeting.

Doug Halls announced that pledges have met the hoped for budget for 2019 which included an increase of 6.9%. This balanced budget allows for: a 2.5% raise for all staff which has not been possible for several years, full funding of local and global mission, funding the Christian Ed director for the entire year, an adult Bible study leader and covering anticipated rises in utilities and operating costs. Other good news is that the mortgage is down to \$85,000 which will be closed in the next two years.

Pamela Quin from Mission expressed great appreciation for Sue Bridson as our representative to Allied Partners. She will be stepping down at the first of the year and Rhea Schultz will be the new representative. The committee provided 12 turkeys to Thoreau for Thanksgiving and purchased 119 pairs of snow pants with Mission funds. Two Westminster members are weekly volunteers at the Cherokee food pantry and some neighbors are also participating in supporting Thoreau students and Cherokee projects.

The Endowment Committee recommended changes in their calculating policy. The new policy stabilizes the Endowment return to a sustainable 4%, rather than linking it to the past year market return and the wild variations that can cause. The new policy should allow long-term growth of resources, as well as producing ongoing benefits for special projects as intended by the donors.

Pastor Scott Anderson and Andrea Kenny attended the Nov. 13th meeting of John Knox Presbytery. JK delegates to the summer General Assembly reported on their experience. A grant from Peacemaking offering was made to WI Council of Churches toward the Jan 26, 2019 Ecumenical Conference of Youth on Gun Violence, and additional Peacemaking funds went to Region 5 Flood Relief. Nominees for various Presbytery committees were elected; from Westminster: Scott in the class of 2021 to Presbytery Council, Bud Smith, class of 2024 on Permanent Judicial Commission, and Andrea to the Personnel Committee. Westminster will host Presbytery in May of next year.

Two more meetings took place in December:

December 16th to accept new members

December 18th was brief meeting to approve new curriculum for education





Namiste, Westminster Family!

We wanted to send along some updates and more importantly a heartfelt thank you for the wonderful care package. The holiday décor and good wishes were a boost to our spirits.

We are currently in Banbasa, India which is a small town located just west of the Nepali border. We spend our days working in various capacities here at the mission. Our duties range from washing dishes, chopping vegetables, and even scrubbing old bricks, to tutoring and child protection policy planning. The latter is a project Sara will be undertaking with some vigor after the New Year. When we aren't busy in our chores we are working together on home schooling or simply spending time with the kids here at the mission.

Life in Banbasa is certainly different from back home. The weather is quite nice typically hovering in the low 70's during the day and dropping into the low 40's in the evening. We are told that January will bring some more dreary weather with rains and fog to follow. Until then we are enjoying abundant sunshine. Our chief complaint would be that there is a prevailing haze which obscures our views of the Himalayan foothills. We also learned that there is no municipal trash collection and disposal service so all the trash is rounded up and burned. This has had the unfortunate side effect of affecting Anjali and Sara who have asthma. They are doing well despite the adverse conditions and the busyness of the mission and the overwhelming love and kindness of the staff and children tends to make us forget our troubles.

Christmas time here is celebrated with a great deal of excitement and preparation. Much like back home the hostels, trees, and cafeteria were adorned with lights, ornaments, and a Christmas tree. This time of year is also marked by the return of many of the older boys and girls who have left the mission. There was a great celebration on Christmas Eve with a big church service followed by dinner and then an evening of dancing and laughter. The fun and excitement revved up again on Christmas morning as the kids opened their presents and then proceeded to spend the day outside playing with new toys or showing off their new outfits. Anjali, David, and Luci were able to join in all the fun as well and even had a visit from Santa who brought a few much needed items like new shoes, socks, and warmer clothes. We are told that the New Year's celebration should be equally extravagant.

We will be staying in India through the first month of January and then will be making our way to Sri Lanka. However, our original plans have been slightly modified. Our original intent was to make our way to Kenya after Sri Lanka and then back up to Romania to complete our mission services, but we were finding that plan to be harder and harder to facilitate. And then God stepped in. KGSA in Kenya revealed that they have a three week break during the time we were planning to stay which was creating a rather unfortunate gap in our service. Meanwhile, Firm Foundations in Romania had put out an SOS for volunteers to come in the Spring rather than the Summer. We drafted some quick correspondence and made the decision to swap our times. Both agreed that this change was not only okay but would actually be much better for them both. So we will be off to Romania in March and April and then back to Kenya in May and June. This new plan, while creating some interesting travel logistics for our return home, has created some great opportunities to be of service. We will be meeting a huge need in Romania and we will be able to serve in Kenya uninterrupted for 8 weeks. Moreover, during the process of making this transition we were introduced by the staff here in India to a church organization that is literally across the street from KGSA. They have asked us to join them on the weekends to help with their local mission and church services. The Lord certainly does work in mysterious ways.

Our New Year's resolution will be simple this year, better communication back home. Thank you all again for the wonderful notes and reminders that we have a family that cares for us deeply. You are all missed greatly and we anxiously look forward to our weekly Westminster news for updates. While we have been truly blessed on this mission thus far we know that so much of that comes from your prayers and love back home.

For those who are electronically inclined, you can also follow our activities here: On Facebook [f@goingdeep2018](https://www.facebook.com/goingdeep2018), on Instagram [@sarassimplelife](https://www.instagram.com/sarassimplelife) and For Sara's daily blog go to <https://sarasmjournalanddaily scripture.wordpress.com>

Love, The Hayes



Welcome New Members!

Left: Annie Levihn
Right (confirmation class in order from left to right): Sydney Krause, Hayley Krause, Lila Yackee, Aidan Lepien, Garrett Fletcher, Sam Fletcher



Making a Difference

In September, we collected enough loose change to sponsor two children through the Adopt-a-Child's Education Programme (ACE) with the Knysna Education Trust in South Africa. In January, we will learn of the two children and receive pictures and histories. We will receive quarterly reports of the child's progress in all developmental fields, including physical, social and educational areas.

We recently were sent photographs of an outing to a farm. Some of the children have never visited a farm or even been on field trips before. The Knysna Education Trust works hard to provide the children the opportunity for a successful life. Feel free to explore their website at www.knysnaedutrust.co.za.

More updates coming soon!



Children's Corner

December has been an exciting month for our children and youth! We've celebrated hope, peace, joy, and love in many different ways. Six youth were confirmed and welcomed into the congregation. The Sunday School class constructed Advent wreaths to take home and use to mark the time while waiting for Jesus's coming. Each child was given an Advent calendar with a daily activity to help them remember why we celebrate Christmas. During the monthly Intergenerational Sunday School event, both young and older decorated cut-out cookies that became a delicious dessert for the men's shelter! The busy month concluded with some of the children and youth participating in a Christmas Eve pageant during the reading of the scripture.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



Roger Fletcher 01/01
Joel Jones 1/2
Erin Donnell 01/03
Troy Lepien 01/04
Carrie Aberle 01/06

Hubert Moss 01/07
Dale Bjorling 01/10
Lynnette Tortorich 1/10
Willard Knott 01/12
Nicole Zebrowski 01/12
Traudie Holman 01/15
Henry Johnson 01/16
Lila Anne Yackee 01/16
Libby Sadeghian 01/17
Millie Stevens 01/17

Marian Rohde 01/19
Linda Kwiatkowski 01/20
Amelia Swedeen 01/22
Roselyn Johnson 01/23
Paris Miller 01/23
Josh Mou 01/24
Adam Hollenzer 01/26
Andrea Kenny 01/27
Sandra Cole 01/30
Wade Waggener 01/30

UPDATED WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

	Liturgists	Ushers	Greeters	Communion Servers
1/6/2018	Karen Stephens	Ed Cothroll	Doug Halls	Abe Aberle
		Judy Graham	Juanita Halls	Sandy Curran
		Karen Osborne		Erin Nass
		Julie Madden		Bud Smith
1/13/2018	Andrea Kenny	Rhea Schultz	Paul Bishop	
		Dave Granquist	Linda Bishop	
		Peggy Zimmer		
		Dick Zimmer		
1/20/2018	Juanita Halls	Doug Kornetzke	Dale Rohde	
		Lee DeSpain	Marian Rohde	
		Abe Aberle		
		Carrie Aberle		
1/27/2019	Sue Dornfeld	Ed Cothroll	Doug Evans	
		Linda Kwiatkowski	Connie Evans	
		Garrett Fletcher		
		Judy Stone		



Please Keep Us in the Loop

Have a change in address? Are we missing your birthday? Do you have an announcement for the newsletter or weekly insert? Please let us know! Just call or write Katie in the office: info@westminstermadison.org or 238-3121. Newsletter articles are due on the 15th of each month. Weekly insert announcements are due the Tuesday before the Sunday that it is published. Thanks!

JOYS & CONCERNS

Please keep the following members and friends in your prayers for health, peace and wholeness:

Jack Browning, Shirley Toomey, Vern Forsberg, Wade Waggener, Marjorie Hamann and son Jack, Ann Friedley, Ruth Hein, Newt Roberts, The Thompson Family, Hugh Moss



JANUARY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 9:45 AM Worship	31	1	2 7:00 PM AA	3	4 5:30 PM DBSA	5
6 FOOD SUNDAY 9:45 AM Worship 11:00 AM Sunday School & Adult Forum	7	8	9 1:30 PM Oakwood West Worship 7:00 PM AA 7:30 PM Choir Practice	10 9:30 AM Thursday Morning Book Group	11 5:30 PM DBSA	12 5:00 AM Shelter Breakfast
13 9:45 AM Worship 11:00 AM Kids Sunday School & Adult Forum: "Preparing for the End of Life"	14 9:30 AM Knitwits at WPC	15 1:00 PM Esther-Naomi Circle 3:00 PM Stewardship	16 7:00 PM AA 7:30 PM Choir Practice	17 9:30 AM Thursday Morning Book Group 6:00 PM Mary-Elizabeth Circle	18 5:30 PM DBSA	19
20 Just Bakery Sale 9:45 AM Worship 11:00 AM Intergenerational Event: Project Linus (Blanket making)	21 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED (MLK Jr. Day)	22 7:00 PM Session	23 7:00 PM AA 7:30 PM Choir Practice	24 9:30 AM Thursday Morning Book Group	25 5:30 PM DBSA	26
27 9:45 AM Worship 10:45 AM Annual Congregational Meeting 11:15 AM Kids Sunday School & Adult Forum: "Preparing for the End of Life"	28 9:30 AM Knitwits at WPC	29	30 12:30PM Bible Study 7:00 PM AA 7:30 PM Choir Practice	31 9:30 AM Thursday Morning Book Group	1 5:30 PM DBSA	2

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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4100 Nakoma Road
Madison WI 53711

Call: 608-238-3121

Email: info@westminstermadison.org

Fax: 608-441-7798



We are especially thankful for :

Westminster Mission

Ever seeking guidance from the Holy Spirit, we strive to follow Jesus Christ by being...

Attentive to the Word,

Faithful to our covenant with God and each other, and

Diligent in ministering to the needs of the world.

WESTMINSTER NEWS

JANUARY

STAFF

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Vern Forsberg, Pastor Emeritus

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Presbyterian Church

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship Service:
9:45am Sundays

Sunday Schools:
11:00 am: K-4th grade &
Adult

~ Child Care available ~