



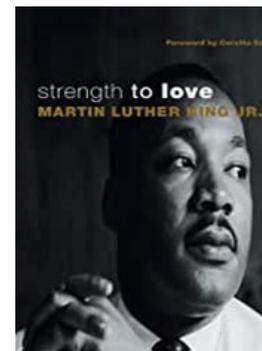
January 2021 at Westminster Presbyterian Church

- January 3, 2021 Epiphany Sunday/Communion
Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-7,10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12
Focus Text: Matthew 2:1-12 Sermon: Star of Glory
- January 10, 2021 Baptism of our Lord - Ordination and Installation of Church Officers
Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11
Focus Text: Mark 1:4-11 Sermon: Baptism and Blessing
- January 17, 2021 Second Sunday after Epiphany
I Samuel 3:1-10; Psalm 139:1-6,13-18; I Corinthians 6:12-15; John 1:43-51
Focus Text: John 1:43-51 Sermon: Come and See
- January 24, 2021 Third Sunday after Epiphany
Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; I Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20
Focus Text: Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Sermon: How is God's Mind Changed?
- January 31, 2021 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; I Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28
Focus Text: Mark 1:21-28 Sermon: Teaching with Authority
****Annual Meeting @ 11 am via Zoom****

Pastor Scott's Congregational Book Read in January:

Strength to Love - Sermons by Martin Luther King, Jr.

"If there is one book Martin Luther King, Jr. has written that people consistently tell me has changed their lives, it is Strength to Love." So wrote Coretta Scott King. She continued: "I believe it is because this book best explains the central element of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s philosophy of nonviolence: His belief in a divine, loving presence that binds all life. That insight, luminously conveyed in this classic text, hints at the personal transformation at the root of social justice: "By reaching into and beyond ourselves and tapping the transcendent moral ethic of love, we shall overcome these evils."



In these short meditative and sermonic pieces, some of them composed in jails and all of them crafted during the tumultuous years of the Civil Rights struggle, Dr. King articulated and espoused in a deeply personal compelling way his commitment to justice and to the intellectual, moral, and spiritual conversion that makes his work as much a blueprint today for Christian discipleship as it was then.

I invite you to join me for a 4-week conversation about Martin Luther King Jr's. most consequential writings. We will gather on Zoom on Sundays at 11:45am beginning January 10 and continuing through February 14 (with a break Jan. 31 and Feb. 7). This book read is in lieu of the pastor's normal Bible Study/Forum class for upcoming season of Epiphany. Books are \$18 and are available in church office. Please call if you need one 238-3121.

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Issue
#589

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



New Years' Shout-Outs from the Pastor

There are so many people in our congregation who do so much for our church that I always hesitate in singling out specific Westminsterites for special recognition. But because 2020 has been such an extraordinary year, two people in particular have gone way beyond the call of duty to serve our congregation and I want to highlight their work for all of us:

Paul Quin has spent hundreds of hours building and maintaining our website at westminstermadison.org He learned this process from scratch. Our website is our principal advertising mechanism for reaching newcomers in Madison who are shopping for a new church home. Paul actually maintains two websites: one for regular desktop and laptop computers, and one for smart phones and other smaller devices such as tablets. Maintaining the websites is critically important to keep information accurate and up to date. In addition to his weekly (sometimes daily) updates, Paul went through the entire website this past fall page by page, word by word, to freshen up both the look and content of the site, a very tedious and time-consuming task! If you haven't looked at our website recently, I invite you to do so.

John Tarr has been our faithful and tireless person behind the scenes to bring us our weekly worship services on YouTube. When the pandemic hit last March, we knew nothing about the process of taping, editing, and uploading our weekly worship services to the internet. John, who is already a skilled photographer, learned how to use his own equipment for videotaping worship and interfacing it with our sound system in the sanctuary. Then he had to learn how to use video editing software, which is a painstaking, labor intensive task, in order to turn the raw footage into a seamless worship experience, and then upload it to YouTube.

We all owe these two a BIG thank you! --Scott Anderson

Spring Bible Study

Rev. Jessica Salt will do a Spring Bible study on Wednesdays. Details and schedule will be shared in the near future, so stay tuned!

Thursday Book Group New Read

We will begin discussing the best-selling author Sue Monk Kidd's new novel, *The Book of Longings* on **January 7th**. In her mesmerizing fourth work of fiction, Sue Monk Kidd takes an audacious approach to first century history and brings her acclaimed narrative gifts to imagine the story of a young woman named Ana. Raised in a wealthy family with ties to the ruler of Galilee, she is rebellious and ambitious, with a brilliant mind and a daring spirit. She engages in furtive scholarly pursuits and writes narratives about neglected and silenced women. Ana is expected to marry an older widower, a prospect that horrifies her. An encounter with eighteen-year-old Jesus changes everything. Books are available in the church office for \$17. The Thursday Book Group meets Thursdays at 10 am via Zoom.



The Stewardship Committee wishes to thank members of the Westminster congregation for their most gracious response to our request for supplemental pledges for 2021. The additions to initial pledges totaled \$35,000, bringing the total pledged contributions to \$356,091. Taken together with a small amount of pandemic-enabled belt tightening on planned expenses and an anticipated small surplus carried over from the 2020 budget year, your generosity will enable Westminster to move forward into the coming year with program goals intact. We realize that this has been a difficult year for everyone and deeply appreciate how Westminster congregants stepped forward to meet the Church's budget requirements for 2021.

Yours in Christ the Stewardship Committee

Ed Cothroll Chair, John Braden, Bob Forsberg, Dorothy Hujik, Paul Thompson, Cindy Kornetzke, Doug Halls, and Bill Tanke

HOLIDAY CHEER



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 < > Our Christmas Pageant players were amazing! If you missed it, you can still find previous worship services at : westminstermadison.org.



< Check out adorable Jocelyn Mou's nativity creation during children's time. Good job Jocelyn!



Like so many of us, the Halls household got into the spirit of the season during our Christmas Eve worship. Nothing tops celebrating with a candle lit service, even in your own living room.

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< Thanks to the Johnson family who filled 150 bags of food and 60 bags of books in fellowship hall for the Madison West High Area Collaborative on Christmas eve!





Please keep the following members and friends in your prayers:
 Betty Smith, Dianne Stevens, Lisa Jones, Seema Tahir, Hugh Moss,
 Carla McCann, Ed Jerome, the family of Elliott Sweet

Session Highlights Nov. & Dec. 2020

At the November meeting Stewardship reported that there was a budget shortfall for 2021 in terms of pledges and anticipated income and expenses. After discussion, Session approved the request from the committee to ask people to consider making an additional gift or pledge. The response of this supplemental campaign has been extremely gratifying. At the December meeting Stewardship reported that Westminster will finish 2020 with a positive balance and that an additional \$35,000 in pledges and special gifts have matched the needs for next year. Therefore Session approved the 2021 budget of \$416,012.18.

In other action Session approved:

- Worship Committee's dates of services that will include communion.
- Cindy Kornetzke, Peg Douma, Linda Tanke and Jon Tanke as Assistant Treasurers, and Katie Bencze, Rich Hein and Ed Cothroll as Offering Counters for 2021.
- Scott's request for study leave the week of February 2nd-7th

The Financial Review for 2018-2019 was presented and thanks extended to the Review Committee - Abe Aberle, Jeff Hayes and Len Van Ess
 Mission Committee reported on end of the year budget allocations
 Property Committee has accepted Metro Sound and Video's bid of \$9,400 to install video taping equipment in the sanctuary, so that Westminster can continue to offer our worship services online once we return to in-person worship later this year.



LET'S STAY CONNECTED! (call or check your email for more details)

VIRTUAL BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAYS at 12:30pm

VIRTUAL BOOK GROUP THURSDAYS at 10:00am

**SUNDAYS ONLINE:
 VIRTUAL WORSHIP
 CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00AM
 COFFEE HOUR 11:00AM
 ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL/FORUM 11:45AM**

ONLINE COFFEE FELLOWSHIP WEDNESDAYS AT 10:00AM



Westminster Presbyterian*4100 Nakoma Rd., Madison, WI 53711*608-238-3121
 www.westminstermadison.org

LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH

- > Phone: 608-238-3121
- > Emails: Office - Katie:
info@westminstermadison.org
- Scott:
scott@westminstermadison.org
- Amy:
Amy@westminstermadison.org
- > Website:
www.westminstermadison.org
- > Facebook & YouTube
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JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- Joel Jones 1/2
- Erin Donnell 01/03
- Troy Lepien 01/04
- Carrie Aberle 01/06
- Hugh Moss 01/07
- Dale Bjorling 01/10
- Lynnette Tortorich 1/10
- Willard Knott 01/12
- Nicole Zebrowski 01/12
- Hayley Krause 01/14
- 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
- Rosalyn Johnson 01/23
- Paris Miller 01/23
- Josh Mou 01/24
- Andrea Kenny 01/27
- Sandra Cole 01/30
- Wade Waggener 01/30

