

## When will Westminster Church Reopen?

Dear members and friends of Westminster,

That's a question I get asked pretty regularly these days!

I first want to thank you for your patience and flexibility in adjusting to online weekly worship and virtual church meetings. And I want to thank our great staff for their flexibility and resilience in this stressful time: Katie Bencze, Amy Poland, and Joe Chrisman. John Tarr has also spent many volunteer hours working with me as we began to offer worship via YouTube in late March.

Our Session met May 26th to consider recent developments in Dane County and the best advice from public health officials for religious communities. The safety of our congregation remains our primary concern as we consider our next steps. With that in mind, I am pleased to report that our Session came to a quick consensus about the process for reopening our church:

**We will consider in-person worship when Dane County moves to Phase 2 of its reopening plan.** As a County we just moved to Phase I, and you may have noticed that businesses are beginning to reopen with strict controls on maximum room capacity (25% in Phase 1), social distancing guidelines, mask wearing, and new sanitation protocols. Our Session and staff will continue to monitor the local situation closely, and rely on public health officials for guidance.

**When we do reopen, there will be a "new normal" in Sunday morning in-person worship.** To maximize personal safety, all of us must wear face masks. Seating will be six feet apart from one another. There will be no choir and no congregational singing (considered to be potential "super-spreaders" of the virus). There will be new processes for the distribution of bulletins, receiving the offering, passing the peace, and taking communion. The Session will be developing all the necessary guidelines and instructions to help educate the congregation, greeters, ushers, and communion servers about the "new normal" as we all seek to provide a worship environment that is safe for all participants.

**Survey the congregation.** In June, we plan to survey the entire congregation to see who plans to return to in-person worship under the "new normal" mentioned above. Some of our older members with chronic health conditions may choose not to return to worship until a vaccine is readily available to the public and restrictions are eased. We'd like to know what your plans are so that we as a congregation can best meet your needs.

**Church and outside groups can meet at the church beginning mid-June, but with important caveats.** By mid-June the Session will have adopted COVID-19 building use policies that will limit the size of groups that can meet in each of our meeting spaces, and require mask-wearing and social distancing for all meeting participants. The video conferencing service Zoom will continue to be available to all church groups.

**Online worship will become a permanent feature of our worship life, even when we return to in-person worship.** The online worship option will continue to be available for anyone who cannot attend in-person worship as well as friends and visitors to our website.

You should know that the Sessions of Covenant and Christ Presbyterian Churches have made decisions very similar to ours. Please feel free to reach out to me or any Session member if you have any questions or need more information. I am grateful that even though our building is closed, our church is at work, seeking to be faithful to Christ's mission and ministry in this community.

Yours in Christ, Scott Anderson, Pastor



## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Masks for Dane County Jail

Chaplain Todd shared an immediate need for handmade face masks for the Dane County Jail. The masks are needed for the individuals incarcerated, as well as, MAJM's 30 volunteers. Masks that tie are preferred. Please NO elastic bands. If you don't have your own pattern, Sandy Curran has provided one - [CLICK HERE](#) to view it or contact Rhea Schultz at 608-841-1878 to get a copy. Thank you for helping to meet this important need!

### Christmas in June?

As you've been spending time at home wondering what to do next, have you given thought to Christmas? Each year, the Madison Area Jail Ministry (MAJM) provides Christmas cards to men & women incarcerated in the Dane County Jail. If you have cards left from last year, consider pulling them out. Write messages of love & encouragement. (They may be shared, so please don't duplicate.) Each card will be a blessing.

The Jail has STRICT RULES we must follow: 1) Do NOT put cards in envelopes. 2) NO strings, glitter or sequins. 3) NO cards with stickers or anything glued. 4) You may sign your FIRST NAME ONLY. NO last name. NO first name followed by Westminster. Cards may be dropped off at the church office or mailed to Westminster. Any questions, contact Rhea Schultz. Thank you from MAJM!



### Westminster joins others to become a Matthew 25 Congregation

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), gathering at the 2016 & 2018 General Assemblies, committed to offering churches the opportunity to embrace Jesus's scriptural call found in Matthew 25: 31-46. According to the PCUSA informational materials, "As a Matthew 25 church, we are called to live out true discipleship by acting boldly, compassionately and fearlessly serving people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned or poor." The hope is that 20% of churches in a presbytery or synod would commit to this vision to make actual progress on these goals. This tipping point of 20% is the "social science benchmark for success" in any project.

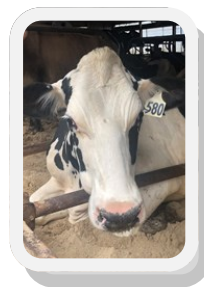
On April 28, the Westminster's session voted to become a Matthew 25 congregation. The only commitment we made to join this movement was our willingness to share our journey with others. As many of you are already aware, we have been advancing on this path of service for many years. The mission committee will review the materials provided by the PCUSA, seeking improvements in our present programs and exploring new ways our congregation might work in helping those in need. Opportunities abound for interested congregation members to join this initiative that is as yet uncharted to see how your faith journey might be strengthened along the way. Please contact mission chair, Pamela, for further details. You will be hearing more about our progress in the future.

### Westminster's Matthew 25 Congregation will study the Gospel of Matthew in the Fall of 2020

It is official. The Fall Bible study, led by Rev. Jessica Salt, will explore the Gospel of Matthew. Stay tuned for further information about how you can enroll in the Bible study and obtain the Kerygma Program resource book God With Us. This information should help us all understand Westminster's involvement in the Matthew 25 Presbytery wide project.

### March Coins for a Cause

The generosity at Westminster is overwhelming. Even though we weren't able to meet all of March, we were still able to raise \$1093 for the Women's and Children's Shelter at the Salvation Army in our March Coins for a Cause campaign. In addition, many dropped off clothing and household items which Ruth Hein is kindly taking to the shelter. Thank you all!



### Bovine Blessings!

Westminster friends! Thank you for your donations to purchase cheese to be donated to the Madison West High Area Food Collaborative. Due to your generosity, we were able to purchase almost 400 pounds of brick cheese produced by the Chalet Cheese Co-op outside Monroe, Wisconsin. The milk to make this cheese was made (in part) by these ladies and their friends. They and their owners and all dairy farmers thank you for your support. A big bovine smooch for you all!



## Mallards Baseball Family Outing - Sunday, July 19

Fellowship is coordinating a Mallards Game outing and will be reserving picnic tables. Each ticket is \$31 and includes all-you-can-eat ballpark food. Those who attended last year can tell you it was great fun to get together with other church members and enjoy a night out. Obviously we will keep you posted on any Covid 19-related updates, but for now we are thinking positive and planning! To sign up, [CLICK HERE](#). Please sign up by Thursday July 2.



### Children's Corner

While Sunday mornings at church have changed, the children have been meeting via Zoom with their teachers to hold a virtual Sunday School class. Stories are read, explored, and responded to. Joys and concerns are shared, and prayers are said. Our younger children have been tuning in weekly to Facebook for story time. We have read books about how the church is the people and not the building, books that explore anger and bullying, and a book about a butterfly that needed help from silkworms and spiders in order to fly. The children all received special Pentecost packets in the mail. These mailing included balloons, a word find and coloring page, and craft projects to assemble. Some of these items were used in the children's message on Pentecost Sunday.



Don't forget about Children's story time where she explores things like God's love. We send out a link in our weekly email announcements or see it on our YouTube channel by [CLICKING HERE](#).

### General Church Reminders:

- We are still here in the office and available by phone, email or by appointment if you want to come by.
- Sunday worship has moved online and will be posted each week on our website: [westminstermadison.org](http://westminstermadison.org)! A link is provided on the weekly email announcements. Call us if you're not signed up.
- You can also join our weekly sermon email, just call or email Katie in the office. (Or let her know if you need it mailed): [info@westminstermadison.org](mailto:info@westminstermadison.org) or 238-3121
- Committees continue to meet via email or online. Committees are welcome to use Zoom, please reach out to Pastor Scott for details.
- Deacons are calling and checking on many members, but we also encourage all of you to reach out to fellow friends and members. It's amazing how just hearing someone's voice can brighten someone's day, especially during this challenging time.
- For pastoral care you can call Scott in the office at 238-3121 or for emergencies you can call his cell at 358-6153
- Supporting the church: We've had inquiries about pledges and donations during this time. Yes, you can mail it to Westminster at 4100 Nakoma Rd., Madison, WI 53711. We will be making deposits to the bank. You may also drop it off to the office during normal business hours (call ahead if you can) or sign up for auto withdrawal. Thank you!
- You can always find church information including updates, weekly announcements and sermons on our website at [westminstermadison.org](http://westminstermadison.org)

**LET'S CONNECT! (call or check your email for more details)**

**BOOK GROUP THURSDAYS at 10:00am:** [CLICK HERE](#) or call 312 626 6799, Meeting ID: 925 6923 8007

**WEEKLY ONLINE SUNDAY WORSHIP:** Every Sunday on [westminstermadison.org](http://westminstermadison.org)

**ONLINE COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP:**

**SUNDAYS AT 11:00AM:** [CLICK HERE](#) or call 312 626 6799, then enter Meeting ID: 954 5521 0600

**AND WEDNESDAYS AT 10:00AM:** [CLICK HERE](#) or call 312 626 6799, then enter Meeting ID: 817 4718 4891



**Please keep the following members and friends in your prayers:** Betty Smith, Kathy Costello, Seema Tahir, Kate Dooley's grandson, Kathy Key's son-in-law, Rick Zimmer, Judy Braucht & family, Gloria Hanson, Cary Forest (Paul & Clara Thompson's son in law), Sandy Curran's friend Jennie, Ralph Kummerow (Lu's brother), Irene Oetzel (loss of a dear friend), Gary Stephens and the family of Doug Deems (death of Gary's cousin)

**June, 2020 at Westminster Presbyterian Church - Online Worship**

- June 7**            **Trinity Sunday/Communion**  
Lectionary: Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20  
Focus Text: Matthew 28:16-20, Sermon: Trinity as Community
  
- June 14**          **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
Lectionary: Exodus 19:2-8a; Psalm 100; Romans 5: 1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:8  
Focus Text: Matthew 9:35-10:8, Sermon: *The Unqualified Twelve*
  
- June 21**          **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
Lectionary: Jeremiah 20:7-13; Psalm 69:7-10; Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39  
Focus Text: Matthew 10:24-39, Sermon: *Your Biblical Family*
  
- June 28**          **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
Lectionary: Jeremiah 28:5-9; Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18; Romans 6: 12-23; Matthew 10: 40-42  
Focus Text: Matthew 10: 40-42, Sermon: *A Cup of Cold Water*



Above is our beautiful new Pentecost wall hanging that is currently in the sanctuary. A big THANK YOU to all of those who lovingly made it: Dorothy Blotz, Sandy Curran, Juanita Halls, Karen Hansen, Andrea Kenny, Ann Rowley and special thanks to John Tarr for hanging it.



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**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 Search "Westminster Madison"

**JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

- Ann Martin 6/1
- Jamie Ringsmuth 6/1
- Denise Meier 06/03
- Jon Tanke 06/04
- Britton Markland (Zebrowski) 06/05
- Charles Franklin 06/07
- Tonja Lepien 06/07
- Joel DeSpain 06/08
- Judy Stone 06/10
- Doug Kornetzke 06/11
- Ed Cothroll 06/12
- Judith Braucht 06/13
- Robert Bush 06/13
- Abby Watters 06/14
- Jeff Zebrowski 06/15
- Lynn Chapman 06/18
- Cliff Voegeli 06/18
- James Siverhus 06/21
- Margaret Murphy 06/22
- Arnold Chandler 06/24
- Jean Berndt 06/27
- Vern Forsberg 06/27
- Sandra Curran 06/28
- Pamela Vicen 06/28

