

# WESTMINSTER NEWS

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

October, 2019 at Westminster

- Oct. 6**      **World Communion Sunday**  
**11:00 am Intergenerational Sunday School: International Potluck & World Communion Sunday**  
Lectionary: Lam. 1:1-6; Psalm 137; 2 Tim 1:1-14; Lk 17:5-10  
Focus Text: 2 Timothy 1:1-14  
Sermon: "Rekindling the Gift" Scott Anderson preaching
- Oct. 13**      **Stewardship Kickoff Sunday**  
Lectionary: Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7; Psalm 66:1-12; 2 Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19  
Focus Text: Luke 17:11-19  
Sermon: "Found Grateful" -Testimonies from Westminster Members: Jean Loup, Troy Lepien, Lynnette Tortorich, Bill Tanke
- Oct. 20**      **Mission Emphasis Sunday-Hayes Family Mission Trip**  
**11 am Adult forum with the Hayes Family**  
Lectionary: Jer. 31:27-34; Psalm 119:97-104 or Psalm 19; 2 Tim. 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8  
Focus Text: Isaiah 6:3-8; Galatians 5:5-6, 13-14  
Sermon: Sara and Jeff Hayes
- Oct. 27**      **Reformation Sunday**  
Lectionary: Joel 2:23-32; Ps 65; 2 Tim 4:6-8, 16-18; Lk 18:9-14  
Focus Text: Luke 18:9-14  
Sermon: "Two Old Friends" Scott Anderson, preaching



## INSIDE:

- **News & Announcements**
- **Children's Corner**
- **Session Highlights**
- **Birthdays**
- **Outreach Task Force Report**
- **Worship Volunteer Schedule**
- **Joys & Concerns**
- **Calendar**



# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Fall Rummage Sale

The rummage sale will be October 26th (8am-2pm). So it's time to start cleaning those closets, attics etc - because of course, need donations! Please remember that all donations should be gently used, clean (free of rips and stains), and in working condition. We also cannot take major appliances, exercise equipment, mattresses, and tube TVs. Since our storage is limited, it would be most helpful to us if you could bring your donations to fellowship hall on Wednesday 10/23, Thursday 10/24 or Friday 10/25. If you can't make those days for drop off, contact Katie in the office to arrange a drop off time during office hours. We are also looking for volunteers! It takes many hands to pull this off, so please consider helping in any way! The sign up poster is in the Narthex. Any questions, contact Rhea Schultz, Paul Quin or Ruth Hein.

## Intergenerational Potluck October 6

The education committee is hosting a potluck after church in celebration of World Communion Day on October 6! Everyone is invited to bring a dish to share that is representative of their culture or heritage. Our hope is to celebrate with our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world by also celebrating what's unique about each of us and our families. Email Erin Nass if you have questions: erin.e.nass@gmail.com. Join us!

## Plates for Eight - Starting up this fall!

The goal of "Plates for Eight" is getting to know people you may not know over a shared meal. To make sure we are effective, we have sent out an email survey (or fill out one in the Narthex). New groups are also forming! **A sign up sheet is currently in the Narthex, so please sign up by October 6th if you are interested.** Our plan is to have groups of 7 or 8 people, with both singles and couples of mixed ages. Guidelines are that groups will meet for a meal 4 times during the year, roughly once per quarter, on dates of their choosing. The group will 1) select a new host/coordinator, 2) plan a date for their next meeting, and 3) agree on their next meal type (potluck, restaurant meal, picnic, etc). We recognize that not everyone will be able to attend every meal. We will assign a host/coordinator for the first meal only. Each group decides what works best for them. Bon appétit!

## "Beyond the Broken Heart,"

A Grief Group led by Pastor Clara Thompson, will be offered this fall at Covenant Presbyterian Church!

- Are you grieving the loss of a loved one (spouse, parent, child, sibling, or friend) and feel like you're drifting aimlessly?
- Do you wonder if what you are feeling is "normal?"
- Do you seek an opportunity to learn more about grief so that you can respond to it more faithfully?

Covenant Presbyterian Church is pleased to offer a five-week support and ministry program this fall. The group will meet on Sunday afternoons from 12:15-1:45 PM, (see schedule below) with a light lunch being served and good opportunities for sharing and learning together each week. We will meet at Covenant in Room C-206.

Our conversations will be based on the book *Beyond the Broken Heart, A Journey Through Grief*, by Julie Yarbrough. Copies of the book will be available for purchase (\$12) in advance of the first group gathering. I think you will find the book to be a good resource for your journey. Though regular group participation is helpful, it is not mandatory. Come to the group as often as you are able! Topics to be covered are as follows:

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| October 20  | Sharing our Stories of Loss, Naming our Grief, and Understanding Grief  |
| October 27  | Yielding to Grief, and Responding to Grief                              |
| November 3  | Adjusting through Grief, and Responding to Grief                        |
| November 10 | Growing Spiritually through Grief, and Living Beyond Grief              |
| November 17 | NO GROUP MEETING this day! Join us at Covenant's Turkey Dinner instead! |
| November 24 | Grief at the Holidays   |

Feel free to bring a relative, friend, or neighbor! All are welcome!

Please sign-up by October 13th by calling the Covenant at 233-6297, or by emailing Pastor Clara at [cthompson@covenantmadison.org](mailto:cthompson@covenantmadison.org).

## Organ Update

Work on a contract for a new organ console is continuing. I am hopeful that we will soon be ready to execute a contract and set a schedule for replacement. Thank you to all who have supported the project, including with their patience. Stay tuned (no pun intended) for further updates on progress yet this fall.

-Joe Chrisman, Minister of Music

## Children's Corner

We are back to our regular fall schedule! Children's Time meets during the worship service and Sunday School meets following the service. While it's sad to see summer go, it feels good to be back to our established routines. During the Rally Sunday service, second and third graders were given the NIV Adventure Bible as a gift from Children's Ministries. Following the service, the children and youth created 88 apple-themed craft kits that were donated to the patients of American Family Children's Hospital. This month the children are learning ways in which God personally calls us to do his work, how God gave us the ten commandments as a gift, and instructions on how to pray.



## Annual Westminster Church Golf Outing in September!



## Session Highlights

Session reviewed the proposed 2020 Budget. Included are raises for all staff. In addition, Personnel recommended that we increase Amy Poland's time so that, starting in 2020 she will be working 15 hours/week, increased from the current 12 hours/week. The proposed budget was approved. Adjustments will be made as needed depending on the stewardship campaign with a final budget expected in December.

The Nominating committee has completed its work and Session has called a meeting of the congregation to elect officers and congregational representatives on the Nominating Committee on October 27th following the morning worship service.

The Report of the Outreach Task Force was presented. Focusing on the immediate Nakoma neighborhood, the group interviewed people and relevant groups to identify emerging needs. The emphasis is on building relationships and being a facilitator and meeting space for the community. We have already established programs in partnership with the neighborhood through the two schools, the new Thoreau Weekend Food Program, and the Crawford, Marlborough Nakoma Neighborhood Association (CMNNA). Our established committees will look at additional ways we can build on these relationships and consider "expanding our vision of 'church'" to see "the entire neighborhood as our parish".



## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



Nizar Jarjour 10/01  
Nathan Wilke 10/04  
Karen Hansen 10/05  
Mary Lathrop 10/06

Aidan Lepien 10/08  
Julie Madden 10/09  
Albert Whitney 10/09  
William Butler 10/11  
Tom Buchhauser 10/11  
Gary Watters 10/12  
Karen Osborne 10/13

Thatcher Root 10/13  
Donna Norton 10/15  
Hannah Kwiatkowski 10/15  
Joyce Buseman 10/19  
Kimberly Pedracine 10/26  
Jeff Hayes 10/27



## Report from the Outreach Task Force

### Background

At the Session-Deacon planning retreat in February, 2018, our church leaders expressed a desire to engage more deeply with the Nakoma neighborhood by building new relationships with our neighbors and discovering emerging community needs.

As a first step in this process, the Session appointed an Outreach Task force of five people to conduct a short-term “neighborhood plunge” by interviewing leaders from the two neighborhood associations, the PTO leaders and staff at Thoreau Elementary and the PTO President at Cherokee Middle School, local business people, local elected officials and Westminster members who live in the neighborhood. We also reviewed results from a neighborhood survey on local needs from the Crawford Marlborough Nakoma Neighborhood Association (CMNNA).

Over the past nine months, task force members attempted to make contact with 58 people in the neighborhood, including both church members and community members who are not affiliated with Westminster Church. Of those contacted, 35 agreed to be interviewed either face to face or on the phone. The questions we asked in these wide-ranging conversations are found in Appendix 1.

### Nakoma: A Neighborhood in Transition

-Since the end of the Great Recession, Nakoma has been experiencing a turnover in homeownership that is higher than historical averages. While some long-time residents who retire have chosen to stay, others have sold their homes to middle and upper middle-class young families who are attracted to the neighborhood aesthetic, easy work commute, and proximity to the public schools. Generally speaking, the church has not developed meaningful relationships with the newer residents who have no connection with the church.

### A Positive Image of Westminster

Westminster Church is the only congregation located within the boundaries of the Nakoma neighborhood and as such functions as the “neighborhood church.” There is no central commercial district or public meeting space in the neighborhood; the biggest asset of Westminster in the eyes of neighbors who are not church members is as a meeting or gathering space for neighborhood functions.

Those who were interviewed who were not members of Westminster universally hold a positive image of the church. Many were aware of the long-time relationship with Thoreau Elementary in meeting needs of at-risk students, the church’s openness in hosting the Medina School, and in making meeting room space available to a variety of community groups.

### Emerging Needs in the Neighborhood (not listed in any particular order)

1. Building Community-while neighbors value the perceived “community feel” of the Nakoma neighborhood, there was also an express desire for more community building activities. Suggestions included a winter board-game night for adults and children, a “parents night out” (with the church or other community members providing child care), offering the fellowship hall as space for neighborhood birthday parties, and periodically offering speakers outside of Sunday morning on community needs and problems that extend beyond Nakoma, such as racial disparities in Madison along with other social justice issues. The Task Force notes that Westminster is already making moves in this direction, with the Prison Ministry and Food Truck fundraiser last fall and the “Make Music Madison” event at the end of June this year.

2. Gathering Space for Young Parents and Toddlers-Several younger residents mentioned the need for space for young parents in the neighborhood to meet with their toddlers for play and other activities. One model for this is the co-op playgroup (see <http://www.coopplaygroupsmadison.org>). There is currently a co-op playgroup meeting at Glenwood Moravian Church. Another model is Mothers of Preschoolers (see <https://www.mops.org/>) which are all volunteer groups organized by faith communities. Both of these models should be explored, and there may be others.

3. Before and After-School Programming-Both Thoreau and Cherokee are experiencing a change in their schedules beginning in the 2019-2020 school year which will create some unmet needs. Cherokee start time will be 8:40am, which leaves a gap for working parents before school starts. Suggestions included a safe space for middle schoolers to gather before school each day that could include homework help, a nutritious morning snack, and other group activities. Thoreau, on the other hand, will have an earlier start time with an earlier ending time (2:20 pm). This will leave a gap for working parents of elementary school students during the afternoon hours. Suggestions included tutoring and homework help, a computer room for student use at Westminster, and/or indoor athletic activities. The Thoreau principal suggested the church explore a partnership with the YMCA or the Boys and Girls Club of Madison, both of which offer before and after school programming.

4. Personal and Property Safety-both in the community needs survey conducted by the CMNNA and in our interviews, residents identified a perceived rise in neighborhood crime and a growing concern for both personal and property safety. We note that the CMNNA has hosted a forum around these issues, yet more may need to be done to address safety issues in the neighborhood.

5. Traffic Concerns and Pedestrian Safety-neighborhood residents perceive a growing neighborhood-wide concern around increased traffic in the neighborhood, especially during commute hours. Given that Nakoma Road and Midvale Blvd are thoroughfares between the Beltline and the UW campus, and the proximity of the public schools to these thoroughfares, there is a greater awareness of the need for pedestrian safety as well as evaluating neighborhood traffic patterns.

6. School-Specific Needs-Because the attendance boundaries for both Thoreau and Cherokee extend well beyond the Nakoma neighborhood and include several low-income communities, there are ongoing, longer-range needs that need to be addressed. At Thoreau, these needs include emergency food, school supplies and transportation challenges, mental health resources, and mentors for students of color. The biggest unmet need at Cherokee was an on-site food pantry. This was created for the 2018-2019 school year and Westminster has provided both money and volunteer assistance. Thoreau school staff wondered about the possible creation of a neighborhood food pantry off-site since there is not available space for one on the Thoreau campus. The anticipated launch of the weekend food bag program at Thoreau will certainly help meet that need.

### Suggested Guidelines for Next Steps

1. Partnership and Collaboration are Key-if Westminster decides to pursue any of these possibilities, additional resources—both material and human—will need to be identified. The limited capacity of our congregation suggests that any new initiatives be explored and pursued in partnership with the neighborhood, with both church members and staff along with neighborhood residents fully involved in these conversations and initiatives. There also may be other community partners to engage in helping us meet specific needs. The YMCA and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Madison are a good example of this for before- and after-school programming,

In any potential new area of ministry, the church should see itself as convener and facilitator of conversation and planning rather than as an initiator of new initiatives. The primary criterion for any new initiative should be the energy level in the neighborhood to make it happen.

2. Expanding our vision of “church”- our desire to enter into deeper relationships with the neighborhood is also an invitation to expand our self-understanding of “church” by blurring the line between parishioners and neighborhood residents. An expanded notion of church sees the entire neighborhood as our parish, which includes both church members and others who have little or no relationship with us currently. This has profound implications for the way we carry out our ministry:

a. Fellowship-might “church fellowship events” be broadened to embrace the neighborhood (such as a winter game night or “Make Music Madison”)?

b. Education-might Christian Education be broadened to include educational events for the neighborhood (such as adult forums during the week, a co-op playgroup, Blessing of the Animals, and the annual Easter Egg Hunt)? One suggestion is to take the Arboretum work day event planned for the Spring of 2020 and invite the neighborhood to partner with the congregation in that activity.

c. Mission-might new mission activities provide the opportunity for new church-community partnerships? A good example is the newly created Thoreau Weekend Food Program, which includes four congregations, the Nakoma League, and two local businesses.

d. The Building-instead “a church building made available to the community” might we reimagine the building as “a community center which houses a worshipping congregation”? Might we reconceptualize the “Fellowship Hall” (a churchy name) as the “Nakoma Room” (a community name) and make it available for more neighborhood functions?

### Conclusion

None of these suggestions mentioned above may surprise our congregation, because in almost every area of church life we have been moving out in more of a community-focused direction. What the task force is hoping for is a continuation of what we have already begun, and to be more intentional and proactive in building a deeper relationship with the neighborhood focused on helping it address its needs. The historic passion of our congregation for mission has traditionally been focused as serving low income people and vulnerable populations. Shifting to a neighborhood focus is an invitation for our congregation to build on that historic passion to meet the unmet needs of middle-class families at our doorstep.

# UPDATED WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

	Liturgists	Ushers	Greeters	Communion Servers				
<b>10/6/2019</b>	Mark Tortorich	Juanita Halls	The Donnell Family	<table border="1"> <tr><td>Dorothy Hujik</td></tr> <tr><td>Lynnette Tortorich</td></tr> <tr><td>Thatcher Root</td></tr> <tr><td>Ed Cothroll</td></tr> </table>	Dorothy Hujik	Lynnette Tortorich	Thatcher Root	Ed Cothroll
Dorothy Hujik								
Lynnette Tortorich								
Thatcher Root								
Ed Cothroll								
		Doug Halls						
		Troy Lepien						
		Tonja Lepien						
<b>10/13/2019</b>	Agnes Dako	Karen Osborne	The Kwiatkowski					
		Ken Sadeghian	Family					
		Dick Zimmer						
		Peggy Zimmer						
<b>10/20/2019</b>	Troy Lepien	Dave Granquist	Bill & Linda					
		Lee DeSpain	Tanke					
		Alice Appen						
		Richard Appen						
<b>10/27/2019</b>	Erin Nass	Rhea Schultz	Richard & Alice					
		Ed Cothroll	Appen					
		Doug Halls						
		Juanita Halls						

## JOYS & CONCERNS



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

*Dan Dohrn (father of Beth), Seema Tahir, John Smith, the family of Donna Chandler*

### 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!



# OCTOBER CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 9:45 AM Worship 11:00 AM Sunday School, Adult Talk back or Group Discussion	31	1	2 12:30PM Bible Study  7:30 PM Choir Practice	3 9:30 AM Thursday Morning Book Group	4 5:30 PM DBSA	5
6 FOOD SUNDAY 9:45 AM Worship 11:00 AM Intergenerational POTLUCK for World Communion Day	7	8	9 12:30PM Bible Study 1:30 PM Oakwood West Worship 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 Sunday School, Adult Talk back or Group Discussion Forum:	14 9:30 AM Knitwits at WPC	15 1:00 PM Esther-Naomi Circle  3:00 PM Stewardship	16 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 Sunday School, Adult Talk back or Group Discussion 3:00pm Crop Walk	21	22 7:00 PM Session	23 NO Bible Study  7:30 PM Choir Practice	24 9:30 AM Thursday Morning Book Group	25 5:30 PM DBSA	26 Fall Rummage Sale 8am-2pm
27 9:45 AM Worship 10:45 AM Annual Congregational Meeting 11:00 AM Sunday School, Adult Talk back or Group Discussion	28 9:30 AM Knitwits at WPC	29	30 NO Bible Study  7:30 PM Choir Practice	31 9:30 AM Thursday Morning Book Group	1 5:30 PM DBSA	2

## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

4100 Nakoma Road  
Madison WI 53711

Call: 608-238-3121

Email: [info@westminstermadison.org](mailto: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

## OCTOBER

### STAFF

**The Rev. Scott Anderson**, Pastor  
Office Hours: by appointment  
[scott@westminstermadison.org](mailto:scott@westminstermadison.org)

**Amy Poland**, Christian Ed. Coordinator  
Office Hours: Tues & Thurs mornings  
[amy@westminstermadison.org](mailto:amy@westminstermadison.org)

**Joe Chrisman**, Minister of Music  
[westminstermusic@sbcglobal.net](mailto:westminstermusic@sbcglobal.net)

**Katie Bencze**, Church Administrator  
Office hours: Mon-Thurs / 8am-4pm  
[info@westminstermadison.org](mailto:info@westminstermadison.org)

**Dorothy Blotz**, Accompanist  
[dblotz@charter.net](mailto:dblotz@charter.net)

**Vern Forsberg**, Pastor Emeritus

VISIT OUR  
WEBSITE

[westminstermadison.org](http://westminstermadison.org)



Search for: Westminster  
Presbyterian Church

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Worship Service:**  
9:45am Sundays

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

~ Child Care available ~