

December 2020 at Westminster Presbyterian Church

- December 6 2nd Sunday of Advent/Communion
Lectionary: Isa. 40:1-11; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8
Focus Text: Psalm 85:1-2,8-13 Sermon: The Elusive Shalom
- December 13 3rd Sunday of Advent
Lectionary: Isa. 61:1-4, 8-11; I Thess. 5: 16-24; John 1: 6-8, 19-28
Focus Text: Psalm 126 Sermon: With Shouts of Joy!
- December 20 4th Sunday of Advent
Lectionary: 2 Sam. 7:1-11,16; Rom 16:25-27; Luke 1: 26-38
Focus Text: Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 Sermon: In A Vision
- December 24 Christmas Eve Worship
Lectionary: Isa. 9:2-9, Titus 2:11-14
Focus Text: Psalm 96; Luke 2:1-14
Sermon: Christmas Pageant presented by Westminster Families



- December 27 First Sunday After Christmas
Lectionary: Isa 61:10-62:3; Gal. 4:4-7; Luke 22:22-40
Focus Text: Psalm 148 Sermon: All Things Praise God



< A little cold weather doesn't stop us! Thanks to all that helped at our pie & advent wreath pick up!



>
< Check out these great Advent wreaths that our members made during the intergenerational zoom event in November!

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Unwrapping the Gifts of Christmas- Daily Advent & Christmas Devotional

Thank you to all of our friends and members that helped write our 2020 Advent Devotional and to Sandy Curran and Meg Beally for organizing it! The first day of Advent starts this Sunday, November 29. [CLICK HERE](#) to view and read the devotional. Feel free to share this link with family and friends. (Or if you need paper copy, contact the office and we will be happy to mail you one 608-238-3121 or info@westminstermadison.org.)

To All Knitters

If you have been knitting hats, mittens and scarfs over the past few months that you want to donate, we have determined that they can be used by Allied Drive neighbors. You can drop them off at church in the office or Kathy Kamp would be happy to pick them up from you and drop them off (give her a call at 608-441-0970). Even though Knitwits can't be together, we can still knit and donate! Adult hats are welcome too!



Fund a Farm

Once again we will collect loose change to raise money for Fund a Farm through December! Through the PCUSA Presbyterian Mission, money collected will be used to donate an agricultural gift to a family so they can raise food and products to use themselves or to sell and provide income for their family. Whether it is a family of chickens that provides eggs, feathers and fertilizer or a pair of goats to provide milk for cheese, butter or yogurt, the donation of animals provides an ongoing gift. Please collect your coins and drop them off at the church office through December. You can also send in checks - just make them to Westminster and put "Farm" in the memo line. Thank you!

Poinsettias

We will be decorating our sanctuary as usual for our virtual Christmas worship and you are invited to purchase a poinsettia plant in honor or memory of a loved one for \$13 each. To order, just fill out the online form [HERE](#) and send your payment to Westminster (mark poinsettia in the memo line) by **Dec. 17**. You can also call Katie in the church office to order at 238-3121.



"Here We Come A-Caroling"

Westminster is pleased to announce a special program for the Advent and Christmas Seasons: "Here We Come A-Caroling!" Joe Chrisman, Minister of Music, has organized a collaboration among Westminster, Covenant Presbyterian, Christ Presbyterian, and Pres House musicians to create a carol-a-day offering as a devotional enhancement for each congregation. A carol has been recorded for use every day from November 29 through December 25. During the early days of the program, the carols will represent Advent themes. As the program continues, more Christmas Carols will appear. Be sure to check out your weekly announcements for more details and a link to the Carols!

Christmas Joy Offering

During the Season of Advent & Christmas, Westminster will join with other Presbyterian congregations in the collection of the Christmas Joy Offering. The Offering provides assistance to individuals and families who have dedicated their lives to the church. It further supports leadership development and education for students attending Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. Of the offerings collected, 50% will provide financial support and grants for current and retired Presbyterian church workers in their time of need. The remaining 50% will be directed to Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. Westminster will collect its offerings during the Advent season through Christmas Eve, December 24. Send or drop them at Westminster and mark JOY in the memo. Thank you!

December 6th Special Children's Class

As part of the Take Out Advent boxes, families received a gift bag labeled "Sealed: Do Not Open". This bag contains items that will be used during the December 6th 10:00 am Sunday School class. Come join your teachers for this unique Zoom class. This class is open to all children who received a Take Out Advent box. Participants will want to bring a dinner knife and toothpicks (optional) and stream the class from the kitchen. Any questions—feel free to reach out to Amy at amy@westminstermadison.org.



Going Strong!

Our fellowship hall continues to be a source of hope for many families as the Madison West High Area Collaborative and Thea's Table continue to distribute food to about 500 local families every week! [CLICK HERE](#) to check out this great video and see them in action.

Westminster Church Book Drive

As you know, Westminster has been participating in the Angel Tree program at Allied Drive for many years. This program will NOT take place this year because of COVID. But we will still offer an alternative opportunity to help this year. As you know, Westminster has long supported the literacy program operated by Kelly McCann at Thoreau School. This program provides books to students at the school that need some extra help to read at grade level. Because of virtual school this year, the Mission Committee is committed to provide books on a monthly basis to these children since they are not able to go to their classrooms and school libraries.



During December, Westminster will be sponsoring a book drive to get the books we need! We will be working with Mystery To Me, a local bookstore right here in our own neighborhood. There are a few ways you can contribute to this effort including:

- Dropping off or mailing a check at the church with BOOKS in the memo line and the Mission Committee can use those funds to buy books at Mystery to Me.
- If you have good children's books that are in like-new condition, you could also donate those. We are looking for board books to give to siblings and picture books for 1-3 graders. If you are cleaning book shelves and have things to donate, there will be a box at church for you to donate them.

As in all things in 2020, we are adapting to our new COVID reality. Thanks for your continued support and flexibility!



Giving Thanks and Giving to Others

Westminster's mission committee donated 16 turkeys for Thoreau Elementary families in need. Thanks to Chuck and Kathy Kamp for getting these in the hands of the school's amazing social worker - Laura Glaub!

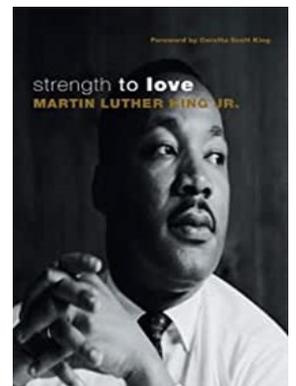
COMING IN JANUARY

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 5-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 Bible Study class for upcoming season of Epiphany. Books are \$18 and will be available in the church office the week of January 4th.



Please keep the following members and friends in your prayers:
 Betty Smith, Dianne Stevens, Lisa Jones, Seema Tahir, Betty Bush,
 Francoise Johnson and family (on the passing of her sister), the
 family of Cliff Voegeli

Session Highlights

Pastor's Report - Scott reported that officer training for the newly elected Deacons and Elders will be via Zoom in December. Officers will be installed during a January worship service.

Mission Committee - Minutes from the October 4th meeting reported on the distribution of funds. The committee distributed \$4,000 in Global mission allocations and \$10,500 to Local Mission programs. The Thoreau Summer Reading program has \$1,470 additional funds for the program for 2021. Thanks were expressed for the committee's good work.

Stewardship Committee met on October 21st. One week after the stewardship letter went out approximately 25% of pledges have been turned in including two new pledge units.

Endowment Committee - The investments have done well and \$15,134.08 is available to transfer to the church for 2021.

New Business - Covid 19 update - Session discussed possible options for in-person participation in worship. Given the current rise in cases in Wisconsin the consensus was that we should continue with the virtual worship services as we have been doing at least through the end of the year. We will have some drive-by fellowship opportunities in November and December.



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 WORSHIP
 CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00AM
 & ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL/FORUM 11:45AM**

ONLINE COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP AND WEDNESDAYS AT 10:00AM



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"

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- Amanda Tanke 12/01
- Betsy Ernst-Mullin
12/02
- Dale Rohde 12/02
- Douglas Rouse 12/04
- Jyoti Watters 12/04
- Joshua Watters 12/05
- Connie Evans 12/09
- Jean Ruhde 12/09
- Beth Swedeen 12/09
- Hunter Witt 12/09
- Richard Hein 12/10
- Garrett Fletcher 12/15
- Joyce Schultze 12/18
- Katie Bencze 12/22
- Jack Hamann 12/24
- Sally Forsberg 12/26
- Lu Kummerow 12/26
- Kathy Granquist 12/27
- Kathy Kamp 12/28
- Nancy Prine 12/29
- Caelan Grady 12/30