



- December 5 Second Sunday in Advent/Communion/Adult Forum
Texts: Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 1: 68-79; Philippians 1:3-11:
Focus Text: Luke 3:1-6 Sermon: Live Prepared
- December 12 Third Sunday in Advent/Intergenerational Event
Texts: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7;
Focus Text: Luke 3:7-18 Sermon: "What Should We Do?"
- December 19 Fourth Sunday in Advent
Texts: Micah 5:2-5a; Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10;
Focus Text: Luke 1: 39-45 Sermon: Surprised by Joy
- December 24 Christmas Eve - Service of Lessons and Carols at 3 pm & 7 pm**
- December 26 First Sunday After Christmas
Texts: I Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:15-21
Sermon: Sandra Nuernberg, preaching



December 5: Adult Forum: Tiny House Villages in Madison with Allen Barkoff

Join us Sunday, December 5 at 11AM in the Narthex for a special presentation. Occupy Madison, Inc. is a non-profit organization that oversees 2 Tiny House villages in Madison. The villages are a place where people without current safe housing can live and work cooperatively in a way that promotes dignity, safety, stewardship, and environmental sustainability. The first Village, established in 2014, will soon have 9 Tiny Houses with 9 occupants. The second Village established in 2020 has 23 people living in Conestoga Huts soon to be replaced by Tiny Houses. Allen will discuss the history of the organization, what requirements Occupy Madison had to meet for City approval, successes and the challenges the organization had to overcome, how the two Villages are financially supported, and its vision for the future. Allen Barkoff taught biology at Madison Area Technical College (Madison College) from 1969 until 2001 when he retired. He's been with Occupy Madison (Tiny House) Villages since 2014.

December 12: Advent Together - Intergenerational Event

Join us on December 12 following the service for our Advent Event! We'll be decorating cookies and making decorations and ornaments. Some of our cookies and decorations will be shared with the students of Pres House as they enter semester finals and some are for us! This event is a wonderful opportunity to gather together and welcome Advent with the church community.



Speaking of...Cookie bakers needed! Cut out sugar cookies are needed for this event. Please consider donating 2 dozen plain cut-out sugar cookie. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex or email Katie in the office: info@westminstermadison.org. Please let us know if you are planning to bake some so we can plan accordingly. Thank you!

Christmas Joy Offering: A Gift Opens Doors

The Presbyterian Church (USA) has been receiving the Christmas Joy Offering since the 1930s. Through the Great Depression, in times of war and peace, and now in the midst of a global pandemic, we have been given the chance to support past, present, and future church leadership through our gifts.



The goal of this special offering remains the same as when it began. Retired church workers and their families are supported through pension assistance and housing supplements provided by the Board of Pensions. Emergency Assistance Grants are made available to those currently serving in churches when an unexpected need or financial crisis arises. And future leaders are aided through the Presbyterian Church's commitment to education and leadership development. Students of color receive scholarships to continue their education.

In 2020, churches in John Knox Presbytery that received the Christmas Joy Offering sent just over \$16,000 to support the past, present and future leaders of our churches. Working together we accomplish great things. God accepts what we offer and makes it amazing!

The theme of this year's Christmas Joy Offering is a verse from the Book of Proverbs: "A gift opens doors." Your financial gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering open doors...doors to a more fulfilling or less anxious life...doors to higher education and leadership development. Please prayerfully consider this gift this time of year which will be collected on Christmas Eve (please mark "Christmas Joy" in the memo). Thank you.

2022 Dine with Nine (or Ten)

A reminder to sign up for Dine with Nine if you are interested and have not done so already. The sign-up is in the Narthex or you can send an email to Juanita at jjh71152@gmail.com. There will be a brief meeting after church on December 12 to answer any questions.

Christmas Cards for Madison Area Jail Ministry - Thank you!

Thank you to all who contributed Christmas cards for the men & women in the Dane County Jail. Chaplain Todd will personally deliver each card. It's a wonderful way to support his ministry. The collection is completed and the cards have been delivered.

Thank You!



Pres House Meals

We have more Pres House meals coming up. If you would like to help out, there are several opportunities. At this time we need help preparing food and also need side dishes (salad, rolls, vegetable, dessert). The dates Westminster is signed up for are: **December 19 & February 20**. If you can help in any way, please contact Karen at kjstephens24@att.net or Cell: 714-705-3004, Thanks!

An Advent Devotional for You *Rise Up Shepherd: Advent Reflections on the Spirituals* By Luke A Powery \$12 African American spirituals give us profound insights into the human condition and the Christian life. Dr. Powery, who is Dean of Duke Divinity Chapel and Professor of Homiletics at Duke Divinity School, leads the reader each day through the spirituals as they confront the mystery of incarnation and redemption throughout the season of Advent. This is a follow up to the popular Lenten devotional that we used last Spring, also written by Dr. Powery.

Each daily reflection includes scripture readings, a focus on one of the spirituals, and a closing prayer, and is an ideal companion through this special season of the church year. The first day of Advent is Sunday, November 28. Books are \$12 and are available in the church office. *Rise Up Shepherd* is also available on Kindle and can be purchased through Amazon.



Coffee Help Needed

We are fortunate to be able to have Coffee Fellowship after the worship on Sundays, but to continue, we really need some help. Plus, what better way is there to reconnect with your fellow church friends than over a cup of coffee or hot tea? Please consider being a coffee helper. It's easy! We have directions and will train you. You can even set up the coffee before Sunday. The sign up is on the coat-rack table in the narthex. **We need immediate help for December** and hope to put a rotating schedule out after that. Many hands make light work! If you have questions, please call Kathy Key at 608-640-0134.

Dessert and Auction, Saturday, December 11

Join us for fellowship, fun and some early Christmas shopping at the PWW Dessert and Christmas Auction, Saturday, December 11 from 1pm - 3pm in the narthex. We will be following the church's Covid protocols. If you would like to donate to the auction, please bring a new item that you have created, cooked or wish to donate to the auction. Proceeds benefit local community agencies and our Westminster PWW mission work. Thank you! For questions contact Judy Graham: jcracker@charter.net



Thanksgiving Blessings!

Thank you to everyone who donations to our annual Allied Thanksgiving Food Drive. It was a huge success! Also thank you to the confirmands for their help and Kathy and Chuck Kamp for delivering it all!



Westminster Stewardship Update

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, I can report that Westminster Presbyterian Church is weathering a difficult year in good financial health. For this, we thank our faithful congregants and our capable staff. We began 2021 with a budget that pared expenses, anticipated the end of income from Medina School, and held staff raises to 1%. Initial pledges fell short of the planned budget, but the people of Westminster stepped forward with supplemental pledges and other contributions to close that gap. Their beneficence, together with further cost savings by staff, should enable the Church to finish the year with a modest surplus while also having sustained our mission activities, added livestreaming technology, and addressed pressing building maintenance needs.

We approach 2022 with a priority on staff compensation, adding mission grants, and enriching the music program. As prices increase, our staff must not suffer. We are taking additional steps to contain other costs, but we aren't immune from economy-wide price inflation. We have prayerfully asked the congregation to increase pledged income by an average of 4.7%. The responses are encouraging but there is still a gap to close. It will be extremely helpful to receive remaining pledges by December 15 after which Session will make final decisions about the 2022 budget.

Yours in Christ,
John Braden
Chair, Stewardship Committee



Please keep the following members and friends in your prayers:

Members & Friends: Kelly McCann, Gloria Stange, Dale Rohde, , Joel Jones, Joyce Schultze, Doug Rouse

Those who would greatly appreciate cards:

Kelly McCann - 50 Whitcomb Circle #2, Madison, WI 53711

Gloria Stange - St. Mary's Care Center 3401 Maple Grove Dr, #315, Madison, WI 53719

October Session Meeting Highlights:

The Session approved the following motions from Pastor Scott and various committees at its October meeting:

Approved a special Session meeting on Nov. 14 at 9:00 AM to receive new members. A recommendation from the Worship Committee to hold two services at 3:00 PM and 7:00 PM on Christmas Eve. The two services will be needed to accommodate the expected larger attendance at services that day due to the reduced capacity of the sanctuary caused by the need for social distancing.

Property Committee's recommendation to spend up to \$21,000 to replace carpeting in the lower level of the hallway above Fellowship Hall including the steps down to Fellowship Hall, the Fellowship Hall stage and stairs leading to the stage, and both back stairways. This work is necessary to meet requirements for the after-school program that is expected to start in 2022.

A job description for a Youth Director position at Westminster Presbyterian forwarded by both Education and Personnel Committees; it is hoped that the person hired for this position will start in January 2022.

In addition, the Session requested a congregational survey to gauge opinion about masking and distancing practices for individuals once after-worship coffee hour is moved indoors due to the colder weather. Pastor Scott and Katie Bencze collected the survey and shared updated results.

COVID Update: Session makes minor changes to building use policy

On Tuesday November 23, the Dane County Public Health Department extended the county-wide indoor mask mandate until January 3, 2022, with one change. For groups of people who are fully vaccinated, masks may be removed. The Session acted to make the following changes to our COVID-related building policy effective immediately:

1. For small groups meeting at the church, if everyone participating has been fully vaccinated, masks may be removed.
2. During service, worship leaders in the chancel area (pulpit, lectern, communion table and musicians), may remove their masks while speaking. Otherwise, masks are still church policy on Sunday mornings.
3. In the sanctuary for worship, the front sections of the sanctuary will have the blue tape removed from every other pew so congregants can sit where they please, mindful of social distancing. The back sections of the sanctuary (between the two entry doors) will continue to be taped, blocking every other pew, for those who wish more distance from others in worship.

Sunday morning coffee fellowship will continue in the fellowship hall downstairs through the winter months. Masks should be worn unless eating or drinking.



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LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH

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NOVEMBER 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

