

February 11, 2015  
Volume 43 - Issue 6

## Worship



**8:45 & 11:00 a.m.**  
**This Sunday,**  
**February 15**

Join us for worship this Sunday, February 15. We welcome visitors as we celebrate "Bring a Friend Sunday." (Rescheduled from February 1 due to weather.) Visitors are encouraged to visit the Welcome Center and receive a gift with visitor packet which includes information about us. Our services will include: Deuteronomy 18:15-20 and Mark 1:21-28 as Scripture readings.

Pastor Scott will preach the first of two sermons about Martin Luther King, Jr.

Music for the 8:45 service will be provided by Westminster Chimes while Celebration Bells will offer music for the 11:00 service.



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# Lent.

a season of spiritual preparation

## Shrove Tuesday

**February 17**

**PANCAKE SUPPER, 5:30-7:00 P.M.**

Join us for our traditional Shrove Tuesday pancake supper as we prepare for the beginning of Lent. A suggested donation will be requested to cover the cost of the meal.

## Ash Wednesday

**February 18**

**POTLUCK DINNER AT 5:45 P.M.**

The church family will gather in Westminster Hall to share a simple "potluck" meal before worship. Watch the Windows of Opportunity form in the worship bulletin to sign up to bring soup, salad, bread or cookies. Our regular Wednesday night classes will not be held.

**WORSHIP AT 7:00 P.M.**

Our Ash Wednesday service will mark the day our joy is taken away as we enter a season of quiet introspection. Join us for worship that includes Communion, the Imposition of Ashes and music by our combined choirs. Childcare will be provided for infants and toddlers.

## Week Two of "Discover Westminster" Class

The class is designed so visitors learn more about our church and all of its programs. Last week's class was a "meet and greet" with visitors, pastors and Matt Culp. This week's class will include information about our various programs in our church including music, fine arts, Christian education, outreach and more! If you missed week one, feel free to jump on in to week two!



## Cranes Flock to Westminster!

Pictured below and to the left is a new air conditioning condenser being hoisted into position on the west side of the building on Thursday, January 22. Last year, one of our eight air conditioning condensers failed and then froze during the brutal month of January 2014. It will take about two weeks for the contractor to make the necessary repairs. Final testing will begin when the weather becomes warm enough to turn on the air conditioning system. The \$35,000 repair cost will be handled mostly by the insurance we carry for the breakdown of major mechanical equipment.

Last Thursday, another crane, pictured below and to the right, hoisted roofing materials up to the Educational Wing roof. The old roofing material on the Educational Wing is being removed and a new waterproofing membrane is being installed. The old roofing material is over 20 years old has been patched more than 44 times. As of today, the repairs are about forty percent completed but snow has temporarily stopped the re-roof progress. When the new roofing material is installed, some of the water-damaged areas inside the building will be repaired.



## Items Needed for Cottage Grove Mission Center

At the Cottage Grove Presbyterian Church building, the transformation from church to mission center continues! To further the process, the Presbytery's Cottage Grove Covenant Council is looking for donations (new or gently used) of the following items:

- Washing machine
- Rolling tool box
- Tools
- Floor buffer
- Energy-efficient window air-conditioning units
- Metal or wire shelving units
- Carpet
- Vacuum
- Portable pulpit

If you have any of these items to donate, please contact Louise Gately at [cggmlg@aol.com](mailto:cggmlg@aol.com) or 515-229-8757. Questions? Contact Jim Holcomb, [jholcomb1@q.com](mailto:jholcomb1@q.com), or Jan Davison, [janpolk@msn.com](mailto:janpolk@msn.com). Thank you!

### Communion

Communion this month will be held during the Ash Wednesday service.

### WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

4114 Allison Avenue • Des Moines, Iowa 50310-3398  
515-274-1534 • fax 515-274-1537 • [www.westpres.org](http://www.westpres.org)



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### PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Dr. Scott Paczkowski, Senior Pastor/Head of Staff - [scott@westpres.org](mailto:scott@westpres.org)

Rev. Dr. Kenneth E. Arentson, Executive Associate Pastor - [karentson@westpres.org](mailto:karentson@westpres.org)

### MISSION STATEMENT

Westminster is a welcoming Christian family, joined in discipleship to pray, learn and serve.

### INCLUSIVITY STATEMENT

We welcome all persons as participants in our congregation, regardless of age, race, gender, marital status, physical condition, gender identity, sexual orientation, ethnic background, economic status, or any other human condition.

# THE MOUNTAINTOP

BY KATORI HALL



## All Things Considered

This Sunday, February 15, we will welcome a panel of distinguished guests, who will speak about the circumstances and experiences of the civil rights movement while Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was alive and the following years of desegregation. This panel discussion will be moderated by Kay Henderson and will feature H. Milton Cole-Duval, an Episcopal priest at St. Timothy's in West Des Moines, who is also a member of the WDM School Board; Des Moines NAACP past President and National Rep. Linda Carter-Lewis; Cowles Montessori Principal Udell Cason; Patrick Hall, who was a student in the Des Moines School District when the district was going through desegregation. Also on the panel will be Westminster member, Carrie Hall, who was involved with the Desegregation Steering Committee and also involved with racial justice on a national level.

On Sunday, February 22, a different panel will speak to the circumstances that exist today and how Dr. King's legacy continues to influence our country, in terms of racial and social justice. Join us on February 22, as we welcome Iowa House Representative Ako Abdul-Samad, and a number of other guests who are actively involved in racial and social justice issues in the Des Moines area. Details on additional speakers will be forth coming in next week's newsletter.

FEBRUARY 13 - 14 AT 7:00 P.M. • FEBRUARY 15 AT 3:00 P.M.  
 FEBRUARY 20 - 21 AT 7:00 P.M. • FEBRUARY 22 AT 3:00 P.M.

WESTMINSTER CHAPEL • 4114 ALLISON AVE, DES MOINES IA

a co-production of Westminster Fine Arts and Integral Artists Theatre



SUPPORTED BY THE IOWA ARTS COUNCIL  
 IOWA ARTS COUNCIL  
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

TICKETS ARE FREE • RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED,

PLEASE CALL 515-274-1534 OR EMAIL [FINEARTSSERIES@WESTPRES.ORG](mailto:fineartsseries@westpres.org)

CONTAINS BRIEF STRONG ADULT LANGUAGE. PARENTAL GUIDANCE ADVISED.

FREE CHILDCARE AVAILABLE



Our talented cast: Aaron Smith and Tiffany Johnson portray Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Camae, the maid who comes to his door.

"The Mountaintop" is a free event but seating is limited. You can reserve a place by calling the office at 515-274-1534 or email [fineartsseries@westpres.org](mailto:fineartsseries@westpres.org). **Seats will be held until five minutes before the show starts**, after that they are made available to whomever is waiting for an open seat.

**"The Mountaintop" contains brief strong adult language. Parental discretion advised.**

## Staff Reflection...

by Kellie Johnson, Director of Christian Education

### They Get It...They Really Get It!

A leader in early childhood education once told me there is no point in trying to teach young children about God because they lack the comprehension skills to understand. I suppose it's obvious that I strongly disagree, considering my role as Director of Christian Education. Are young children capable of comprehending complex theological concepts? No, but are they capable of understanding and knowing that God loves them, knows them and hears them when they're praying? Without a doubt! I often hear from parents who share things that their children have said about their faith. Things they've learned at church. Yes, they actually think about God and have an active relationship with Jesus even after they leave church.

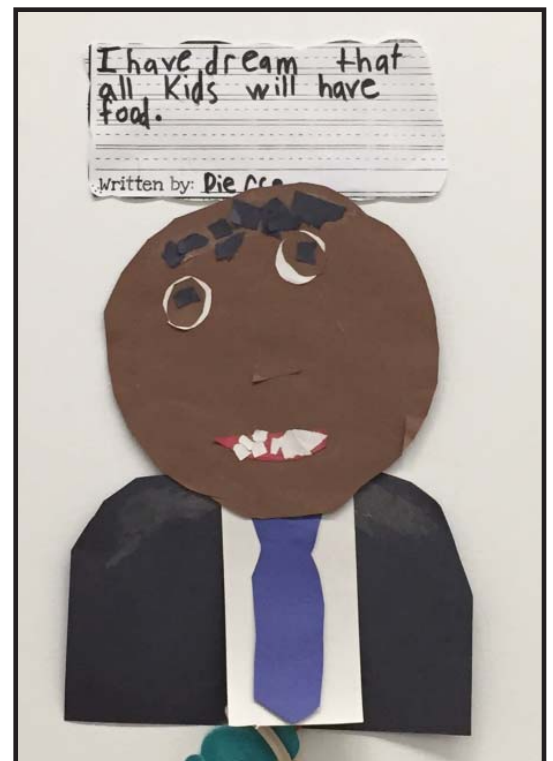
I'd like to share a few examples. On Wednesday nights, the children have spent significant time discovering ways to care for others. They learned how they can care for the elderly, for those experiencing homelessness and hunger, and for one another. They have had several opportunities to make a difference in the lives of those experiencing hunger, including their involvement in Backpack Buddies. Backpack Buddies is an important program at Westminster that provides nutritious food for elementary school children who do not have regular access to food when school is not in session. This is a valuable opportunity for our kids to help other kids right here in our own community. When our kids fill bags, they know they're really filling hungry tummies. We recently filled 700 bags in one Wednesday evening! The kids were so excited, because they understood that was 700 hungry tummies that would be fed because of their hard work!

I recently received an email from a parent of one of those children. Attached to the email was this picture, which was created at school for a Martin Luther King, Jr. lesson. This is the picture that my friend, Pierce, made. It says "I have (a) dream that all kids will have food." This drawing was done shortly after the evening filling Backpack Buddies. I'd say Pierce gets it!

Just last week, I walked into the four-year-old preschool classroom. I have lots of friends in that classroom, because many of them attend the optional Preschool KidPOWER that is offered every Tuesday. Several of the children were building a structure out of wooden blocks. I asked what they were building and they informed me that it was a structure where their sea creatures could pray to Jesus! Wow, Jesus has become part of their play time. How cool is that?! I'd say those preschoolers get it!

I have so many more examples, but not much space, so I'll close with one final example. During KidPOWER, several weeks ago, we were talking about prayer. We talked about how God answers our prayers, and how sometimes it's not exactly the way we intended God to answer them. It's important for us to "pray without ceasing" and then trust that God hears our prayers and answers them in ways that we don't always understand. Alice shared about her grandfather who had been very ill over a year ago. She prayed that he wouldn't die. She shared with us that although he did pass away, she knows that God DID answer her prayers. You see, her grandmother was moved to write a book about him. Alice shared that she learned things about her grandfather after he died that she never knew when he was living. She credits God for inspiring her grandmother to write the book, which provided Alice a way of being able to keep her grandfather close to her heart forever. Alice definitely gets it!

I find it so gratifying to hear and witness these examples of children living their faith. As Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14.



## Next Book Club Choice

You are invited to join the Westminster Book Club in March for discussion of the book "Call the Midwife" by Jennifer Worth. In this unforgettable memoir, 22-year old Jennifer leaves her comfortable home to move into a convent and become a midwife in postwar London's East End slums. The vast array of colorful characters she meets while delivering babies illuminates a fascinating time in history. Beautifully written, this book will touch the heart of anyone who is -- or who has -- a mother.

The Book Club will discuss "Call the Midwife" on Wednesday, March 4, at 6:30 p.m. in Simmerman Lounge. All readers are welcome. Books from the public library's book discussion set are available for check-out in the church office, or you may borrow, download or purchase the book on your own.

The Book Club meets during Westminster 242 on the first Wednesday of each month. Everyone is invited to come early (5:30 p.m.) to enjoy dinner in Westminster Hall prior to the Book Club meeting. The cost of the meal is just \$5/person.

## Helpers Needed

The week of February 15-22, Westminster will provide overnight hosting of homeless families from Family Promise. Your help is needed! The hosting team is looking for donations of a variety of needed items. Volunteers are also needed to help host by preparing food, serving dinner, providing hospitality in the evening, and spending the night at the church. Stop by the table in The Commons on Sunday and sign up to help host or provide needed items.

## PERSONAL NOTES

### Sympathies to...

- The family of **LuRae Fischer** who passed away on January 28, 2015. Visitation will be Thursday, February 12, from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. at McLaren's Funeral Home. The service will be Friday to 10:30 a.m. at the funeral home.
- The family of **Robert E. Tackenberg** died on February 1, 2015. A private family service will be held on Thursday, February 5. Military honors were given after the service.
- The family of **Anita Simmerman**, spouse of **Floyd Simmerman**, who passed away January 23. Per her wishes, there will not be a service.
- The family of **Audrey Korte** who passed away last week. Services will be at Westminster on Saturday, February 14, at 2:00 p.m.



## SMALL GROUP NEWS

*A Place to Belong*



**Afternoon Bridge** will meet Friday, February 27, at 1:00 p.m. in Simmerman Lounge. For reservations call Jan Fletcher, 727-5944.



**The GLSA Group** has moved its meeting time to 10:00 a.m. on the second Sunday of each month in Simmerman Lounge. We hope this new schedule will make it easier for new members to get involved! Are you interested in promoting inclusivity at Westminster? Our next meeting will be held Sunday, March 8. Please join us!



**Men's Basketball** meets every Monday at 6:30 p.m. in The Commons. For details, call Mark Morris, 707-6789.



**Men's Group** meets every Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. during Westminster 242, in the Seminary Center. The group also meets the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 a.m. for breakfast at the Waveland Cafe. For more information, contact Pastor Ken at [karentson@westpres.org](mailto:karentson@westpres.org), or 274-1534.



## Share your pictures with us!

If you have pictures that you took at a Westminster event please send them to Laura Sherlock at [LSherlock@westpres.org](mailto:LSherlock@westpres.org) or bring them to the office. Your photos may be in an upcoming newsletter, on our Westminster Facebook page or on our new website's gallery. The more pictures the better!



## NEXT WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

### Sunday, February 15

- Monster Cookies Sold in The Commons Today  
8:15 am Coffee/Fellowship - The Commons  
**8:45 am Worship - Sanctuary**  
10:00 am Confirmation Class - Classroom 321  
10:00 am Discover Westminster - Seminary Center  
10:00 am 242-Sunday - Most Classrooms  
10:00 am 242-Sunday-All Things Considered -  
Westminster Hall  
**11:00 am Worship - Sanctuary**  
12:00 pm Coffee/Fellowship - The Commons  
12:00 pm CE Teachers Luncheon - Seminary Center  
3:00 pm FAS: "The Mountaintop" Performance - Chapel  
5:00 pm Family Promise-Meal - Simmerman Lounge,  
Simmerman Lounge Kitchen  
5:00 pm Family Promise Guests-Overnight - Rooms 303-305

### Monday, February 16

- overnight Family Promise Guests - Rooms 303-305  
11:30 am Church Women United Board - Seminary Center  
11:30 am Preschool-Mrs. B's Music - Classroom 302  
12:00 pm Preschool-Creative Drama - Classroom 201  
1:15 pm Preschool-Creative Drama - Classroom 302  
5:00 pm Family Promise Meal - Simmerman Lounge & Kitchen  
5:00 pm Family Promise Guests-Overnight - Rooms 303-305  
5:45 pm CE Unit Meeting - Multipurpose Room  
6:30 pm DM Diversity Chorus - Music Room  
6:30 pm Session - Seminary Center  
6:30 pm Men's Basketball Small Group - The Commons

### Tuesday, February 17 - Shrove Tuesday

- overnight Family Promise Guests - Rooms 303-305  
8:55 am Preschool-Spanish - The Commons  
10:00 am Newsletter Volunteers - The Commons  
11:30 am Preschool-KidPOWER - The Commons  
12:30 pm Preschool-Spanish - The Commons  
11:30 am Preschool-KidPOWER - The Commons  
2:00 pm Staff Meeting - Seminary Center  
5:00 pm Family Promise Meal - Simmerman Lounge & Kitchen  
5:00 pm Family Promise Guests-Overnight - Rooms 303-305  
5:30 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancakes - Westminster Hall,  
6:00 pm Backpack Buddies - Map Room

### Wednesday, February 18 - Ash Wednesday

- overnight Family Promise Guests - Rooms 303-305  
11:30 am Preschool-Science - Rooms 302  
11:30 am Preschool-Jumpbunch - The Commons  
12:00 pm Preschool-Jumpbunch - The Commons  
1:15 pm Preschool-Science - Rooms 302  
5:00 pm Building and Grounds - Seminary Center  
5:00 pm Family Promise Meal - Simmerman Lounge & Kitchen  
5:00 pm Family Promise Guests-Overnight - Rooms 303-305  
5:45 pm Ash Wednesday Soup Potluck - Westminster Hall  
7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship - Seminary Center

### Thursday, February 19

- overnight Family Promise Guests - Rooms 303-305  
8:45 am Golden K Kiwanis - Westminster Hall  
8:55 am Preschool-Spanish - The Commons  
11:30 am Preschool-Mrs. B's Music - Classroom 302  
11:30 am Preschool-Jumpbunch - The Commons  
12:00 pm Preschool-Jumpbunch - The Commons  
12:30 pm Preschool-Spanish - The Commons  
1:15 pm Preschool-Mrs. B's Music - Classroom 302  
1:45 pm Preschool-Jumpbunch - The Commons  
5:00 pm Family Promise Meal - Simmerman Lounge & Kitchen  
5:00 pm Family Promise Guests-Overnight - Rooms 303-305  
5:15 pm Tai Chi Class-Beginning - The Commons  
5:45 pm Westminster Chimes - Bell Room  
6:30 pm Tai Chi Class-Chi Gong - The Commons  
7:00 pm FAS: "The Mountaintop" Rehearsal - Chapel  
7:00 pm Tai Chi Class-Intermediate - The Commons  
7:00 pm Westminster Chorale - Music Room

### Friday, February 20

- overnight Family Promise Guests - Rooms 303-305  
11:30 am Preschool-Happy Feet - The Commons  
5:00 pm Family Promise Meal - Simmerman Lounge & Kitchen  
5:00 pm Family Promise Guests-Overnight - Rooms 303-305  
5:00 pm Preschool Fun Night & Registration -  
Begins in Westminster Hall  
7:00 pm FAS: "The Mountaintop" Performance - Chapel

### Saturday, February 21

- overnight Family Promise Guests - Rooms 303-305  
11:00 am Korean Cultural Center - Westminster Hall, Kitchen  
5:00 pm Family Promise Meal - Simmerman Lounge & Kitchen  
5:00 pm Family Promise Guests-Overnight - Rooms 303-305  
7:00 pm FAS: "The Mountaintop" Performance - Chapel

### Sunday, February 22

- overnight Family Promise Guests - Rooms 303-305  
8:15 am Coffee/Fellowship - The Commons  
**8:45 am Worship - Sanctuary**  
10:00 am Confirmation Class - Classroom 321  
10:00 am 242-Sunday - Most Classrooms  
10:00 am 242-Sunday-All Things Considered - Westminster Hall  
10:00 am GLSA Small Group - Seminary Center  
**11:00 am Worship - Sanctuary**  
12:00 pm Coffee/Fellowship - The Commons  
12:00 pm Preparing Shelter Meal - Kitchen  
3:00 pm FAS: "The Mountaintop" Performance - Chapel

*To schedule a meeting or event, please contact Joan in the church office, 274-1534 or [jmahaffey@westpres.org](mailto:jmahaffey@westpres.org).*

## In our Library....

In February, our library display highlights the “Chicken Soup” books. We have 19 of them including: *Thanks, Mom*; *Thanks, Dad*; *Dog Lovers*, *Teenagers*’ and more! Celebrate your Valentine month by reading one of these books.

## Youth Sunday

From preschooler’s ringing bells to Senior High students telling stories, youth of all ages participated in Youth Leadership Sunday on February 8. Thirteen Senior Highs led a worship experience that explored the Good Samaritan story through the lens of immigration and border issues, inspired by their 2014 Mission Trip. Children in preschool, elementary, and junior high led the music. Many thanks to the young people, parents, and volunteers who made this day possible!



## A Reminder About Westminster’s Cancellation Policy

With winter weather upon us, here is a reminder of Westminster’s cancellation policy:

### SUNDAY MORNING

During severe weather, snowstorms, water failures, power outages, or ice storms, Sunday worship and other Sunday activities may be cancelled. If worship is cancelled, we will notify the local television stations, and we will update the Westminster website ([westpres.org](http://westpres.org)), the telephone answering system and our Facebook pages to reflect this change. If you are not sure call the office and hear the message.

### WEEKDAY EVENTS

Weekday daytime church and community events (including the office and preschool) will be cancelled if the Des Moines Public Schools are cancelled. Please check any of the local TV stations (or their websites) for Des Moines Schools cancellation announcements. If you are not sure call the office and hear the message.

### EVENING EVENTS

Since weather and road conditions may improve significantly by late afternoon, evening meetings may not always be cancelled even if Des Moines schools are closed. Or, if Des Moines Schools are open but weather conditions deteriorate later in the day, evening meetings may be cancelled. Please call the church office, 274-1534, or check the church’s website or Facebook pages regarding the status of evening meetings or activities. If you are not sure call the office and hear the message.

4114 Allison Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50310-3398

Address Service Requested

**Lent begins this week.  
See inside for the  
schedule of events.**

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Activities Include

Sand Art

Experiments

Face Painting

Black Light Fun

Photo Booth

and More!

**Westminster Preschool's Free  
FAMILY FUN NIGHT  
& Registration Kick-off**

Friday, February 20, 2015 • 5:00 to 7:30 pm  
At Westminster Preschool

Dinner will be available for purchase.

Registration forms for our 2015-2016 school year  
will be available.

Westminster Members may register now.

Call us at 274-1534.

