

WESTMINSTER EXPRES...

February 18, 2015
Volume 43 - Issue 7

Worship



8:45 & 11:00 a.m.
This Sunday,
February 22

Join us for worship this Sunday, February 22 as we celebrate the first Sunday in Lent. Pastor Scott will preach the second of two sermons about the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Music for the both services will be provided by Central College Chamber Choir.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR FEBRUARY 22

Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25 1-10;
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1: 9-15



CORNER OF BEAVER & FRANKLIN IN DES MOINES • 515-274-1534 • www.westpres.org



FEBRUARY 20 - 21 AT 7:00 P.M. • FEBRUARY 22 AT 3:00 P.M.
WESTMINSTER CHAPEL

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

ONLY THREE SHOWS LEFT!

“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. **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.

All Things Considered

This Fine Arts production of “The Mountaintop” has us focusing our attention on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his legacy, in our adult education “All Things Considered” class. Throughout the month of February, we are welcoming speakers to discuss civil rights from an historical perspective, as well as circumstances that exist today.

The class meets in Westminster Hall at 10:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come and hear from our distinguished speakers.

Join us on Sunday, February 22, as we welcome a panel of speakers who will discuss how Dr. King’s legacy influences today’s actions and debates. Speakers include Ako Abdul-Samad, Teree Caldwell Johnson, Mary Chapman, Kaija Carter and Izaah Knox.

Dr. Sentwali Bakari was scheduled to speak on February 1, but had a weather cancellation. We are pleased to announce he has agreed to reschedule for March 8, please join us for that class. Dr. Bakari is Dean of Students at Drake University and has presented at state, regional and national conferences on topics including Dr. King’s legacy and social tribute.

100 % Rating for Preschool

As you all may or may not know, Westminster Preschool is a licensed preschool for the state of Iowa. Our license is good for two years. During this time frame, we are on an every other year rotation with our licensing visits. The "off year" visit is the year that our licensing consultant comes and checks in, but the visit is not in-depth. This year was an "on year" which means we had a full visit. A full visit includes the consultant completing classroom observations, file reviews, and safety reviews. We had an outstanding visit and passed our licensing check with 100% accuracy. We are so grateful for the amazing teachers that do a fabulous job both teaching the children, and following all of the regulations set for them.

100%



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 or 515-229-8757. Questions? Contact Jim Holcomb, jholcomb1@q.com, or Jan Davison, janpolk@msn.com. Thank you!



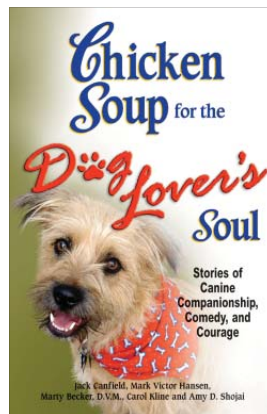
In Need of Prayer?

Westminster Prayer Chain members pray daily for urgent concerns of the church. To request prayer, contact Begie Hefner, 223-4970, or Sherryl McAvoy, 993-3977 or e-mail heartworks@webmcavoy.com.

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 month by reading one of these books.

Volunteers are needed to help with the Westminster Library. Please contact the church office at 274-1534 if you are interested.



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WestPres



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PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Dr. Scott Paczkowski, Senior Pastor/Head of Staff - scott@westpres.org

Rev. Dr. Kenneth E. Arentson, Executive Associate Pastor - 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.

A Message from Pastor Scott...**A Fishy Reason for Communion**

From the start of my ministry I have encouraged parents to allow their children to take Communion from a very early age. For Presbyterians, Confirmation is not emphasized as the young person's "first Communion." For Presbyterians, Confirmation is the time where the young person is given full admittance into the life of the church. It is religious adulthood. When a person is confirmed, that person is given all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of any adult. A confirmed member of the church can vote at a congregational meeting, and is able to hold office as an ordained Elder or Deacon, whether 13 or 103 years old.

Confirmation is "first Communion" for those who believe that the Sacrament must be understood in order to be received. I have a number of problems with this expectation. Can any of us truly understand the depth of a sacrament? With this expectation, what do you do with people with developmental issues, who are not capable of understanding or articulating a complex argument for the sacrament? etc.

What I often say, when introducing Communion, is something like, "All who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are encouraged to participate." This week I had my belief in small children taking Communion reaffirmed. It happened as I met with over thirty three and four year olds in our church's preschool optional "KidPOWER" time.

In one of the Preschool classrooms, a beloved fish was found dead. The children saw the fish before the teachers could clean up, which was understandably sad. Kellie and I discussed the issue and I decided to perform a funeral for the fish, with the help of the children.

We gathered the KidPOWER children in the Sanctuary. We shared our love and affection for the fish. We talked about God creating fish and other animals. We gave other examples of death, both animal and human, they have experienced in their short lives. These three- and four-year-olds showed great wisdom and compassion for their understanding of death and eternal life. We also prayed together and each one of the thirty-some children were respectful and supportive as we communed together.

I witnessed yet again that a "child-like" faith is not a childish faith. They clearly and faithfully articulated their trust in God's ability to bring eternal life to all God's creatures. If all adults could affirm with such faith the same deep trust in God's promise of eternal life, our churches would be much stronger.

If faith, trust, and understanding were requirements for taking Communion, there would be a number of adults I would have to question. But, every one of the three- and four-year-olds I met in the Preschool KidPOWER would get the "Pastor Scott Seal of Approval." Saying the right words isn't nearly as important or blessed as trusting deeply in the Lord our God.

Each one of us adults needs to get down on our knees this Lenten season and pray, "God give me the deep, trusting faith of a three-year-old." Heaven isn't a concept, it is a reality as tangible as the little chairs the children sit in. They left the Sanctuary comforted and happy. We talked about the death of the fish, their dog, cat and hamster. We also talked about the death of their grandparent and other loved ones. These little ones understand loss and pain. Yet, they also understand trust in God and God's promise of salvation. How blessed we are to have their example! Perhaps, they know even more about the symbolic act of Communion than we do.

Our Preschool is such a blessing. The children are learning so much. And when parents let their children attend the optional "KidPOWER" for faith instruction, they learn so much. What their teacher, Kellie Johnson, and I can now attest to is that we have much to learn from them as well!

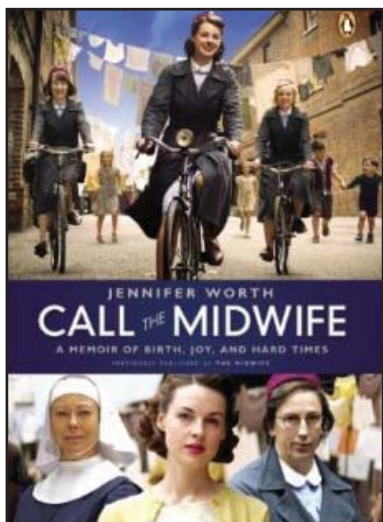
Join the Book Club!

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.



PERSONAL NOTES

Hospitalized or in Health Care Centers...

- **Katheryne Stout** - Calvin Healthcare
- **Gerry Rickert** - Calvin Healthcare
- **Bonnie Malheiro** - Bright Kavanagh House
- **Willie Glanton** - Luther Park Trinity Center
- **Nancy Shanks** - Wesley Acres

Thank you to...

- A very big "thank you" to everyone who assisted in Boyd Nordmark's funeral service. Pastor Ken gave a wonderful tribute to Boyd's life. Westminster was very important to Boyd and he was proud to have been a member since 1966. Also, thank you to everyone who sent cards, brought food, telephoned, or attended the service. It meant so much to Boyd's family.

Shirley Nordmark and Family

- A BIG thanks from the Westminster Senior Highs to everyone who made Youth Leadership Sunday a success! Thanks to the children's vocal and bell choirs for the wonderful music. Thank you to the adults who made breakfast between services: Sam Carrell, Christine & Mark Hollister, and Megan Reinders. Thanks to the office staff and volunteers for the bulletin preparation. And finally, thank you to the congregation for supporting its young people and raising up the next generation of leaders!

- Michelle Parsons

SMALL GROUP NEWS

A Place to Belong



Restaurant Group III will meet February 21 at 5:30 p.m. at Maxi's at 1311 Grand Ave in West Des Moines. Call Bob or Marilyn Kremers for reservations.



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, or 274-1534.

NEXT WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Sunday, February 22

- overnight Family Promise Guests - Rooms 303-305
8:15 am Coffee/Fellowship - The Commons
8:20 am Session Meeting to Receive New Members -
Seminary Center
- 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
- 11:00 am Worship - Sanctuary**
11:00 am KidPOWER Children's Worship - Begins in the
Sanctuary and moves to the Chapel
12:00 pm Coffee/Fellowship - The Commons
12:00 pm Choir Preparing Shelter Meal - Kitchen
3:00 pm FAS: "The Mountaintop" Performance - Chapel

Monday, February 23

- 8:30 am Staff BYO Breakfast & Prayer Time -
Simmerman Lounge
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
6:30 pm DM Diversity Chorus - Music Room
6:30 pm Men's Basketball Small Group - The Commons

Tuesday, February 24

- 8:55 am Preschool-Spanish - Classroom 303
10:00 am Newsletter Volunteers - The Commons
11:30 am Preschool-KidPOWER - Begins in The Commons and
moves to the Chapel
12:30 pm Preschool-Spanish - Classroom 303
1:15 pm Preschool-KidPOWER - Begins in The Commons and
moves to the Chapel
2:00 pm Staff Meeting - Seminary Center
5:45 pm Fine Arts Committee - Multipurpose Room
6:45 pm Eve Circle - Seminary Center
7:00 pm Worship, Music & Arts Unit - Multipurpose Room

Wednesday, February 25

- 11:30 am Preschool-Science - Classroom 303
11:30 am Preschool-Jumpbunch - The Commons
12:00 pm Preschool-Jumpbunch - The Commons
1:15 pm Preschool-Science - Classroom 303
5:30 pm Westminster 242-Begins with Dinner -
Westminster Hall
6:30 pm Westminster Men's Group - Seminary Center
6:30 pm Westminster 242-Sherryl McAvoy's Bible Study -
Hope Alcove
6:30 pm Westminster 242-Pastor Scott's Study Group -
Multipurpose Room
7:00 pm Celebration Bells - Bell Room

Thursday, February 26

- 8:45 am Golden K Kiwanis - Westminster Hall
8:55 am Preschool-Spanish - Classroom 303
10:10 am Golden K Kiwanis-Board - Multipurpose Room
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 - Classroom 303
1:00 pm Stitchin' Time - Hope Alcove
1:15 pm Preschool-Mrs. B's Music - Classroom 302
1:45 pm Preschool-Jumpbunch - The Commons
5:00 pm Technology Task Force - Seminary Center
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 Tai Chi Class-Intermediate - The Commons
7:00 pm Westminster Chorale - Music Room

Friday, February 27

- 11:30 am Preschool-Happy Feet - Classroom 303
1:00 pm Afternoon Bridge Small Group - Simmerman Lounge

Saturday, February 28

No Meetings or Events Currently Scheduled.

Sunday, March 1

- 7:45 am Communion Set-Up (8:45) -
Simmerman Lounge Kitchen
8:15 am Communion Servers (8:45) - Sanctuary
8:15 am Coffee/Fellowship - The Commons
8:45 am Worship with Holy Communion - Sanctuary
9:45 am Annual Meeting - Sanctuary
10:00 am Confirmation Class - Classroom 321
10:00 am 242-Sunday - Most Classrooms
10:30 am Communion Servers (11:00) - Chapel
10:30 am Communion Set-Up (11:00) -
Simmerman Lounge Kitchen
11:00 am Worship with Holy Communion - Sanctuary
12:00 pm Coffee/Fellowship - The Commons
12:00 pm Deacons - Seminary Center
3:00 pm FAS: Mark Babcock Lenten Concert - Sanctuary

SAVE THE DATE!

Lenten Organ Recital by Mark Babcock

Sunday March 1 at 3:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary, join us for an eclectic mix of organ music that spans the centuries. Westminster's own Mark Babcock will bring our magnificent sanctuary organ to life with the music of Bach, Mendelssohn, Widor and original hymn tune improvisations created by Mark from audience suggestions!

To schedule a meeting or event, please contact Joan in the church office, 274-1534 or jmahaffey@westpres.org.

4114 Allison Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50310-3398

Address Service Requested

**Don't miss "The Mountain Top"
Only 3 performances left!
February 20,21 and 22**

Cross Ministries Trivia Night

Enjoy a fun night with friends and support a vital neighborhood ministry! The first CROSS Ministries Trivia Night Silent Auction will be held Saturday, April 18, 2015, 7:00 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.), in Westminster Hall. Bring your team of 8 (\$75), or come as an individual (\$10). Along with friends, bring your favorite "brain" food and beverages to share at your table (no alcoholic drinks, please). A prize will be awarded for the best snacks!

A silent auction opens for bids at 7:00 p.m. Auction items include: a Fitbit, Amazon Fire TV, and Bose Wireless Music Player. Auction items are still needed! Themed baskets or high value items welcome.

To volunteer or donate items, contact Michelle Parsons, mparsons@westpres.org, 274-1534. Tickets may be ordered in the office or online. Make checks payable to Westminster; "CROSS Trivia" in the memo. Pay by credit card anytime online or in the church office.



Sermons Available Online

Videos of Sunday sermons are now available on-line, on our new website, www.westpres.org. Go to the red bar and click "Worship" and then "Sermon Archive." Each Sunday's sermon should be uploaded by Tuesday afternoon of the following week. Please contact Laura Sherlock, Director of Communications, LSherlock@westpres.org, if you have any questions.

