

Voice of Westminster



January 2025

I always enjoy discovering the origins of things like hymns, traditions, holidays and such. I realized I had never researched the origin of New Years Day, sort of a special day as it is also my birthday. Most of the special days we celebrate are only 100-400 years old. I figured New Years Day would fall into that category. I found myself a bit shocked to find the earliest known record of a New Year festival dates from about 2000 BCE in Mesopotamia, Babylonia, and in Assyria.

With the use of various calendars the day did not fall on January 1 until it was officially declared to be so in 153 BCE Though “official” the date moved around until it was restored to January 1 in 1582, by the Roman Catholic Church.

The practice of making resolutions to rid oneself of bad habits and to adopt better ones also dates to ancient times. Some believe the **Babylonians** began the custom more than 4,000 years ago. A baby was often the symbol of the New Year in various cultures beginning with the Greeks. I sense that our resolutions and hope for second chances from mistakes or poor choices in the old year have similarities to the sentiments of centuries past. My personal experience has been that the wonderful aspirations and good intentions don’t exactly last very long, and the chance to start over at the beginning of the next year seems an eternity away.

I praise God that He is a God of second chances which on some occasions we need multiple ones in a single day. I am so thankful of His patience and love to enable me to wipe away a awful sin, and start anew. Yes, I enjoy New Years Day, but am indebted to the fresh starts made available ongoing. How about you?

May God’s very best be yours in 2025!

Pastor Roger



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Christmas seems to come faster and faster every year. This year it seemed like we verily blinked and we went from Thanksgiving to Christmas.

The special Christmas Gathering planned for the members of Westminster, Beacon of Light and Evangelical Global Pentecost Church was canceled due to an ice storm. Oddly we sit here at the end of December with still no significant snow fall.

The three churches did get to celebrate Christmas Eve together and it was a magnificent night of music, dance and the word of God. We were blessed with the Eastside Quartet being such a big part of the music for our service with a multitude of music selections. There were readers from all three churches that spoke from the Bible about the wonderous gift God gave us at Christmas. We also were blessed with something totally new this year. Diamond and Dynasty Roundtree did a Liturgical dance while their mother Marcy sang "Mary Did You Know." What a beautiful sight that was. We were graced with not one but two choirs. The Westminster Chancel Choir and the Evangelical Global Pentecost Children's Choir. So much beauty in one evening!

Included are several pictures from Christmas Eve.



If you did not get to join in the Christmas Eve Service please visit: You tube and search for Westminster Presbyterian Church Cedar Rapids and you will find the Christmas Eve service there to watch and enjoy!



ENGLISH SECOND LANGUAGE

The ESL class continues to be very busy. Val says she feels they are settled in and progressing nicely. If you would like to see some pictures of the students and the things they are up to check out the bulletin board in the large parlor.



LITTLE BOOK HOUSE

If you have time please check out the book house in the large parlor. The books inside have been donated, and you are encouraged to take a book that interests you, read it and return it to the donation basket. If you have a book at home that you enjoyed and would like to donate, there is a basket outside the church office for those books and books you are returning.

WEATHER CANCELLATIONS

In the event of adverse weather conditions please check KCRG, KGAN and Facebook for information regarding delays or closures of church office hours or Sunday services.



Calendar: Special Events

- Jan. 5** - Guest Pastor (Kevin Cullum) **Jan. 6** - Deacons 5 p.m.
Jan. 13 - Property Meeting 1 p.m.
Mission Meets 6:30 p.m.
Jan. 20 - Finance Meets 4:30 p.m.
Jan. 21 - Session Meets 6:30 p.m.

Pastor Roger on vacation till Jan. 6



This Month's Birthdays

Access the updated WPC calendar at
crwpc.org/calendar

Calendar: Regular Events

Sundays

Breakfast 8 a.m. - Old Dining Room
Worship 10 a.m. - Sanctuary
Beacon of Light 11:30 a.m. - Chapel
Beacon of Light Community Dinner every other
Sunday starting on 4/7
EGPC-1:30 p.m. - Old Dining
Chorale Midwest 5 p.m. - Lg. Parlor

Mondays

Bridge 11 a.m.-4 p.m. - FLC
Marion Gospel Hall Youth Group 7 p.m.

Tuesdays

L&F Pantry 2:30-5 p.m.
Beacon of Light (100 in 24) 6 p.m.

Wednesdays

Men's Breakfast 7:30 a.m. - Atrium
Prayer Shawl Ministry-1 & 3 Wednesdays
9:30 a.m. - Small Parlor
WPC Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. - Choir Room

Thursdays

Beacon of Light (Youth Group) 6 p.m.

Fridays

Office Closed

Saturdays

Office Closed
EGPC 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. - Old Dining
3 p.m. English as a 2nd Language -
Adult classroom

Ken Ngombwa	January 1
Antoinette M.	January 4
Karol Cooper	January 10
Sherry Cornish	January 10
Signe Henderson	January 11
Leanne Leeper	January 15
Dureti Ali	January 15
Ann Buckheister	January 19
Jack Haney	January 28
Jacqueline Alff	January 28
Tim Winegarden	January 30
Val Neubauer	January 30
Jan Kupka	January 31

Liturgist Schedule for Jan.

January 5 - Pam Richardson
January 12 - Warren Feerer
January 19 - Ben Fashimpaur
January 26 - Jan Walton

Greeters

1st Sunday - Jim Fine
2nd Sunday - Terry Perkins
3rd Sunday - Brian Read
4th & 5th Sunday - Kupka's or Neubauers

**Greeters please be in foyer between 9:30
- 9:45 a.m.**



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