

Voice of Westminster



September 2024 Fall Kickoff?

Many, if not most of those currently attending WPC or remain supporters of its ministry (even if they are no longer able to attend) remember huge fall celebrations to kick off another season of Sunday School, mid-week programs and other ministries that largely followed the school year calendar. We know that for a host of reasons spiritual life in America has radically changed, and this is not where we and a large% of churches in the US are at in the current season of life as a congregation.

Perhaps the greatest lament is the lack of children and youth. We are blessed with the three youth who are still actively involved in worship at WPC, but obviously miss the sounds of babies and toddlers in the nursery, and the pitter-patter of small feet down the hallways. *This, however, does not mean that WPC is not impacting young lives for the Kingdom of God. Consider the following eleven areas:*

1. This summer, we were able to sponsor five children from Wellington Heights Community Church to go to Bear Creek Camp (formerly Camp Wyoming). Many experienced a church camp for the very first time. This congregation is large made up of those who are in the lower income brackets. Here are a couple of notes we received:

*“Pastor Roger and Westminster Congregation,
Thank you for sending me to Camp Bear Creek! My favorite part of camp was color wars. The food was amazing and it was one of the best weeks EVER! I am very excited to go back for summers to come! Thank you again for your generosity! Love, Hyndrix”*

*“Pastor Roger and Westminster Congregation,
I just wanted to start off by saying thank you! I had so much fun learning more about God, and getting to know staff and friends. I really liked the food. I just wanted to say again thank you and I am so grateful to be given the chance.*

Love, Kaiteyah

*From a parent: “Thank you for giving my children the opportunity to experience camp!
Love, Ashley”*

2. At Loaves and Fishes, we impact each week some 385 family members, providing essential nourishment to people and other supplies to our surrounding neighborhoods.

3. This summer we, through the Grillin’ Wednesdays, were able to interact with many individuals, including children/youth, and showed them that they matter to us.

4. We were also able to help youth prepare for School in partnering with Beacon of Life (BOL) with the Back-to-School Giveaway.

5. We are into our second month of hosting a youth group (essentially a Bible Hour as this model does not include kids running around playing games). Each Monday evening from 7-8pm around 5-6 adults from Gospel Hall Church in Marion share the gospel in creative ways and spend significant time helping kids memorize scripture in our Atrium. **20-30 youth** from the Wellington Heights neighborhood are involved. They have been doing this for nearly 8 years, but the house they were using from the Neighborhood Association ended up being sold, making it necessary to find a new location.

6. On Thursday evenings (yet to begin for this fall), Beacon of Light offers another youth group that largely meets a different segment of the Wellington Heights Neighborhood.

7. By also hosting the Evangelical Global Pentecostal Church (EGPC), we are impacting yet another segment of youth in Cedar Rapids. Because their music ministry has been so effective, other African congregations are asking if they can send their youth to EGPC's music program.

8. While the English as a Second Language (ESL) class was recently started on Saturdays here to help Adults primarily from the EGPC. It has the potential of hugely impacting children/youth as learning English will open opportunities such as working, driving, and feeling more adjusted to a very different culture than they are used to.

9. Right now session is assessing a facility request to use the upper level of our facility to begin a Classic Christian Micro School. (None of us had a clue in the beginning of what this really was). More will come later depending on how this may unfold.

10. On September 15, 2024 we will once again have a balloon launch to celebrate all of these and see whose balloon travels the farthest.

11. This fall on Friday, November 15, 2024, we again are planning to offer a Community Dinner as we did last year, impacting adults and youth from a wide variety of backgrounds.

Pastor Roger



Chalk Talk 2024

Sunday, August 11, Westminster hosted a Chalk Talk/Luncheon for the community. A total of 86 people enjoyed this special service. Pastor Roger did a beautiful drawing of a lost sheep on the mountain side. After the drawing Pastor then explained how it represents Luke 15 about a shepherd finding his one lost sheep and how he rejoices, this is how God rejoices the same way every time one of his children who have turned their back on him or sinned against him repents and comes back home.

Pastor Roundtree opened the event with a prayer. Followed by the EGPC Children's Choir, under the direction of Fidel Taylor, performed delightful music in both their language and English. During the drawing Marcy Roundtree sang "Shout to the Lord", and David Liljedahl played beautiful background music. Pastor Theo blessed us with a prayer before everyone shared a meal together. The great helpers of Westminster bought, prepared and served brats, hotdogs, baked beans, potato salad and chips. Other members volunteered and made cookies for everyone's enjoyment.

Westminster wants to give a special thank-you to Larry & Karol Cooper for purchasing the food, Tom & Barb Read and Butch Hataway for preparing the food and for all of the other WPC members who helped setup, serve and clean up. We couldn't do these events without all of you!



"Coming soon!"

Have you noticed the beautiful book house in the large parlor? It will soon house Westminster's Lending Library. More information in the next WPC newsletter.



Deacons Picnic

On August 5, Westminster deacons, elders, and their family members met for a picnic at Guthridge Park in Hiawatha. Despite the oppressive heat, about 20 people gathered to enjoy some fellowship along with a potluck meal featuring cheeseburgers and bratwurst.



Kernels Game

August 4 "despite the heat" Westminster, Loves and Fishes and Christ Presbyterian came together for an afternoon at the ballpark. Everyone had a great time even though the Kernels lost to the Great Lakes Loons.



Busy Month at the Minster

August has been full of property projects at WPC. The men's bathroom by the old kitchen has gotten a makeover - new ceiling, patched walls and a paint job. Our garage has gotten a new coat of paint, satisfying city ordinance. Our foyer canopy has been hit a couple of times by trucks passing through our driveway. We finally got an insurance settlement, and the canopy has been repaired. The Property Committee is also in the process of getting bids on signage for the canopy to prevent future damage. Our canopy is 11 ft. while the standard height for trucks is often 13 ft. And finally, installation of our new fence, along the property line between the 4th Ave. parking lot and the house next door, is about to commence. The Property Committee is beginning plans for the next phase of the needed external stonework which we are hoping can begin in spring. - WPC Property Committee



His Hands Shoe Drive is Done

On Friday, August 16, over 21,000 pairs of shoes were taken out of Westminster and loaded onto a semi bound for Miami, Florida by 56 volunteers. This was an amazing sight to see!



Back-to-School Event

On Saturday, August 17, the annual Back-to-school giveaway was hosted by Westminster and Beacon of Light. Sixty eight children were given school supplies to get them started for the year. It's great when we can all come together for the good of the community!

Message from Beacon of Light:B.O.L. would like to thank Westminster for the support during the back to school giveaway. You are our extended family and we love serving our community together with you. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We love and appreciate you all.



Calendar: Special Events

- Sept 1** - Evangelical Global Pentecostal Church Family Conference
Sept. 2 - Deacons 5:00 p.m.
Sept 9 - Property Meeting 1:00 p.m.
 Deacons Meet 5:00 p.m.
 Mission Meeting 6:30 p.m. (zoom)
Sept 16 - Finance Meets 4:30 p.m.
Sept 17 - Session Meets 6:30 p.m.

Access the updated WPC calendar at
crwpc.org/calendar

Calendar: Regular Events

Sundays

- 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



This Month's Birthdays

James Ngombwa	Sept. 5
Kathie Lane	Sept. 6
Becky Ranck	Sept. 6
Jan Kosowski	Sept. 9
Barb Mumford	Sept. 8
Gary Teig	Sept. 14
Bob Moore	Sept. 27
Marilyn Alford	Sept. 29

Liturgist Schedule for Sept.

- September 1 - Barb Mumford
 September 8 - Brian Read
 September 15 - Ann Buckheister
 September 22 - Warren Feerer
 September 29 - Heather Wagner

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.**

About Your Newsletter

The "Voice of Westminster" newsletter is no longer mailed to you but is delivered to your email address. Homebound members will still receive a printed copy as many do not have access to a computer. Printed copies also will be available in the large parlor kiosk.



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