



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



The scent of August,
Bright sunlit skies and nature's warm colors,
The smell of seasons about to change, the hint of new beginnings
knowing something wonderful is around the bend.

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<https://www.facebook.com/Westminster-Presbyterian-Church-Topeka-185475498707>

Email us anytime at wpctopeka@gmail.com, or call
and leave a message at 785-357-0339.

Check out our website at westminstertopeka.com.

"The Chimes" is a monthly publication of Westminster Presbyterian Church. Changes of address, questions or comments should be sent to 1275 SW Boswell Avenue, Topeka, KS 66604.

Dear Westminster Church Family,

Whoooo... it is hot out there. I hope that you are able to stay cool. My post Covid-health is much improved. Thanks for your prayers. I'm feeling a bit more like myself each day.

Your Session had a retreat last weekend to discern our direction for the next twelve months (September 2023 to August 2024). Among the matters discussed was College Hill.

As a matter of orientation and history, WPC was formed to serve the College Hill neighborhood. The neighborhood has changed, to be sure, but our charge remains the same. So, our session has directed us to continue to focus on College Hill. In particular, we need to look for ways to partner with College Hill residents in meeting needs in this community. That means we need to stay in close contact with the College Hill community, participate in what their leaders plan, and consider their plans as we make ours. We will have a representative on the College Hill Neighborhood Association board who reports directly to the session. We will find ways to let the community know that we want them to participate in our ministry efforts. To that end, we are going to create several "come help" lawn signs and promotion pieces. These will be designed to let the community know about our ministry efforts and invite them to participate. Relationships will be advanced and the community will grow in their awareness of what difference WPC makes in the neighborhood. In short, our focus on College Hill is a long term strategy that will continue to morph and adapt as the need arises.

WPC was formed to serve College Hill.

It may not be obvious, so forgive me for pointing it out. By reminding ourselves that WPC was formed to serve College Hill, we are saying that WPC was not formed to serve itself. The word "ecclesia", often translated as "church" always refers to a gathered community of faith, not the building. That does not mean that the our building is not important. It is a place of many important memories. But we are not here to serve ourselves. We must take care of each other, love each other, support each other but never forget that we are here to serve College Hill. The gravitational force of a local congregation is always inward. By this, I mean that since those in the community (who do not attend church) are not present at church gatherings to advocate for their needs, churches often forget the community. So it takes an intentional, purposeful effort to serve the community.

Jesus sent his followers to be his witnesses. They were to start in Jerusalem... where they were located, their immediate neighborhood so to speak (Acts 1:8). College Hill is our Jerusalem. Of course we care about the larger community, regional mission and international efforts for the kingdom of God, but our focus is College Hill. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do in ministry through WPC. Keep up the good work. Your labor is not in vain. Lives are being touched.

In Christ,
K.O. Noonoo

Clerk's Corner

Someone once told me that things slow down at Westminster during the summer, that most committees and councils take a little break while members take vacations, host summer guests or become busier with summertime activities. I look at all that is going on around me, and I wonder when the summer lull happens! I see plenty going on in and around our church: a neighborhood Fourth of July hot dog lunch hosted by Mariners, daily lunches being prepared and served for anyone who wants or needs a meal, members walking the College Hill neighborhood in the interest of making connections, maintaining the beautiful church grounds, attending church services and on and on and on. WPC remains active, involved and committed to Living God's Love even during the "summer break." I say, "Good for us!"

I would like to point out to you a couple of things happening that are not on the church calendar. First, thanks to Charlotte Bates' devotion and hard work, we will soon have a new Church Directory. A lot has changed since the last update more than a year ago. The task is not as easy as it would seem, and we owe Charlotte our appreciation and gratitude for voluntarily taking on this project.

The other thing I want to mention is a change that may have been noticed by those who read posted Session meeting minutes (in the purple binder in the church library). Our past practice has been to post minutes only after Session approval. This typically takes weeks to happen as minutes are not presented to Session for approval until the next stated (regularly scheduled) meeting. In an effort to improve transparency and with a suggestion from Bob Frasier, Stated Clerk at PNKS, drafted Session minutes will now be watermarked as "DRAFT" and posted before Session approval. This will usually occur within a few days after a Session meeting. The drafted minutes will be replaced with approved minutes shortly after they have been approved. Approved minutes will bear no watermark. You will want to remember that if you are reading Session minutes marked "DRAFT" there may be some differences in the final, approved document.

Members may be interested to know that Session met Saturday, July 22, for a planning retreat in the Community Room at Brewster Place. They worked hard to determine WPC's next steps with College Hill involvement, recommendations from the 2020 Holy Cow Report and our church focus for the next 12 months (starting in September). You will undoubtedly be hearing details along these lines in the near future. Until then, stay cool and keep up the good work Living God's Love.

Respectfully yours,
Donna (Your Clerk of Session)



- ❖ Steve and the Skrzypek Family.
- ❖ Baby Brexx, born early and only 3.9 lbs. He is the grandson of Sue and Bob Fackler's friend.
- ❖ Cleo Bradshaw as she is recovering from a stroke.
- ❖ Sarah Lopez who is critically ill and in the hospital.
- ❖ The family of Doug Phenix as they mourn his passing.
- ❖ Seth Svaty, Josh's brother, who is battling aggressive cancer.
- ❖ The family of Alyce Gannaway as they mourn her passing.
- ❖ Westminster Presbyterian Church, that we will grow in our habit of prayer and capacity to be led by the Holy Spirit.

*From the Deacons Desk~
Your deacons are in need of vases!
If you have any that you would like to
donate please bring them to the Kitchenette
or call Caryl at 785-224-9333. Thank you!*



This free event that took place on Sunday July 30th was a great success. Our neighbors and congregation were able to celebrate the joy of Christmas through music while getting the opportunity to bless the College Hill Neighborhood by making donations.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this event possible. If you were not able to attend the Concert, please visit our YouTube channel by searching @WPCTopeka



Coming to Terms with Grief & Mourning

Grief Support Group - Session 2

September 11th to November 13th

Mondays 6:30 - 8:00 pm in the Westminster Library

\$25 book & Journal, Please register at westminstertopeka.com

 Kathy, Carol, & Pat

Grief is a personal journey that can be lonely and may leave one feeling lost. It is often helpful to have others walk along the path with you offering companionship and helping you find understanding and hope for the future.

To that end, Westminster Presbyterian Church is offering a support group for those who have experienced the loss of a loved one. We invite anyone who feels they would like to explore and learn about grief, mourning and how to travel their personal journey of grief to join us. We will provide a safe and comfortable place to share your experiences, and learn more about grief through reading, discussion, and personal journaling.

We are planning a ten-week series meeting September 11th through November 13, 6:30 - 8:00 pm in the Westminster Library. There will be a book and journal to help guide and focus our discussions. There is no cost for the group, but participants are asked to purchase the materials available through the Church office for \$25.00. Books will be distributed at the first meeting.

For further information please contact Kathy England (785-215-3360), Carol Bragdon (785-633-0537), Pat McNeive (406-558-9183), or call the Church office and ask to have one of the facilitators reach out to you. Participation will be limited to 8 people in addition to the facilitators. You are asked to register in advance.

If you are struggling with your loss, want to gain a better understanding of your grief, and would like a safe space to travel that journey with others, we encourage you to consider joining us.

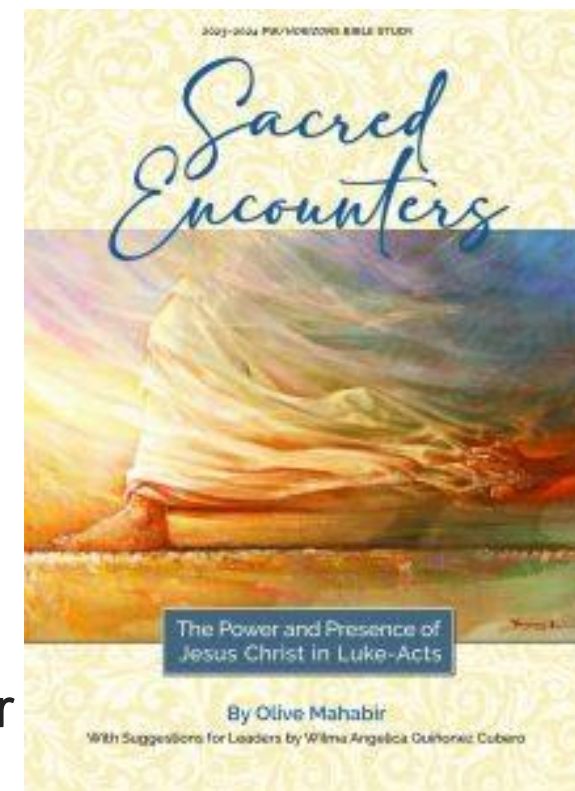
 Kathy, Carol, and Pat

Presbyterian Women Kickoff - August 30, 5:30 pm

ALL women and their friends are invited to join us for an exciting introduction to the 2023-24 PW year! We will be starting a new Bible Study called "Sacred Encounters." Where we will pair the Bible lessons with our modern day "encounters" that have impacted our lives today. We all have special stories to share that others can relate to. We'll be asking for your favorite scriptures, hymns, people in your lives that have helped mold you. It promises to be an amazing year ahead so join us on Wednesday, August 30 at 5:30.

Make reservations with your Circle leader or Sue Fackler.

The Bible Studies books will be available that night at \$11 each.



**Pickleball Fun Fest
is back!
September 30, 2023
Look out for more info!**

FREE SUMMER LUNCH!



Our five weeks with USD 501 serving lunch ended on July 7.

Beginning Monday, July 10, we began serving our own four-week program to feed entire families, so that parents can eat a nice meal with their children.

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays we cook a hot meal and on Tuesdays and Thursdays we serve sandwiches (egg salad is a favorite). Favorite hot meals would have to include chicken, any Mexican, and all Italian dishes. Thank you to all who have supported summer lunch - we appreciate you.

We love our children and families!

Caryl Hines, Coordinator



We're heading south of the border for some spicy food for our Romeo's meeting for the month of August. Our meeting and lunch will be at the Eldorado Mexican Grill and Cantina. After Charlotte and I ate there, we decided that it's now our favorite Mexican restaurant. The food was very fresh, and the salsa was great. Hope to see all you Romeo's at the Eldorado at 3627 SE 29th St. The date is August the 8th and we will meet there for fun and fellowship at 11:30.

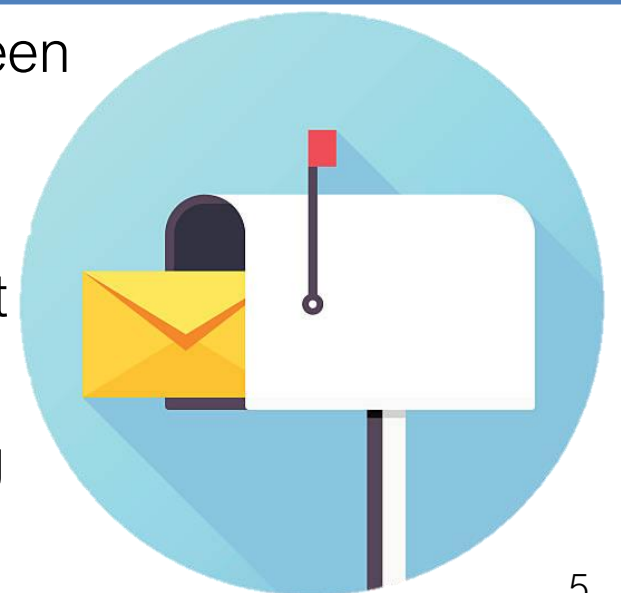
!FIESTA CON TIOS!



Invitational Ministry Committee will meet

Wednesday, August 2nd at 5:30 p.m.

The 2nd Quarterly statements have been mailed out to anyone unable to pick them up after service on 7/23/23. If you would like to read the letter that went along with those statements, they are available around the building at our various information tables!



Sunday		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 VOTING 10-12 pm Fall Prevention Workshop 11-12 pm Summer Lunch	2 Voting equip pick up 11-12 pm Summer Lunch 5:30 pm Invitational Ministry	3 11-12 pm Summer Lunch	4 K.O. Day Off 11-12 pm Summer Lunch	5 K.O. Day Off 5-11 pm National Night Out 4-9 am Girl Scouts Overnight!
6 Communion 8:30 am Breakfast 9:00 am Faith Form. Adults 9:30 am Faith Form. Youth 10:25 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	7 2:00 pm SC Book Club 4:30 pm Pickleball	8 5:15 pm Girl Scouts 11:30 am ROMEOS At Eldorado	9 1:30 pm PW Board Meeting 3:30 pm Christian Ed Meeting 4:30 pm Centering Prayer	10 3:00 pm SC Pickleball 6-8:00 pm Pickleball	11 K.O. Day Off	12 K.O. Day Off	
13 8:30 am Breakfast 9:00 am Faith Form. Adults 9:30 am Faith Form. Youth 10:25 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship & Worship Council	14 K.O. Retreat 1:30 pm World & Community 2:00 pm Knitters 4:30 pm Pickleball	15 10-12 pm Fall Prevention Workshop 5:15 pm Girl Scouts	16 6:30 pm Bagpipe Practice 4:30 pm Centering Prayer	17 9:30 am Literary Society 3:00 pm SC Pickleball	18 K.O. Day Off	19 K.O. Day Off	
20 Mariner's Sunday 8:30 am Breakfast 9:00 am Faith Form. Adults 9:30 am Faith Form. Youth 10:25 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship Neighborhood Walk Lunch	21 2:00 pm SC Book Club 4:30 pm Pickleball 7:00 pm College Hill Assoc.	22 10-12 pm Fall Prevention Workshop 1:30 pm Deacons 6:30 PM SPM	23 4:30 pm Centering Prayer 6:00 pm Finance Council 6:30 pm Bagpipe Practice	24 3:00 pm SC Pickleball 6-8:00 pm Pickleball	25 K.O. Day Off 8:30 am – Let's Help	26 K.O. Day Off	
27 8:30 am Breakfast 9:00 am Faith Form. Adults 9:30 am Faith Form. Youth 10:25 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	28 2:00 pm Knitters 4:30 pm Pickleball	29 10-12 pm Fall Prevention Workshop	30 4:30 pm Centering Prayer 6:30 pm Bagpipe Practice	31 3:00 pm SC Pickleball 6-8:00 pm Pickleball			



HAPPY Anniversary

Bob & Robin Hannigan—August 2—43 years
 Jeffrey & Elaine Adair—August 13—35 years
 Doug & Angela Gleason—August 26—28 years
 Kaitlin Hannigan & Clayton Smith—August 28—5 years

★HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- Harold Durkes—August 14

Jim Burkett—August 2

Jace Carter Epps—August 7

Linda Leaver—August 8

Matt Boddington— August 9

Amanda Abbott – August 10

Sue Fackler—August 11

Sarah Gleason—August 12

Ed Webber—August 13
- Cole Shaughnessey—August 15

Rochelle Dallam—August 17

Steve Leaver—August 17

Caleb Skrzypek—August 17

Ryder Mitchell—August 18

Jean Ann Emig—August 20

Beth Crowther—August 25

Tamra Yancey—August 25

Save these Dates!

- June 1 – August 19th – Neighborhood Prayer Walks (College Hill Neighborhood)
- July 11th – August 29th – Fall Prevention Workshop – 10–12 pm (In Chapel)
- August 5th – National Night Out 5 -11 pm (Fellowship Hall)
- August 20th – Neighborhood Walk Luncheon
- September 10th – Christian Education Kick Off & Teacher Recognition
- September 11–November 13 – Coming to Terms with Grief and Mourning –Session 2
- September 30th – Pickleball Fun Fest – more info coming soon
- October 29th – Congregational Potluck