



WESTMINSTER CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Westminster Witness

November 2, 2008

ON GRATITUDE

We all have many reasons to be grateful. As personal gifts we count our time in life, our talents, skills and intellect. How we use these gifts is a measure of our intentions and a mirror of our meaning. Count as well the love and support of our family and friends. We can be grateful for the energy of God's mysterious presence, sometimes unbidden and unaware; for our congregation of caring people with whom to share our faith questioning and service opportunities; for our Pastors who encourage and enable us to learn and explore spiritual realities; and for our Westminster church as a sacred space of worship and gathering.

As we consider the best use of our gifts let us ask, "Lord, what would you do through me to accomplish your will for our church?" To use our time by letting it go for good, to freely share in helping others, to be attuned to injustice and neglect and to reflect harmony seem to be spiritual choices.

We are asked to give our

resources in gratitude for what we have received and in turn to realize that we have enough and that our time here is well spent. We are asked to do this in a stressful climate, turning aside fear and doubt that shut God out. We are asked to accept the disturbing force of change that leads us out of our comfort zones to be developed more. We are asked to realistically support a ministry we believe in with the assurance that God is present in all things and that love, compassion and inclusion are the most powerful ways for us to express that belief.



We give thanks and rejoice for our many gifts and our great good fortune!

It may be instructive to know that our Westminster church was built during another time of economic disruption, the financial panic of 1890. Because the congregation was determined to have a sanctuary to affirm the presence of God in their lives and to live out together as community the teachings of Jesus, they persisted and succeeded in their intentions. Westminster church is no less significant for us today. Your gifts are similar affirmations of spiritual truths and a way to change the world.

Alan Mackay, Moderator

Ministers, All of God's People	Church Staff	Nursery Attendant Teresa Benedict
Office Manager/Financial Secretary Robin McLain	Senior Pastor The Rev. Andrea CastroLang	Publications Editor Sarah Hopkins
Organist/Choirmaster Scot Stout	Assistant Pastor The Rev. Marj Johnston	Children's Activity Director Jessie Vignali
Caretaker John Koons III		

God is Still Speaking,

News from Council and Committees

Westminster now accepts credit cards and electronic funds transfer!

Would you find it helpful to have your offerings debited directly from your bank account as you probably do with other obligations? Westminster now offers electronic giving for those of you who wish to have your contributions transferred electronically to the church's account. If you travel, this is particularly helpful in keeping up with your intended offerings. One simple, easy to use authorization form can begin or change your electronic contribution amount. Credit cards may also be used. Contact the church office for more details, 624-1366.

Nominating Committee

As Member-at-Large of the Church Council, Verne Windham will be putting together the Nominating Committee for 2009. This group is charged with submitting a slate of officers as well as board and committee members for next year. He wishes to talk to each member of the congregation about serving the church in these capacities. If you are currently not on a board and he doesn't reach you, please get in touch with him.
(home) 534-6320 (work) 328-5729
vwindham@kpbx.org.

Michal Chapter

Wonderful jam is again available from the women of Michal Chapter! Varieties include strawberry, apricot, and huckleberry in two sizes and in 3 jar gift packs. Call Harriet Plucker to purchase yours soon. 448-0934.

GAME NIGHT

Everybody Wins at Family Game Night

The ONA Committee (Open & Affirming) will host a Family Game Night in the Social Hall on Friday, November 14, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Bring your favorite table game and join the fun. Freshly baked cookies and popcorn will be available. There are several LGBTQA potlucks coming up! Inland Northwest LGBT Center is hosting these events to create a safe space for families of all ages to come together. Dates are November 1, December 6 and January 3. Time is 6-8 pm in the Westminster Social Hall.

Christmas Market

The Christmas Market is (back) on! The Christmas Market will be held again this year on December 13th. The exact details are still being worked out but rest assured, most of the components will remain the same. Sooo..... It is time to get ready. If your chapter or committee has run a bazaar table in the past, get ready to do it again. If your group has prepared a raffle basket in the past, start making another. This event is a good fundraiser for Westminster, and it is a lot of fun. We just can't let it go. If you would like to help make this event successful, call Steve Paulson at 995-0600 and join the enthusiastic group of people who are going to make Christmas Market 2008 a giant success.

Manna 2008

Manna 2008 raised a total sum of \$2,425.00 from ticket sales, raffle baskets, and donations, which was divided equally between Spokane Meals on Wheels and Second Harvest Food Bank.

The Manna committee extends a sincere **Thank You** to our church members and friends who attended the concert, donated financially, and provided raffle basket items and refreshments.

Many **Thanks** go to committee members for their year-long planning and work and to non-committee persons who helped in numerous ways, including the following:

Carlos Alden - Program and Posters
Kim Steinmetz - Refreshments coordinator
Barbara Borgens - Raffle basket coordinator
Alan Borgens - Logistics coordinator
Pastor Andy - Sponsorship procurement, promotion and much appreciated moral support
Robin McLain - Mailings, advertising and promotion
John Koons - Custodial preparation of the church and support the day of the event
Chris & Robin McLain - Emcee procurement
Sarah Hopkins - Printing of tickets and programs

So many others helped put it all together. Please know that the effort and contributions of each of you is greatly appreciated.

Marian Thackray, Chairperson

Pastors and Staff

Pastor's Pen

“The World of the Generous gets Larger and Larger”.

This is a modern interpretation of verse 24 from the 11th chapter of the book of Proverbs.

This little passage of Scripture flies in the face of a great deal of what we see around us these days.

We see widespread panic and fear in the world markets; we see hatemongering and baiting in our local and national politics. We see people wringing their hands in worry, anxious about jobs, retirement, and the rising costs of everything from gas to groceries.

The glorious message of Scripture, and the responsibility of the family of faith that gathers here at Westminster is to stand in opposition to just these sorts of things we see!

We see a different world: one where there is still hope for change, hope for our nations and peoples, hope that there is enough, and that we can live in and build a world, that will be healed, at peace.

We may be uncertain about the future, but I believe that how we respond will help shape that future. And it is as true today as it was thousands of years ago, that “the world of the generous gets larger and larger”. I invite you to stand against the cultural tide of uncertainty and anxiety, of closing in and shutting away resources, hopes, gifts and skills.

Jesus modeled a life of generosity, openness and hope. His entire life was a call to see that the generosity of God is greater than any human fear. I invite you to live as a generous human being: generous with the gifts of your love and your life, your hope and your joy.

Be generous to all those who are anxious around you, let them see the face of hope and joy that you and all of us can be!

If you were to join us in the office during the week, you would see the faces of many who are surprised, stunned and happy, to discover that generosity is not ended, that there is hope and love enough to share.

Our church stewardship and giving theme for November is this statement: “the world of the generous gets larger and larger.” We believe this, and we live this, here at Westminster Cong. UCC.

Please join in our work, our play, our prayer and praise!
Pastor Andy

Marj's Musings

Give thanks! Share harvest bounties! Offer gratitude for all we have together! Now is the time! In one of my favorite new hymns we sing, “For young and for old, a place at the table, a voice to be heard, a part in the song, the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled, for young and for old, the right to belong...” And the older I get, the more I seem to appreciate the younger ones among us. Through the eyes, ears and words of children and young folks, there are truths spoken with an (often) refreshing honesty. It has made me wonder: Do you know who the children are in our church? Here are the names of the young ones I could think of and give thanks for—feel free to add names of those you know as you give thanks for the children and their expressions of faith and life:

Five-years-old and younger: Kylee, Elie, Lucy, Rowan, Livia, Emily, Ethan, Justin, and Ravi

The over-five crowd includes: Jayme, Sierra, Wills, Nickolas, Maya, Madison, Bridget, and Fiona

And then the middler, junior and senior high young folks: Zach, Mike, Liam, Katie, David, Kelsey, Chloe, Carter, Jordan

I give thanks for Teresa who shares time with our youngest in the playroom and for Jessie who provides activities for our young ones during worship ... for Cindi, Mary, Teresa, Mimi, Suzy, Cherie and Susan who have shared in teaching. Pray with us and for us as we share faith and life experiences for all ages. Above all, give thanks!

With gratitude and thanksgiving for you,

Pastor Marj



Westminster Family and Friends

November Birthdays

2 nd -	Gregory Safranek
3 rd -	Megan Bredeweg
6 th -	Linda Joy Doug Weber
7 th -	Trisha Kissler
8 th -	Maxine Kopczynski Cindi Abbott
9 th -	Lewis Wilson
16 th -	Jesse Windham Mary Lively
17 th -	Andy Court
18 th -	Jeff Royer
21 st -	Dan (Alvoid) Kemnitz
22 nd -	Mark Vilaro
28 th -	Walter Seaton
30 th -	David McKenzie

In Memoriam

Dorothy Kissler, longtime member of Westminster, passed away on October 12, 2008. Dorothy's family and friends joined together to commemorate her life on October 21 at Rockwood South. Dorothy was a member of many organizations, and was deeply involved in life at Westminster for many years, as a Deaconess, member of Hannah Chapter and the Congregational Club, and a volunteer for Meals on Wheels and the Tree of Sharing. We will miss her, and we extend our sympathy to her family.

Local Artists

Three artists from Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ: Dian Allison, Karen Mobley and Lou McKee, are represented at a new gallery, Clearstory Gallery, on the campus of Life Center, near Spokane Falls Community College. The exhibit is "A contagion of churches embracing Fine Art as a spiritual medium...The ten artists probe the theme **UNDONE** for connection / disconnections of the soul regarding God." The gallery hours are 9:00 to 4:30 weekdays but the art can be viewed any time the church is open. For evenings and weekends, call ahead. (509) 327-4422 The address is 1202 N. Government Way.

Be Mindful of Young Minds

As old-fashioned as it seems, a handwritten note can mean everything! Drop a note to our young people who are studying near and far:

Jon Windham, 1504 E 13th Ave, Spokane, 99202

Gregory Safranek, Whitman College, 280 Boyer Ave,
Walla Walla, WA 99362

Hannah Rothstrom, 1016 NE 'D' St, Pullman, WA 99163

Megan McLain, 19630 Ashcrest Loop NE, #40,
Poulsbo, WA 98370

Samantha Lin, 1201 NE Campus Pkwy, #479,
Seattle, 98105

Bethany Abbott, 1003 E 13th Ave, Spokane, 99202

Gratitude Sunday

Westminster joins together to celebrate our gifts and our blessings on Sunday, November 23 after the 10:30 worship. All are invited to share a festive turkey dinner meal. Chris Johnson will be preparing the turkeys and is in need of six turkeys donated. Contact Chris if you can help, or would like to donate other items for the meal.

Tree of Sharing

All Westminster families are encouraged to assist with the annual Tree of Sharing. The first duty is tag assembly in the Westminster Parlor. Gift request labels are assembled on color coded tags so they can be distributed to the pick up locations.

Tag assembly will occur November 3, 4, 5 or until done. (preferably days 10 am to 4 pm, but if nights are your only option, let us know and we will arrange it!)

Then, choose a shift at either the downtown, northtown or valley mall locations for tag distribution. Tree of Sharing opens on November 21 and closes on December 14. See Peggy Burt or Marian Thackray for downtown shifts. Contact the office and we will put you in touch with the northtown and valley coordinators. Help is also needed at the warehouse for gift sorting, wrapping, and sending out to the agencies. Robin can also use help in the office sorting and registering gift certificates. This is one of the few local gift programs that offers support for the elderly and gifts for adult disabled and needy as well as children. Westminster has a long history of fully supporting the Tree of Sharing—please be a part of it! Call Robin at the church office 624-1366 to sign up

Faith and Family Enrichment

Faith in Action Dialogue Coming Up

This year's celebration and discussion includes the impact of *The Fig Tree* and "Bread Broken and Shared: Challenges and Opportunities for Ecumenism Today." The event will be on Thursday, November 6, at 6:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Cathedral of St. John (127 E 12th Avenue). Panelists include: Bishop Walter Mize of Christ Holy Sanctified Church, Bishop William Skylstad of the Catholic Diocese of Spokane, Bishop Jim Waggoner of the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane, Bishop Martin Wells of the Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and Alice Woldt, interim director of Washington Association of Churches (and member of Plymouth Congregational UCC in Seattle!).

Nick's News

~a report from Nick CastroLang working in Ohio on the political campaign
Well, yesterday was an amazing day as far as realizing how important the state of Ohio is to the whole election. Toledo has about ten Field Organizers. (Spokane, which is about equal size has only three Field Organizers.) I made so many phone calls yesterday that I think the phone was almost glued to my face. I also went canvassing. To all my church friends at Westminster, I hope you guys realize that it is because of the strength I have learned from you that I have been ok away from home. I have a feeling that the strength I have learned from people like Elsa and Dan and Doris has helped me be strong in my beliefs and not waver in my convictions. I cannot name everyone, but Jon Wind-

ham, thanks for being such a good political junky because it helped me when I got here to be sharp and keep up with all the issues. Toledo has been great and going to the Get out the Vote training was awesome. I love all of you back home and thank you for everything that you have done for me.

Thanks – I am thinking of all of you, Nick

Giving Back

It's a time of year when we think about our gifts and want to do more to help others in need. There are many who struggle to make ends meet, and this time of year needs grow in so many areas. Here at Westminster we're blessed to have several opportunities where we can assist folks who need:

- * Pastors' Emergency Fund: We're blessed to have a fund from which Pastor Andy and Pastor Marj can distribute assistance. This fund is supported by YOU and your generosity.
- * Life Feed: A group of volunteers at Westminster continues to serve a free lunch to our neighbors and all who come on the last Saturday of most months in the year. Thank you for your cash donations to make this outreach possible.
- * Second Harvest Food Bank: We collect non-perishable food items in the designated barrel in our church, and regularly collect special offerings that are sent to Second Harvest for use in their efforts.
- * Tree of Sharing: see page 2 for ways in which you can help with this effort.

Each year at Westminster, members of the church family purchase beautiful poinsettias which are used to decorate our sanctuary during the month of December. On Christmas Day and days following volunteers distribute many of these plants to church members and friends who are home-bound and need a little holiday cheer. To participate in this Westminster tradition fill out the form below, include your payment and either place in the offering plate or bring or mail to the church office. Deadline for Poinsettia orders is Sunday December 7.

Poinsettia Orders

I wish to order _____ poinsettia(s) at \$10.00 each to beautify Westminster's sanctuary during the Christmas Season.

IN MEMORY OF _____
(optional)

_____ I wish to pick my plant up

_____ I wish to have my plant delivered to a shut-in or homebound person.

_____ I would like to volunteer to deliver poinsettias during Christmas week.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

In the Neighborhood

Book & Salad Club

The group meets at 6:30 pm in the Church Parlor—you are not required to read the book, but please bring a salad to share.

Nov 4 "Botany of Desire: A Plants Eye View of the World", by Michael Pollan facilitated by Marjorie Johnson

Dec 2 "A Christmas Carol", by Charles Dickens, facilitated by Marian Thackray

Jan 6 "Song Yet Sung", by James McBride, facilitated by Margaret Ennis

Scandinavian Bazaar

Friday, November 7 at Central Lutheran Church
512 S. Bernard St 624-9233

Central Lutheran's Bazaar benefits local charities. The bazaar runs from 10 am to 1 pm, with items for sale including lefse, meatballs and cookies. Other items include baked goods, candy, crafts, cookbooks and attic treasures. New features this year are a "Dollar Store" and Fair trade coffee and chocolate. A kaffe stua will be held from 9 am to 11 am. The Norwegian "coffee hour" will feature homemade Scandinavian desserts served by women in traditional dress. Cost is \$4.00 for four treats and coffee.

As colder weather arrives...

The agencies of the Spokane Homeless Coalition will join community agencies across the nation in **Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week** activities from November 16 through November 22. Locally, please plan to participate in at least one of the following events:

Monday, Nov 17, 1:00-3:00pm: Winter Wear Drive, Homeless Resource Center (520 S Walnut, Spokane). Donations of new and gently used coats, hats, gloves, scarves, socks and boots will be welcome!

Wednesday, Nov 19, 8:30am-1:00pm: Hunger & Homeless Awareness Conference, Spokane Community College, Main Lobby of the Lair

Thursday, Nov 20, 5:30-7:30pm: Awareness Walk, beginning with soup and bread at the Spokane Regional Health Department (1101 W College, Spokane) including a brief overview of programs and site visits

Friday, Nov 21, Noon: Memorial Service at Westminster Congregational UCC. Join us!

Save the dates ... yes, in 2009!

Pastor Matt Gordon at Chewelah UCC is already planning for the Y.E.S. (Youth East Side) Ski Trip. Junior and senior high school-aged youth are invited to spend Friday, January 16, at Chewelah for a sleep-over and a day of skiing at 49° North on Saturday. Group rates and registrations will go out as soon as the snow starts falling. Pray SNOW!

Louisiana Work Camp Opportunity

Remember Hurricane Katrina? So do the people still living in New Orleans, and our Pacific Northwest Conference continues to schedule work camps to further the restoration of homes there. Join N-Sid-Sen's managing Camp Director Randy Crowe in February or Pastor Bobbi Virta from Ferndale UCC in March for this important work. For current and updated information on registering and planning, visit the N-Sid-Sen website at www.n-sid-sen.org.

We're Invited!

Join Veradale UCC (611 N. Progress Rod, Spokane Valley) for their Harvest Dinner on Saturday, November 8, from 5:00-7:00 pm. This fundraiser of Veradale UCC promises good fun and rich fellowship. Price? What you wish to give!

November Events

Ongoing:


Worship Sunday at 8:30 am and 10:30 am

Café Hour—from 9:40-10:20

Chancel Choir meets at 8:45 am on Sundays

	October	Budget	Jan - Oct 08	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Income					
Pledge	7,935.00	9486.01	98,879.79	96,342.43	115,000.00
Non-pledge	2,043.01	1,055.00	16,459.56	10,390.00	12,500.00
Other	900.00	1,095.00	60,531.90	57,766.01	78,798.68
Total Income	10,878.01	11,636.01	175,871.25	164,498.44	206,297.68
Expense					
DUES	0.00		500.00	500.00	500.00
BUILDING OPERATIONS & MAINT.	2,799.14	2,919.50	52,966.10	49,446.07	63,196.00
CHRISTIAN NURTURE	117.62	45.83	1,134.43	1,168.34	1,310.00
CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT	0.00		4,448.00	4,425.00	4,425.00
DIACONATE	0.00	50.00	393.02	650.00	700.00
MUSIC AND ARTS	149.46	288.75	1,749.78	3,595.00	5,120.00
OFFICE EXPENSE	1,342.20	1,795.43	16,478.02	18,690.41	23,475.00
OUTREACH	0.00		3,000.00	3,500.00	6,500.00
PASTORAL MINISTRIES	4,103.90	10,197.32	62,352.48	64,089.51	71,591.43
PAYROLL CLEARINGS	11,450.12	11,146.50	113,314.81	113,465.10	143,683.77
Total Expense	20,524.53	27,001.36	262,079.04	265,262.54	320,501.20
Net Income	-9,646.52	-15,365.35	-86,207.79	-100,764.10	-114,203.52

November 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Daylight Saving Time ends November 2!						1 LGBTQA potluck 6-8 pm
2 Congregational Budget Meeting after 10:30 worship	3	4 Book & Salad 6:30 p Remember to Vote!	5 Trustees noon ? Believers 7 p	6 Diaconate 7 p Yoga 5:30 Parlor	7	8 Veradale UCC Harvest Dinner
9	10	11 Veterans Day M&Arts 7:00	12 ? Believers 7 p Joanna Chapter noon at Rockwood	13 Yoga 5:30 Parlor	14 Family Game Night 6-9 p	15
16	17	18 Poetry 2 p	19 Sara Chapter 10:30 a Outreach 5:15 p ? Believers 7 p	20	21 Homeless Memorial service Noon Knitting 7 p	22
23 All-Church holiday meal: Noon	24	25 Church Council 7 p	26 West CAT 7 p	27 Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service Manito UM 10 a	28	29
30 First Sunday of Advent						

WESTMINSTER CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Phone: (509) 624-1366 Fax: (509) 838-0496 Email: wcunited@qwestoffice.net www.westminsterucc.org

No matter who you are, or where you are in your faith journey, you are welcome here.

Our Covenant

*I covenant with you, members and friends of
Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ:*

- *To create and hold an open, trusting Christian Community where we can each discover our unique relationship with God:*
- *To accept you as we seek ways to resolve our differences, and to rejoice as a community of faith and trust:*
- *To seek opportunities for expression of faith by sharing talents and resources with our church, community and world;*
- *To celebrate with you the power of God's call & God's Love.*

Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ embraces a spirit of hospitality founded in the gospels of Jesus Christ & a willingness to live out that welcome in meaningful ways.

As an Open and Affirming Church, our longstanding culture of welcome extends to all people regardless of sexual orientation, race/ethnicity, gender, physical ability, socioeconomic status or faith background.

**This Month's Readings and Schedule
For 10:30 Worship**

November 2 Matthew 23: 1-12

Deacons: Jonathan Windham, Mary Seaton, Cherie Olson, Margaret Ennis

November 9 Matthew 25: 1-13

Deacons: Barb and Alan Borgens

November 16

Matt. 25:14-30, Ps. 91, Jer. 29:11

Deacons: Gordon Gates and Mary Seaton

November 23 Matthew 25: 31-46

Deacons: Steve Paulson, David McKenzie

November 30 Mark 13:24-37, Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19

Deacons: Steve Paulson, Cherie Olson

Sunday Worship: 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM

Westminster Congregational
United Church of Christ
411 South Washington St
Spokane WA 99204

Periodical
Postage
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