



THE CHURCHMOUSE

Windsor Presbyterian Church

May 2022



To the Flock . . .

Easter Season Reset

Nothing has been easy these last couple of years. So much of what we took for granted has been upended. We have had to find new ways to connect and do ordinary things. And in the pandemic, all kinds of disparities and difficulties have been laid bare: racial injustice, climate change, economic disparity, and a growing global refugee crisis.

We are not OK. Things aren't like they were. It isn't like we want it to be. We don't even know what that might look like, but it sure isn't this. COVID has caused seismic shifts in our world and in our day-to-day lives. Though we long to return to normal, it is an unobtainable goal. What is normal is that we are struggling. Change is hard. We resist it, especially when things do not seem to be changing for the better. It is OK that we are not OK.

The disciples were not OK. They had gotten used to Jesus being with them. They believed in him. His death was an unthinkable change in what they imagined their lives would look like. They had to reset—their expectations, plans, mind-sets. . . . What God had planned for them was far beyond anything they could dream.

As difficult as it is, we have an opportunity to reset. This is a time of great disruption and great possibility. It is also a time

to ask yourself important questions: what is most important, how do I want to live, what kind of person do I want to be? No matter your age, it is never too late to grow and become the best version of yourself, the person God intends for you to be.

In Lent, we studied Spiritual Disciplines, Christian practices that have shaped and formed believers for two millennia. What became clear as we studied these is that no one thinks they are any good at them. That is exactly the point. If we were already experts in prayer, service, generosity, study, fasting, solitude, worship, and the rest, we would not need to practice. We never master any of them. The purpose is to show up and let God work in you. The practices are merely means to open yourself to God's grace, God's work in you.

Our observance of Lent this year was truly holy. Everything came together beautifully with the music, worship, EvenSong, WOW, and personal testimonies about living out the faith practices. I am so grateful to Cindy and Natalie for leading us so faithfully through Lent. What made Lent especially sacred this year was the courageous sharing by many of you! What a gift it was to hear you faithfully struggle with these practices and share your hearts with us! I never wanted Lent to end and hope we make testimo-

ny a more integral part of our worship.

To really allow God to do a new thing in us, we must first let go of the old thing. We must be willing to reset. Like the rest of the world, WPC is in a season of change. We get to reset, too. We get to ask what is most important for us, what kind of church we want to be, and what steps we can take to thrive and be the healthiest and most vital church possible. How can we be the church God is calling us to be, right here, right now?

~ continued on p. 10

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Discipleship (Christian Formation & Membership)

Angie King

Adult Sunday School

Anybody feel like a little Sunday School to enrich your week? Beginning June 5, you are invited to join our SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL class. We will meet in Ward Hall from 9:15-10:00 before our worship service starts. The coffee pot will be on and also hot water for tea. Our curriculum is from *The Wired Word*. This is a weekly publication that highlights a current event and provides a discussion guide, questions to talk about, and connections to relevant scripture and our Christian faith. The material is great and sparks lively and interesting conversations. We used it for Sunday School a few years ago. Google *The Wired Word* to learn more about the study and review a lesson. If you are interested, please call the office so we can email you the lesson each week. If you have any questions, contact Angie.



Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women will be winding down in a couple months. The last grandmother we will study is Mary. Of all the women mentioned in Jesus's genealogy, Mary stands in a special place of her own. We all know the story of Mary. But do we know Mary? Join us May 21 at 10:00 in Ward Hall. Everyone is welcome, even if you haven't come before.

These Days: The April, May, and June edition of the PCUSA daily devotional book, *These Days*, is available in the office. Stop by and pick one up or we can deliver one to you. Just ask.

As Christians, spring is special. It brings the resurrection of our Lord and the promise of life everlasting. Zechariah 10:1 says, "Ask the Lord for rain in the springtime; it is the Lord who sends the thunderstorms. He gives showers of rain to all people, and plants of the field to everyone." Let us observe and marvel at the magnificence of God's creation in this season of renewal.

Session Highlights

Isaiah 43: 16-19 was the basis of our Session Formation time. We read the verses three times aloud listening for a word or phrase that stood out for us. We talked about being alert and being present to God's wonders. God is always doing new things, trying to get our attention. Do you see it?

Our ministry teams for this year are: Worship and Personnel, Laura; Outreach (Mission and Stewardship), Beth Schmitz; Discipleship (Christian Formation and Membership), Angie; Special Events (Fellowship and Visibility), Jody; Building and Grounds, Don; Budget and Future Finances, Richard; and Youth Ministry and Mission, Kaitlin. We would love to have everyone in the church serving on one of these teams, so contact the appropriate elder and SIGN UP!

Session adopted communion dates for 2022-2023. We elected officers of the WPC Corporation. They are President Richard Ankeney, Vice President Angie King, Treasurer Ron Grohe, Secretary Dwight Tomes and Assistant Treasurers, Ann Beeson, Beth Adams, Sue Cooper. In addition, the elders approved getting a church credit card.

One final and huge action item was the Session's unanimous acceptance of the Property Task Force's recommendation for the sale of our property. Lots more information will be coming from the Task Force chair, Ron Grohe.

We honored our outgoing elders, Rich and Sue. Under Rich's leadership, WPC community involvement and overall mission giving increased exponentially. Our little church is overwhelmingly generous and Rich led us down that path. Sue is everywhere, doing everything. When we were able to gather, she organized wonderful meals for us to share. When COVID hit, she helped us navigate through that by chairing our COVID Task Force. Sue is a selfless giver and doer, ready to tackle any task. Both of these extraordinary people will be missed on the session, but they will continue their devoted work for Windsor Presbyterian for years and years to come. Thank you, Rich and Sue!

Special Events (Fellowship & Visibility)

Jody Cox



ANNIVERSARY
100
CELEBRATION

I will be leading the Special Events Committee this year. Of course, our biggest celebration is the anniversary of 100 years of worship here at Windsor. Hopefully, you have noticed the new sign out front announcing this to the public. We would hope that passersby might see it and be curious. So, keep you eye out for newcomers and give them a warm welcome!! (We have seen a few lately!)

I will be putting together some ideas for different presentations of our history and celebrations throughout the year. I do need your help. We would like you to send pictures of any events you were involved in at the church. Specifically, we want to highlight weddings, former pastors, PW women's circles and men's groups, WOW, and former groups like Mariners and Sojourners, etc. Additionally, if you would like to write a short story/note about any of these groups or special events at the church from your memories, that would be fantastic, as well.

Please send any items to me or to the church or drop off at the church. We can scan your photos and get the originals back to you. I really appreciate any sharing you are willing to give for this historic anniversary.

Also, Windsor Heights is planning a new Fall Festival this year on September 23 & 24. They are asking businesses and organizations to participate. We can have a booth, which will allow us to promote the church and 100th anniversary, and we can give away or sell items or provide some type of game or service. Also, we are talking about being in charge of a cooking contest (like baked pies). If you have any ideas or interest in this, please let me know. It should be fun!

Women's Lunch

The next women's lunch will be held on Thursday, May 26, at 12:30 p.m. at Trostel's Greenbriar in Johnston. Please RSVP to Ruth at 515-633-7968 or ruth.crossroads@gmail.com by Monday, May 23. If you need to cancel, please provide a 24-hour notice. On the other hand, if you don't RSVP yet find that you can attend, please join us! We'll add another chair.



(To add or remove a name, contact the church office.)

Recent Prayer Requests: Barb Duff, Taryn Ellis, Jim Newsom, Nancy Snyder, Dick Woods, Greg (Natalie's brother)

Continuing Prayers: Brad Behrens, Chuck & Phyllis Bryan, Jim & Georgia Burnes, Jean Carlston, Dick Cox, Wanda Hill, Eric Lawlor, Maurice Lubalo, Virginia Nichols, Barb Pomeroy, Steve Pope, Sandi Ryan, Leon & Lucy Sanderson, Judy Teig

Friends of the Church: Aria (infant relative of Barb P), Kayla (treatment for MS) and Marvin (Angie K), Bruce Baker (Gloria Ashby's brother-in-law), Nancy Jo Baker (Barb P), Jean Bower, Vickie Brown, Gisma Butras (Esther C), Linda Christiansen (Angie K), Barb Dally (Laura W), Donna Eckham, Rev. Jim Goodrich (Dick W), Norma Grinstead (Linda Newsom), Anna Krull (Jayne & Dwight), Ken Lee (Laura W), David Leitch, Chris McDougal Family, Derek Mullennax (Ruth H), the Ray Family, Rachel Snyder (Steensons), Mickey Starr (Jayne O), Betsy (Ruth H), Susie Anderson, Jasper & Quincy (Kings), Natalie C (Shamaine)



May

Birthdays

- 3 Makya Lobalu
- 12 Georgia Burnes
- 18 Amanda Enochs
- 20 Steve Pope
- 21 Jacob Enochs
- 24 Eric Lawlor
- 31 Randi Perez

Anniversaries

- 22 Jim & Linda Newsom
- 31 Josh & Joselynn McKenna
- 31 Rich & Judy Teig

(Let the office know if we are missing your birthday or anniversary.)



Outreach (Mission & Stewardship)

Beth Schmitz

Greetings from Mission and Stewardship. This is my first official act as the new elder and I want to first say a BIG THANK YOU to Rich Teig for leading this part of our church for the last few years. He has left big shoes to fill and I will count myself successful if I can do even half the job he did. I also want to thank all of the members who contribute in any way to our church's missions and who support the projects that help so many people. Over the past year, we have been able to support many good programs and I have a goal and desire to continue God's work through our mission projects. Agape, Hawthorn Hill, Central Iowa Shelter, Joppa, CROSS Outreach, DMARC Food Pantry, DMARC Compassion in Action, Calvin Good Samaritan, Home Inc., Habitat for Humanity, Storybook Project, Iowa Homeless Center, Beacon of Life, and Cowles Montessori are the projects that we have contributed to in the past year and will continue to support moving forward. If you would like to know more about these projects and contributions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. I would love to talk to you about our efforts in the community.



Since January, we have shared \$1,549 with the DMARC Food Pantry. With the significant decrease in SNAP funding, food insecure families will need more help than ever, and your donations are greatly appreciated and make a difference in so many lives. I hope that each of you will continue to consider what you can comfortably give so that families can have this support.



During Lent, we collected the special One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering, with donations going to support people around the world through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the Self-Development of People. As of April 17, we

have raised **\$1,173 in OGHS offerings**. In addition to those donations, we also received **\$800 for Ukraine Relief**.

On April 7, volunteers prepared and delivered 130 meals for CFUM. Approximately 12 volunteers came together to support this mission. Although Linda and Jim were unexpectedly not able to lead our efforts this past month, they have set a great example and these volunteers came through. Shamaine and Rich delivered the meals to Trinity United Methodist Church.



I had the privilege to join the Cowles School Counseling Advisory Council. In April, I attended the second council meetings (it meets twice a year). The goal of the council is to advise on counseling goals for the students of Cowles, review outcome results, and make recommendations. It is an important way that Windsor Presbyterian Church can support youth in the community to get their needs met.

Looking ahead, our next special offering will be for Pentecost in late May and early June. The Pentecost offering supports children at risk and ministries with youth and young adults. As we get closer to that time, you will hear more details about how these donations are used; but please keep in mind that 40% of the Pentecost offering stays without our congregation to support the needs of our youth and young adults.



If you have a passion for our efforts, I would love to talk with you about becoming a member of our committee and getting more involved with the projects that we do. If you have ideas for other projects or needs in the community, I would love to hear about those, as well.

Budget & Future Finances

Richard Ankeney



The congregation's generosity continues to exceed its diminutive size, as the Operating Account had a net income of \$14,304.58 for March. Expenses are close to budgeted levels, with the utility bill running above normal due to the higher price of natural gas.

Thank you to everyone for helping WPC build up God's Kingdom in our community and beyond.

Financial Report 2022	March 2022	1-Month Budget	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget
General Contributions	26,358.26	12,216.67	38,364.80	36,650.00
Operating Income	2,439.00	2,033.33	8,632.62	6,100.00
Operating Expenses	14,492.68	14,250.00	45,281.63	42,750.00
Net Gain (Loss)	14,304.58	—	1,715.79	—
Capital Income	35.00	—	70.00	—
Capital Expenses	31.80	—	3,595.70	—
Net Gain (Loss)	3.20	—	(3,525.70)	—



Building & Grounds

Don Beeson

Surprisingly, the months of 2022 have passed so very quickly and the pace of WPC activities have increased just as rapidly. Our church facilities have been used more in the past few months than they have been in use during the two COVID years behind us.

The March 12 gathering on a Saturday night for an evening of music by Elaine and Anna Steenson for the benefit of Crossroads of Iowa in the sanctuary filled all of the pews with almost 100 participants. A recent Saturday afternoon wedding rehearsal and dinner in Fellowship Hall was a welcome use of our building, as it has been a very long time since such activity has been made.

Lenten services have meant a lot of preparation by Pastor, our music director, worship committee and many others to provide Zoom and in-person meaningful worship services. In addition, the members of our Orthodox congregation have been equally attentive to Easter worship culminating this past Sunday, April 24.

The B&G members, along with other volunteers, gathered on Saturday morning, April 9, for the purpose of exterior and interior clean-up. As chairman of the B&G committee, I am truly grateful for the efforts made, even as I was out of the country. Thanks to all of you.



Worship & Personnel

Laura Ward

Wasn't this an amazing Easter season at Windsor? The original poems, the music, the blending of zoom and in-person teachings were all inspiring. We are so blessed to have the creativity and leadership our worship team delivers.



Thanks to all who participated! We send out a big thank you to Jodi Cox for all of the energy, ideas and heart

she has brought to worship. Thank you! As always, thank you so much to Ann McGowan for all of the extra work and kerfuffle surrounding the big church seasons. Your patience and attention to detail and deadlines is invaluable!

If you have ideas or want to take part in the front of the church, please let us know! Many blessings to us all, please, Lord. *On To Summer!*

Scenes of Easter



Worship in May

5/8 Fourth Sunday of Easter

John 20:24-31

Jesus Appears to Thomas and the Disciples

5/22 Sixth Sunday of Easter

John 21:15-19

Jesus & Peter: Feed My Sheep

5/1 Third Sunday of Easter

John 20:19-23

Jesus Appears to the Disciples and Gives the Holy Spirit

5/15 Fifth Sunday of Easter

John 21:1-14

Jesus Appears to the Disciples at Sea of Tiberias

5/29 Seventh Sunday of Easter

John 21:20-25

Jesus & the Beloved Disciple

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>May 2022</h1>						
Regular Sunday Schedule: 9:00 a.m. Orthodox Church (Lower Level) 10:30 a.m. Worship Fellowship	Regular Monday Schedule: Pastor's Day Off	Regular Tuesday Schedule: 9:30 a.m. Text Bible Study (In Person & Zoom)	Regular Wednesday Schedule: 6:00 WOW (East Hall & Zoom)	Monthly Events First Thursday: 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 12:00 p.m. CFUM Meal 7:00 p.m. Uke Jam Third Saturday: 10:00 a.m. Presbyterian Women		
1 Ramadan Ends Worship with Communion & Fellowship  CONGREGATIONAL MEETING	2	3	4	5 10:30 Staff Mtg. 12:00 CFUM Meal Prep 7:00 Uke Jam	6	7
8 Worship & Fellowship  Mothers Day	9	10	11	12 5:00 Session	13	14 OA Gathering in Ward Hall (all day)
15 Worship & Fellowship 	16	17 Bible Study	18	19	20	21 10:00 a.m. Presbyterian Women
22 Worship & Fellowship	23 Newsletter Articles Due	24 Bible Study	25	26 Ascension of the Lord 12:30 Women's Lunch	27	28 2-5 p.m. Kaitlin's Graduation Celebration
29 Worship & Fellowship	30 	31 Bible Study		Coming in June: 6/5 Sun. Pentecost 6/12 Sun. Trinity Sunday 6/18 Sat. Presbyterian Women		



Easter Poem

Cindy Ray

It is so dark, so cold, so lonely.
The grief lies over us like a blanket, too heavy, too coarse to touch.
We are drowning in the pain.
We can't walk through it, let alone walk on water.
He said if we followed him we would have eternal life.
He said he was the light of the world.

But now he's gone; he's dead, and for what?
He healed some folks, caused a blind man to see.
He raised Lazarus from the dead.
But now he is dead!



It is so, so dark.
We thought he was our king and would save us.
Light of the world? No not at all.
The silence is deafening.
It is so dark; so cold; we are so alone; we are racked with pain.
Light of the world indeed.

The dawn is on the horizon, but why would we care.
The light of the world is gone.
Nothing is as we thought.
We have no leader.
We are thrashing about in the dark.

The horizon is growing ever brighter, but it is dark.
We are alone, and he is gone.
Then we hear it and it echoes louder and louder.

HE IS
RISEN
MATTHEW 28:6

Christ is Risen! The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!
The noise is getting louder as the world takes up the cry.
He has risen.
The sun bursts forth as the good news is proclaimed.
The tomb is empty.
The light of the world is here, brighter than ever.
He has overcome death to save us.
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen.

Scenes of Lent

Dwight Tomes



Palm Sunday Worship



Maundy Thursday



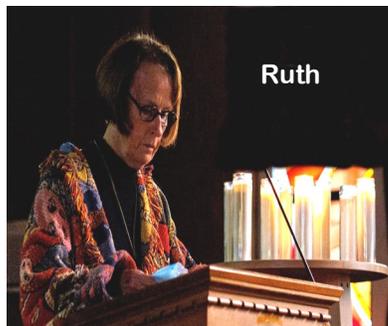
Meal before Worship



Foot Washing

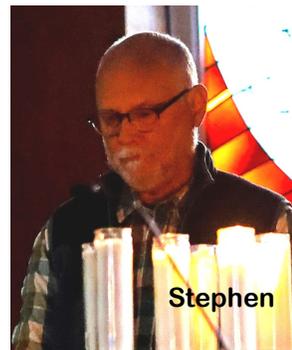


Richard



Ruth

Members Read Scripture



Stephen



Sue



You're Invited!

Kaitlin Graduates!

The time has come, Kaitlin Mogle is graduating from high school! She will be graduating from Urbandale High School on May 26. We are celebrating her graduation on May 28 from 2-5 pm at our home, 4417 74th Street in Urbandale. Everyone is welcome to come and celebrate with us. We do ask that you RSVP to Kaitlin at 515-205-5645 by Monday, May 23. Thank you for your support throughout these past few years!

The Mogles



Please join us for the conclusion of our 42nd season - **Choral Masterworks: Glory, Remembrance, & Hope** - on Saturday, May 14, at 7:30 pm at St. Ambrose Cathedral.

The concert features music centered around the themes of glory, remembrance, and hope and includes two choral-orchestral masterworks: Bach's *Gloria in Excelsis Deo* (a three-movement cantata with movements taken from the B Minor Mass), Brahms' beloved *Nanie*, and others also will be performed.

Tickets for **Choral Masterwork: Glory, Remembrance, & Hope** can be purchased at the door or online at www.dmchoral.org.

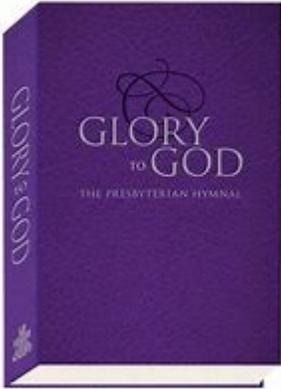
~ continued from page 1 **To the Flock**

When an electronic device won't do what it is supposed to do and you can't fix the problem, the easiest fix is to power off, wait a minute, and power it back on. That small reset often miraculously makes it work again. We all need a reset now and then. The spiritual practices are the Christian's version of powering off and back on. In this Easter season, may God help us reset and get ready for the new things God is doing in our midst!

"Forget about what's happened;
don't keep going over old history.
Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand-new.
It's bursting out! Don't you see it?
There it is! I'm making a road through the desert,
rivers in the badlands."

My Favorite Hymn

Ron Grohe



This month Ron Grohe shares one of his favorite hymns with us.

There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit

When Krysta Tomes wrote about her favorite song, "Morning Has Broken," that got my interest, as it is also a favorite of mine and has been

for some time.

A more recent favorite, though, is one that I recently discovered, "There's A Sweet, Sweet Spirit," which is especially apropos right now as we think about the coming of Pentecost and giving of the Holy Spirit to the Disciples. When you sing or listen to the hymn, think about those special times in your life when you have felt the spirit's presence, and many times when it has been felt in Windsor Presbyterian Church. It's not a raucous hymn, just one that conveys a feeling of hope and comfort as we attempt to cope with the world as it unfolds before our very eyes in today's life and times.



May God bless us all as we welcome the spirit in to our hearts.

Ron Grohe

Text and music by Doris Mae Akers (May 21, 1923-July 26, 1995).

Akers was born in Brookfield, Missouri, May 21, 1922, and died in Minneapolis on July 26, 1995. She was an African American gospel music composer, arranger and singer. She composed her first song at age ten, and even though she lacked formal music training, she went on to a successful career conducting choirs throughout

the U.S.A. and composing gospel songs. Known for her work with the Sky Pilot Choir, she was inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 2001.

~ *hymnary.com* and *Discipleship Ministries*

This gospel hymn grew out of this author and composer's intense experience of prayer with her interracial choir in Los Angeles one Sunday morning before worship. She recalled that sense of "a sweet, sweet Spirit" when she sat down at her piano the next day.

~ *Glory to God hymnal*

Glory to God #408

- 1 There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
there are sweet expressions on each face,
and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Refrain:

Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,
stay right here with us, filling us with your love;
and for these blessings we lift our hearts in
praise;
without a doubt we'll know that we have been
revived
when we shall leave this place.

- 2 There are blessings you cannot receive
till you know him in his fullness and believe;
you're the one to profit when you say,
"I am going to walk with Jesus all the way."

Refrain

Do you have a favorite hymn that you would like to share with the congregation? If so, please email the church office and tell us why it is special to you. You can write it yourself or talk to Ann in the office and she will write it.

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WINDSOR PRESBYTERIAN

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We're on the Web!
www.windsorpc.org

It is the mission of Windsor Presbyterian Church to be a warm, supporting family for worshipping God, learning and practicing Christ's teachings, and sharing Christ's good news with others.

Like us on Facebook!

Staff

Shamaine Chambers King, Pastor
Ann McGowan, Administrative Assistant
Natalie Steenson, Director of Music, Worship & Arts
Jim Behrens, Organist
Deb Hibbert, Accountant
Cynthia Plavulj, Custodian

Session

Jody Cox (2023), Special Events
Angie King (2023), Discipleship
Kaitlin Mogle (2023), Youth Ministry and Mission
Richard Ankeney (2024), Budget & Future Finances
Don Beeson (2024), Building & Grounds
Beth Schmitz (2025), Outreach
Laura Ward (2025), Worship & Personnel
Dwight Tomes, Clerk of Session

Deacons

Beth Mogle (2023)
Judy Teig (2023)
Gloria Ashby (2024)
Mary Willson (2024)
Donna Dickerson (2025)
Lori Pope (2025)

Important May Dates

- 5 - CFUM Meal & Uke Jam
- 8 - Mother's Day
- 15 - Food Pantry Sunday
- 21 - Presbyterian Women
- 26 - Ascension of the Lord
- 28 - Kaitlin's Party
- 30 - Memorial Day