

# THE CHURCHMOUSE

Windsor Presbyterian Church November 2021



### Property Update . . .

... Regarding the sale/ purchase of property south of University Avenue and west of 63rd St.

As you may recall, our church (seller) entered into a sales agreement for the land referred to above with a convenience store and gas station (buyer), a national, publicly-owned corporation, on September 14, 2020.

The Agreement was to close within six months of that date. It did not close on that date and, as per the agreement, the buyer requested, and received, a total of three onemonth addendums (extensions) and a further threemonth addendum (extension) which ended September 15, 2021, from the seller.

Our property task force, in conjunction with the approval of the Session, agreed that the agreement would expire, with no further addendum or extension. However, when the initial waiting period of six months was extended, and, for each extension period thereafter, there was added into each addendum, a nonrefundable amount due from the buyer for not closing as each expiration date was reached. That total at September 15,

2021, was \$35,000, which was paid by the buyer to the seller.

The property task force is currently looking for other possible buyers of the land. Since the now-expired sales agreement was entered into and was in effect, the COVID-19 virus was at its peak.



It is now felt that the current economic conditions might be more conducive to a sale than was previously the case. Members of the task force are anxious to proceed and are confident of making a successful sale.

For questions, contact any one of us by e-mail, text, phone or through the church office.

Ron Grohe Dwight Tomes Angie King Jayne Owen Pastor Shamaine Chambers King (ex officio)



Don't forget to turn your clocks back an hour when you retire for the evening on Saturday, November 6, as we change back to Central Standard Time. Enjoy your extra hour of sleep!

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## **Christian Formation - Angle King**



fellowship – teaching – worship Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

This winter we are re-starting WOW with an impromptu worship, fellowship and learning time. We will try out new things each week and incorporate the best of our past WOW experiences (fellowship, classes, music, beauty and evensong worship). You won't want to miss it! As we plan for the future of WOW, we'd love your feedback and thoughts on these questions:

- 1) Should we meet in Ward Hall, or on Zoom, or a combination?
- 2) When it's possible again, should we share a meal together?
- 3) What subjects would you like to explore?
- 4) What would you keep or change with WOW?
- 5) How can we get more people involved?

Our committee would greatly appreciate your input as we will meet in November to discuss this.

Presbyterian Women has taken off. We're having consistent attendance and interesting discussions as we



Fourteen women participated in PW on October 9.

learn about Jesus' grandmothers and the amazing, yet frustrating, roles women play historically and currently. Our next meeting is **Saturday, November 13, at 10:00** in Ward Hall. Please join us!

As we enter the season of Thanksgiving, let us daily and hourly praise God for our blessings.

"We can only be said to be alive in those moments when our hearts are conscious of our treasures."

- Thornton Wilder

"Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings."

- William Arthur Ward



The meeting on October 14 began with our Session formation discussion. Shamaine read Acts 1:1-4, when, after the crucifixion, Jesus was eating with the apostles and told them not to leave Jerusalem until they received the gift from the Father, which Jesus had told them about. This was a huge responsibility Jesus was giving them. Elders talked about what we did when given a great responsibility. Many ideas were mentioned, but two were quickly and easily decided to be the best. Pray and wait for the Spirit's guidance. As that wonderful hymn says, "Take it to the Lord in prayer."

Business before the session included joyously accepting Barb Duff's request to be reinstated as an active member. Dwight is working on updating the membership rolls for 2020-2021 and preparing our 2019-2020 minutes for presentation to the presbytery for the annual review.

Because of Rich's and Jody's outreach to Cowles School and helping with their student gardens last summer, a Cowles counselor contacted Rich about possibly helping with a struggling family at the school. We will learn more about this, but it was such a beautiful thing that the school reached out to our church for assistance: being the church in the community is a blessing.

# Congregational Care & Fellowship Sue Cooper



**Leon Sanderson** suffered a heart attack in mid-October, shortly after he and Lucy moved to their new apartment. (See new address below.) Please pray for God's healing touch for Leon and strength for Lucy and their family.

#### Women's Lunch

November's lunch has been moved to November 11 because of the upcoming holiday. We will meet at Gazali's Mediterranean Cuisine, 15700 Hickman Rd, Suite 110, in Clive (just west of Nebraska Furniture Mart). Please RSVP to Ruth at <a href="mailto:ruth.crossroads@gmail.com">ruth.crossroads@gmail.com</a> or Cindy at <a href="mailto:cindyray@gmail.com">cindyray@gmail.com</a> by Monday, November 8, if you plan to come! As always, if you find at the last minute that you can attend but haven't sent your RSVP, come ahead anyway. We will make room! The women decided not to meet in December and start up again with lunches in January.



**Local Phone Calls:** You must now dial 10 digits (area code + telephone number) for all local calls. If you forget to add 515 at the beginning, your call cannot be completed and a recording will tell you to hang up and dial again adding the area code.

Leon & Lucy Sanderson moved on October 18. Their new address is: Belmont Village Turtle Creek 3535 N. Hall Street, Apt. 514 Dallas. TX 75219

#### Congratulations!

Josh McKenna has passed his final ordination exam! Now he can begin to seek a call. That is very good news.

# November



#### **Birthdays**

- Anastasia McKenna
- 6 Thia White
- 7 Don Beeson
- 13 Dan Aksamit
- 14 Pam Lawlor
- 20 Larry Haver
- 21 Lucy Sanderson
- 22 Anna Steenson
- 23 Dick Woods
- 24 Kristina Cox

#### **Anniversaries**

- 11 Eric & Pam Lawlor
- 19 Rod & Brenda Enochs

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



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

Recent Prayer Requests: Leon Sanderson, Sandi Ryan, Family of Tom Yost (brother of Pam Lawlor), Jessi (niece of Angie King), Barb Pomeroy as she prepares to move after Nov. 1

Continuing Prayers: Brad Behrens, Phyllis Bryan, Jim & Georgia Burnes, Jean Carlston, Dick Cox, Wanda Hill, Eric Lawlor, Maurice Lubalo, Virginia Nichols, Steve Pope, Curt Weatherby Friends of the Church: Kayla (treatment for MS) and Marvin (Angie King), Bruce Baker (Gloria Ashby's brother-in-law), Nancy Jo Baker (Barb Pomeroy), Jean Bower, Vickie Brown, Gisma

Butras (Esther Chol), Barb Dally (Laura W asks for prayers for her as she awaits a kidney donor), Donna Eckham, Norma Grinstead (Linda Newsom), Linda Hohertz (Dick Cox's sister), Anna Krull (Jayne Owen & Dwight Tomes), Ken Lee (Laura Ward), David Leitch, Ron Livermore (Angie King), Chris McDougal Family, Derek Mullennax (Ruth Hardin), the Ray Family, Paul Pederson (Shamaine's uncle), Baby Salem (Ruth H asks for prayer for him and for his parents, Mason and Jesse), Susie Anderson, Jasper & Quincy (Kings)





## Worship & Media - Jody Cox

It has been so great to enjoy fellowship outside after church these past couple months. Thanks to all who have provided snacks and drinks! How nice it is to see everyone sharing time together. Unfortunately, as the weather changes, we will need to pause this fellowship time for now. We will be looking at other possibilities after recommendations from the safety team. We are still encouraging everyone to maintain social distancing, encouraging mask wearing and limit singing.

We have additional opportunities for sharing communion over the next couple months. It is special to be able to do this in person again and we hope to see many of you in the sanctuary for these extra special days.

We will celebrate All Saints Day on November 7 and

communion will be served. We have lost too many from our congregation these past two years. It is also so overwhelming the number of individuals who



have passed due to this incredibly aggressive disease in lowa, the U.S. and across the world. We plan to honor those who have left us for their forever home with God.

We will also observe the sacrament of communion on November 21, Christ the King Sunday. That is a day to celebrate the full authority of Christ as King and Lord of the universe.



In November we look forward to Thanksgiving and spending time with family and friends. It is often a time to express what we are thankful for. As we express our gratitude, we must never forget the highest appreciation is not to utter mere words, but to live by them.

If you have any thoughts or ideas about worship opportunities, don't hesitate to reach out to me.



11/7 All Saints' Sunday/Communion Jeremiah 1:4-10; 7:1-11 Jeremiah's Promise and Warning

11/14 Jeremiah 36:1-8, 21-23, 27-28; 31:31-34 *Promise of A New Covenant* 

11/21 Christ the King Sunday/Communion Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14 The Plans I Have for You

11/28 First Sunday of Advent Jeremiah 33:14-18 Promise of the Messiah

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Novem	ber 2	020				
Regular Sunday Schedule:  9:00 AM Orthodox Church (Lower Level)  10:30 AM Worship Fellowship (In person & on Zoom)	Regular Monday Schedule: Pastor's Day Off	Regular Tuesday Schedule: 9:30 a.m. Text Bible Study	Regular Wednesday Schedule: 6:30 p.m. Winter WOW Gathered Together (Zoom for now)	10:30 12:00 7:00 First S	Events hursday: a.m. Staff Mee p.m. CFUM Me p.m. Uke Jam aturday: a.m. PW Mee	eal I
	1	2	3 6:30 Winter WOW Gathered Together	4 10:00 a.m. Don Justo Coffee 10:30 Staff Mtg. 12:00 CFUM Meal Prep 7:00 p.m. Uke Jam	5	Turn Clocks Back
7 All Saints Sunday. Communion	8	9	6:30 Winter WOW Gathered Together	10:00 a.m. Don Justo Coffee	12	13 10:00 a.m. PW
14 Worship Fellowship	15	16	17 6:30 Winter WOW Gathered Together	18 4:30 Session Meeting (Ward Hall)	19	20
Christ the King Sunday; Communion Food Pantry Sunday	Newsletter Articles Due	23	24 5:00 Arabic Church using kitchen	25 Hanksgiving	26 5:00 Nubian Community using kitchen	27
28 1st Sunday of Advent  Worship Fellowship	29	GI VING TUESDAY		Coming in E 12/2 Th 12/4 Sa 12/9 Sa 12/24 Fr 12/25 Sa	ur. CFUM Dini t. Salvation A at. PW i. Christmas	Army Bells Eve

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## Mission & Stewardship - Rich Teig

Our church and the Presbytery are helping to support the Arabic Outreach Center (AOC) and First Arabic Presbyterian Church. Ekram Kachu is the AOC Director. Due to the pandemic, the AOC had to cancel their August 28 fundraiser. They had hoped to raise \$5,000. Immigrants and refugees continue to arrive in Des Moines and need help getting settled. These people need assistance finding jobs, getting connected to local social services and making ends meet. If you are able, please include a designated portion of your offering to the Arabic Outreach Center.

Beth Schmitz, a member of our mission advisory team, has registered WPC for a Salvation Army Bell Ringing kettle. We are scheduled to ring from 10:00 to 12:00 on Saturday, December 4, at the north entrance to Scheels in the Jordan Creek Mall. We need two volunteers for each hour. If you are interested, please contact Rich Teig, at 515-285-0207.

The Counselor at Cowles Elementary says she would like to have a fund to purchase snow boots for students whose parents are unable to afford this expense. Some students arrive at school with wet feet. We are also checking with Windsor Elementary School to see if they have this need, too. Our WPC mission team would like to provide these funds. At this time, the details have not been worked out as to how we do this. We will let you know in church announcements if donations are needed, or if we use Local Mission dollars from budget.

On Thursday, October 7, volunteers once again prepared 130 meals for CFUM. Food was donated and hot food was prepared in our church kitchen. The next date for CFUM will be November 4. Please contact Jim or Linda Newsom if you are interested in donating food, dollars or preparation time to help feed people in the community near Trinity United Methodist Church at 9<sup>th</sup> and College.

Our donations to the DMARC Food Pantry were \$310 in September. We hope to have an average monthly donation of \$500. We will need to play catch-up if we are to reach this goal. Thanks for your generous support of the Food Pantry.



#### **Presbytery Mission Trips**

The presbyteries of North Central, Des Moines, and North Central Iowa are sponsoring two mission trips in the coming months:

- U.S. Mexico Border: You are invited to join Presbyterians from across lowa on December 4-10, 2021, on a mission delegation to the U.S.- Mexico border. This delegation is planned in partnership with Frontera de Cristo, one of five Presbyterian Border Region Ministries. We will worship with and be in mutual mission with brothers and sisters in the Presbyterian Church in Agua Prieta, and experience life and ministry along the US-Mexico border. The cost is \$750 per person plus airfare (approximately \$400). Scholarships are available. Lodging will be in dormitory rooms at Lirio de los Valles Presbyterian Church in Agua Prieta, Mexico. Register online at https://presbynciowa.org/frontera-decristo-application/
- Israel-Palestine: Join Presbyterians from across lowa on March 3-16, 2022, as we visit biblical sites, meet local Christians and church leaders as well as representatives from the Jewish and Muslim communities and learn about the Israel-Palestine conflict and peacemaking and reconciliation efforts. \$2,750 for double occupancy include 11 nights of lodging, most meals, guides, tips, and on the ground transportation. Airline travel not included. Scholarships available. Register online at https://presbynciowa.org/israel-palestine/

For more information about either trip, contact Amgad Beblawi, Mission Executive for the presbyteries, at: amgad@presbyteries.org or 502-592-3223.

# Finance & Stewardship - Richard Ankeney





September was a challenge as we've been slowly improving on the losses incurred during the first half of the year.

Contributions for September were \$1,524.41 below budget and Income was \$1,481.67 below budget.

Expenses were \$3,003.13 higher than expected, resulting in a loss for the month of \$6,009.21. Lower expenses overall have kept losses through September to \$7,359.99.

Financial Report 2021	September 2021	1-Month Budget	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget
General Contributions	9,683.92	11,208.33	89,855.22	100,875.00
Operating Income	685.00	2,166.67	19,732.30	19,500.00
Operating Expenses	16,378.13	13,375.00	116,947.51	120,375.00
Net Gain (Loss)	(6,009.21)	_	(7,359.99)	_
Capital Income	_	_	70.00	_
Capital Expenses	31.80	_	3,286.20	_
Net Gain (Loss)	(31.80)	_	(3,216.20)	_

#### **Worship on October 24**



Sue C.



Shamaine preaches to the computer and the sanctuary



**Cindy leads worship** 

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# **Building & Grounds - Don Beeson**

A successful Saturday morning work activity was held on October 16 with the help of ten volunteers trimming hedges around the church building, as well as cutting down weeds and saplings, hauling tree limbs, and removal of trash from the rental properties both north and south of the church proper. Until WPC no longer owns the properties south of University Avenue, we will continue to be responsible to keep such in well-tended condition, as good neighbors are expected to do.

As has been reported to the congregation, the previous prospect buyer has been dismissed and we are hoping to acquire new opportunities. However, the B&G Committee must continue the responsibility of upkeep, which is expected to continue for several months.

The exit from the church onto University Avenue continues to be closed due to street construction for at least through the end of October. Our parking lot on the south side of University is available to all, although you might see some of the street construction equipment parked at the far end of the lot on Sundays.

In the meantime, our church is open for service in the sanctuary, as well as classrooms and Ward Hall, with the necessary Covid-19 suggested mask-wearing and social distancing for all of us. Looking forward to seeing you in church.

#### To the Flock . . .

Getting ready for All Saints Sunday (p. 4) gives us occasion to remember those who no longer walk with us. We've experienced so much loss and haven't been able to gather in our normal ways as a community of faith to remember the lives of those we love and celebrate the resurrection. Recalling the great cloud of witnesses who surround and cheer us on gives us a sense of hope—this isn't going to last forever and we are not in it alone. Je-



sus promised his followers their joy would be complete in a little while. Things will difficult but he promised we have each other and the Holy Spirit in the meantime.

We are in a "meantime" right now. Things are difficult. We are so weary of COVID and sick of wearing masks and just want things to go back to *normal*, whatever that is. The pandemic has accelerated many things in the world and in our church. Much has changed. We are not the same church we were before. I'm not sure what kind of church WPC is today and have an even less clear picture of the church's future. I do know this congregation has always been faithful to God and prioritized serving others, so the future church will likely grow and innovate from that foundation. If we want to be a church for the future, this is the time to ask questions, to reevaluate everything and not assume that the church will look the same in the days to come as it did in the past.

Ron explained the contract on our land has expired (p. 1). Now is the time to ask hard questions like, *How is God leading us to steward the land we inherited from our forebears in faith at WPC? What kind of church are we to be and how do we show love to our neighbors in the coming years?* What else should we be asking?

November is the month when we remember to give thanks. It can be hard to find joy and give thanks when things feel hopeless, but we have to remember to trust in God and that we can count on each other. As we give thanks for God's many blessings, it is worth remembering that God is always at work through the small and improbable and is still working in and through our little church. Be the church. Be good to each other. If you are wondering how someone is doing, reach out to them. This November, let us remember the past, love and serve in the present, and plan and faithfully live into God's future, together!

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# WPC in Photos - Dwight Tomes



















Worship and Fellowship on October 10









# Zooming to God 2021 - Cindy Ray



In July, 2020, I wrote about how life works on Zoom for me. I confessed my crazy by talking about my people in the wall. By the way, they were little bitty people, just so you know.

Time has gone by since then—a lot of time. We have done things on Zoom we never imagined last year. Natalie Steenson has thought outside the box and created our Tone Up Choir. It was designed to help us keep our voices in shape, but along the way it has managed under the tutelage and imagination of Natalie, to create some beautiful music. She can create a choir out of six or seven of us. We have had some beautiful and meaningful services.

Since then I have learned how to imagine a head table at a banquet that was on Zoom. During this banquet I had to figure out what all of us were doing at the banquet. I had everyone say what they had had for the meal. It was fun to do. Then I announced my head table. It worked!

We are, however, in a new phase now. We are in the hybrid phase. We are having church in the sanctuary. Pastor Shamaine and Dwight, along with Natalie, have created a "zooming studio" to make it possible for us to have church. Over the months we have developed a beautiful congregation, some of whom couldn't be with us unless we were on Zoom. Gradually, we have created church for all. Most of the time the people on Zoom are there worshipping right with us. They are still muted when they sing, but we have recordings and Natalie to make it as normal as possible. As time goes on, I think we will get better and better, creating new ideas that make the quality we are looking for, as well as the flexibility. We are truly zooming to God.

Now, however, there is a new problem. After church the people at the sanctuary are having snacks and fellowship. We are doing this outside mostly, but the time will come soon when we can't do that anymore. The people on Zoom visit; we visit. A few of us visit with the people

on Zoom, but it is as if we are two churches. How can we fix this? How can the people on Zoom be an integral part of who we are? We want and need them. I am thinking of taking the iPad to church and joining Zoom right afterwards. We could encourage people to bring a snack, much as they do communion elements, and join with us for the fellowship time. We could include them throughout the fellowship time or for as long as they would like to stay.

This would be similar to when we can all be there together and people have to leave. This is an idea that isn't fully thought out yet, but I feel certain that if we want to remain together, we need to zoom to God in a more united way, a way that can make us truly one Windsor.

Let's find that way! Help me with ideas as I visit with you concerning this. We are finding new dimensions of zooming to God, and we can do this. Blessings as we zoom down this road together.

#### **Autumn Praise**

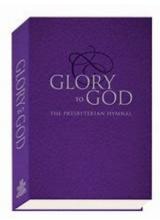
by Bob Hostetler

I praise you, Lord, for autumn: for falling temperatures and morning chill, trees turned gold and red, brown and orange, falling leaves and blowing leaves, the smell of burning leaves, the joy of leaf-pile jumping. I praise you, Lord, for autumn: the interplay of outside temperatures and inside warmth. the promise of cider and pumpkin bread, the blessing of blankets and sweaters. I praise you. Lord. for autumn: the beauty and hope in the change of season, the promise that the coming of autumn heralds another ending, a new beginning, and the wonder of another winter. another spring. another summer, vet to come.

# My Favorite Hymn - Dwight Tomes







This month Dwight Tomes shares one of his favorite hymns with us.

# For the Beauty of the Earth

I love this hymn because it's familiar and one which the congregation can sing along with gusto.

Verses one and two also con-

nect so well with my well-known photography hobby. These describe the beauty and glory of the skies and God's love all around us. My thoughts mirror the wording in the second verse about the wonder of each hour in hill and vale, tree and flower, and the joy of ear and eye.

All among us can relate to the "mystic harmony" mentioned in the third verse—and wish to hear and see this gift every single day. Sing out with this one.



#### Words by Folliott Sandford Pierpoint

In the spring of 1863, Folliott S. Pierpoint (b. Bath, Somerset, England, 1835; d. Newport, Monmouthshire, England, 1917) sat on a hilltop outside his native city of Bath, England, admiring the country view and the winding Avon River. Inspired by the view to think about God's gifts in creation and in the church, Pierpont wrote this text. Pierpont was educated at Queen's College, Cambridge, England, and periodically taught classics at Somersetshire College. But because he had received an inheritance, he did not need a regular teaching position and could afford the leisure of personal study and writing. His three volumes of poetry were collected in 1878.

#### **Tune by Conrad Kocker**

An early form of the tune was composed by Conrad Kocher (b. Ditzingen, Wurttemberg, Germany, 1786; d. Stuttgart, Germany, 1872). Trained as a teacher, Kocher moved to St. Petersburg, Russia, to work as a tutor at the age of 17. But his love for the music of Haydn and Mozart impelled him to a career in music. He moved back to Germany in 1811, settled in Stuttgart, and remained there for most of his life. In 1821 Kocher founded the School for Sacred Song in Stuttgart, which popularized four-part singing in the churches of that region. He was organist and choir director at the Striftsckirche in Stuttgart from 1827 to 1865.

#### Glory to God #14

- 1 For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.
- 2 For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night, Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,

For the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight:

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

4 For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild:

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

#### CCLI License #1986457

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 McGowan in the office and she will write it.



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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 worshiping 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
Duda Plavulj, Custodian

#### Session

Sue Cooper (2022), Congregational Care & Fellowship Rich Teig (2022), Mission & Stewardship Jody Cox (2023), Worship & Media Angle King (2023), Christian Formation Richard Ankeney (2024), Finance & Personnel Don Beeson (2024), Building & Grounds Dwight Tomes, Clerk of Session

#### Deacons

Cindy Ray (2022), Moderator Laura Ward (2022) Beth Mogle (2023) Judy Teig (2023) Gloria Ashby (2024) Mary Willson (2024)

**Important Dates** in November Nov. 3 **WOW Resumes** Nov. 7 **All Saints Sunday** Communion Nov. 13 **Presbyterian Women** Nov. 21 **Christ the King Sunday** Communion **Food Pantry Sunday Thanksgiving** Nov. 25 Nov. 28 First Sunday in Advent