

# THE CHURCHMOUSE

October 2022

Windsor Presbyterian Church

### To the Flock . . .

This wonderful, little congregation has had such an amazing fall kick-off. You can just feel the buzz of activity, ministry, and excitement around our church community! We really have something great here, something worth sharing.

Natalie, our Communications Shepherd, has created such beautiful signs, flyers, and graphics which capture who we are and what we are up to. Everywhere you look there is something beautiful, telling you about our activities and congregation. It filled me with joy and pride to see us wearing our new T-shirts in the parade and handing out beautiful flyers fore the upcoming trunk or treat. I am so excited and proud to share what we are doing with the others and hope you feel the same.

Of course, there is word of mouth, which is the best way to share good news, and I hope you tell your friends and people you meet about the church home you have found at WPC. We now have other great ways, as well. There are flyers and magnets, coffee cups and Tshirts, Instagram and Facebook. If you aren't sure of the best way to share information, Natalie has some great pointers on page 8.

Looking around at all we are doing, it seems that we have come back better than ever after the last three years. We have some really wonderful opportunities coming up. On October 2, we begin the month with World Communion Sunday, combined with the little hunger hike (wear your red T-shirt) and a short outdoor service on the lawn to bless the animals. We will end the month with a trunk or treat activity for the community and will need trunks and lots of hospitality, so I hope you will sign up to help.

In October, we have an incredible opportunity to hear stories from an international, professional storyteller at Windsor On Wednesdays (WOW). We will also learn how to better tell some of our own story. This is going to be a ridiculously fun activity and is perfect to invite nonchurch people to. As you can see in Angie's article (page 2), we have been having great fun telling stories at WOW and this is going to be next level.

On top of that, our other monthly activities will continue, such as preparing and delivering a monthly meal to Children and Family Urban Movement (CFUM) and Men on a Mission (MOM). Our building continues to be used for many wonderful things. Crossroads of Iowa will hold a fundraiser on October 22 with ClearJoy Music (Elaina and Anna Steenson). It would be great if church members were there to offer hospitality.

Whew! For a little church, we sure are doing big things and a lot of

them this fall! If you are having trouble keeping up with all of it, there is a handy guide on p. 9 that should help.

As always, if you think there is something we can be doing better to serve God in the community in our little congregation, please let me know.

Thamane

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#### Windsor On Wednesdays (WOW)

Our first month of WOW was packed with laughter and fun as we talked about important topics, such as our memories of school lunch when we were kids. And, yes, we discussed bag milk! We played silly games and sang goofy songs and basically just thoroughly enjoyed being together. We had a small group, but everyone left with smiles on their faces.

Now, during the month of October, we have an exciting, unique opportunity to meet and work with an international, professional storyteller,



Maureen Korte. She has graciously agreed to join our WOW program and tell her stories, talk about her work, and help any of us who are interested learn some tricks and techniques about telling some of our own stories about our families, our lives, whatever tickles our fancies. Having such a special guest at WOW is a privilege, and we are hoping to give her a warm Windsor welcome, with not six or eight, but a roomful of people to welcome her and let her know how much we appreciate her taking the time to meet with us. A light supper is served at 5:15 and the program is 6:00-7:00. Be there or be square, to coin an old phrase!

#### **Presbyterian Women**

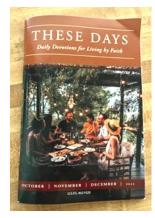
Our second year of Presbyterian Women got off to a roaring start with eighteen women attending. It was fantastic and we had a wonderful conversation. Our study this year focuses on how to Celebrate the Sabbath. Nowadays, our lives are hectic and frantic, and sometimes it feels like we're being chased by a train. Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath and God gave us this delightful, restful gift. We're going to learn how to accept that gift, JUST STOP and create a Circle of Sabbath, be it an hour or a day. A poem by Wendell Berry provides the words and images to express the relief this can bring: "I go among the trees and sit still. All my stirring becomes quiet around me like circles on water. My tasks lie in their places where I left them, asleep like cattle."

#### **Adult Sunday School**

Please consider joining our Sunday School class at 9:15 before worship. Each week we read about a different topic and share our thoughts and opinions and discuss how it relates to our lives as Christians. It's always interesting and thought-provoking. No preparation required! Just show up.

#### **These Days**

Copies of the fall/winter devotional book These Days are available in Ward Hall. On Monday, August 29, there were these words which we all should heed: "God has surrounded us with miracles that will lead us to experience wonder and awe. Let us stop, look, and listen like a child and be astounded by the wonder of it all."



#### Men On a Mission (MOM)

Men On a Mission is now meeting once a month on the



third Thursday of each month. Lunch that will be provided at 11:30, and our study will follow. We invite al men and any of their friends who might be interested to attend.

If you have any questions or suggestions,

contact Bob Culbertson at 515-279-4551 (home), or 515-720-6663 (cell).



#### **100-Year Anniversary Celebration**

Our participation in the Windsor Heights Festival was wonderful. We had a great group of walkers beside the red convertible, sporting their T-shirts and carrying signs to promote the church. Candy was thrown from the car to lots of children along the route. Our table in the park allowed kids to spin a wheel for prizes and we were able to hand out information about the church and upcoming events.

We continue to work on ideas to help celebrate our 100year anniversary. The kick-off event will be on November 20. We will be having some presentations and a reception/lunch after. We will plan a larger celebration in the spring, when the weather is better and we have more time to invite former members and put together a larger program.

We would love to see former members attend any events, so I'm asking your help in providing contact information that you might have. Please send names and addresses to the church office or to me. We will have some postcards to mail out to invite.

We want to continue to do a Windsor Moment each Sunday. We need your help to share a story, share old photos, reminisce about past events, remember previous members, etc. Here are some of the ideas we are hoping some of you can report on: weddings photos, former pastors, PW women's circles and men's groups, WOW, former groups like Mariners and Sojourners, etc. 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.

Natalie continues to update information on our website about the 100 years, so keep checking back there as well. Here is that link: https://windsorpc.org/.

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



### Communications Shepherd

Natalie Steenson

#### **Print Visual Materials**

We are off and running with all the new "visual marketing" materials here at Windsor Presbyterian. You will notice the new sandwich board signs on Sunday mornings and outdoor banner, as well as the directional signage inside the church. Many of you have purchased Tshirts, mugs, yard signs, and car window clings to help us spread the word that WPC is an active presence in our community. Thank you for doing what you can to help us spread the word.

# Facebook — Posting Upcoming Church Events

Facebook is one of the most widely used social media marketing platforms. I am posting our church events on Facebook several times a week and several of you are "liking" the posts with the traditional "thumbs up." We are seeing our posts starting to get more and more views, which is exciting. You can continue to help us by regularly checking Facebook and liking, commenting, and sharing these posts with your friends. I will continue to



try to find ways to engage viewers and hopefully see more and more views, likes, and shares.

## Instagram — Posting Inspiration and Beauty

I enjoy using Instagram to use more visual beauty with inspirational scriptures and quotes to catch people's attention. I will also be posting on Instagram several times a week, as well. Please check out these posts — you will be blest by the photography, artwork, and inspiration.

#### Website — Our Front Door

Please take time to view the website regularly, as well, AND point your friends, family or those interested in learning more about Windsor. I consider the website as the "front door" of our church. Many people often check out a church's website before attending a service. I am updating the website almost on a weekly basis to keep the information fresh and up-to-date.

#### Word of Mouth — YOU

At last, the most powerful form of marketing is simple, it's easy and relational, it's "word of mouth." You can make a big difference by simply inviting friends, neighbors and family to come and attend worship or any of our many wonderful weekly/monthly events. If we all work together, we can widen our reach by sharing the legacy of Windsor Presbyterian Church established in 1922 and extending it into the next century!

### Bring your pets for a special Blessing of the Animals Service

Sunday, October 2nd at 12:30 pm Windsor Presbyterian Church 6301 University Avenue Windsor Heights, Iowa

# Communications Shepherd

#### Keeping Track of it All

By Natalie Steenson, Communications Shepherd



Wow, there are so many things happening at Windsor Presbyterian Church!

Here are a few pointers to navigating and remembering the weekly and monthly activities:

• Website — Events/Activities page and /Calendar

Check out the website windsorpc.org as often as you need to find out the most up-to-date information and Zoom links

#### Sunday Morning Announcement Slides

Every Sunday morning before and after worship there will be announcement slides on the screen for you to see the "Upcoming Events" and "Milestones" listed



Church Bulletin Boards

You can find these by the Office and in the Hallway by the Library. You will find see a Weekly updated view of activities and events in the building, as well as visual graphic designs of all our regular and upcoming activities.

• Facebook

Weekly you will be reminded of the most current and upcoming events. Please watch Facebook regularly (and like and share these events with others)!

Churchmouse Newsletter

The Churchmouse is always a wonderful way to read more about these upcoming events, so take your time each month to carefully read and put the events in your own calendars.

• Windsor Weekly email

AND typically on Thursdays you will receive a weekly recap of all the upcoming events with any further details you will need to know.

Text Reminder

And lastly, if you would like to receive a text about any of these events, please let Natalie know we will set up a text reminding option to be sent the day of for these events.





## **Outreach** (Mission & Genérosity)

**Beth Schmitz** 

Greetings from Mission and Stewardship. We are currently focused on **The Hike for Hunger**, which will occur on October 2, following church services. On that day, we will take a short hike west on the south side of University for about three blocks and then return to the church on the north side of University. This route will take us by the little food pantry we have recently been supporting. Everyone is encouraged to bring a food item for the hike that will be used to fill keep the little pantry filled. Ron Grohe indicates that we are generously donating items and the pantry is doing well. Any non-perishable food items are welcome for the hike and throughout the coming months. You can leave them in the Food Pantry cart.



We are also still honoring our commitment to the **DMARC Food Pantry**. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month is when we really focus on donations for the DMARC Food Pantry, but remember

that donations to the DMARC Food Pantry can be made at any point in the month by including a monetary contribution with your offering. I encourage you to give as generously as you can. Food insecurity is something we can work hard to eradicate.

In September, volunteers prepared and delivered **meals for CFUM**. Support for our CFUM efforts comes in many forms, including hands of help on the day of the event, donation of food items, and monetary donations directed to CFUM, as well as the prayers and support of the church. Thanks to all who work to make this very important mission a success and a <u>special thanks</u> to Jim and Linda Newsom for their tireless support of this project.

Our other special focus has been the **Peace and Global Witness Special Offering**. It will culminate on October 2. The money donated through this special offering will support efforts for peace and reconciliation locally, regionally, and nationally/globally. This is our first time collecting for this offering and I am excited that we can be part of peace efforts in the world.

We are also looking forward to **upcoming projects**, including adopting families for Christmas, gathering mittens/gloves and hats (and maybe boots) for students at Cowles and Windsor Elementary Schools, and ringing the bells for Salvation Army. If you have ideas for outreach projects, please feel free to let me know. We are always looking for ideas and ways to support the community.

#### **September Session Highlights**

Session met on September 8 with all elders present. The main event of our meeting was having the great honor to approve Sandi Ryan's request for membership. Sandi met with us on Zoom and shared her faith story. Sandi is a friend of Cindy's, who first invited her to join Natalie's Tune-up Choir during COVID. She soon became a regular worshiper every Sunday on Zoom from her home in Ames. It is a joy to have Sandi join our Windsor family. Welcome!

Another highlight was a report from our first Youth Elder, Kaitlin. She brings such excitement and enthusiasm to our church and has so many great ideas of ways to reach out to children in our community. You will be hearing from her about our Trunk or Treat activity for Halloween on October 30 in our parking lot. Stay tuned for lots more from Kaitlin!

Be sure to find Windsor on Facebook, Instagram, and our website on the Internet. All three are up and running. Natalie is posting things every single day. Look at it regularly and "like" it. We've been wanting a social media presence for a long time and now we have really great stuff—super pictures from the Fall Festival and the parade are on Facebook. Check it out





#### Prayer Requests (Contact the church office to make changes.)

**Recent Prayer Requests:** Anna Krull (Jayne & Dwight), Sandi Ryan, Steve Zimmerman (brother of Chris and Danny)

**Continuing Prayers:** Brad Behrens, Chuck & Phyllis Bryan, Jim & Georgia Burnes, Jean Carlston, Esther Chol & Makya, Dick Cox, Henry & Kandy Jackson, Eric Lawlor, Virginia Nichols, Barb Pomeroy, Lori Pope (chronic cough), Steve Pope, Leon & Lucy Sanderson, Judy Teig

**Friends of the Church:** Aria (infant relative of Barb P), Karli (daughter of Barb P's cousin), Kayla (treatment for MS) and Marvin (Angie K), 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 N), Ken Lee (Laura W), David Leitch, Maurice Lubalo, Chris McDougal Family, Shirley Miller (Jody C), Derek Mullennax (Ruth H), the Ray Family, Rachel Schneider (Steensons), Mickey Starr (Jayne O), Betsy (Ruth H), Natalie C, Jasper & Quincy (Kings)



# October 2022

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

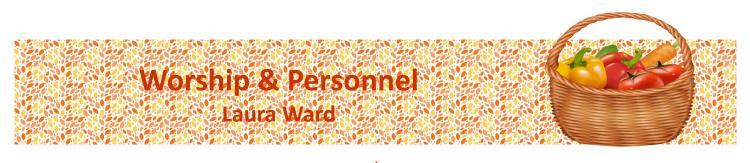
**Friday** 

Saturday

Thursday

Sunday

	STERIS TERIS		Set as that	ANS FANSE AN		
Regular Sunday Schedule: 9:00 a.m. Orthodox Church (Lower Level) 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Fellowship		Regular Tuesday Schedule: 9:30 a.m. Text Bible Study (In Person & Zoom)	Regular Wednesday Schedule: 5:15 p.m. WOW Meal 6:00 p.m. WOW Study	Monthly Events First Thursday: 12:00 p.m. CFUM Meal 7:00 p.m. Uke Jam Second Saturday: 9:00 a.m. B&G Work Day		
Coming in November 11/3 Thu. CFUM Meal 11/5 Sun. All Saints Sunday & Communion 11/13 Thu. Men on a Mission 11/19 Sat. Presbyterian Women 11/20 Sun. Christ the King & 100-Year Celebration					1	
2 Sunday School; Worship; Hun- ger Hike; Fellowship; Blessing World Communion	3	4 Text Study	5 WOW Meal & Study	6 12:00 CFUM Meal Prep 5:30 Budget & Finance Mtg. 7:00 Uke Jam	7	8 8:30 a.m. Juice, Coffee & Donuts 9:00 a.m. B&G Work Day
9 Sunday School, Worship & Fellowship	10 4:00 Pby. Nominating Committee (Conf. Rm.)	11 Text Study	12 WOW Meal & Study	13 11:30 MOM 5:00 Session 7:00 Nubian Cooking	14	15 10:00 a.m. PW 6:00 Nubian Community (WH)
16 Food Pantry Sunday Sunday School Worship & Fellowship	17	18 Text Study	19 WOW Meal & Study	20	21	22 7:00 p.m. Celtic Concert
23 Sunday School Worship & Fellowship 5:30 p.m. Trunk or Treat Reformation Sun. 30	24 Newsletter Info Due 31	25 Text Study	26 WOW Meal & Study	27	28	29



I can't believe fall is here. Time is going way too fast for me these days. However, I do find this season invigorating and supportive. Fall brings me fully awake somehow. I hope there are good things in store for You this season!



Would you enjoy helping with the service? We use a worship assistant most Sundays to read scripture and help keep the service moving along. It can be particularly fun to do when you have family visiting. I think we always like to see how our family members live when we are not around.

It entails very little. A printed copy of the service, including the parts you will read, will be ready for you on the pew near the sign-in table where the usher greets people. You can look it over and ask Pastor about any questions you have. After that, you sit up at the front of the church where you can see everybody and step up to the microphone when it's time. If I get messed up when I'm doing it, I just ask out loud what we do next. Everybody's supportive. I hope you'll think about it. You can also do it with a friend and split up the parts to be read. Easy and fun. Not convinced? Elder Don Beeson is a smoothie at it and he can answer any questions you may have. Try it. You'll like it.

I've realized my gratitudes have been missing an important category - "Things I Didn't Know I Am Grateful For." I know I'm grateful for my sister, Lin, the parents I

had, the dogs I've had, and the jobs I've had. I always give thanks for my comfy bed, my friends, the weather, the beauty in the world and all of the obvious stuff. In this new other category I've put the physical pain and illnesses I've



had. Those aches and pains and injuries truly educated me on how many different types of pain there are and how best to deal with them. In my massage work, it's important that I can understand what type of discomfort people are feeling so that I approach it the best way I can. Very grateful and didn't realize it. Can you think of something in that category for your life?

While I'm speaking of gratitudes, though, let me give a shout-out to Nancy Snyder for making my mom's meatball recipe for the Presbyterian Women's potluck. That brought back sweet memories for me. Mom got it from Edna Troutman. Big hugs to you, Nancy, and thank you!





# Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 30th 5:30-7:30 p.m. Windsor Presbyterian Church Parking Lot 6301 University Avenue

> more information at windsorpc.org





August was a challenging month, as operating expenses outpaced income by \$5,330.42, with building maintenance and utility expenses continuing to be higher than projected. On the positive side, a higher utility bill can indicate an increased use of the building, and thanks to the hard work of both staff and committee members, we're beginning to have new groups make use of our underused spaces. However, inflation has increased the cost of providing for others, so let's help keep as much of our contributions going towards ministry as possible, and be mindful of turning off lights and returning the air conditioning/ furnace to pre-set levels when we leave.



The Budget and Financial Stewardship Committee met on Thursday, September 1, and discussed how the use of our resources reflects our values and our relationship with God. The committee will be forming the budget for 2023 between now and the end of the year, planning for GROWTH in several mission areas. Although the current economic situation in the world is volatile and uncertain, God calls us to continue building His kingdom. How wonderful it would be if in 100 years, the baby I heard criticizing Shamaine's sermon today relates a Windsor Moment to a packed sanctuary. So, let's be even more faithful moving forward. Hallelujah!

Financial Report 2022	August 2022	1-Month Budget	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget
General Contributions	9,866.51	12,216.67	103,884.27	97,733.33
Operating Income	2,280.00	2,033.33	23,338.62	16,266.67
Operating Expenses	17,476.93	14,250.00	134,013.31	114,000.00
Net Gain (Loss)	(5,330.42)	—	(6,970.42)	—
Capital Income	—		185.95	—
Capital Expenses	80.81	_	12,967.24	—
Net Gain (Loss)	(80.81)		(12,781.29)	—

### Property Update



My last report on this was published in the August Newsletter. The sales agreement that we had with a buyer had a due diligence period of three months, which ended August 27, 2022. Sad to say, the buyer did not wish to extend the contract and thus, opted to bow out. This means that the buyer forfeited \$5,000 of escrow money to us that had been deposited into a trust account held by our attorney. The increase in interest rates, the uncertainty of supply lines, both in price and availability, were factors in their decision. However, we are having discussions with another local housing developer that is interested in what we have to offer. We will have further news about that in the very near future. As we continue to proceed, we will keep you apprised.

Property Task Force Ron Grohe



Our WPC September Saturday work session on the 9<sup>th</sup> had ten members completing large and small projects in and around our church, which always "freshens-up" appearances where we, as a congregation, come to worship, learn and share fellowship in so many ways each and every day. On the second Saturday, October 8, our intention will be to do the following: repairing the concrete step leading into the kitchen, cutting and trimming bushes and saplings around the rental houses which are unoccupied and need appropriate care and upkeep, and preparing our snowblowers for winter use and mowers for storage.

Ownership of property, as you are aware, requires ongoing physical and financial activity. This year is no exception. Climate-wise, we have dealt with snow removal, high winds, heavy rains, hail storms with various amounts of damage, as well as city fire inspections, city water department imposed repairs, stove and oven updates, and concerns for our multiple roof conditions.

All of these activities are met by our members with a "can-do" attitude. The Building and Grounds Committee is grateful to all who participate with their time, efforts and financial contributions.

#### The Cornerstones of Windsor Presbyterian Church

Do you know what might be the origin of the cornerstone? Historically, the cornerstone was the most important part of a building. The total weight of the building rested on the cornerstone. The masons doing the construction used a sighting along the edges of this stone for accuracy of the wall under construction.

The placement of a cornerstone with ceremony and ritual has been done for thousands of years. Cornerstone installation is often a major public observance. In United States history, the ceremony often involves political personalities, religious leaders, masonic lodges, Knights of Columbus, and especially those using the building, i.e. the U.S. Capital Building, the Washington Monument, the National Cathedral, and the Iowa State Capital.

#### In Isaiah 28:16

Therefore thus says the Lord God: "Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; whoever believes will not act hastily."

#### In Matthew 21:42

The New Testament writers considered the stone was Jesus Christ—"The stone which the builders rejected has become the Chief Cornerstone." This was the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes.

Our Windsor Church has two cornerstones. The first, dated 1922, measures 1' x 1' x6", reading "Windsor Community Presbyterian Church," and the second is dated 1948 and measures 18" x 21".

There is also a large granite slab installed above the red double doors which is inscribed with the words "This Is No Other But The House of God – This Is The Gate Of Heaven." **Genesis 28:17** 

Several mysteries surround our cornerstones. Why is the 1924 cornerstone placed some 30 feet above ground level? And why have we not found more information regarding the installation of the 1948 cornerstone ceremony, so important was the construction of the sanctuary? The absence of photos and/or written articles for such two key moments is puzzling.

~ Don Beeson



Our potluck on September 25 was a huge success!

















## CROSSROADS OF IOWA PRESENTS

Celtic Benefit Concert

Clearloy

# ClearJoy Music

### AN EVENING OF CELTIC MUSIC

OCTOBER 22, 2022 AT 7:00 P.M.

WINDSOR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 6301 UNIVERSITY AVENUE WINDSOR HEIGHTS, IA 50324

ADDITIONAL PARKING LOCATED AT 64TH AND UNIVERSITY SOUTH OF WINDSOR PRESBYTERIAN

#### **FREE ADMISSION**

FREE-WILL OFFERING TO SUPPORT CROSSROADS OF IOWA'S PROGRAMS

CLEARJOYMUSIC.COM CROSSROADSOFIOWA.ORG





6301 University Avenue Windsor Heights, IA 50324-1815 Phone: 515-277-8379 E-mail: info@windsorpc.org



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!

#### <u>Staff</u>

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

Cynthia Plavulj, Custodian

#### Session

Jody Cox (2023), Celebrations (Special Events & Visibility) Angie King (2023), Discipleship (Belonging & Christian Formation) Kaitlin Mogle (2023), Youth Ministry & Mission Richard Ankeney (2024), Budget & Financial Stewardship Don Beeson (2024), Building & Grounds Beth Schmitz (2025), Outreach (Mission & Generosity) 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 October Dates

2 - World Communion; Hunger Hike;
Blessing of the Animals
6 - CFUM Meal;
Budget & Finance; Uke Jam
8 - B&G Work Day
13 - Men on a Mission
15 - Presbyterian Women
16 - Food Pantry
22 - Celtic Concert
30 - Reformation
Sunday; Trunk or Treat



**Return Service Requested**