

# ¡La Luz!

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Santa Fe

## Garden Updates!



Our trees and bushes have all survived the winter and are blooming (in the case of the lilacs and forsythia) or putting out shockingly bright leaves that signal spring. Our iris are blooming as well, in a tidy row of nodding purple heads, and though rabbits ate the buds, we discovered a small bed of tulips as well! Plus, the mystery plant in the 'well' outside the sanctuary forms a bubble of purple popping out over the edges. The vines and trees in the back are leafing out as well, promising a cooling wind-break for mid-summer.

A very huge thank you to Brad and Alan Tway, who have been taking care of our outdoor spaces over the winter and early spring. They brought 4 cubic yards of mulch over from Buckman Transfer Station and spread it across the planted beds. The addition of the mulch has made the planted beds look much more official and well cared for!

## Prayers for Our Congregation

*Over the course of the year, all members and friends of Westminster will appear on this list. Please hold them in prayer, knowing they will hold you in prayer.*

Elfie Nadell  
 Kathleen Watson Nadler  
 Libby Naranjo  
 Maria Naranjo  
 Megan Naranjo  
 Donna Ormerod

## Birthdays!

5/1: Monica Brugger  
 5/4: Navidad Baca  
 5/6: Kathy Ytuarte  
 5/11: Reyes Naranjo  
 5/15: Cheyenne Padilla  
 5/16: Dick Fallis  
 5/18: Gigi Garcia  
 5/31: Rachel Johnson  
 5/31: Brad Tway

## QUERIDO WESTMINSTER:

I imagine many of you have already heard this exciting news - but just in case, I'm sharing it again!

I am delighted to announce that I am expecting a baby, due at the end of September! For as long as I can remember, I have wanted to be a mom. While there are many, many ways to pursue motherhood, I have spent the last eighteen months (give or take) working with a fertility clinic in Albuquerque and had a successful IVF transfer using donor sperm in January of this year. I am, as anyone who has prepared for a first child has been, ecstatic and anxious in turns and occasionally all at once. Mostly, though, I am delighted - and deeply grateful - to be on this journey.

In particular, both as I pursued fertility treatments and throughout the early stages of pregnancy, I have been especially grateful to be becoming a mother here, at Westminster, in a community I know to be deeply supportive and loving. I am deeply grateful for the gift of church community in my life as I was a child, and am so glad that my child will experience the joy and love that comes of being a 'child of the church'. What a gift to be serving a congregation where being a single mom feels safe, and where I know this baby will never lack for an extended network of adults who care!

Looking forward, I will be taking parental leave from baby's arrival to the end of the calendar year. At this point, we have worship coverage for the entirety of my leave, and are working on a few additional items. Personnel, the Session, the Commission on Ministry, and I are working together on this, and you'll hear more from us soon!

I am so grateful for your well wishes, your blessings, your prayers, and your excitement as I enter this new stage of life. Thank you for your support!

Bendiciones,  
Rev. Madeline

### MADELINE'S SCHEDULE:

May Schedule: May 12-15, Study Leave in Charlotte, NC (leaving after worship)

Office hours: Wednesday - Friday, 9:30-1:30; Saturdays by appointment. Monday and Tuesday are my days off!

## Farewell to Margi Coxwell

Westminster said a fond farewell to Margi Coxwell during and following worship on Sunday April 7 - Margi's final Sunday playing piano and organ in worship! Margi has moved to Montana to be nearer to her family. We sent her off in style and with much love - she will be dearly missed here in Santa Fe.

During worship, the following blessing was offered;

*Margi is a beloved part of this congregation, and today we send her off to Montana as she move to be near to family, with deep joy and gratitude for her years among us, and grief that she will no longer be a presence here with us.*

*So today, as you leave, Margi, we wanted to send you with the blessing of this community who loves you. God's church transcends time and space, but of course we are mere mortals who cannot do the same. This is a parting of ways that stretches but does not sever our relationships.*

*Margi, child of the covenant, you are a beloved part of this congregation. You have nurtured us and we have nurtured you in turn, teaching each other what it is to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. We send you to Salt Lake City knowing that the grace of God travels with you, the Holy Spirit accompanies you, and Jesus Christ loves you as we do. Go forth, therefore, with the blessing of God and the love of this congregation. Let that*



Keri Brinegar stands with Margi as she receives the blessing and farewell of the congregation!

*blessing and our love buoy you. Share that blessing and our love with your family and your new community. Know that nothing will separate you from us or from God. Amen.*

Traveling mercies to you, Margi! We will miss you!





## Per Capita - Committing to Connection

Every year, there's a line on our budget for "per capita." Per capita is how we support our Presbytery, Synod, and national denomination. Through per capita, we know that the larger bodies have the needed resources to provide support, ideas, and oversight as we share our faith with the wider world, wider country, wider area of our state, and to each individual congregation as needed.

"Per capita is a set amount of money (apportionment) per member that congregations pay to the larger Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Said another way, it is a Presbyterian Covenant Community Fund – part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together. Because every Presbyterian shares in the benefit of the PC(USA)'s system of government, the expenses associated with coordinating and performing the functions of that system should be shared by everyone as well." *(From the PC(USA) website)*

For 2024, each individual portion is **\$37**. If you are able to contribute this one-time payment, then the amount won't have to come out of our 2024 budget. \$37 is a small price to pay for such great benefits, allowing us to stay connected, continuing to do great things. Thank you for your support of the work of the church through per capita!

(Want to learn more about per capita? You can read denominational FAQs [here](#) - or an article reflecting on the importance of per capita by Rev. Dr. Tim Hart-Andersen [here](#)!)

## Creation Care Corner

On Creation Care Sunday, we brought some of our worms in for worship! The worm box is doing well - they survived the winter and are happily chowing down on coffee grounds, your kitchen scraps, and shredded paper from the office. Look how happy they seem to be.

If you take a peek at the back page of this edition of *La Luz*, you'll see a photo of our Little Free Library, renovated and painted by Fred Dennis to match our building as closely as we could!



# Ghost Ranch Gospel Choir: Union and Reunion

at Ghost Ranch July 21-27, 2024



"Gospel music is far more than the soundtrack of the African American experience; it is its beating heart and soul...While styles have changed, there's one sound that has remained a constant source of strength and courage, comfort and wisdom - Gospel." Henry Louis Gates

Join Bishop Todd and Pastor Linda O'Neal for a week of gospel singing! From his teen years as a co-leader of Lively Word-Lively Worship (with the legendary composers, Avery and Marsh) and later joined by his wife, Linda, Bishop Todd has brought the deep joy of Gospel to Ghost Ranch for almost half a century. This summer they will be joined by Grammy-Award winning vocalist Pastor Nathaniel "Nathan" Best, (Walter Hawkins Family, The O'Jays and The Fairfield Four in the movie *O, Brother, Where Art Thou*). This celebration will truly raise the roof!

Whether you are brand new to gospel music or have been returning every year to nourish your soul, come make a joyful noise in July! Ghost Ranch Gospel is glorious music and "spirit-inspired worship that challenges, teaches, transforms, convicts and energizes us - so when we are sent out, we have experienced the wonder of God and are changed for the better from when we arrived." (PCUSA Matthew 25 Initiative)



Pastor Todd O'Neal and his wife Linda share responsibilities at the House of Joy Christian Ministry in Cincinnati. Pastor Todd received his Master of Divinity from Methodist Theological School and a Bachelor of Art and Music from Kentucky State University.. Linda O'Neal graduated Kentucky State University with a BS in Music Education.



Nathaniel "Nathan" Best is a Grammy Award winning vocalist and pastor. He has worked with The O'Jays and The Fairfield Four and was a featured on the soundtrack for the film "*O Brother, Where Art Thou?*".

Scan the QR code below or visit [ghostranch.org](http://ghostranch.org) for more information on Ghost Ranch Gospel Choir: Union and Reunion



Abiquiu, New Mexico



[ghostranch.org](http://ghostranch.org) | 877.804.4678

## About Ghost Ranch

Ghost Ranch is a 21,000 acre, 501(c)3 non-profit, education and retreat center located in Abiquiu, New Mexico. Every year Ghost Ranch provides exceptional programming in the areas of Art, Science, Spirituality, Social Issues, Meditation, Metal Arts, and personal growth. The ranch also hosts reunions, weddings, business conferences, and other groups outside of its programming.

In addition, the ranch provides overnight accommodations in a rustic southwest setting. The ranch is home to two world renowned museums, a library, and is home to the New Mexico State Fossil, Coelophysis.



## Upcoming Worship Events

On April 21st, we celebrated Creation Care Sunday with the Creation Care Committee helping lead worship - selecting hymns and liturgy, and sharing in worship leadership as well! We have several upcoming worship events to look forward to!

May 19: Pentecost Sunday - any member of the congregation who can read in a non-English language is invited to participate in the re-enactment of the Holy Spirit's arrival on those gathered in Jerusalem fifty days following Jesus' resurrection. Reach out to Rev. Madeline to sign up!

June 2: Missio Dei Sunday - Missio Dei committee will be selecting hymns and liturgy, as well as sharing in worship leadership. They'll be sharing updates on the mission and outreach Westminster does through them in the community!

June 30: 5th Sunday Hymn Sing! We'll gather for a hymn sing, with hymns selected by you! Please email Rev. Madeline or Worship Chair Cindy Piatt with your hymn suggestions.

July 21: Gospel Worship! We are delighted to welcome Todd O'Neal back to Westminster to share in a lively gospel worship service. All are invited to gather before worship to sing in our pick-up Gospel Choir, learning the music Todd will be leading us in!

## Weekly Taizé

Taizé is taking a summer hiatus! The leadership will be determining what the future of Taizé at Westminster looks like. If you have thoughts or suggestions, please reach out to Rev. Madeline or any of the other regular leaders of Taizé.



## Contemplative Worship

**Taizé:** A brief prayer service in the style of the Taizé Brothers in France is on hiatus for the summer. Look for news about how we will come back together later in the summer.

### Second Saturday Quiet Space:

On the second Saturday of the month, we gather at 10am for a creative and contemplative gathering. Quiet Space is a time for creativity and contemplation; every month will be a different experience.

## Updates from the Session's Meetings

### WPC Committee Meetings

**Is your committee on this list? Is the date and time correct? Please reach out with any changes you have!**

Building and Grounds: 6:30pm; 1st Thursday

Money Cares: 6:30pm; 1st Wednesday

Missio Dei: 9:45am; 2nd Sunday

Worship: 12pm; 2nd Sunday

Evangelism and Outreach: 6:30pm; 2nd Thursday

Creation Care: 1pm; 3rd Wednesday

Session: 6:30pm; 4th Thursdays

Personnel: as needed

Deacons: as needed

Nominating: as needed, beginning in summer

Westminster's Session meets on the fourth Thursday of each month - usually. We met on March 21 and April 25. Below are highlights from each meeting!

#### March 21

- The session examined and welcomed Elizabeth Rickert as a new member of our community; she will be welcomed in worship in April
- Session approved continuing upgrades to the sanctuary sound/video system, up to \$3,000
- Kent DeYoung attended the 2/24 Presbytery meeting; a summary can be found [here](#).
- Worship committee reported that the old pianos will be given a home at Covenant Presbyterian's piano school, in their expansion location at Immanuel Presbyterian, both in Albuquerque. Exact date of move TBD

#### April 25

- Continuing upgrades to our sound and camera system in the sanctuary - new camera, cables, microphones, a laptop, and monitor should be arriving shortly
- One Great Hour of Sharing gifts: \$1,780!
- MT 25 needs have been highest over the last month since 2021; grateful for funds from First Pres., our partner

(For full minutes, check the church library!)



The Little Free Library set up by Creation Care and Building and Grounds!

## WESTMINSTER'S STAFF AND LEADERS

- Pastor: Rev. Madeline Hart-Andersen: [rev.madeline.wpcsantafe@gmail.com](mailto:rev.madeline.wpcsantafe@gmail.com)  
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