Gathering for 8:30 am Worship
by Suzanne McInroy, Director of Communications

The Sunday 8:30 am worship has found a steady group of worshippers, both online and in person, who gather each week in Westminster Hall and livestream to worship through music, Scripture readings, prayer, and Communion.

“The 8:30 a.m. service provides an innovative space to experience my faith. I appreciate the opportunity to reflect in this creative worship environment,” said Austin Holik, who joined Westminster last May.

The new worship service has also provided opportunities for guest musicians to share their talents. For three Sundays in February, local electric guitarist Deevo McCray will join Westminster musicians.

“From dance, to spoken word, to music, to live painting, guest artists have enriched the 8:30 service, helping us to reflect on God’s word in new ways,” said Director of Worship and the Arts Amanda Weber. “Additionally, our technology team does a wonder-ful job translating this service to the livestream in a way that brings online congregants up close into the heart of worship.”

The service launched on Coming Together Sunday in September and since then the attendance numbers have increased for online worshippers. In the past five months the online worshippers grew to as high as 160 in December. The in-person worshippers have remained steady, but recently began to decrease, most likely because of the rising Covid infection rate.

“This service has offered a wonderful opportunity for broad participation in worship leadership across the age groups of our congregation,” said the Rev. Alexandra Jacob, Associate Pastor for Families, Youth, and Children. “On Coming Together Sunday, one of Westminster’s junior high youth group members served as lay reader, and several others have come after her to lead in the same way. When more families are feeling ready for in-person worship opportunities, I’m excited about the possibility of the 8:30 worship service being a vibrant and active service for children and youth to continue worshiping and leading!”

You are invited to attend in person in Westminster Hall Sunday mornings, via livestream, or watch the service when it works for you through Westminster’s worship video archives.

Wednesday Worship Offers Midweek Pause
by Suzanne McInroy, Director of Communications

Each Wednesday evening, Westminster community members gather—mostly online—in Silence and Song.

“Each of these services, which are meant to be more contemplative in nature, and kind of a midweek pause in our lives, has some music, has some quiet, has a psalm, and has a poem,” explained the Rev. Dr. Tim Hart-Andersen, who along with Assistant Director of Music Kenneth Vigne, plans and leads each service. During the month of February, Rev. David Tsai Shinn and Artist-in-Residence Katherine Parent will reflect on the theme of resilience through scriptural meditation and art.

In the last few months, the Wednesday Evening Worship has had only a few people attend in person, but the number of those watching online continued on page two.

IN THIS ISSUE

- An update from Session (p. 3)
- Many thanks to the generous community (p. 2, 4, 5, and 8)
- Plans for Lent (p. 4, 5, and 8)
- Beyond Sunday Connections returns in February with elder Song Lee (p. 5)
Love & Relationships in the Third Age
by Rachel Sheild, Director of Congregational and Community

Join us as we delve into the complexities of love and relationship in the third age. We’ll explore the neurochemistry of love, what creates and sustains successful relationships, and how aging affects us in our intimate bonds. Research shows that many of us become more emotionally stable, conscientious, and agreeable over time. However, the last two years of pandemic have introduced new stresses to affect us individually and as partners. We’ll talk about what traits, behaviors and attitudes foster success in relationships as we age in the midst of pandemic stress.

John Henrich will lead this session. He is a graduate of Muhlenberg College, the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, and the Minnesota School of Professional Psychology/Argosy University. John has served as a pastor and hospital chaplain around the country. He was licensed as a psychologist in 2000, and worked part-time at Westminster Counseling Center, Burnsville Psychological Associates, and Mt. Olivet Counseling Service. He also worked as staff psychologist at LeaderWise assessment for clergy and seminarians. He retired as director of Mt. Olivet Counseling Service in 2019, but he continues to teach as adjunct associate professor at St. Mary’s University of the Twin Cities graduate program, where he has taught courses in Developmental Psychology, Clinical Supervision, and Bereavement for 20 years.

Register on Realm to join us February 9 from 11 am-noon on Zoom or in-person in the Meisel Room with a social hour afterwards. Watch for Covid updates as we may pivot to Zoom for health and safety reasons.

Thank You for Your Generosity
by Kelsey Crouch-Dodson, Director of Stewardship

2021 Year-End Appeal: Your response to Tim Hart-Andersen’s annual year-end appeal and “fireside chat” video was incredible! With the support of more than 100 members giving nearly $105,000, we exceeded our goal. As we neared the end of 2021, we anticipated a short fall, but your generosity helped to close the gap and ensure the church ended the year on a high note. Thank you for your generous support.

2022 Pledge Goal Achieved: With the support of more than 400 households, we have reached our pledge goal for 2022! The impact of your generosity extends beyond the walls of the church and is integral to the mission and ministry of Westminster. Your incredible support helps us to plan for the year ahead and ensures Westminster is well-positioned for 2022. Thank you!

In Gratitude for a Legacy Gift
by Kelsey Crouch-Dodson, Director of Stewardship

Legacy giving helps Westminster sustain God’s work into the future. Westminster is grateful for a recent legacy gift from Jim Peter. As a dedicated member for nearly 60 years, Jim served on the Board of Trustees, many committees, and most notably as treasurer for 20 years. Jim’s impact at Westminster will continue through his generosity in perpetuity. Jim and others who have included Westminster in their legacy plan help to ensure future generations will know God’s love and justice. Thanks be to God for Jim’s legacy.

For information on how you can make a legacy gift to Westminster, contact Kelsey Crouch-Dodson, Director of Stewardship, kcrouchdodson@wpc-mpls.org or visit the website. If you have a legacy gift already in place, please let us know so we can include you in the Legacy Circle.

Worship continued from cover page.
through livestream and Facebook has consistently been more than 50, sometimes more than 100.

“The Wednesday evening midweek service is meant to offer a respite, a place of calm and rest in a world that is weary and anxious,” Hart-Andersen said during a recent service. “We invite you to let fall away all that you carry that is keeping you from the light this night.”

Join Silence and Song each Wednesday at 6 pm in Westminster Hall, on livestream, or on Facebook, and allow yourself to be still and worship.
Grace and peace,

See you in church – in person or online!

The campaign – yet to be named – will free Westminster to live into an exciting future. The extraordinary draw from unrestricted funds will help Liberty Community Church in north Minneapolis and Grace-Trinity Community Church in Uptown. Both congregations approached Westminster independently last October seeking assistance with their capital campaigns.

Liberty is raising $5,000,000 to fund Northside Healing Space, a program designed to bring relief, healing, and hope to women and girls who have been trafficked and others in a community living with trauma. Liberty launched the campaign just as Covid struck, which caused it to stall. Westminster’s grant of $200,000 brings a much-needed infusion to the effort.

Grace-Trinity has raised $1,800,000 toward a goal of $2,500,000 to fund building improvements designed to serve the community better as a place for health and healing and help the congregation flourish. The church unexpectedly learned last fall that its entire roof needed to be replaced, adding $200,000 to the project, which will be covered by Westminster’s grant.

This funding parallels last year’s $100,000 in special endowment gifts to two non-profits serving indigenous and precariously housed communities, for a total of $500,000 in extraordinary grants beyond annual mission giving. In each of the last two years Westminster has budgeted $460,000 for mission. The extraordinary and annual funding, when added to the nearly $200,000 in special emergency support from our church during 2020 and 2021, means that during the two pandemic years Westminster invested more than $1,600,000 in the community. We are a mission and justice-oriented church!

2. The Session began planning for the capital campaign this coming fall celebrating and completing Westminster’s bold vision for the next 50-100 years. The Open Doors Open Futures campaign in 2016 raised $65,000,000 for mission, the new wing, and underground parking. The expanded facility greatly increases the church’s engagement with the community and has helped Westminster thrive during the pandemic.

Our congregation committed itself to finance 25% of the project, meaning $23,000,000 remains to be funded. Session will name a Campaign Committee in February to develop a plan by late spring, including the mission portion of the goal. The campaign – yet to be named – will free Westminster to live into an exciting future.

I give thanks to God for the expansive, Spirit-led, mission focus of Westminster! See you in church – in person or online!

Grace and peace,
Updated Adult Ed Calendar
Adult Education continues to explore the theme Building the Beloved Community. The February schedule is:

- **February 6** Leon Rodrigues: *History of Colonization*
- **February 13** Leon Rodrigues: *Transformational and Decolonizing Practices*
- **February 20** Rev. Kevin Park, English Ministry Pastor, Korean Central Presbyterian Church of Atlanta
- **February 27** Rev. Christine J. Hong, Associate Professor of Educational Ministry; Director of DEdMin Program, Columbia Theological Seminary

Adult Education classes are currently held at 9:15 am on Sundays in the Recreation Room and online at: westministermpls2.online.church.

NEW Westminster Community Sings
March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5
This Spring, Westminster launches a new singing opportunity accessible to all. In the style of a “Community Sing,” we will gather at 9 am in the Sanctuary on the first Sunday of the month to learn a piece for the 10:30 am worship service. Singers may sit with their families and come up just for our shared anthem. (We will not wear robes.) This “y’all come” choir will focus on the joy of singing and the value singing has when we join in community. Come as your schedule allows! For more information, contact Amanda at aweber@wpc-mpls.org.

Meisel Scholar Program
Applications are now being received for college-age students interested in pursuing a Meisel Scholar experience in the summer of 2022. Young people are encouraged to extend their learning outside the traditional classroom setting through internship, travel, and research opportunities. Westminster endowed resources support individuals financially, and each young person is partnered with a mentor in the congregation who provide vocational reflection and guidance. The Meisel Scholar application is available online and completed applications are due by March 15. Interested students are encouraged to contact me with any questions, mgage-finn@wpc-mpls.org.

2022 Lenten Covenant Groups
You are invited to deepen your spiritual journey at Westminster by joining a Covenant Group during 5-6 weeks of Lent in March and April. This year the groups will meet online or in-person, during the Sunday Adult Learning Hour or at a different time determined by the group in collaboration with staff. The theme is “Belonging in the Silence of Lent: Prayer, Study, Self-examination, Focus, Letting Go.” Please contact Mahin if you are interested in joining.

Thank you, Westminster, for your gifts, kind words and fond memories you shared with me at my retirement reception. I look forward to being among you in new ways and new forms of relationship. I pray for an end to this pandemic so we might once again be the Body of Christ in body as well as Spirit. See you in church! May it be so. —Rev. Dr. Margaret McCray

BIRTHS
Winter Ellison Wade
December 22, 2021
Ari Andersen Sames
December 25, 2021
Arthur Elliott Douma
January 12, 2022

IN MEMORY
Sandra Erickson Brown
August 4, 2021
Ruth Tate
December 7, 2021
Harriett Dayton
December 20, 2021
Beyond Sunday Connections
Song Lee
by Lynne Thompson, Westminster member

Beyond Sunday Connections invites Westminster women to come together in fellowship and share personal reflections about their faith, work, and daily life. Song Lee is the featured speaker on Monday, February 28, at 6:30 p.m.

Born in South Korea, Song was 10 years old when she came to Minnesota with her parents and two younger brothers. She attended South High School, where she met her future husband, Rob; and in 2008, she and Rob joined Westminster. She serves on Session, the Stewardship and Congregational Nominating committees, and the Advisory Board for the Westminster Town Hall Forum.

Song supports partnerships between grocery stores and food shelves in her work at Second Harvest Heartland. “My passion for food developed at an early age and has shifted and changed throughout my life,” she said. “Food can be an expression of generosity and hospitality, but it can also be a source of division and turmoil.” Song will talk about her early food memories and the central role of food throughout her life.

Register for Beyond Sunday Connections by February 18 on Realm. Indicate whether you will attend in person in Westminster Hall or via Westminster’s livestream channel. Questions? Contact Rani Murdoch Zappa, 952.927.8311.

Thanks for Generously Supporting the Warm Gear Drive

At the end of 2021 the Hunger Ministry Team invited the congregation to donate socks, hats, and gloves to offer guests at the December monthly community meal, Friends Eating and Sharing Together, FEAST. The response was tremendous, and we greatly exceeded the goals. Our meal guests were invited to help themselves—no limits.

The 2022 Lenten Booklet: Available Soon
by Heather Heefner, Westminster member

The 40-day period between Ash Wednesday and Easter commemorates Jesus’ time of withdrawal to and reflection in the desert while he fasted. Many members of the Christian faith use the period of Lent as a time for quiet contemplation, reflection, and prayer.

Again this year during Lent, Westminster will offer a Lenten Booklet of day-by-day devotional material, including written reflections contributed by Westminster members, poetry selections, scripture quotes, and reproductions of art from Westminster’s collection.

Coordinating with the Rev. Dr. Tim Hart-Andersen’s sermon theme for Lent 2022, the Lenten Booklet is intended to help readers explore their own Christian faith in the context of “Belonging.” How does our Christian faith shape our sense of belonging? Writers explore their experience in belonging with prayer, study, self-examination, focus or centering, and letting go.

This year the Lenten Booklet will be available in print and digital copies, as well as by daily emails. Please look for your copy of the Lenten Booklet on or after Sunday, February 24, in the church or on the Westminster website. To sign up for the daily e-mail option, visit Westminster’s email sign-up page and select “Lenten Devotional.” An email will be sent to your inbox each morning with the daily Lenten devotional from the booklet.
**Mission Trips**

by Alexandra Jacob, Associate Pastor for Families, Youth, and Children

Registration is open for Junior and Senior High summer mission trips! Each trip offers opportunities for youth to deepen their faith formation and relationships through intentional service-learning opportunities, partnering with organizations who are seeking justice in their local communities. If you have a 6th-12th grader in your household, consider inviting them to take part. And if you’re a grown-up who might be interested in coming along on one of these trips as an adult leader, please be in touch! There are ample opportunities to get involved in the work of Westminster’s youth ministries program.

**Junior High Mission Trip**
(current 6th-8th graders)
- **When**: June 27-July 1
- **Where**: Fergus Falls, MN, and Fargo, ND
- **What**: Several different service-learning opportunities with diverse organizations in those regions, ranging from food delivery for folks experiencing food insecurity to river cleanup along the Red River

**Senior High Mission Trip**
(current 9th-12th graders)
- **When**: July 9-17
- **Where**: Appalachia region of the US (final location TBD)
- **What**: Partnership with Appalachia Service Project, an organization that hosts groups from across the country to complete home repair work for families and individuals in rural Appalachian communities

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**Interfaith Artist Circle Exhibition Opens in Westminster Gallery**

by Rodney Allen Schwartz, Director, Westminster Gallery and Archive

The Interfaith Artist Circle is a group of Twin Cities visual artists who pursue art as a spiritual journey. They create art on spiritual themes: prayer, the soul, mysticism, creation, and mortality. These 19 women pondered the pandemic time we are living in. How do we find hope in these difficult times? How do we heal from the everyday crisis of these times?

The exhibition, *Hope and Healing in Pandemic Times*, features diverse artistic techniques and styles as the artists explore their own experience with the pandemic. Some hint of nature and a storm, while others engage brokenness, loss, and potential healing. Sacred space, hope, and deliverance are also present in their thoughtful communication with us, the viewer.

Many of these women have exhibited their art in the Westminster Gallery in the past, either with this group or through their previous association as the Jewish Women Artists’ Circle. The exhibition runs through Sunday, February 27.

*Complex Passage #4*, by Joyce Lyon, oil stick on Arches oil paper

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**Children’s Ministries In-Person Programming Pushed Back a Month**

by Sonja Dziekciowski, Director of Children’s Ministries

In Season 3 of the Pandemic, the Omicron variant has led to thoughtful input from families, volunteers, and our FYC council leading to a decision of “not yet” for our in-person programming.

In February, Church School Zoom will start back up again, while we prayerfully wait and hope for an in-person Church School option to begin in March. A 3-year-old through 5th grade Church School Zoom class will also be available through the end of the program year.

While we wait out this surge, I have started the process of dreaming of summer and making plans for Day Camp, which will be the week of June 13 - 17. Hold that space on your calendars!
Girl Scout Cookies Are Back!
by Megan MacFarlane, WPC Member and Girl Scout Mom

Pandemic life continues to be a challenge, but rest assured the Girl Scouts are on the job and would love to sell you cookies!

Cookies can be purchased for yourself or as donations for FEAST and the Groveland Food Shelf from February 20 - March 15. This year’s choices include Lemonades, Shortbreads, Thin Mints, Peanut Butter Patties, Caramel deLites, Toast-yays, Peanut Butter Sandwiches, Caramel Chocolate Chip (gluten free), and the new Adventurefuls.

If you are worshiping from home, have no fear, you can still purchase cookies! Information about our online ordering option will be in upcoming FYC weekly emails, the All-Church email, and in the FYC Families Facebook Group.

Questions regarding Girl Scout cookies can be sent to Megan MacFarlane at wpcgscookies@gmail.com. Thank you for your support of our Scouts!

Upcoming Parent/Caregiver + Family Gatherings – Subject to Change
by Marie Kruskop, Coordinator of Early Childhood and Family Ministries

In the FYC world, we lay out our plans and often add “Plans are subject to change.” That phrase has never been more true! So, it is with that phrase in mind that I offer these plans for parents, caregivers, and families to gather together—it has been a while!

Parent/Caregiver Gathering #1
Sunday, February 6 | 9:15 am-10:15 am | Zoom
Those of you with school-aged kids, drop in as you are able for this informal gathering after getting your children set up in their Zoom Church School classrooms. Those with Junior or Senior High School-aged students can join us right from the start!

NOTE: Our Zoom will be a different one than the Church School one. Contact Marie for the correct link.

Parent/Caregiver Gathering #2
Sunday, March 6 | 9:15 am - 10:15 am | Heller Commons
After dropping children off for Church School or Youth Group, we’ll gather in the Heller Commons to reconnect and catch up with other parents and caregivers. It will be good to be together – in person!

Family Matters
beginning Sunday, March 13 | 9:15 am – 10:15 am | Bates Room
Family Matters is a place of welcome and connection for Westminster parents and caregivers with children of all ages, who are looking to build community at church. We discuss a variety of parenting topics and consider them through the lens of our faith, seeking to provide both support and information. Join us!

NOTE: Group meets in the Bushnell Room on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

And mark your calendar for this Family Fellowship Event! Look for more details in the FYC email on Thursdays and contact Marie with questions - and to RSVP!

Lunar New Year Celebration
Saturday, February 12 | 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm | Location: TBD
This year we are moving our Lunar New Year Celebration outdoors. We will gather (location to be determined) for a lunar walk in the early evening moonlight and for a variety of other fun activities including learning more about the Year of the Tiger.
Associate Pastor Nominating Committee Update
by Meghan Gage-Finn, Executive Associate Pastor

Under the leadership of co-chairs Barbara Brown and Andy Peterson, the work of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) is well underway. The group has been meeting regularly since November to prepare the materials, the Ministry Information Form, that will help interested candidates learn about the Associate Pastor for Adult Ministries position. This new Associate Pastor, whom we hope will join the staff later this year, will lead the vision for spiritual growth and community life of the church through adult education, fellowship, and leadership development. This person will help church members, newcomers, and downtown neighbors engage in dynamic opportunities to nurture their faith and expand their sense of belonging to this community. They will serve alongside Rev. Dr. Matt Skinner, Scholar for Adult Education, Rachel Sheild, Director of Congregational and Community Engagement, and a strong team of lay leaders. May we continue to pray for the members of the APNC as they discern the Spirit’s leading in this process, as well as those candidates who are considering a call to serve at Westminster.

Lenten Organ Series
by Joseph Trucano, Organist & Ensemble Director

As we prepare for the Lenten season, we invite you to join us for a Lenten Organ Series in Westminster’s chapel. These 30-minute noontime concerts will be held each Wednesday during Lent (March 9, 16, 23, 30, and April 6) with opportunities to listen in person and over livestream. These concerts, intended to complement our evening Lenten worship services, will provide an opportunity to hear old and new organ repertoire on the magnificent Dobson pipe organ. Featured performers include myself, Kenneth Vigne, Melanie Ohnstad, and Cathie Fischer. Be on the lookout for more information coming soon. For any questions, please reach out to me at jtrucano@wpc-mpls.org.

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Be in the Know: Covid-19
by Michelle Lavelle-Henry, Health and Healing Ministry Team

We are eager to resume a sense of normalcy and the best way to move forward is to follow guidelines from respected sources like the Minnesota Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control. However, we recognize that interpreting the current CDC guidelines, accessing information on COVID-19 testing, and understanding the difference between rapid and antigen testing is confusing. Here is some information to help you be in the know.

Preventing COVID-19: The best strategies are to social distance, wear a mask, handwash regularly, and use disinfecting wipes. If you’re feeling sick for any reason, stay home. Test for Covid with any suspected exposure and travel. Risk of exposure is greater if you are less than 6 feet apart for more than 15 minutes. Retest, after an exposure with a negative test. Quarantine for 5 days with a positive test and mask for an additional 5 day if no fever and you’re feeling better.

Reducing disease severity: Get vaccinated and a booster shot to prevent Covid, reduce symptom severity, and prevent hospitalization. Also, get vaccinated against the flu.

COVID-19 diagnostics: Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests look for the Covid DNA genetic material. These include the nasal swab or saliva testing. To find a PCR testing site go to the Minnesota Health Department website. Antigen testing looks for inflammation caused by the COVID antigen. This testing is common in the at-home testing kits and is accurate when you have a lot of symptoms. It detects the virus at that point in time. Find these tests online or at a pharmacy.

Thank you!
Thanks to a collective effort, the Magnet Center collected 80 coats for seniors in need and wrapped 30 gifts for Magnet participants and community members as part of their Winter Season Celebration.
The 2022 Congregational Nominating Committee (CNC) invites you to offer names of people you believe may be called into ministry at Westminster, to serve in the coming years in the role of Ruling Elder, Deacon, or Trustee. Elders serve on the Session, the governing body of the church, and the main decision-making board in a Presbyterian congregation. Therefore, they are called Ruling Elders, and pastors are referred to as Teaching Elders. Deacons are called to be the caring arm of the church, with ministries of compassion to those in need in our community. Deacons and Ruling Elders are ordained and installed into their leadership positions and are asked to serve a term of three years.

Trustees take on very distinct jobs on their board, particularly in the area of finance, and they are commissioned instead of ordained, to serve a three-year term.

The CNC will begin its work in the spring, which continues through the summer and into the fall, to nominate a slate of candidates, and their work will culminate with the Congregational Meeting in November. Please consider if you know someone who would be a good candidate for the CNC to receive, and you are encouraged to put forward your own name if you feel called to serve Westminster in a particular role. You may contact Rev. Meghan Gage-Finn, mgage-finn@wpc-mpls.org, and Elder Shaun Jennings, shaun-jennings@outlook.com, who serves as CNC Chair.

New in the Library

“Reading gives us someplace to go when we have to stay where we are.”
—Mason Cooley, an epitaphist

Step into Lowe Library and find a book to take you away while we continue to stay close to home this winter. Just sign your name and phone number on the old-fashioned library card inside the book. Make it a habit to visit the library often before or after church.

New Fiction by authors beloved by Westminster readers

Cuckoo Cloud Land by Anthony Doerr
Lightening Strike by William Kent Krueger
So Brave, Young and Handsome by Leif Enger
The Book of Longings by Sue Monk Kidd
The Eide Family Series by Peter Geye
The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles
The Sentence by Louise Erdrich

New Non Fiction titles

American Prison by Shane Bauer
Code Breaker by Walter Isaacson
Entering the Passion of Jesus: A beginner’s guide to Holy Week by Amy Jill Levine
The Making of Asian America by Erika Lee
The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story by Nikole Hannah-Jones
They Called Us Enemy by George Takai
The Splendid and the Vile by Erik Larson
God is Red: A Native View of Religion by Vine Deloria Jr.

And three new books by Brené Brown

Atlas of the Heart, Daring Greatly, and The Gifts of Imperfection

“A writer only begins a book. A reader finishes it.” —Samuel Johnson
Early 500,000 Minnesotans are served by food shelves each year. Our neighbors who are young, elderly or people of color are more likely to experience food insecurity – a circumstance in which a household’s income is not sufficient to feed everyone in the family. Food insecurity has grown during the Covid-19 pandemic. Your annual gifts as well as special gifts to the annual Hunger Offering make it possible for Westminster to provide direct financial support to food shelves, meal programs and other local organizations responding to hunger in our communities.

While CAPI offers food assistance to all neighbors, they seek to offer culturally specific foods to immigrant and refugee neighbors. Open Arms of Minnesota aims to provide delicious and nourishing meals to our neighbors who live with chronic illness or disabilities. The Horizons Unlimited Food Shelf, a program of the Division of Indian Work, offers food delivery to Indigenous elders who have limited mobility or transportation barriers. All three of these local organizations have been supported with gifts received through Westminster’s annual Hunger Offering. Our gifts are helping our neighbors.

In addition to supporting local organizations, Westminster responds to our neighbors who live with food insecurity through service activities coordinated through the Hunger Ministry Team including the monthly donation drives for Groveland Food Shelf, serving a community meal the fourth Sunday of the month (better known as Friends Eating and Sharing Together, FEAST), and weekly meal delivery through Meals on Wheels. To learn more about serving our neighbors, please visit the Act section of the website.

Thank you for your past support of the Hunger Offering. With our neighbors in mind, please consider contributing to the 2022 Hunger Offering. To give online, visit the special offerings giving page through Realm, and select “Hunger Offering” in the drop-down menu. You may also send gifts by mail. We will receive the Hunger Offering during worship on Sunday, February 27.

Mother Earth, our planet, needs your help.

Climate change, pollution, rising sea levels, deforestation, fossil fuel use, threatened extinction of many species of plants, animals, birds and insects, and the list goes on. World leaders raised these issues recently on a global scale at the United Nations Climate Change Conference. Their conclusion is we must do more.

Westminster often ends worship with the phrase “Steward the Creation,” in the charge and benediction. This charge has its roots in the biblical story of the Garden of Eden, in which human beings were told to take care of the world before them. Today, the admonition to “Think Globally, Act Locally” reflects a stark reality: while we despair at the monumental task of slowing climate change, the actions we take in our own backyard may contribute to the necessary cultural shift that will ultimately save our planet.

Westminster’s Eco-Justice Ministry Team (EJMT) advocates for environmental justice at a national and global level, but the primary focus of our work is local: in our church, in our homes, and in our community. We work with our legislative partners to advocate for laws that reflect a more sustainable approach to living in concert with other plant and animal species. We push for a greener and more sustainable campus for Westminster. We’ve instituted organics and recycling at the church and created ‘green guidelines’ for purchases. And we are expanding our understanding of what environmental injustices have been inflicted upon our neighbors in communities of color.

Visit the website to read more about projects, activities, and discussion topics being considered for 2022 and we encourage you to join us to help us make these things happen.

Mother Earth, our planet, needs your help. For more information, email act@wpc-mpls.org or contact Associate Pastor for Justice and Mission Alanna Simone Tyler (atyler@wpc-mpls.org).