



# THE CHIMES

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Joliet, Illinois



*A Church Newsletter Published For  
Our Members and Friends.*

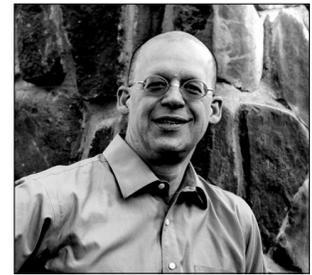
PC - USA

1015 Winthrop Avenue  
Joliet, Illinois 60435  
815-725-6687

Volume 21, Issue 1  
January 2021

## MUSINGS FROM MATT ....

Grace and Peace to our family and friends of West Pres Joliet! We have missed seeing all of your smiling faces. Our prayers that you had a safe and Merry Christmas and best wishes for a Happy New Year. While it is still advised to “shelter in place,” there seems to be an end in sight in 2021 with the news and release of a vaccine. We pray for those involved with facilitating the health and wellbeing of not just a few, but for God’s global communities.



The Reverend  
Matthew T. Robinson

First and foremost, because we have missed you and realize some of you do not have access to smart devices or internet service, **we have enclosed in this *Chimes* a sample of a “church subscription service”** for the next few months until we can safely gather in person again. Here is what the subscription service will include:

- Copy of the Bulletin and West-Pres Weekly from the previous Sunday
- An outline of my sermon. (Disclaimer: I typically utilize an extemporaneous style of preaching. I study and develop a mental outline, spend time in prayer, and then let the spirit move me as I deliver God’s Word. So the outline may not be exactly like the sermon preached.)

If you would like to subscribe to this service, you may do so in one of two ways:

1. Call Lyn at the church office at 815.725.6687 so she can add you to the list
2. Email Lyn at [office@westpresjoliet.org](mailto:office@westpresjoliet.org) so she can add you to the list

Also remember, we are live-streaming our worship services online every Sunday. Interested in connecting with us in this way?

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## Here is how:

1. [www.westpresjoliet.org/connecting-virtually/](http://www.westpresjoliet.org/connecting-virtually/)
2. [www.youtube.com/channel/UCTMj8vwP14LE7PdQ6L247Zg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTMj8vwP14LE7PdQ6L247Zg) - We recommend that you **subscribe to our channel** so you can receive a notification every time a new service is available.
  - Even though we are live-streaming every Sunday morning for worship, you can still go back to our website or YouTube a few hours later to watch the service on the same day.
  - Benefits: Past services and musical offerings are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year!!!!
3. [www.facebook.com/westpresjoliet/](https://www.facebook.com/westpresjoliet/)
4. [www.instagram.com/westpresjoliet/](https://www.instagram.com/westpresjoliet/)

We hope you can find a way to use a digital device and connect with us virtually. If not, please give Lyn a call, and we can sign you up for our weekly mailings via USPS if you are interested in this mailing.

We wish you peace and blessings for the remaining Advent and Christmas season.

Shalom,  
Matt



## Session Highlights

### Thursday 17, December 2020

Session met via [zoom.com](https://zoom.com) while observing COVID-19 Coronavirus protocols. In attendance were: Moderator, the Reverend Matthew T. Robinson, Clerk of Session Dale T. Evans, Elders: Sandy Alaimo, Gayla Audia, Mark Ballard, Fred Henize, Sheila Huckins, Marlene Jones and David Smith. Excused Elder Sean Matay. Guest Present: Church Treasurer Cindy Wax.

1. Meeting opened with prayer led by the Moderator at 6:34 PM.
2. Approved the 11/19/2020 Minutes as corrected.
3. Approved the 11/22/2020 Minutes of the Meeting of the Congregation as written.
4. Clerk informed the Session of the death of Maria Luisa (Gomez (Mrs. Tomas) Garcia on Saturday, 11/28/2020. Private funeral services were held at the Carlson Holmquist Sayles Funeral Home on Saturday, 12/5/2020 at 11 AM with the Reverend Matthew T. Robinson officiating. Maria was cremated.
5. Clerk informed the Session of the death of the Joseph J. Boron, husband of active member Eleanor Boron on Monday, 12/4/2020 at the Pleasant View Lutheran Community in Ottawa, Illinois. Memorial services are pending in the Spring of 2021.
6. Clerk informed the Session of the death of Margaret Helena (Tennis) (Mrs. James) England on Sunday, 12/6/2020. Private funeral services were held at the Blackburn Giegerich Sonntag Funeral Home on Thursday, 12/10/2020 with the Reverend Matthew T. Robinson officiating. Burial in the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, Illinois.

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7. Granted permission to the Church Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper to coordinate the official 2021 Church Calendar and regularly report any action items to the Session while following all prescribed guidelines and protocols governing the Church Building and property as outlined in the Church Ministry Manual.

8. Declared January 1 - New Year's Day, April 2 - Good Friday, May 31 - Memorial Day, July 5 - Independence Day, September 6 - Labor Day, November 25 - Thanksgiving Day, November 26 - Day After Thanksgiving, December 23 - Christmas Eve, December 24 - Christmas Day, and December 31 - New Year's Eve as 2021 Holidays where the Church Office will be closed.

9. Issued a Call for the 2020 Annual Meeting on Sunday, 31 January 2021 immediately following the regular worship service for the purposes of hearing and acting upon any and all written reports and any other matters pertaining thereto provided the COVID-19 Coronavirus governmental and national medical institutions protocols permit such a gathering to take place. Otherwise the meeting shall be conducted via [zoom.com](https://zoom.us).

10. It was moved, seconded, and passed to ordain and install the Class of 2022 Active Elders: Mark Ballard, Dale T. Evans, Sean Matay, Wayne Wax as well as Class of 2022 Ruling Deacons: Sarah Arbuthnot, Nicole Crowder, Linda C. Evans and Joyce Hendrix at the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, 1/31/2020.

11. It was moved, seconded, and passed to grant permission to the Ruling Elders Class of 2021 and Elders-Elect Class of 2022 to remain in their current 2020 assigned duties until such time in 2021 when the Session chooses to reorganize itself for the ministry and mission of the Congregation.

12. It was moved, seconded, and passed to grant the Elders-Elect Class of 2022 and Deacons-Elect Class of 2022 full enfranchisement (voice and vote) within their respective Boards effective, Sunday, 1/3/2021.

13. Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of the General Assembly is preparing to Launch a year-long initiative that will focus on Ruling Elders and Deacons. New training resources, a series of articles, webinars and other tools will assist participants to grow in their roles. Such resources may be found on the denomination's web page "*Year of Leader Formation*" and "*Equip*" link.

14. Read correspondence from Jean Reece, Treasurer of the Presbyterian Women wherein they enclosed a check in the amount of \$500 representing 10% of the profit from their fundraisers for 2020. The PW granted permission to the Session to utilize said funds in any manner it deems appropriate.

15. The Clerk notified the Session of the receipt of Unclaimed Property in the amount of \$1,817.03 from the Estate of Barbara Ann (Boyd) Bush Estate representing 50% of shares of MetLife stock proceeds. These funds are restricted by Bobbi to the General Operating Endowment Fund.

16. Correspondence was received from Stronghold Camps & Conference Center.

17. Solicitation was received from the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce & Industry wherein Westminster's membership is at \$149 and receive a directory listing as well as a link to the church's website.

18. Correspondence was received from Select Church Insurance Services requesting updating our Employee Handbook Manual and answering a questionnaire concerning personnel policies and procedures. Said questionnaire was referred to the Personnel Committee, the Moderator and Clerk of Session for review.

19. Church Treasurer reviewed the 11/30/2020 Balance Sheet and Treasurer's Report for the eleven months of fiscal year 2020. Placed on file the Church Operating Financial Statements.

20. Placed on file the Board of Deacons 12/10/2020 Minutes.

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21. Elders Henize and Smith informed the Session that Commonwealth Edison is awaiting 2021 funding in order to complete the Energy Efficiency Program contract work in the Sanctuary (track lighting) and the Social Hall's Table & Chair closet overhead light fixtures.

22. It was moved, seconded, and passed to observe the sacrament of communion in real-time and virtually on the first Sundays of each month in 2021 as well as these liturgically important dates: Ash Wednesday - Feb 17; Maundy Thursday - April 1; Pentecost - May 23 and Christmas Eve - Dec 24.

23. Stewardship/Finance & Memorial/Endowment Committee reviewed Westminster's Endowment Funds held at the Presbyterian Foundation within the New Covenant Balanced Growth and New Covenant Balanced Income Funds noting their performance for the 2020 first three quarters as well as their performance since rebalancing of the portfolio in July 2019. The funds are performing as expected. It should be noted that the 1980 value of \$1.00 in requires \$3.16 in 2020 dollars!

24. During the last three years the Session was able to fund-in-part its Church Operating Fund by transferring 75% of its various endowment funds' spendable interest income/dividends and growth income: 2017 \$18,507.43 was transferred into the Operating Fund; 2018 \$57,857.27; 2019 \$22,767.19 and through 11/30/2020 \$17,179.99.

25. It was moved, seconded, and passed to amend the Session-directed spending formula to allow for 100% rather than 75% of the interest/dividends and growth within these endowment funds: General Operations, LOGOS and Property for a period of one (1) year ending 12/31/2021 to fund-in-part the Church Operating Fund.  
(Investment incomes were significantly less due to the COVID-19 economic market)

26. It was moved, seconded, and passed to transfer \$4,181.08 into the Church Operating Fund from these miscellaneous "inactive" holding accounts: \$1,316.22 - Jr/Sr Youth Activity Fund; \$1,380.06 - defunct Youth Drama Club of 2017; \$371.50 - Special Music/Drama Activity Fund; and \$69.30 - Special Church Activities Fund.

27. It was moved, seconded and passed to combine the Barbara Ann (Boyd) Bush (deceased 2012) Unclaimed Property received in the amount of \$1,817.03 with her estate settlement (2016) in the amount of \$7,289.54 and direct the Church Treasurer to prepare a check in the amount of \$9,106.57 and forward the same to the Presbyterian Foundation with instructions to place it into the Endowment Fund Account # 1.700.210 "General Operations Fund" as identified on the 11/30/2020 Balance Sheet per the Certified Copy #12 P 211 in the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit Will County - In Probate Section 3 B, of her will - "it shall not be used for general expenses but shall be placed in the congregation's general endowment fund."

28. The CARES ACT Payroll Protection Plan Loan Program Forgiveness Application has been uploaded to the Busey Bank portal. In those documents Westminster is seeking forgiveness of \$23,189.43 out of a total loan of \$24,300 from the Federal Government Small Business Administration. As of the meeting date, the application was cued for review. \$1,110.57 of loan proceeds is on hand and available for payback.

29. The Session was reminded of the deadline for submitting in writing their 2020 Annual Reports to the Office is 12/31/2020.

30. The proposed set of bylaws distributed during the November 2020 Session Meeting were discussed. This set of bylaws categorizes and gathers important information into more user-friendly groupings. The Session discussed pros & cons of returning to a maximum of nine active elders and ruling deacons for both boards with three classes of three having alternating three-year terms from a maximum of two classes of five with alternating two-year terms. The Session also considered language that allows for the use of electronic social media platforms (i.e.) [zoom.com](https://zoom.us) should the Congregation, Session and/or Board of Deacons be unable to physically convene for meetings due to building closure or other catastrophic events.

31. It was moved, seconded, and passed to solicit funds from the Congregation to pro

32.

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vide honorariums to the paid and volunteer staff that have helped to not only enhance the worship experiences but also furthering the ministry and mission of Westminster during these COVID-19 Coronavirus challenging times, and to publicly acknowledge their service during the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Congregation.

The meeting closed with the sharing of joys/concerns and prayer led by the Moderator at 8:53 PM.

## 2021 Per Capita is \$38.50 per Active Member

### **Stronghold Camp & Retreat Center** **Dr. Danny Pierce Executive Director**

This year has brought changes to our everyday lives as we try to ward off the dangers of COVID and keep some sort of normalcy. And what have we learned?

We have learned how resilient we can be. We have learned that kindness counts when faced with hard times. We have learned we are truly in this together. We have learned that there is still a lot to learn.

Only through the generosity of individuals and churches are we able to weather the storm of uncertainty brought on by COVID.

Here are a few things we have learned, been blessed by and want to share:

- First, how sad it is to have a summer with no summer camp.
- Stronghold will be forever grateful for the generous gift and donation from the United Presbyterian Church of Freeport as it ceased its own operations.

- Dr. David Spaulding & the Session at 1st Presbyterian Church of Dixon started a fundraising challenge with a \$5,000 donation to Stronghold and to-date over \$40,000 across the presbytery has helped to offset lost revenue from COVID.
- Presbytery of Chicago and the Coordinating Commissioners granted \$25,000 to Stronghold.
- Volunteers from all over - Morris, Christian Coalition, LaGrange, Peoria, Sterling, Clarendon Hills, etc. provided labor building new benches, spreading wood chips, rehabbing wilderness cabins, roof repairs, three bathroom renovations, restoring Castle woodwork, groundskeeping, painting etc.

In the coming year we hope to accomplish these goals: establish a labyrinth, replace the swimming pool heater, replace one boiler in the castle and improve the challenge course.

Tax deductible donations can be made directly to Stronghold Camp & Conference Center, P.O. Box 199, Oregon, Illinois. Website: [www.strongholdcenter.org](http://www.strongholdcenter.org).

**Church Operating Fund - YTD 11/30/2020**

	Year-to-Date	Budget	Surplus/(Shortfall)
Income	\$130,251	\$198,620	(\$68,369)
Expense	(\$187,150)	(\$198,620)	\$11,470
Shortfall	(\$ 56,899)	-0-	(\$56,899)*

*\*It should be noted that \$13,900 of 4th Qtr 2019 available and spendable endowment funds' interest/dividends and growth were transferred by the Session in early March as well as \$3,279.99 of 3rd Qtr 2020 available and spendable endowment funds' earnings in November. The total of 2020 Endowment Funds*

## 2021 Stewardship Commitment Card

Support Christ's ministries & missions at  
Westminster Presbyterian Church of Joliet, Illinois  
Your gifts help us plan effectively for a brighter future.

[Circle intended period of time]

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per    Week    Month    Quarter  
Year

*I am unable to make a specific commitment at this time. However, I can support with my time and talents in these areas:*

Name & Address:

---

*God loves a cheerful giver!*

*Please circle the boxed comment(s) below that best fit your needs:*

Thank you, but I do not require  
a box of offering envelopes.

Please know that I give  
electronically.

## ***Our Prayers***

### ***For:***

**Please include these members and friends in your prayers:**



Terry Berg

Tom & Ruthann Bone

Shirley Swithin

Kay Collins

Karen DeWitt

Jim England

George Gonzalez

Fred Henize

Lynn Harman

Nancy Dock

Mike Matay

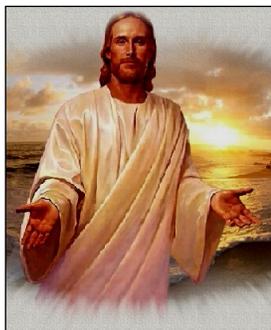
Norma Metzler

Ron Reece

George & Nevada Wietting

Nikki Poling (Cindy & Wayne Wax's daughter)

The Zbroskewich Family



**~ In celebration of ~  
~ In loving memory of ~  
~ To the glory of God ~**



January 3—Lois McMillin in celebration of her sister Nancy Dock's Birthday.

January 10—Marilyn Mayo in memory of her daughter Debra.

January 17—Matt & Peggy Robinson in memory of their Fathers Jack and Scott

January 24—Mark & Jina Ballard To the Glory of God.

January 31—Paul Kraus in memory of Edwin, Steve & Bill Kraus also Marie Kabert and Bill Fannin.

### **CHURCH OFFICERS**

Clerk: Dale Evans

#### **CLASS OF 2021**

##### Elders

##### Deacons

Gayla Audia

Jina Ballard

Sheila Huckins

Durene Cartelli

Marlene Jones

Nicole Crowder

Dave Smith

Melanie Huckins

Paul Kraus

#### **CLASS OF 2022**

Mark Ballard

Sarah Arbuthnot

Dale Evans

Nicole Crowder

Sean Matay

Linda Evans

Wayne Wax

Joyce Hendrex



The Annual Meeting of the Congregation is scheduled for Sunday January 31, 2021 following the 10:00 Worship Service.



## Ways to Give To Westminster Presbyterian Church

1. Online at [westpresjoliet.org](http://westpresjoliet.org) by clicking on the online giving link. Give one time or automate a systematic gift.
2. Write a check payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church and place in the offering plate on Sunday or mail to 1015 Winthrop Ave., Joliet, IL 60435.
3. Donate appreciated securities from your brokerage account to pass on long-term capital gains.\*\*
4. Donate your RMD (required minimum distribution) as a QCD (qualified charitable donation) to reduce adjusted gross income\*\*
5. Leave a legacy by naming Westminster Presbyterian Church as a beneficiary in your will or life insurance policy.
6. Shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and select Westminster Pres as your charity of choice.

Securities donations are processed through The Presbyterian Foundation. For more info, contact the church office at 815.725.6687 or see the Ways to Give tab on [westpresjoliet.org](http://westpresjoliet.org).

*\*\*The above information is not intended to provide, and should not be relied on for, tax, legal, or accounting advice. You should consult your own tax, legal, and accounting advisors before engaging in any transaction.*



### When and what time?

Did you know you can stay up-to-date with activities and events at our church by adding our Google calendar to your phone?

Go to [westpresjoliet.org/calendar/](http://westpresjoliet.org/calendar/) and scroll to the bottom right and hit the + button.

You can also add birthdays and anniversaries on the calendar menu drop-down at the URL [westpresjoliet.org/birthdays-and-anniversaries](http://westpresjoliet.org/birthdays-and-anniversaries).

Save yourself a phone call to the church office and check there first. We are fortunate to have an amazing Office Manager who keeps things up-to-date!

We also list events on our Facebook page. Please help us spread the word by sharing these events on your personal page.

If you want something listed on Facebook or the website, please email [peggy@westpresjoliet.org](mailto:peggy@westpresjoliet.org). To add something to the church calendar, please contact Lyn Somerville at [office@westpresjoliet.org](mailto:office@westpresjoliet.org).

Thank you!  
Peggy Robinson

# **Westminster Presbyterian Church**

**Minister - Every Member  
of the Church**

**Pastor - The Reverend  
Matthew T. Robinson**

**Music Director -  
Paul Kraus**

**Organist -  
Durene Cartelli**

**A/V Tech Crew -**

**Rob Arbuthnot**

**Sarah Arbuthnot**

**Admin Assistant/**

**Bookkeeper**

**- Lyn Somerville**

**Custodian - Mike Riley**

**Church Building ~  
815-725-6686**

**Church Office ~  
815-725-6687**

**FAX ~ 815-725-7866**

**Office Hours ~  
Mon. thru Thurs. 9-4:00  
Fri. 9-Noon**

**Website:**

**[www.westpresjoliet.org](http://www.westpresjoliet.org)**

**Email:**

**[office@westpresjoliet.org](mailto:office@westpresjoliet.org)**

**[www.facebook.com/  
westpresjoliet](http://www.facebook.com/westpresjoliet)**

## **APPRECIATION DONATION**

As the year is coming to an end, the Session is asking if you would like to contribute to our volunteers and paid staff. It has been a trying year for all of us and we felt an Appreciation Donation would be nice for our staff. The volunteer staff consists of Rob and Sarah Arbuthnot, Cindy Wax and Doug Webb. The paid staff consists of Durene Cartelli (Organist), Paul Krause (Music Director), Mike Riley (Custodian), Lyn Sommerville (Office staff.)

If you would like to donate, please mail or drop off your Appreciation Donation to the church office. The Appreciation Donations will be presented at the Annual Church Meeting in January. May the Peace of our Lord be with you! Thank you!

## **KEEP US UP TO DATE!**

We no longer receive courtesy calls from the hospitals to notify us when our members have been hospitalized. If you are hospitalized, or know of a church member who has been admitted, please notify Pastor Matt or the church office. We want to be sure that you are visited and added to our prayer list!



*The Deacons would like to Thank You for the donations received for the Mitten Tree! Thanks to the generosity of our Westminster family they collected 31 pairs of gloves, 46 hats, 6 scarves, 2 blankets, 13 pairs of socks and 6 hand warmers with donation made to Guardian Angel. They were really excited about the donation as they were very*

## **STEPHEN MINISTRIES**

When you pray to God, sometimes he sends a human. . .

Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!! If you or someone you know is going through a difficult time, please contact our Stephen Ministry.\*

Let us help!!

Linda Evans 815-725-6218

Linda Henize 815-467-2705

Pastor Matt 815-725-6687

\*Confidential lay caring ministry. Stephen Ministers are caring Christians who are trained to offer a listening ear.

**Westminster Presbyterian Church**  
**1015 Winthrop Avenue**  
**Joliet, Illinois 60435**



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## **NEWSLETTER DATES**

ARTICLE DUE DATE

9:00AM

MONDAY

JANUARY 25, 2021

VOLUME & ISSUE

VOLUME 21

ISSUE 2

## **Contact Us:**

**Westminster Presbyterian Church**  
**1015 Winthrop Ave.**  
**Joliet, IL 60435**  
**815-725-6687**

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**office@westpresjoliet.org**

**Website:**

**www.westpresjoliet.org**