



Westminster

United Methodist Church

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Blessings to all in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ,

As we approach the New Year we are going to be looking a little different here in Westminster.

By the time you get this Newsletter we will have had our Church Conference, and, unless I have read this congregation wrong, we will be well on the path to disaffiliation from the United Methodist Denomination. I believe that most of you know my feelings about this move, being a step that we must take to glorify God and honor His word.

I have always loved the cross and flame symbol of the UMC but we will no longer be able to use it. This will probably be the last Newsletter with this heading on it. This symbol will need to be removed from all places it currently exists in our church with the exception of the Hymnals. But I have to tell you that we are not a symbol or a building, nor are we a denomination. We are followers of Christ Jesus our Lord, and we must never forget that. I could be as happy preaching in a barn somewhere as I am in a church building. We simply cannot lose sight of the main thing, which is glorifying God by accepting Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior!

I have said all along, and I will continue to encourage you by saying that unless you are on the transition team for this change, you will probably not notice a difference in the worship experience here at Westminster. Carol will still be at the piano and the praise team will still help us to worship our God as they always have. I will still do my best to bring you the word of God from a Biblical perspective, so that all may know the truth of God's will. We will still fellowship with one another and we will still allow the Holy Spirit to guide us in the choices we make for the church and for our everyday lives.

You may notice some differences in the quality of the service, especially in the Abbey, because we are doing a great deal of much needed upgrading to our Audio-Visual equipment. As you well know the Covid-19 pandemic has changed the way many churches now present the message to the world. We have not had our worship, here at Westminster, online in some time because of these upgrades but will soon be back to full strength. We don't want this to hinder you from coming to worship with the congregation, it is important to be in fellowship with one another, but to also give you an opportunity to experience worship when you may not be able to attend in person.

I do want to take some time in this letter to thank all those who gave so much time and effort to make all this transition happen. There has been a great deal of prayer, discussion and discernment that has taken place of the past 4-5 years and I pray blessings on all who helped throughout this process. I also want to remind you that we are still under the Great Commission to "Go and make disciples" and that calling will not end until we go to be with the Lord.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Dave

"I want the whole Christ for my Savior, the whole Bible for my book, the whole Church for my fellowship, and the whole world for my mission field." John Wesley