



Westminster Presbyterian Church

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Dear saints,

Once upon a time...those familiar words set up some of our favorite stories. We have lived through another year of changing, adapting, pivoting to ensure we pursue God's call on us as a church. AND WE DID IT. Despite COVID-19 variants, we continued to worship, learn, give, and connect in order to tell the story we love so deeply. Chapter after chapter in Westminster's history, we are faithfully telling God's story in our words and deeds.

In some ways, 2021 was no different than so many other years, as we continued to worship, learn, give, and connect in our own special ways. **But I'm so proud of the 63rd chapter in the story of Westminster Presbyterian Church.** While the pandemic continued its worldwide spread, we recreated our life together with God and each other, creatively embracing new opportunities: Palm Sunday parading through the parking lot, taco-ing about stewardship, Zooming our annual meeting, and live streaming worship for the first time. We welcomed six new members, celebrated six baptisms, and thanked God in memorial services for the lives of four saints.

We filled our bellies and our hearts at the "Our Daily Bread Cafe" Vacation Bible School with our sisters and brothers at Greater Community Missionary Baptist Church - our first in-person children's programming in 18 months. We hosted our first Fall Fun Fest, with twenty vendors, a wildly successful bake sale, bounce house, Trunk or Treat, and more. We celebrated the return of the children and youth's Christmas Pageant and choir-led "Lessons and Carols," while also making space for our first Blue Christmas service. We started two new groups: Young Adults and Ladies' Lunch Out.

We launched our "Faithful Still" projects with surplus funds from the past two years, as the Session identified priorities for our church regathering: new lighting throughout the building; upgrading our children and youth spaces with new flooring, paint, and more; refreshing our website; pursuing a solution to the drainage issue on the playground side of the building; forgiving \$1,000,000 in medical debt through RIP Medical Debt and running a successful campaign to forgive another \$1,500,000, wiping out all medical debt for purchase in DFW; and hiring Brooklyn Richardson as our new Director for Children and Youth Ministries.

God's Story shaped us to reach out to those in need in our midst. Your generous giving made a difference again and again as we delivered over 8100 bags of food for hungry students through NEW DAY; made 85 quilts and 149 knitted/crocheted items; supported Swift Elementary teachers, students, and staff; distributed food to thousands of Arlington residents at the Mobile Food Pantry; gifted "Welcome Home" items to dozens of Tarrant County residents getting back on their feet; and helped Christmas come alive in our toy drive for foster children through Presbyterian Children's Home and Services. In addition, we gave money to support recovery efforts in Lake Charles Presbytery, along with a dozen other local organizations to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and tend to the sick. In addition to money from the Mission fund and budget, you also gave an additional \$29,000 through the church to a variety of needs, from helping people pay rent to special offerings and so much more.

Writing this letter feels a little bit like a “happily ever after.” But our story is still ongoing, interconnected with God’s ongoing story. God didn’t just create us, redeem us, and wash God’s hands of us. God is still creating and re-creating, still redeeming and saving us, still washing us clean in the waters of baptism.

I must again commend to you the leadership at Westminster: our faithful, long-serving staff who love Jesus and this church; our elected leaders on Session, making hard decisions again and again; and our volunteer Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, encouraging and discerning wise decisions for all our blessings. There is no doubt in my mind that God has called and equipped these leaders for such a time as this.

2022 already shows how our WPC story is continuing, with planned upgrades for the chancel in the sanctuary and the gaga pit on the playground, as well as new faith formation curriculum and Connect groups. This is all possible because of YOUR generous giving, because of YOUR willingness to engage with and tell God’s story.

As you prayerfully consider your pledge for 2022, know that you will be serving God through the giving of your time, talents, and treasure, as well as the gift of legacy giving to ensure the future of Westminster. Even if you feel like your gifts are small, please fill out a pledge card as that gift will still reflect our commitment to worship, learn, give, and connect. We are fortunate that several families have already prepaid their 2022 pledge in 2021, but please go ahead and fill out a pledge card that reflects those generous gifts. Please bring the enclosed pledge card with you to worship on **Stewardship Commitment Sunday, January 30** when we will begin receiving our 2022 pledges at our parking lot worship. You are also welcome to mail your pledge card or drop it in the mailbox.

Thank you for rooting down and reaching out in the name of Jesus Christ as we worship, learn, give, and connect. It’s Jesus’ grace that will change the world - here in Arlington, Nicaragua, Belize, and all around the world.

Grace and peace,



Rev. Kate McGee & Finance/Stewardship Committee



*I've preached you to the whole congregation, I've kept back nothing, God—you know that. I didn't keep the news of your ways a secret, didn't keep it to myself. I told it all, how dependable you are, how thorough. I didn't hold back pieces of love and truth for myself alone. I told it all, let the congregation know the **whole story**.*

Psalm 40:9-10 (the Message)

Rooted in God's love and grace, we worship, learn, give, and connect, refreshing people with Living Water. We reach out to share the Water with all who thirst.