



SEPTEMBER 2025

WWW.WBTS.ORG

## A NOTE OF THANKS

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On behalf of my family and me, thank you for the warm welcome you have given us. We are deeply grateful for the invitations to dinner, the generous gifts, and the thoughtful cards. Your kindness has made our transition into this new season of life much smoother. Thank you also for your patience as we've worked to find our footing and settle into the new rhythms of life together.

In these first 100 days, though I may have been tempted at times to take on Herculean tasks, my heart has been focused on listening and learning—from our staff, from the elders on Session, and from you, the congregation. I want to honor and understand the beautiful rhythms God has already established here at Westminster by the Sea.

If you have joined us in worship—whether in person or online—you know we've begun a journey through the book of Philippians. My prayer is that this series has been an encouragement to you and your family as we fix our eyes on the Gospel and reflect on how our lives are shaped by Christ. As we continue together, I encourage you to spend time in Philippians on your own. It's only four chapters long, but it is overflowing with joy and encouragement.

Paul's joy for the church is a reminder of the joy we share in the Lord. May that joy strengthen you each day as you go into the world, living out your faith and proclaiming Jesus as Lord—"and when necessary, use words."

In Christ,

Pastor John

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

-Honor was given for the life of Marianne Sabatka with sympathy to her family.

-After answering questions about her faith journey, Lauren Camp was accepted with love and joy as a new member of Westminster By The Sea Church.

### Administration/Financial

-Overall, we are \$44,940.32 over budget for July and \$63,011.97 over budget for the year. This is typical of July with decreased attendance and tithing over the summer months. This typically rebounds at the end of the year.

-Due to her time constraints, Caylee Coleman has resigned as youth leader

-The Arabic Church's request to mount a TV screen to the left of the cross in the Rose Chapel was approved

### Christian Education

Nursery and K-5 Children's Church (Sunday School) continued over the summer months; Adult/Youth classes will resume Sept. 7

-VBS donations delivered to Ronald McDonald House Nemours Hospital on Aug. 7

-UCF Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) event hosted on Aug. 9 - Back-to-School Blessings held Aug. 10

-MomCo Leadership team formed and gathered Aug. 17

-Supplies delivered to RJ Longstreet Aug. 21. Letter of appreciation given to us from Principal Richardson

-FISH 2.0 held Aug. 22-23 with Rev. Anne Russ as keynote speaker

-We were awarded \$5,000 Wonder of Worship grant extension from Columbia Theological Seminary.

### Congregational Life

-Continues to need help with fellowship food set-up and clean-up

### Operations

-Waiting for two quotes for painting parking lot spaces

-Painting of CE hallway will be done by Embry Riddle Air Force students; thanks to Doug Coleman for supplies

-For security of church, getting quotes from key vendors to rekey the church

### Outreach

-Decision made to send our international giving to the Water Project in Niger. This is a project we have been supporting for several years.

-Decision made to designate the money which formerly went to the project in Guatemala to Halifax Urban Ministries for use in the food bank in Port Orange.

### Worship

-Question about 'passing the peace' was tabled until further Division discussion  
Pastor's Report

-Pastor John stated that we have a wonderful staff and that it has been a joy to work with them; he also appreciates all the Session members

-He emphasized the importance of relationships and how that is a major goal

-He asked for daily prayers for himself and his family, as he will pray daily for the Session and congregation

## STAY CONNECTED

FOLLOW US:

YOUTUBE - WBTS CHURCH

FACEBOOK - WESTMINSTER BY THE

SEA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

INSTAGRAM - @WBTSCHURCH

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR EMAILS BY

SENDING A REQUEST TO:

WBTSCHURCH@GMAIL.COM

## A LETTER FROM CHOIR DIRECTOR, DR. NORTON CHRISTESON

To My WBTS Friends,

As Music Director at our church, it has been my privilege to assist in our worship experience by providing music that both uplifts and enriches our spirits. Our choir has been the cornerstone of that experience, and the members have been faithful and constant in their participation. I am eternally grateful for them!

However, as time passes, there is a natural rate of attrition that befalls all organizations, and our choir is no exception. In short, we need new members to take up the torch and carry our music endeavors into the future.

If you have ever sung in choirs in the past, you know the wonderful feeling of joining with other voices in creating beauty and meaning, as well as enjoying the camaraderie and new friendships that you experienced.

Even if you've not had that experience, and are willing to give it a try, this Fall is the perfect time! We need to add new voices to replace those who are moving on, and I invite you to be a new part of our continuing musical journey.

Feel free to contact me at 386-316-1003 if you would like to know more.

Meanwhile, here are a few comments from our current choristers about their experience in our WBTS Chancel Choir:

"I have sung in church choir for almost 35 years of my life, from boy chorister to today. Singing brings joy to my life and singing now, under Norton Christeson is the most enjoyable experience I have ever had."

"It's an honor and a blessing to sing in the Westminster Choir. It's a lot of fun too! What a joy to worship God through music."

"Having little background in music, I have learned so much from Norton Christeson's direction and patient teaching. It has given more joy and meaning to my singing."

"I have sung in the choir for many years because I love being in a group that praises God with music as we laugh, learn and worship together."

"Singing in the WBTS Choir fills my soul with happiness. Join us and see!"

Hope to hear from you!  
Norton

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### RECURRING EVENTS

#### MAH JONGG

Wednesdays - 10 a.m.  
Community Room- Room 9  
Will teach you to play!

#### GAME TIME

Thursdays - 12:15 p.m.  
Community Room - Room 9  
Board games & card games!

#### YOGA

Returns in September

#### BOOK CLUB

July Book: When the World Fell Silent  
by Donna Jones Alward  
Next Meeting: Sept 29 @ 3:30 pm  
Contact: Kristin Downer -  
386-235-0574

#### Men of Westminster

2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the Month - 7am  
Fellowship Hall  
Led by Pastor John Joseph

#### Women of Westminster- Start 9/23

4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the Month - 10am  
Fellowship Hall  
Looking for more? If you would like to  
meet outside of church on a Monday  
or Tuesday evening around 6:30pm  
please call the church office

## ONE-TIME EVENTS

### ART SERIES: Suncatchers

Monday, September 22 @ 9:30 a.m.  
Teacher: Janie Lew  
\$35/Person  
RSVP by September 12 - No refunds  
after that date due to product order  
RSVP in Fellowship Hall or call office

### READER'S THEATER: Who's Cookin!

Sunday, October 19 @ 3 p.m.  
Sumner Hall  
Come watch the Westminster  
Players put on a production of  
Who's Cookin? A comical cooking  
competition where someone is  
cheating? But who could it be?  
FREE for all!

### FRIENDSGIVING

Thursday, November 20 @ 5:30 p.m.  
\$20/person  
RSVP Required by November 10  
Sign up by calling the office or  
putting your name on the sign-up  
form in Fellowship Hall. Payments  
due by Nov. 10.



## GROUPS

**Caregivers Support Group**  
Sundays 8:45 am - 9:45 am  
Library



**MomCo**  
1st Friday of the month  
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Chef Mark Bartell providing  
breakfast!

### SUPPORT GROUPS

**ACA:** Mondays at 7 p.m

**GA:** Tues. & Thurs. at 7 p.m.

**Al-Anon:** Thursdays at 12 p.m.

**OA:** Thursday at 10:30 a.m.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### Nursery

Newborn to Pre-K  
Hours 8:30am- 12:00pm

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

#### Kindergarten to 5th Grade

Offered at 9:45am

Rooms 5&6

#### Children's Church

Following the Children's Message  
at the 8:45am and 11am services  
Rooms 5 & 6

#### Middle to High School

9:45am

Chip Kent

Beach Room in the CE Wing

#### Adult Sunday School

9:45am

Jan Toles

Room 12A



The Adult Sunday School class taught by Jan Toles will resume Sunday, Sept. 7 at 9:45am in Room 12, on the breezeway facing the playground. All adults are welcome to join in this study of the Book of James which is characterized by its practicality, wisdom, and humility. Also the Middle and High School Sunday School class is starting back on Sept. 7 at 9:45 in the Beach Room with lessons from Faith Questions curriculum.



CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK  
AND INSTAGRAM POSTS!

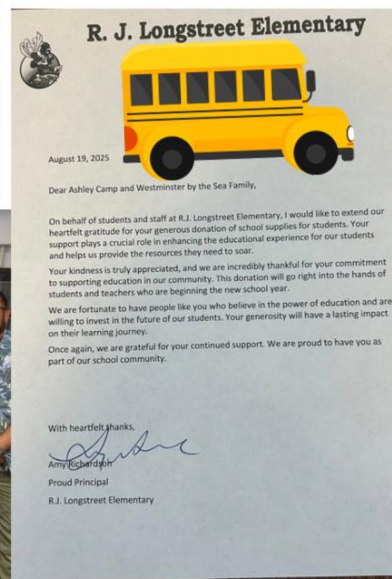


Our Back-to-School Blessings supply drive reached RJ Longstreet Elementary last week! Because of generous giving we were able to deliver supplies that will support teachers, staff, and students in the months ahead.

The administration welcomed us warmly and shared a kind letter of thanks from the principal, a reminder that small acts can make a big difference. Thank you to all who were a part of this effort and for shining Christ's love out into our community!  
#BackToSchoolBlessings #wbtschurch  
#CommunityOutreach #rjlcards



## Back to School Blessings



# Youth

## EVENTS

**September 21 at 1pm** Popstoke Golf 1283  
Cornerstone Blvd, Daytona Beach, FL 32117

**October 11 from 9am-5pm** Port Orange Family Days  
1000 City Center Cir, Port Orange, FL 32129

**November 16 at 9am Outreach Food Drive**  
circular drive out front

**December Date TBD** Senior Stocking Project



# Central Florida Presbytery **CONNECTIONS**

Fresh Ideas Start Here: FISH 2.0 Conference

On August 22-23, Westminster By The Sea Presbyterian Church in Daytona Beach Shores hosted FISH 2.0 Fresh Ideas Start Here, a collaboration between the Central Florida and St. Augustine Presbyteries. The gathering brought together pastors, educators, and lay leaders for a variety of new opportunities and learning.

We were honored to welcome Rev. Anne Russ as keynote speaker, who invited us to reflect on the power of joy and how we can live that out in our daily lives.

Workshops ranged from sound bowl meditation and spiritual practices for mental health, to inclusion of children and families with autism, ways for leaders in ministry to be revitalized and exploring how to welcome all through the lens of Mr. Rogers.

Those in attendance included many from the WBTS church family, along with others from across the region—Rockledge Presbyterian, Woodlawn Presbyterian, Grace Covenant Presbyterian and LightHouse Church in Ormond Beach. We were grateful for the presence of Executive Presbyter Olivia Haney and our Southeast Regional Representative from the PCUSA Interim Unified Agency, who offered updates on denominational giving programs such as One Great Hour of Sharing.

Additionally, our Synod Stated Clerk offered support by sending helpful resources and materials for that conference.

Dr. Cheryl Carson led a Spirituality Center with creative prayer stations in keeping with the keynote theme alongside a prayer labyrinth for reflection.

FISH 2.0 reminded us that the Spirit is still moving by bringing fresh ideas, connection, and joy to our presbyteries and congregations.

