



WCC UPDATE

OCTOBER 2025

PERSONALLY FROM THE PASTOR

To My Church Family,

Several years ago, my niece, Ella, was in a class with a boy who told her that she was going to go to hell because her parents let her go trick-or-treating! While this boy's comment was simultaneously laughable and upsetting, I do think that it raises an important question for those of us who follow Christ; namely, "Is it appropriate for Christians to participate in Halloween-related activities?"

I believe that, as a general rule, it is fine for Christians to participate in most Halloween activities. Of course, this opinion is based largely on a personal bias. I always had very positive experiences with Halloween when I was a child. Even though I was raised in a Christian household, I was allowed to go trick-or-treating every single year. Some of my most precious memories are of those brisk Halloween nights on which I traveled with my family through our neighborhood as we hunted for that sweet, sweet loot.

For many of us, the answer feels personal. I admit that my own perspective is shaped by experience. Growing up in a Christian home, I was allowed to go trick-or-treating every year, and those evenings remain some of my sweetest childhood memories. I can still feel the cool autumn air, remember the sound of leaves crunching beneath my feet, and see my family walking together from house to house. Halloween, for me, wasn't about darkness or fear--it was about joy, family, and community.

But even setting personal memories aside, it's important to remember that many of our modern traditions are rooted not in paganism but in the Church's own story. Halloween finds its place in the larger Christian observance of Hallowmas, a three-day period that includes All Hallows' Eve (October 31), All Saints' Day (November 1), and All Souls' Day (November 2). Historically, this was a time when Christians paused to remember those who had gone before them in the faith, honoring their witness and drawing encouragement from their lives.

That may come as a surprise since there are plenty of misconceptions about Halloween. It isn't "Satan's birthday," it isn't purely pagan in origin, and it certainly isn't a ticket to eternal condemnation. In fact, the Church has long seen this season as holy: a time to reflect on God's faithfulness through the ages. And I believe it can still be holy for us today.

Halloween, when approached with wisdom and grace, can be more than costumes and candy. It can be:

1. A reminder that the spiritual world is real, and there is more to life than what we can see.
2. A sobering reminder that we are fragile, mortal people who depend fully on God.
3. An encouragement to look back at the countless men and women of faith who gave their lives in service to Christ's Kingdom, and to let their example strengthen our own walk.

So whether or not you choose to carve pumpkins, pass out candy, or dress up with your kids, my prayer is that this October, God would bless you through the beauty of the season, the joy of community, and the hope of His presence. And may we all remember that even in the darkest nights, the light of Christ shines bright.

"The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1).

In Christ,
Matt Stiveson



Thank you to everyone who assisted with the reception following the Celebration of Life for Linda Stocker.

MUSIC MINISTRY UPDATE

Dear Church Family,

This past month has been very sad and heartbreaking for our church and country. We need each other more than ever now. I know that you have all been there for me through some of the hardest times in my life. I want to be there for you, too. Our church community has been an amazing family to me.

We all need to hang on to Jesus and be a bright and shining light as much as possible especially during hard times such as these.

Thank you everyone for your support, and know that I am here for you as well. Remember most importantly that prayer works. God is close to the broken hearted.

May God bless you all.

Teresa

Dr. Teresa Crane, D.M.A.

STUDENT MINISTRIES UPDATE

We all love a good rescue story where a hero arrives just in time to save the day! Because of our sin, we all need to be rescued—and God had the perfect plan for a rescue mission to save His people! God's plan started long ago when He promised a Redeemer and Rescuer. The God Rescues series dives into four Old Testament stories of God working out His rescue plan among His people. In each lesson, kids will discover God's plan, power, and care for His people as He leads the way for the greatest rescue of all time—salvation through Jesus.



We also want you to know that in lieu of Trunk-or-Treat, **we will be hosting a costume party for kids this year.** Kids, invite your friends and neighbors to join us for fun fall festivities on Wednesday, **October 29 from 6:30-7:30 pm.** Please don't wear costumes that are overly scary or inappropriate!

NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2026 CHURCH BOARD BEGIN ON SUNDAY

Westminster Christian Church is a congregational church, meaning that our Elders and Deacons are nominated to our board by the members of the church. Each year, we go through a three-month process of vetting potential candidates. **This process begins on Sunday, October 5. Board nominees are received through the end of October** and will be accepted for anyone who has been a member of WCC for at least a year.

All members of WCC who are 16 or older shall have the right to make nominations and give their approval of the final slate of nominees. If you don't know whether or not you're a member, reach out to the office this week. If you'd like to become a member of the church, let's chat. Keep your eyes open for the nomination page in the bulletin.

FALL RETREAT AT YMCA OF THE ROCKIES ESTES PARK

If you are attending the Fall Retreat, then please note that we will be heading to Estes Park immediately following worship on Sunday, October 19 (there will be no studies on this day). *WE WILL PLAN ON MEETING INSIDE OF THE MAIN ADMIN AND REGISTRATION BUILDING AT 2 PM!* We look forward to spending time in fellowship together in God's creation.

100 IN 100 CAMPAIGN UPDATE

The 100 Bibles and 100 Hymnals Campaign has been fully funded! We planned for the Campaign to last 100 days, but we were able to meet our goal in about 39 days! Thank you to everyone who donated a Sing! Hymnal and/or a NRSVue Bible. We will place the new books in the sanctuary once they have all been received and have the dedication labels placed in them.

CHECK IT OUT!

Take a look at the updated WCC Missions Board in the Fellowship Hall! **Thank you to Ellen Cancino** for putting it together for us.

WESTY FEST 2025

Bring the whole family to kick off the fall season at Westminster's FREE fall festival with carnival games, trick-or-treating, a spectacular hot air balloon glow, live musical performances by local bands, food trucks, jumping castles, and more. You can even pick out the perfect pumpkin at the pumpkin patch! This is a great event that gives our church an opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus within the wider community.

This year, **Westy Fest is going to be on Saturday, October 18 from 12-8 pm, and is being held at Westminster City Park Soccer Fields.**

2025 ADVENT DEVOTIONAL—*PREPARE HIM ROOM*

Participants should have received an email from Pastor Matt with detailed instructions for submissions.

We're excited to see how the Lord speaks to us through this year's devotional. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to Matt or Karen. **Submissions must be turned in no later than Sunday, October 26, 2025.**

PREACHING AND TEACHING SCHEDULE FOR SUNDAYS

October 5: Zephaniah

October 12: Habakkuk

October 19: Joel

October 26: Nathan

TEACHING SCHEDULE FOR WEDNESDAYS

October 1: Psalm 17 // Exodus

October 8: Psalm 18 // Exodus

October 15: No potluck, study or youth group! Choir rehearsal will be at 6:40 pm.

October 22: Psalm 19 // Exodus

October 29: Psalm 20 // Exodus





October

Tuesday Mornings	8:30 am	Men's Bible Study —meeting at IHOP at 221 W. 104 th Ave., Northglenn. See Steve Cancino for information.
Wednesday Evenings	6:00 pm 6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Potluck dinner (bring main, side, or dessert dish to share) Adult Bible Study and Youth Group Choir Rehearsal Note: No potluck, study or youth group on October 15. Choir rehearsal will be at 6:40 pm.
Thursday Afternoons	12:00 – 2:00 pm	Food Pantry
Saturday, October 4	10:00 am	"Living as a Christian in Today's World" Book and Discussion Group—Mere Christianity See Missy Luzzi or Wolf Thompson for more information.
Sunday, October 5	We collect Pocket Change offerings on the first Sunday of every month and use the money given to this program to promote and purchase materials for the church.	
	9:30 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Bible Study for All Ages
	11:30 am	General Board Meeting
	Nominations for 2026 Church Board begin, and will continue throughout October.	
Sunday, October 12	9:30 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Bible Study for All Ages
Saturday, October 18	12:00 pm	Lessons in Grief Group —please bring a sack lunch with you. Contact Sharon Keel or Kay Stevens for more information.
Sunday, October 19	9:30 am	Worship
	10:30 am	No Bible Studies Today
Sunday, October 19 – Monday, October 20	WCC Fall Retreat at YMCA of the Rockies	
Sunday, September 26 Reformation Sunday	9:30 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Bible Study for All Ages
Tuesday, October 28	9:30 am	Church Women United —join the ladies of our church and other local churches as they create items to give to local care centers.