

Sharing Our Mission Gratitude Sunday, March 18

Good morning! My name is Sara Pottenger, and I'm currently serving on Westminster's capital campaign leadership team.

A crucial part of the foundation for our capital campaign is reflecting on who we are as a community and giving thanks to God for all God is doing among us. We begin that reflection today with Gratitude Sunday.

In your bulletin, you'll find a **gratitude card**, with the prompt **I love WPC because...**, for you to share what you love about Westminster. Our children and youth have been making these cards the past couple weeks, and I encourage you to stop by the display outside the Sanctuary to see their beautiful words and drawings. Toward the end of the sermon, you'll be invited to complete your own card and we'll add yours to the ones on display.

There are extra cards out at the table in the Courtyard if you, like me, have more than just one thing you love about WPC to share. At that table, you can also pick up your **devotional journal**. This 21-day guide is designed to help us reflect on gratitude and generosity, and on the prayer, "Lord, what do you want to do through me?"

If you are curious about what a friend or family member loves about Westminster, invite them up to Room 203 in the Holderness Mission Center to do a **2-Minute Interview**. We've set up a space for you to come and interview one another so that we might hear your stories about why Westminster matters in your life. I'm going to interview my friend Dana Lange next week, so watch WPC's website and Facebook page to listen in on our conversation!

I have been thinking a lot about what I want to write on my gratitude card today. I think I've about arrived at this: I love Westminster because Westminster has loved me. I have been thinking of the many times this community has reached out to me in love and has cared for me, and what this has meant to our family. I still remember the home cooked meals being delivered by my church friends after surgery or a family emergency. I still wrap myself up in the soft blue blanket made by the loving hands of the prayer shawl ministry. And I see our children, who have been nurtured here throughout their lives, who still call their youth pastors and the church friends they grew up with in times of sorrow and of celebration, even though they've been gone from Durham for several years now.

Truly, this church has loved me, and I am grateful to God for this caring community that is Westminster. On this day, and as we begin prayerful consideration of our capital campaign, I see our church as a reflection of the grace and gifts that God has given us. So, I invite you to reflect on what Westminster means to you, and to consider the prayer: "Lord, what do you want to do through me?" as we celebrate Gratitude Sunday.