



THE SPARE

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Pittsburgh, PA

Happy anniversary, friends. In 1946, following a deadly war and while still salving the wounds inflicted from the Depression, new residents settled into this rural landscape and birthed a new Presbyterian church.

“Where do people hurt?” became Dr. John Galbreath’s abiding question, compelling soul searching and practical service within our community and beyond. Each successive generation answered this question inspired by Jesus who said, “I came not to be served, but to serve.”

After all the tumult of recent years, how fitting for us to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Westminster’s founding. We too have endured conflicts and a pandemic and yet emerge with a renewed sense of gratitude for Westminster.

On September 26, we will celebrate the anniversary of the first worship service held by what became the Westminster congregation. Throughout the year, we plan to mark many of the milestones from the fledgling congregation that grew in strength and breadth.

To complement our worship and remembrances, we will celebrate. The Deacons Gala, on October 2 at Valley Brook Country Club, will be the first of several gatherings held to draw us together. Stay tuned for several other occasions in the plans.

Everyone can participate – old and young, long-term members and those who joined last year.

We invite your stories. Did you help

found one of the many organizations birthed with Westminster? Describe some silly calamity that still makes you smile. What about Vacation Bible School’s growth? Share a memory of your wedding. What instilled you with a sense of integrity that held you at a time of trial?

At some point, the spark of Jesus’ love for you took hold and continues to animate your faith.

Tell us your dreams. Imagine what we can do to serve people who hurt in the 21st century. Why do you present your children for baptism, drop them off at JAM or confirmation? What more can we do to serve in Christ’s name as we shop, pack, and feed others in the community? Just as the steeple reaches to the heights, what might the breadth of our digital presence mean for enduring connections and faith?

Throughout the coming year, we will share your stories and dreams to remind everyone why we belong to God through Christ and one another at Westminster. This is hard and holy work we do together.

At Westminster’s 40th anniversary, Dr. Galbreath wrote, “But, the real importance of this occasion is not to look back, but to see in these years the foundation upon which Westminster builds for coming years. It is the future, not the past, that we have come to celebrate. Westminster’s greatest days of mission lie ahead.”

In humble service,

Jo

“

But, the real importance of this occasion is not to look back, but to see in these years the foundation upon which Westminster builds for coming years. It is the future, not the past, that we have come to celebrate.

Westminster’s greatest days of mission lie ahead.”

— Dr. John Galbreath

PASTORS

DR. JO FORREST, *Senior Pastor, Head of Staff*
 REV. LOUISE ROGERS, *Associate Pastor*
for Congregational Care

ADMINISTRATIVE & BUSINESS SUPPORT

HOLLIE DOWLING, *Temporary Executive Assistant*
to Dr. Jo Forrest
 RICHARD MILLS, *Church Financial Manager*
 KIMBERLY DUNKOVICH, *Associate Accountant*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

FAITH KEMMLER, *Director of Children's & Family Ministry*
 CASSANDRA MILLIS, *Children's & Family Ministry Advisor*
 DEBB EGLI, *Assistant Director of Children's & Family Ministry*
 ED SUTTER, *Director of Youth Ministry & Family Counseling*
 LAURA ECKLIN, *Associate Director of Youth Ministry*

COMMUNICATIONS

ANNA HINER, *Communications & Database Manager*
 JEANNIE SCHOTT, *Graphic Design & Print/Web Manager*

MUSIC & ARTS

CHRISTINE HESTWOOD, *Director*
 LORRAINE MILOVAC, *Assistant Director*
 JIM BURNS, *Organist*
 EILEEN MURRAY, *Administrative Assistant*

PROPERTY

CHARLEY RICHARDSON, *Property Manager*
 WALTER GERODA, *Head Custodian/Maintenance*

VOLUNTEER MINISTRY

JAN BAUMANN, *Volunteer Coordinator*
 CARA DANIELE, *Kitchen Coordinator*

WESTMINSTER RECREATION & OUTREACH CENTER (WROC)

KATHY LONG, *Director*

WESTMINSTER EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS (WECEP)

DENISE BURKE, *Executive Director*

NURSERY SCHOOL 412-835-2906

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER 412-835-9450

Staff email addresses and phone extensions are available on our website, www.westminster-church.org.

Read the *Spire* online at: www.westminster-church.org

The Spire is published monthly by the church staff from September through June. Contributions can be made by emailing a Word document to *Spire* editor Sara Kyle at sara@ruhlekyle.org. The deadline for submitting an article is the fifth day of every month for the following month's issue. Please include the author's name, telephone number, email address, and a title. All articles are subject to editing.

Table of Contents

3 **Worship**
 Worship at Westminster
 Super Sunday
 Upcoming Events

4 **Spiritual Growth**
 Welcoming
 Day Away
 Between Here and There
 Westminster Seminars
 Westminster Book Group
 A Season of Peace
 Adult Spiritual Development
 Reasons to Rejoice
 Children's & Family Ministry
 In Person Sunday School Returns

10 **Outreach**
 Westminster's Mission in India
 Baby Bundles: A Mission to New Mothers
 Westminster Recreation & Outreach Center
 Blood Drive




13 **Caring Community**
 Make Music in Choir!
 Westminster Deacons Giving Gala
 Celebrating 75 Years
 Grief Care
 Food to Go

15 **Other**
 Financial Report
 Session Update
 Baptisms
 Deaths




Worship at Westminster

All are welcome to join Westminster for worship! Reservations are no longer required to attend in person worship services. At the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. traditional services, we invite those who are fully vaccinated to worship without a mask and strongly encourage those who are not vaccinated to wear a mask. At the 9:45 a.m. Bridge service, masks are required of all attendees regardless of vaccination status. If you are not comfortable attending in person worship or are traveling, visit our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/WestminsterUSC or our website for links to the livestream services at 9:45 and 11:00 a.m., or watch anytime later on YouTube.

Bridge Contemporary Worship

 Sundays
 9:45 a.m.
 WROC & YouTube Livestream

Traditional Worship

 Sundays
 8:30* & 11:00 a.m.
 Sanctuary & YouTube Livestream (11:00 a.m. only)

The Lord's Supper is celebrated the first Sunday of each month.

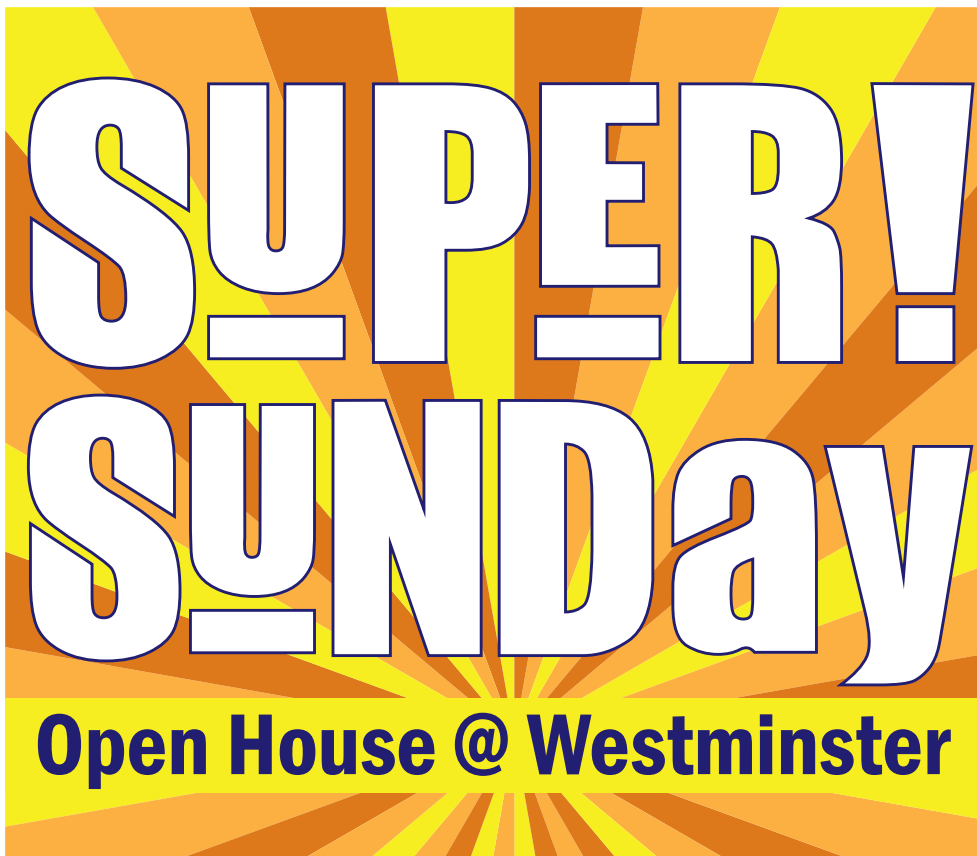
**Through the fall, the 8:30 a.m. worship service will be held outdoors in the north courtyard, weather permitting.*

Upcoming Events

12 SEP Westminster's Super Sunday

17 SEP Day Away Spiritual Retreat

19 SEP Deacons' Blood Drive



You are invited...

Sunday, September 12

@ 8:30 a.m.

Traditional worship

@ 9:45 a.m.

Bridge worship, Sunday school, Westminster Seminars

@ 11:00 a.m.

Traditional worship, Sunday school

@ noon

Fun, food, activities, music, and fellowship throughout the building
Something for every generation!

Invite your friends and family to join you for this fun-filled celebration.

Mark the date now on your calendar!

Welcoming

At Westminster Church, we strive to be a welcoming congregation. During one of my pastoral visits, one of our saints shared the touching story of her welcoming experience.

“When I was raising my family we had a family business. My husband and I spent every ‘free’ minute trying to make it a success. Between raising four active children and keeping house, just getting dinner on the table every night was a chore, life was busy. We got to church on Sunday, but I never had time for any social activities at the church. As the children got older, they were on their own, so finally I decided to go to one of the special events with the Women’s Association. I arrived just before the program began. When I walked in the room, to my dismay everyone was seated and all the chairs were filled around the tables.

“I stood to the side feeling awkward and wondering if I should just back out slowly and go home. Actually, I was kicking myself for even trying something new. That was when Diane stood up! She called over, Anna please come with me. You and I can sit together over here. Quickly she arranged for chairs and placemats to come to an empty table. Diane and I

sat together for the entire presentation. No one else joined us but we had the best time. I can’t tell you what the program was that day, but I will never forget the kindness and welcome I received from Diane. Even today my heart is full thinking about her.”

This account talks more about welcoming than I can possibly relay. At some time, each one of us has been the awkward person standing on the sidelines wondering where to sit or how to fit in while everyone else seems to have a friend. Jesus was always inviting the lost, lonely, and the least into his company. Jesus invited himself to dinner at Zacchaeus’ house, he talked with the rejected Samaritan woman, he accepted the gift of the woman’s oil at dinner while the formal religious leaders looked on with disdain. Let our welcome be like Jesus, extended to everyone. There is always room at the Lord’s table. Especially in these days when we may not be physically in the same room, welcoming one another with creative love can truly change someone’s life.

Together on the journey,

Louise



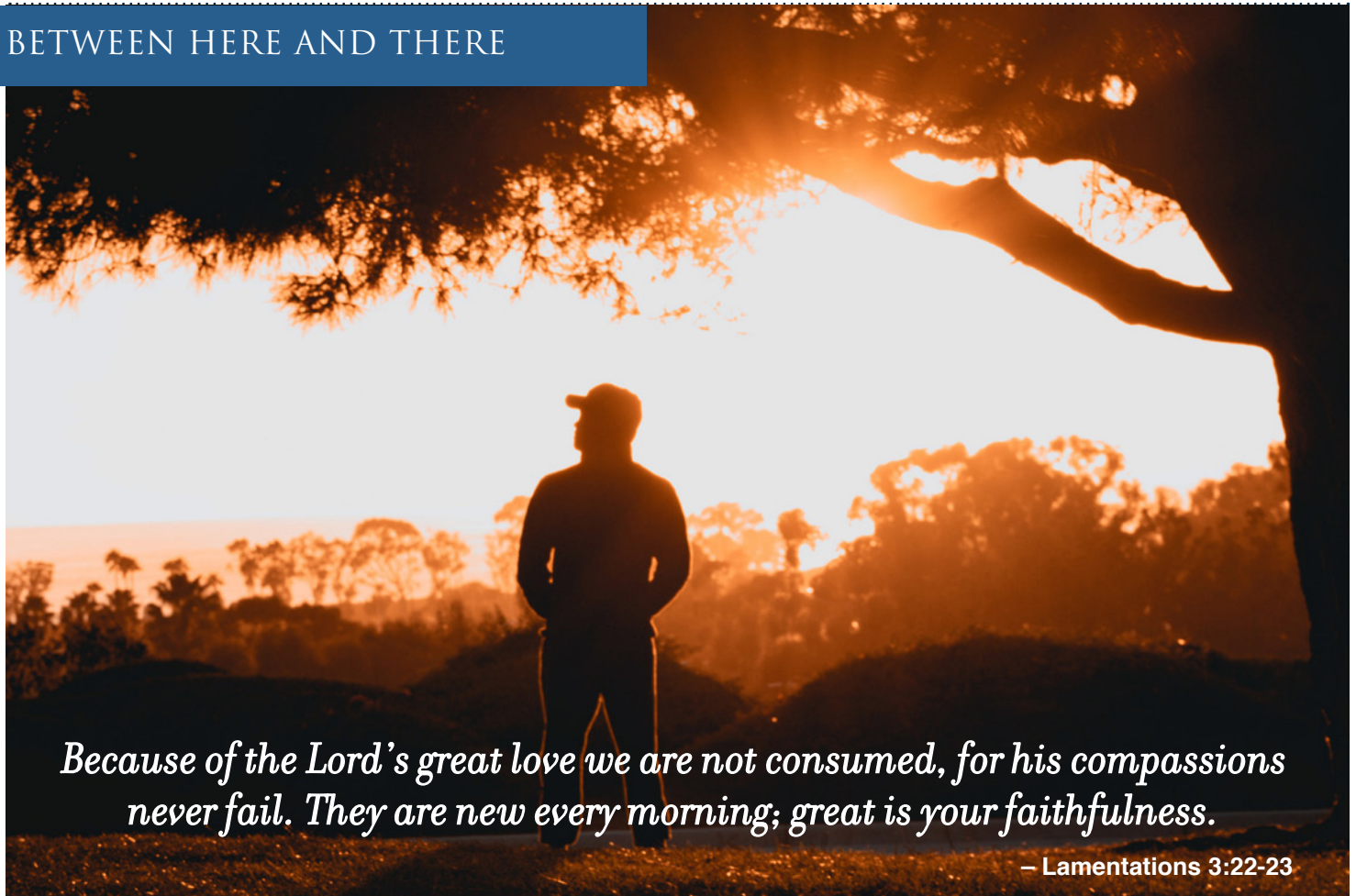
Day Away

Friday, September 17
Spiritan Center, Bethel Park

Join us for Day Away, a spiritual retreat, at the Spiritan Center in Bethel Park on Friday, September 17, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. During our time together we will enjoy warm hospitality, engage in small group discussion, and walk the beautiful grounds as we set aside time for prayer. Louise Rogers and Jo Forrest will lead the retreat. No charge for the day. We plan to meet outdoors as much as possible. Questions? Contact Barbara Myers at 412-818-2765.



BETWEEN HERE AND THERE



Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

– Lamentations 3:22-23

A big part of me wants to start this article with the line “Here we go again!” But the rest of me knows that it’s simply not accurate. Though for many of us it’s true that we’re diving into another fall of ministry, community, and life together here at Westminster. Yet the landscape continues to change. Take your thinking a few levels deeper on that one: yes, think more deeply than the calendar year, more deeply than staff changes, think beyond COVID protocols. Surely all of those are true, but the landscape is different because you and I are different.

We’ve all grown, changed, and learned in these past summer months. Many of us have made intentional changes; some of us are simply looking out at life through different lenses. Christ has continued to move in all of our hearts. I think that’s an important reminder from time to time. I’ve spoken with many, many people who feel caught in the “loop” of life: the same pattern, day after day, week after week. But what happens when we step back to realize that we’re not the same people that we used to be? Suddenly that loop starts to look a bit different, doesn’t it? Yes, we may tread the same ground, but we do so with new experience, new wisdom, a different perspective.

That thought helps to shed some light on an idea shared in the Lamentations passage above: God’s compassions for his people are new every morning. If God’s compassions

are new every morning, it must be true that our needs are new each morning. We change each and every day! God’s love for you is constant, but his methods are unique, specific, and individual to your life each and every day. This also happens to pave the way for another insight: if you feel as though you’re experiencing God in the same ways that you always have, you might just be missing out on something new. God is offering you something new every morning

Many of us are looking forward to the return of familiar ministries, so it’s true that in one sense, “Here we go again!” But I’d encourage you to look out at the horizon with new eyes, with a new perspective. God has done new things for you each morning; the same will be true this fall. So as we step forward to community of all kinds, keep an eye out for the new work that God has done in your life and in the lives of those around you.

What new thing has God done in your life? Maybe you’re confident of the answer, or maybe you feel like one of those who is caught in the “loop” of life. In either case, I’d love to hear a part of your story. Feel free to drop me a line as we dive into this fall season. Be well, friends!

– Ed Sutter

Westminster Seminars

In Person and Online

Sundays, 9:45 – 10:30 a.m.
Galbreath Chapel & Zoom

The Westminster Seminars return for a new season of thoughtful sessions. We will address, in various ways, how our beliefs and practices as Christians enrich our lives in today's culture. Everyone is welcome – come every week or whenever the topic appeals and your schedule allows. If you can't join in person or on Zoom, plan to watch or listen later on the Westminster website – under News & Media – here: <https://www.westminster-church.org/news-&-media/westminster-seminars>.

The Zoom meeting opens at 9:30 for greetings and conversation. Find the link on the church website under Featured Events or in the Friday church email.

September Series

September 12, 19, 26; October 3

To begin the new program year, we welcome back Professor John Burgess from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. This time, he will come to us live from Germany, tell us about Christian life there today, and answer questions in the moment as well.

When Christians Become the Minority: New Perspectives from the Land of the Reformation

John Burgess, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Where Martin Luther initiated the Reformation is now one of the most secularized, non-Christian areas of the world. This series explores how Christians in Germany are learning to become a creative, hopeful minority in their society. We will see how their witness may inspire us in the United States, as we become a “post-Christian” society.

September 12 – “What It’s Like to Become the Minority When You Were Once the Majority”

September 19 – “What’s Been Lost and What Remains of Christian Culture”

September 26 – “Finding a Language for the Gospel in a Post-Christian Land”

October 3 – “The Special Hope That Christians Have”

John Burgess is professor of theology at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and is currently in Germany. For more than 40 years, he has been talking to German Christians about these questions. He is delighted to be a “reporter on the ground” for this Westminster series.

Westminster Book Group

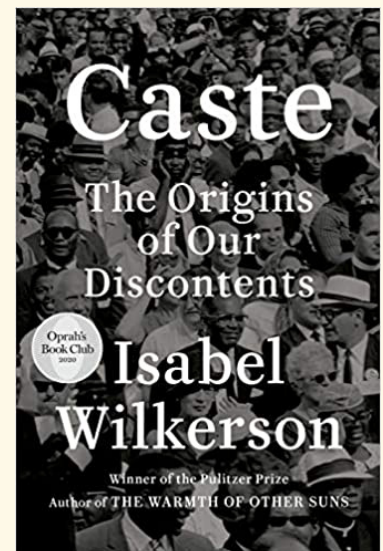
Wednesday, September 29

Noon – 1:15 p.m.

The next meeting of the Westminster Book Group will be on Zoom and in Room 238. The zoom link can be found in the meeting announcement on the church website. Our book is *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson.

“The real power of *Caste* lies tucked within the stories she strings together like pearls.... *Caste* roams wide and deep, lives and deaths vividly captured, haloed with piercing cultural critique.... *Caste* is a luminous read, bearing its own torch of righteous wrath in a diamond-hard prose that will be admired and studied by future generations of journalists.”

– Hamilton Cain, *Minneapolis Star Tribune*



A Season of Peace

September 5 – October 3

We are all invited to join this four-week journey to focus on what it means to be a “people of peace.” This year’s theme returns to a text that the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program has used for a number of years to guide its work. It is the concluding hope of the second letter to the Thessalonians: “May the God of peace grant you peace at all times in all ways” (2 Thessalonians 3:16).

Through the daily “Path of Peace” reflections, we are encouraged to define and deepen our calling as peacemakers. “This season is a time of encouragement, challenge, inspiration, and education,” said Carl Horton, teaching elder and coordinator of the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program.

This resource is designed to culminate in the Peace & Global Witness Offering on Sunday, October 3. The daily reflections offer insight and connection among Presbyterians, inviting the Spirit to strengthen and support one another in shared life and ministry.

You may subscribe to the reflections for daily email delivery here: <https://pcusa.activehosted.com/f/178> or print the entire collection as a devotional

A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. The Presbyterian Mission Agency advocates for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness.

resource from the link here: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/2021-path-of-peace-reflections/>.

I’m often asked how we, as Presbyterians and Christians, define “peace” and how do we really expect to be peacemakers in today’s world? In his article for *Presbyterians Today* (July/August 2021), Carl Horton offers a clear perspective of the peace we seek. We are reminded that peace is a dominant biblical theme that brings us

back to the realization that peace in all terms is a gift from God.

Horton describes how Presbyterians have been “...bearers of peace” in our response to conflict and injustice and through the denomination’s peacemaking program. The program is recognized “as the work of the church at all levels.”

I seek to more fully serve God as a peacemaker and when I fall short, I am reminded to accept God’s gifts with gratitude. Horton’s thoughts on the work of peace inspire me to carry on this task. He states:

For Presbyterians, peace is more than an idea or a declaration. It is the work we do, and it requires both compassion and justice. As peacemakers, we are both compassion-bearers and justice-seekers, meeting the needs of the world around us and righting the wrongs that, still today, impede justice for all.

Find the full article here: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/pt-0721-wpb/>.

— Barbara Myers
Peace and Justice Team



Silence for our lives

P
I
R
I
T

ADULT SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

“I do not know how it works, but when a group of like-minded people committed to the transformative process are together, the force of the energy is certainly up a number of decibels higher. You do not have to do anything but sit still, and let your mind be quiet. Know that God’s word is spoken fully only in silence. Be still, and you will know, not by the knowledge of the mind, but by the knowledge of the heart, who God is and who you are.”

— Thomas Keating



Reasons to Rejoice

When I was in my sophomore year of college I lived at home with my parents. On Wednesday nights my mom volunteered at Westminster and my dad worked late. Those nights were quiet – sometimes lonely. I'm not sure how exactly I got roped in to volunteering with my mom, but I did. We worked with 5th & 6th grade kids in JAM and spent time playing "hey fishy fishy" and acting out Bible stories in silly skits. I would tell anyone who would listen how impressive these kids were. They absolutely blew me away.

See, around that age kids transition their thought process from a purely black and white view to a more abstract one. Around the same time, they start questioning their parents' authority (if you're a parent, I bet you are rolling your eyes right about now), so this is the perfect time for kids to explore faith. For their whole lives, their parents and Sunday school teachers have been teaching them about God, but around 5th and 6th grade is typically when children start asking questions and reading scripture in a way similar to the way they would read text in school – critically. They quickly begin to realize the gravity of what Christ did for us and how miraculous his ministry really was (and is). I fell in love with watching this faith journey unfold and was coming to JAM every single week. It also helped that the group of kids in the program were hilarious and genuinely enjoyable to be around.

I finished college and moved on to working for Hilton hotels in sales and events. I loved my job, but still tried to make sure my schedule allowed me to make it to Westminster by 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday nights. After a few years and a couple bride-zillas, I found myself interviewing for a job opportunity at Westminster. Those Westminster kids were there to support me, but in a whole new way this time.

Every fall, Veritas begins with a new theme for the year – based on a specific piece of Scripture. This year we are

focusing on 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." I don't need to remind you how trying the last year has been. Staring at a couple dozen teenagers on a Zoom call is not nearly as exciting as riding down a water slide or playing mini golf. Yet, the kids kept me laughing and continued to impress me with their insights in faith. Even with all of the struggles, I found myself actively searching for the reasons to rejoice, which is what inspired me to choose this theme for the year. Even if case numbers go up, we need to stay focused on the good things that still exist in our lives.

The first group of JAM kids I worked with graduated from high school this past spring. For the first time, I'll start fall programming without them. As much as I watched and helped them grow, they watched and helped me grow as well. They absolutely made an impact on my life forever.

Even though that group will be scattered across the country this fall, about 65 students will walk through the north entry at the end of August. And every single one of those kids is as insightful, hilarious, and special as the bunch I met when I was 19. They will inspire and impress me in new and different ways. God will continue to give me reasons to rejoice.

I'll end with a challenge. I know we all rejoice for different reasons, but I ask you to take a peek into this one of mine. Pay attention to what Veritas is doing this year. Follow us on Instagram or check our website. Watch for the ways we are connecting with one another. Come spend an hour or two with us on a Wednesday night and give the Veritas students the opportunity to wow you. Jesus trusted his ministry with young people. Let me show you what they can do.

– Laura Ecklin

Children's & Family Ministry

Welcome...back? Welcome to the new normal? Welcome...to something. It seems for the past year and a half it has been adjustment after adjustment, change after change. And just when we think we might be out of the woods, COVID cases are rising again.

It's been a pretty tumultuous time for everyone, but recently I've been trying to see the pandemic through the eyes of a child. On one hand, perhaps since children don't have that much life experience to compare it to, this has simply been another adjustment as they learn how to function in the world. But on the other, for a young life, the pandemic is taking up a pretty significant percentage of it.

Being only a dog-mom myself, I don't get any difficult questions from Neville about masks or shots, or some of the scary images that we see on the news. But I've been thinking about two quotes recently: one from the Bible, and the other from a president who lived through a different kind of difficult situation. The biblical one comes from the book of Romans: "No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us" (Romans 8:37). This verse always reminds me that the God who created and controls the entire universe loves me and those I care about, and gives us strength and perseverance through even the toughest times. The second quote comes from Franklin Delano Roosevelt:

"Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the assessment that something else is more important than fear."

Fear will always be a part of our lives, but so is something more important than fear – trusting in the God who holds us in his hands and loved us enough to sacrifice everything for us.

We're all looking forward to learning more about our loving God with the incredible kids who help make Westminster such an exciting place in which to worship and serve.

Can't wait to see you all soon!

– Cassandra Millis
Children's & Family Ministry Advisor

In Person Sunday School Returns

Hey kids! In person Sunday school will be coming your way on September 12. It has been a while since we have had regular in person Sunday school at both 9:45 and 11:00 a.m. We can't wait to see you and continue with you on your journey of faith. Don't forget your masks!

September 12 is also Super Sunday at Westminster. This is a fun kickoff to the start of a great year. Join us for Sunday school and then join in the fun of Super Sunday!

Parents: Online registration for PreK – 6th grade is on our website under Children's & Family Ministry. We ask that children be registered each year so that we have updated information on your child/children.

Until September 12, thank you for sharing your terrific child/children with us!

Blessings always.

– Debb Egli

Calling 5th and 6th Graders

We here in the Children's & Family Ministry office can't wait to get to all the fun fall plans we have for the students, and we are especially excited for JAM (or Jesus and Me), the youth group for 5th and 6th graders! We will gather every Wednesday during the school year from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. We have a wonderful time playing games, making friends, and learning about our faith. Drop-off and pickup will be at the north entry of the church. For more information, please reach out to Faith Kemmler at kemmler@westminster-church.org or Cassandra Millis at millis@westminster-church.org. We can't wait to see you and your friends at JAM!

Westminster's Mission in India

Doug Mitchell, Outreach Commission

Jesus tells us to “love our neighbors as ourselves.” Westminster has been loving our neighbors in India for the past 31 years, when 10% of a capital campaign funded a cardiac monitor for Miraj Medical Centre and provided operating funds for Sangli Industrial School (SIS), Creche Nurses Training Centre (CNTC), and Vadeketh Development Centre which offers therapy for mentally and physically disadvantaged children. Prabhat Tara Sanstha (Bright Morning Star) offers support through worship

flooding in 2019. Westminster's Endowment Fund provided nearly \$46,000 to repair the building and to replace damaged equipment used to train auto mechanics, HVAC, welding, and electrician students. Without this project the school could not have remained certified and would have closed.

Sangli Industrial School was founded in 1888 by a Scottish engineer to train boys, especially Christian boys, who would not be allowed to learn a trade



Pastor Timothy ministers to the church at Prabhat Tara Sanstha (Bright Morning Star)



Sangli Industrial School before renovation



Sangli Industrial School after renovation

services and nutritional and pastoral care for children who are clothed, fed, educated, and treated for HIV/AIDS. This ministry's relationship with Westminster began when Creche Nurses Training Centre closed. Westminster has provided generations of underserved students and patients in Miraj, India, with life-changing education and support.

This year Sangli Industrial School was completely renovated. Its 125-year-old main Chapel Hall was severely damaged by destructive monsoon

otherwise. The Chapel Hall holds about 300 people and provides classroom space around its perimeter for such trades as electrician, welder, fitter, auto mechanic, small engine repair, HVAC and refrigeration, computer operations, carpentry, and tailoring. Other nearby outbuildings house work areas for these trades. A hostel and kitchen make available food and lodging for most of the students.

Miraj, India, is 8,163 miles from Upper St. Clair, USA. Despite the distance, since 1990 Westminster

has sponsored nine mission trips to India. A tenth trip is being planned once travel restrictions end. If you are interested in being part of the team to make the tenth visit to Miraj, contact Doug Mitchell at 724-316-7511.

For a 30-minute video with many more details about Westminster's India missions, go to this link and go to 23:21 on the timeline: <https://www.westminster-church.org/assets/media/video/2021.02.28%20Westminster%20Mission%20Pilgrimage.video.mp4>.



Baby Bundles: A Mission to New Mothers (and Not-so-new Grandmothers)

Bobbie Hartman, Outreach Commission

Everybody loves a new baby – and grandmothers everywhere love shopping and knitting and crocheting for them. But those babies grow up to become teenagers, and their gift lists often include things most of us grandparents can't even pronounce. And while buying the latest electronic gizmo for them can be fun, it's just not the same as making something soft and sweet, and we miss doing that.

The other side of this story is the East Liberty Family Health Care Center where new mothers often find themselves with limited means for providing even the basics. But they, too, would like to have some of those beautiful clothes and soft blankets for their precious new ones.

As often happens in the church, people who have and people who need find one another. And this is the magic of Baby Bundles.

We are a group of women who in our small way are following the call of Jesus in Matthew 25: "I was naked and you gave me clothing." We knit, crochet, and sew blankets and gather new and gently worn baby clothes from Westminster's rummage sale, donations from members, and more recently, from the City Mission Hidden Treasures store. Our Outreach Commission budget funds the purchase of a digital thermometer for each recipient. Each bundle includes sleepwear, onesies, hats, socks, at least one "dress-up" outfit, and a hand-written note. All these are gathered together in the Baby Bundles which are then delivered to new mothers in East Liberty.



A mother with her new baby receiving a bundle.



From left: Debby Underwood, Bobbie Hartman, Marilyn Lindstrom, Kathy Knopp, and Drue Bellora. Not pictured: Nana Wilson, Bev Hilty. We also thank Carol Hetrick, a friend of Westminster, for the many beautiful baby blankets she has crocheted for us, and Marilyn who engaged her in this project.

Debby Underwood started this project seven years ago after her grandchildren were grown and she "had no one to knit for." There is no definite schedule for the bundling meetings. Debbie gets a call from the East Liberty Center when their supplies run low, and she notifies our Westminster group. We all watch for inexpensive or free items, and those with knitting or crocheting skills work on blankets throughout the year. We meet at Westminster to gather, sort, and bundle the items.

If you would like to participate, email Debby at jeffdeb369@verizon.net and she will include you in the next bundling call.

Cardio Kickboxing at the WROC!

**Mondays,
September 13 –
November 1
5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Cost: \$56**



The WROC is offering a new class and a new instructor, Kristy Skerbetz. Kristy is a Certified Kickboxing Skills & Choreography Instructor and AFFA Group Fitness Instructor. She has been teaching group fitness classes for 12 years.

Cardio kickboxing combines kickboxing moves with fast-paced cardio all set to great music! No equipment or gloves are used in this contactless workout, as we simply use the basic jabs, hooks, crosses, uppercuts, and kicks to build

stamina, improve coordination, build muscle, and burn calories. You will learn the proper form for all moves as you engage your entire body while learning fun combinations!

This high-energy workout is for the beginner and elite athlete alike with low to higher impact options demonstrated.

Advance registration required at wroc.westminster-church.org.



Blood Drive

**Sunday, September 19
8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall**

Westminster Deacons are hosting their third blood drive of the year on Sunday, September 19, and invite everyone in the congregation who is 18 and over to consider donating for this worthy cause. Our doors are also open to the community, and we welcome additional donors for this event.

The Westminster Deacons thank you for your continuing support in the worthy mission of donating blood.

Vitalant will provide staff and supplies to handle 40 or more donors and they are now requiring all donors to:

- Make an appointment.
- Wear a mask.
- Get a temperature check on site.

Read more about Vitalant's precautionary measures at www.vitalant.org. **Please preregister for your appointment** by using sponsor code G0010171, in order to secure a time slot. Registration is easily done by phone or online at www.vitalant.org, or by calling Candy Kottyan at 412-860-3534.

Make Music in Choir!

The Music Department of Westminster Presbyterian Church is pleased to announce the return of its choral ensembles for Fall 2021.

Beginning September 2

Chancel Choir – rehearses weekly in the sanctuary on Thursdays from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. and will begin singing at the 11:00 a.m. service on Sunday, September 12. No registration is necessary.

Beginning September 8

Westminster Ringers – rehearsals on Wednesdays, in Room 268. For information, please contact Jim Marshall at marshall@westminster-church.org or Laurie Malarkey at lmalarkey@verizon.net.

Youth Choir (7th–12th grade) – for information, contact Christine Hestwood, Director of Music & Arts, at chf1218@gmail.com.

Junior Choir (3rd–6th grade) – meets on Wednesdays from 4:45 to 5:45 p.m. in the sanctuary. For information, contact director Holly Wine Jones at hwine@jwineassociates.com.

Cherub Choir (K–2nd grade) – meets on Wednesdays from 4:45 to 5:30 p.m. in Galbreath Chapel. For information, contact director Beth Ketterman at ketterman@westminster-church.org.

The Cherub and Junior Choirs help lead worship on the second Sunday of each month. Additionally they participate in the December concert along with all of our music ensembles. They provide the music for the Christmas Eve Family Service at 5:00 p.m. and end their year on Mother’s Day with a fun, biblically-based musical. Registration forms for all children’s choirs are on the church website here: <https://www.westminster-church.org/visit-&-join/music-choirs>.



“Those who sing pray twice.”
– St. Augustine

THE GIVING GALA 2021

**Westminster Deacons Giving Gala
Valley Brook Country Club
Saturday, October 2
\$50 per person**

As Westminster Presbyterian Church celebrates 75 years, please plan to join your church family for a special evening of fellowship, entertainment, and auctions benefiting SHIM's (South Hills Interfaith Movement) Youth Programs.

Please visit westminster-church.org and click Events for information regarding registration, ticket sales, and sponsorship opportunities. Hope to see you there!

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Cocktails & Entertainment featuring Bob Banerjee & Mark Guiser

7:00 p.m.

Dinner followed by Live Auction and Basket Raffle

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

Westminster Presbyterian Church celebrates its 75th anniversary this year. It is a foundation that has prepared us – and will inspire us – to continue to share God's love and meet the needs of God's people in a changing world.

As part of the anniversary celebration, we will be asking you to share your memories – your experiences, your service, your stories. Details to follow. Start thinking of stories that you would like to share!

Grief Care

If you have lost a spouse, child, family member, or friend, it may be hard to feel optimistic about the future right now. You may have found that people don't always understand the deep hurt you feel. This can be a confusing time when you feel isolated and have many questions about things you've never before faced.

Grief Care is a faith-based grief support group that can help you face the challenges of loss and move toward rebuilding your life. Please contact Louise Rogers if you have any questions.

The group uses the book *Beyond the Broken Heart: A Journey Through Grief* by Julie Yarbrough. To register and for more information, complete the online registration form on the church website or call Hollie Dowling at 412-835-6630. To help defray the costs of materials, a donation of \$10.00 is suggested.

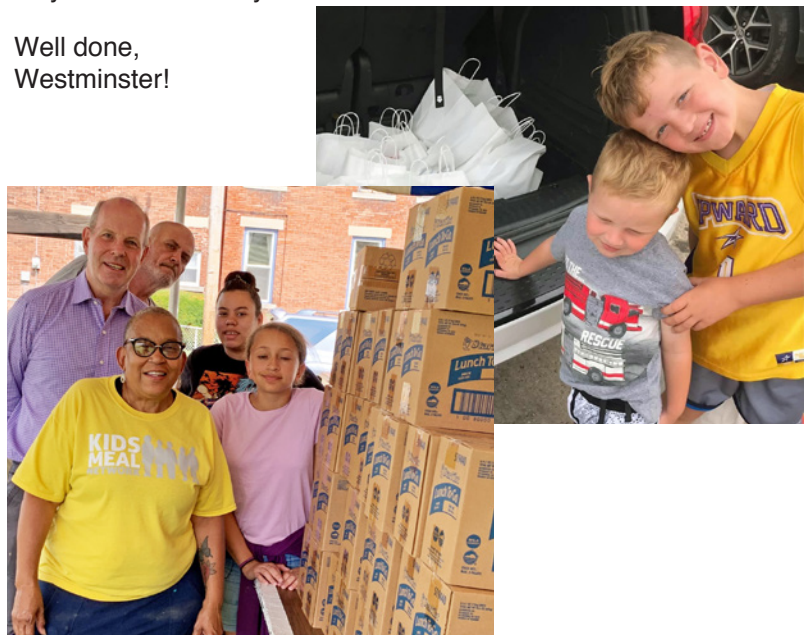
The fall session will meet Wednesday evenings October 13 through November 10 from 6:45 to 8:00 p.m. in Room 231.

Food to Go

Westminster provided 880 food bags to area children in need this summer. Thank you to everyone who made this program a huge success. You purchased and donated the food, counted, sorted, and organized our bagging process, and drove and delivered the bags.

From June until the beginning of August, these bags help fill the void for children who rely on school breakfast and lunch as their only meals of the day.

Well done,
Westminster!



Financial Report

As of July 31, 2021

JULY 2021			2021 YTD	
	Actual	Budget		Actual
Income	\$104,580	\$119,177	Income	\$1,144,733
Expense	\$143,705	\$144,783	Expense	\$1,111,347
Variance	(\$39,125)	(\$25,606)	Variance	\$33,386

Session Update

The session held a hybrid meeting on Monday, August 16, with elders joining in Fellowship Hall and via Zoom.

We offered great thanks and prayer for Brian Peck's service as Clerk of Session. Brian's commitment to Presbyterian ideals of governance, shepherding the congregation through legal minefields, and his abiding faith have blessed us with renewed stability.

The session elected Bill Ludwig to the role of Clerk of Session. Ordained in January of this year, Bill has already supported commissions and committees with his legal knowledge and will steward us forward. We gladly welcomed him to this new role.

Andrew Marsh, who serves as commission chair for Personnel was elected to the role of President. As a reminder, Dave Heilman serves as Treasurer and chair of the Stewardship Commission.

Please hold these officers and all elders in your prayers as we serve this congregation.

Baptisms

July 11

Alexandra Rose Bittel

parents:

Cynthia and Matthew Bittel

July 18

Lincoln Elliott Gasher

parents:

Lauren and Richard Gasher

August 22

Savannah Lynne Brown

parents:

Nicole and Bill Brown

Brooks Kovacs Pascarella

parents:

Kelly and Joe Pascarella

Deaths

Cory M. Boustead

June 9

Nancy K. Douglass

June 12

George Fodor

June 14

Dorothy Gregory

June 17

Daniel Carper

June 18

David Hilty

June 21

Linda Berry

June 30

Howard Oliver

July 23

Mary Ann Evans

August 8

Sara (Sally) Bothe

August 11

Joan Utter

August 13

Betty Leuch

August 20



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2040 Washington Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15241
www.westminster-church.org
A PC(USA) Congregation

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
DATED MATERIAL—PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY



www.facebook.com/Westminster.Pittsburgh



www.youtube.com/user/WestminsterUSC

*“Don’t do anything for selfish purposes,
but with humility think of others as better than yourselves.
Instead of each person watching out for their own good,
watch out for what is better for others.
Adopt the attitude that was in Christ Jesus.”*

– Philippians 2:3-5 CEB