



THE SPARE

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Pittsburgh, PA

In early January snow blanketed the ground and most of us isolated in our homes as the virus raged. I learned to preach to “Stand Lee,” a music stand adorned with a smiley face, and an empty building. Ugh. I could write more of the emptiness but imagine you were as frustrated.

Month by month we monitored the safety and practicality of gathering, balancing the gnawing desire with risks. This congregation must be commended for the respect you showed one another in complying with safety protocols as you returned to worship at the WROC and sanctuary. In person attendance and online engagement via YouTube remain strong and use of social media tells us that Westminster is reaching beyond the building and Sunday mornings to a broad community.

Looking back on the ways the warmth melted snow, Westminster took strides forward. You persisted in serving despite the constraints. Indulge me with a few highlights.

At the Annual Meeting, I stated how much I admire this staff’s creativity

and dedication as workloads increased and pivoting seemed the weekly dance move. The staff’s expertise and marvelous *esprit de corps* continue to bless Westminster.

Each expense dollar undergoes intense scrutiny: is it budgeted and prudent? Even though the building remained closed to groups for many months, like any home, we continued to maintain this precious structure.

Although we are being frugal, it is essential for us to invest in children and family ministry. Stay tuned as we hope to make announcements this summer.

Your generosity fuels us. In late February, a member offered to match, dollar-for-dollar, any funds raised to pay off a loan from PNC. Quietly, other generous donors provided funds over and above their pledged offerings and this \$108,000 debt no longer burdens our balance sheet or requires monthly payments.

The Finance Commission and Internal Audit Committees have

made significant progress in documenting processes, sorting through records, and preparing for an external audit. Their critical review, countless hours, and passion for Westminster are putting in place durable practices.

The projects funded by the endowment in April hum along with visible results in fresh paint to welcome, and new communications equipment stabilizes our online work.

Despite the many constraints of the pandemic and budget, music continues to bless us in worship. Amazing.

Volunteers, Outreach, Youth, Deacons, Children’s Ministry, WECEP, Adult Spiritual Development, Membership, the WROC...vital ministries overcame obstacles in unique ways. If this was possible in five months of a pandemic, imagine what else will blossom in 2021.

In humble service,
Jo

Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

– Joshua 1:9

PASTORS

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

ADMINISTRATIVE & BUSINESS SUPPORT

PEG KINSEY, *Executive Assistant to the Pastors*
 RICHARD MILLS, *Church Financial Manager*
 KIMBERLY DUNKOVICH, *Associate Accountant*

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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

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

PROPERTY

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 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
 Upcoming Events

4 **Spiritual Growth**
 The Wider Lens
 Between Here and There
 Westminster Seminars Online
 Summer Reading at Westminster
 Summer Book Study
 Adult Spiritual Development

10 **Mission**
 Mission on the Move
 Save the Date: Westminster Deacons Giving Gala Returns

12 **Outreach**
 Westminster Organ Summer 2021
 Barefoot School Is Back!




15 **Other**
 Financial Update
 Session Update
 Baptisms

Worship at Westminster




All are welcome to join Westminster for worship! Reservations are no longer required to attend in person worship services.

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. Sunday mornings (no livestream at 8:30 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.

**Starting June 6, the 8:30 a.m. worship service will be held outdoors in the north courtyard, weather permitting.*

8:30 a.m. Worship in the Courtyard (2019)



Upcoming Events

06 JUN Courtyard Worship at 8:30 a.m. begins

17 JUN Westminster Organ Summer begins

21-25 JUN Barefoot School

The Wider Lens

“Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.”

Luke 12:27

What a fun command – Jesus directs us to “consider the lilies.” He doesn’t tell us to simply look at the lilies or glance at them but to “consider the flowers of the fields.” In Greek “κατανοέω,” to consider, means to perceive, observe, understand, fix one’s eyes or mind upon. Artists help us in this endeavor because they are masters in creating works that allow us to pause and see the ordinary in extraordinary ways.

The works of Georgia O’Keeffe, an American artist known for her paintings of enlarged flowers, captures the detailed essence of blossoms. Her masterful paintings of beautiful flowers awaken the intricate beauty within each petal. “If I could paint the flower exactly as I see it no one would see what I see because I would paint it small like the flower is small,” O’Keeffe explained. “So I said to myself – I’ll paint what I see – what the flower is to me but I’ll paint it big and they will be surprised into taking time to look at it – I will make even busy New Yorkers take time to see what I see of flowers.”



Georgia O’Keeffe, *Red Canna*, 1919, High Museum of Art, Atlanta

Our preschool children in the Westminster Early Childhood Education Program have been considering flowers during the art enrichment programs. Art gives all of us the ability to see God’s creation through a wider lens. The children have been learning about famous artists and their techniques. Then, the children create works of art in the style of those artists. Some of the children’s beautiful creations of art are featured to the right. Notice how the children interpreted Monet’s waterlilies for themselves.



In the coming weeks of summer, we will find flowers all around. They become commonplace. Another pink rose, a bothersome dandelion, an ordinary peace lily. What if we take the time to pause and consider the flowers – to delve into the creative side, to marvel at the color, the texture, the beauty given to us?

The instructions from the Lord are directed toward flowers, but we can apply them to all areas of life. Take time to consider the gifts given. Do we pause to cherish the blessings of love and hope provided to us on a daily basis? As we emerge from the time of COVID, we see simple pleasures such as a hug or a handshake or even a smile as a treasure. Offer a prayer. Thanks be to God, the ultimate artist who lavishes upon us gifts to continually be discovered.

Together on the journey,

Louise



BETWEEN HERE AND THERE

Forgive me if I've tread this ground before, as it has become a foundational thought in both my life and faith, one that I return to often. Abram's call, found in the 12th chapter of Genesis, begins with the line "Go to the land that I will show you." When we think of Abram's (later named Abraham) faith, we most commonly think of his willingness to sacrifice his son, Isaac. It occurs to me, however, that there are two different expressions of faith happening in these scenarios.

Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son (who is ultimately spared) is a willingness to follow God into a very difficult place. Into fear, loneliness, despair, and loss. Not many of us willingly follow God into these places. The distinction I'd like to make here is this: God called Abraham to a *very specific task*. Abraham was willing.

Second, Abram's willingness to move to a place that will one day be shown to him is a willingness to follow God into a completely unknown place. He is specifically called to leave his country, his people, all that he knows, but he is not told where to go. This is a call away from everything that has become comfortable and familiar. Into foreign territory, the unknown, mystery. Not many of us willingly follow God into these places, either. In this instance the distinction is that God has called Abram to total ambiguity. Abraham, again, was willing.

Perhaps your story is different than mine, but in my experience I am more often called toward something on the ambiguous side of this spectrum. I don't often have a sense of precisely what is required of me. The foundations never, ever change: love God, love others, walk humbly, do justice, love mercy. The details, on the other hand, are often only made clear once I begin to walk. That was the brilliance of Abram's faith in Genesis 12: he got up and walked. He could have set his feet and insisted that God give him a

game plan. He could have folded his arms and furrowed his brow. He could have asked for a strategic plan, a profit and loss statement, an analysis of the necessary funds and resources. Abram appears to have been a successful man. It's likely that he was accustomed to decision-making, yet something compelled him forward into this ambiguity, this unknown land.

I think that there may be a hint in verse 3 of Genesis 12, "all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." If Abram wishes to be a blessing to others, he must first make the difficult decision of following God into unknown territory. His call is not for himself, not for his comfort, but for the rest of us. For you and me. He is compelled by a love for God and for God's people.

Last month I invited you to share your thoughts about a future vision for Westminster. You told me that supporting and connecting families was a key. You told me that college students could benefit from connective relationships. You told me that our young people need caring adults from our congregation to be a part of their lives. In other words, you told me that we must be compelled by a love for others. Not a bad place to start if Abram's story teaches us anything. Westminster must continue to be a blessing to those around us, not just those already within our walls.

I'd love to work with you as we walk together toward this vision of loving God and loving others. None of us can see the destination from where we stand right now, but God calls us forward nonetheless. How is God calling you forward today? How has he asked you to be a blessing to others? I'd love to hear from you!

Be well, friends.

– Ed Sutter



Westminster Seminars Online

All Are Welcome!

Sundays, 9:45 – 10:30 a.m.
Zoom*

*Now also available LIVE in
Galbreath Chapel at 9:45 a.m.

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.

We extend a warm invitation to folks near and far to join us on Zoom or watch later on the Westminster website here: <https://www.westminster-church.org/news-&-media/westminster-seminars>.

JUNE SERIES

June 6, 13, 20, 27

Misconceptions about the Old Testament

The Rev. Dr. Jo Forrest

Over four sessions we will address often unspoken mistruths that Christians may hold about the Old Testament – from obsolescence, wrath, spiritual relevance, to the presence of grace. These ancient books possess indispensable ideas to shape our contemporary lives.

JULY SERIES | July 11, 18, 25

Sponsored by Westminster Peace and Justice

Matthew 25: An Invitation to Engage

Ralph Lowe Jr., Director of Justice Ministries at Pittsburgh Presbytery

“I was hungry and you fed me...” There is hardly a piece of scripture that warms our hearts and calls us to action as much as these words from the 25th chapter of the Gospel of Matthew. Westminster is, at its core, a servant church. From Haiti to Homewood, from the food bank to SHIM, from growing fresh vegetables to nurturing young minds, we find ways to live out these words of Jesus.

In these times, Presbyterian churches across the country are seeking to grow in energy and numbers to more effectively follow Jesus’ call to us in Matthew 25. All around us, we see economic inequality and racial injustice, both magnified by the current pandemic. We long to find ways to set things right. We want our churches to thrive, and we want every child to be able to learn and grow and every parent to be able to provide a home. But the world is complicated, and we don’t always know how to help. Our denomination, the Presbyterian Church (USA), is responding by helping us to connect with our sister churches and by providing resources for all of us through its *Matthew 25* initiative.

The July seminars offer an opportunity to learn about PC(USA)’s *Matthew 25*. Ralph Lowe Jr., Director of Justice Ministries at Pittsburgh Presbytery, will explain how *Matthew 25* works to strengthen the engagement of churches in doing God’s work in our world. Mark your calendar and come and be inspired by this exciting new initiative.

You may remember Ralph Lowe from the first session of our January series, Disparities, Justice, and Loving All Our Neighbors. He serves Pittsburgh Presbytery as the Director of Justice Ministries and staff liaison for the South Branch and West Branch (including Westminster). At the presbytery, he provides leadership to break down barriers that prevent truth, justice, and reconciliation. His vision is to create communities where people of all races come together in love and compassion despite differences.

Through various justice ministries, including the Anti-Racism Transformation Team, the Peacemaking Ministry Team, and the Self-Development of People Ministry Team, Ralph seeks to shed light on injustice and inequality while offering hope for a better future. He is the proud husband of Kelli and father of four boys: Jonah, Joshua, Koen, and Korey.

What Is PC(USA)’s Matthew 25?

Connecting with other churches

Matthew 25 serves as an avenue to connect with other churches, to come alongside Presbyterian neighbors who are working on similar projects, to learn from one another and support one another.

Information and support

It is also a source of information and support for areas of concern that our denomination has identified as being particularly timely:

Building congregational vitality: A vital church is one that connects the gospel to the vital issues of the day. How do we do this and what are these issues?

Dismantling structural racism by applying our faith to alter the systems, practices, and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice, and oppression of people of color.

Eradicating systemic poverty by acting on our beliefs and working to change laws, policies, plans, and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor.

Engagement

Finally, it is a way to engage with and celebrate all that we are doing to live out this call of Jesus on our lives.





Westminster at Work *in the World*

"I was hungry and you fed me,
I was thirsty and you gave me a drink,
I was homeless and you gave me a room,
I was shivering and you gave me clothes,
I was sick and you stopped to visit,
I was in prison and you came to me.

... 'Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?' Then the King will say, 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me – you did it to me.'"

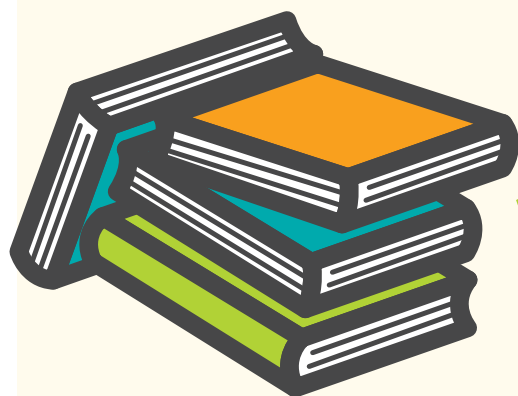
Matthew 25:35-40, *The Message*



Summer Reading at Westminster

Have you read a good book lately? Are you in need of a spiritual uplift or want to explore what role faith plays in racial justice? If your answer to any of these questions is yes, the church library has a special invitation for you! From Memorial Day to Labor Day, books recommended by members of our congregation on these topics will be available in the church library.

The Adult Spiritual Development Commission (ASD) is offering a variety of literature that is spiritually uplifting and refreshing. The books are varied in style, from the meditations on life in Anne Morrow Lindbergh's *Gift from the Sea* to the fiction of Elizabeth Berg's *The Story of Arthur Truluv*.



SUMMER
Reading
@WESTMINSTER

“Summer Reading for Racial Justice” is being offered by the Peace and Justice Team in keeping with the commitment to focus on this issue. The book selections offer a variety of stories, insights, and reflections such as *One Person, No Vote* by Carol Anderson and *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson.

We request that readers take only one book at a time, and there is no specific length of time which they may be kept. Members of the church are also encouraged to donate a relevant book, adding a note indicating why this book is inspirational to them.

The library is open weekdays during church office hours and on Sunday mornings. Books for the exchange will be grouped together on a shelf behind the desk, along with instructions for the check-out procedure.

Watch the Friday Westminster emails for more information.

– Julie Krock, Librarian
– Barbara Myers, Adult Spiritual Development, Peace and Justice

Summer Book Study

Wednesday mornings

June 30 – July 21

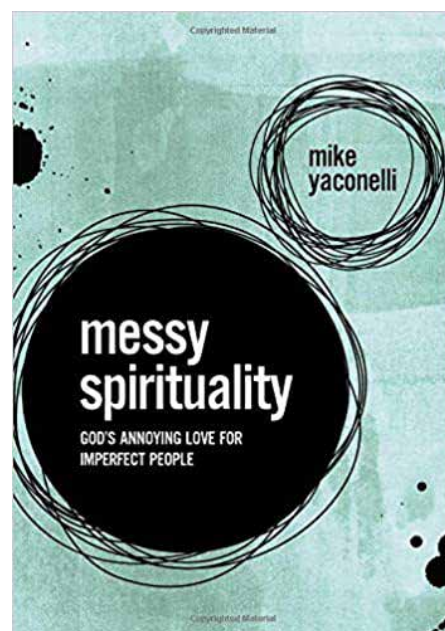
10:00 a.m.

North Courtyard

Stop by this summer for a great book discussion on *Messy Spirituality* by Mike Yaconelli. “*Messy Spirituality* was written for the silent majority of us who have been convinced that we just don’t do Christianity right. Mike Yaconelli dares to suggest that imperfection and messiness are, in fact, the earmarks of true Christianity, and gloriously liberating.” – Amazon

We will get together in the north courtyard on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m., June 30 through July 21. A Monday evening group will also be planned if there is interest from at least five people. Please contact Louise Rogers at rogers@westminster-church.org if you're interested in a Monday evening option.

Please get the book and read the first two chapters before you come. Can't wait to begin! Contact Louise Rogers at 412-835-6630 or Barb Myers at 412-818-2765 with any questions.

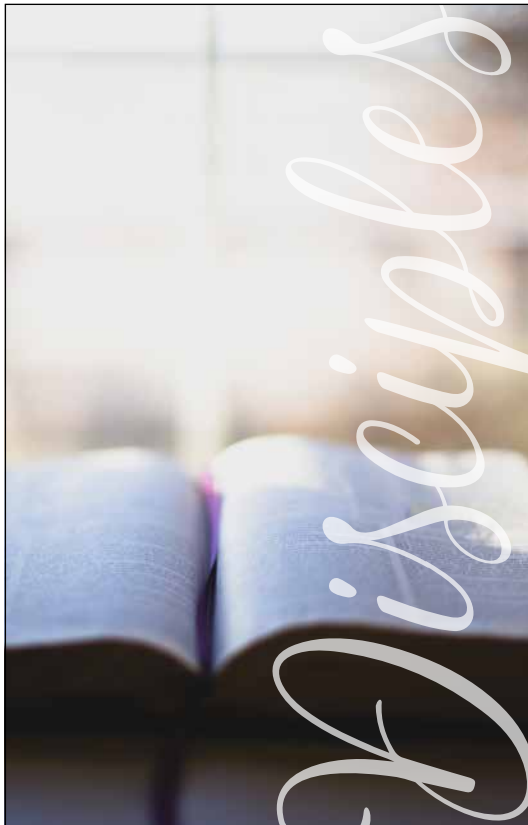


Silence for our lives

P
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R
I
T

“As G. K. Chesterton observed, ‘A religion is not the church [one] goes to, but the cosmos [one] lives in.’ Once we know that the entire physical world around us, all of creation, is both the hiding place and the revelation place for God, this world becomes home, safe, enchanted, offering grace to any who look deeply. I call that kind of deep and calm seeing ‘contemplation.’”

— Richard Rohr



Today we all are called to be disciples of the Lord,

To help to set the captive free, make plowshare out of sword,
To feed the hungry, quench their thirst, make love and peace our fast,
To serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last.

God made the world and at its birth ordained our human race
To live as stewards of the earth, responding to God’s grace.
But we are vain and sadly proud; we sow not peace but strife.
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud that threatens all of life.

Pray justice may come rolling down as in a mighty stream,
With righteousness in field and town to cleanse us and redeem.
For God is longing to restore an earth where conflicts cease,
A world that was created for a harmony of peace.

May we in service to our God act out the living word,
And walk the road the saints have trod till all have seen and heard.
As stewards of the earth may we give thanks in one accord
To God who calls us all to be disciples of the Lord.

H. Kenn Carmichael, 1985
Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal, No. 757



Hawassa Hope – Ethiopia

*Becky Weber, Elder and Outreach Liaison
for Hawassa Hope*

Our Westminster Outreach Commission looks to find partners both locally and abroad who are engaged and successful in their mission to help others in God's name. Hawassa Hope is a small but mighty U.S. based mission partner that works in the Sidama region in southern Ethiopia. Hawassa Hope's ultimate goal is to come to the aid of vulnerable women and children and if possible, restore families and help them reach financial independence.

Hawassa Hope focuses on five main endeavors. These include:

- The Ajuuja Children's Home for orphaned children
- Clean water projects in villages
- Small business grants for widows and family caregivers
- A pregnancy health and wellness program for vulnerable mothers
- Child and family sponsorship

Sponsorship is one form of aid and while this is a beautiful program that can form lifelong relationships, Hawassa Hope believes that God intended for families to provide for themselves. Where possible, they strive to empower people in poverty by educating and encouraging them to eventually support themselves and their families with no outside assistance.

This year, through a grant from our endowment fund, Westminster will be partnering with Hawassa Hope in their small business grant initiative. Westminster will provide the seed money to sponsor three groups of women through this program.

Here's how it works: The women are chosen based on their vulnerability and determination to work. Social workers review the family and financial situations of those who qualify and eventually select 12 women to start a group. After selection, a cooperative is formed in the women's home area, a leader from their ranks is nominated, and group training begins.

In the group training, overseen by Hawassa Hope but run locally by social workers of the Ajuuja Children's Home with involvement from the Ministry of Women's Affairs (a social services agency in Ethiopia), each woman determines what type of business they would like to start. Areas of interest include selling eggs, coffee, bread, flour, butter, chickens, clothing, etc. The training teaches the women strategies surrounding inventory, pricing, and marketing. After training, each woman receives her own bank account with seed money to get the business started. The group meets periodically throughout the year for encouragement, accountability, further education, and support.

This successful program has many women vying to participate but can only do so with upfront funding. Westminster will sponsor 36 women, and we will receive profiles and pictures of each woman and group after they are selected. At the end of the initiative, we will provide a final report to the Endowment Committee and the session regarding the women's success.

Over the next few months, look for further updates regarding our partnership with Hawassa Hope and this small business initiative. Westminster members will be given the chance to send words of encouragement to these women as they embark on this journey. Please pray for successful business ownership for these women.

La Croix New Testament Mission, Haiti

Sandy Conley, Outreach Chairperson

Twenty-three years in the making, the bond between Westminster and La Croix New Testament Mission in Haiti continues to be vital and blessed. The global pandemic and political unrest in Haiti have interrupted mission trips, but relationships between many Westminster members and the La Croix community have remained strong as we work together to educate 3,500 La Croix students. Weekly email updates from the pastors and staff keep supporters informed about what is happening at the mission. Westminster's Outreach Commission thanks all who respond to the needs in La Croix through the following endeavors:

1. Haiti Child Education Sponsorships
2. Pocket Change Project
3. Forward in Faith – establishment funding of La Croix Technical School
4. \$6,000 provided for annual teachers' salaries in La Coupe (one of the mission's more remote school locations)
5. School building projects in La Coupe, Paul, and La Croix
6. Mission trips to La Croix when it is safe

Child Education Sponsorship is the life blood of La Croix New Testament Mission. Read the following story to see how sponsorship makes a difference. (For her safety, we are not sharing the student's name.)

Over the past 16 years, Janis Davis of Westminster has sponsored one student's education throughout her entire school career, from pre-school through 13th Grade. Janis states, "DC and one of my grandsons are the same age. It has been a pleasure to watch her progress over the years. I always looked forward to receiving letters about her family, faith, and academic milestones." In 2020, DC passed the final exams for completion of 13th grade. She was one of 15 students to do so in 2020. She wants to continue her education by studying law. With God's help, DC is poised to be a part of a brighter future for Haiti.



Interested in becoming a Haiti Child Education Sponsor? Contact Sandy Conley at conley1973@verizon.net for more information.



Save the Date

Westminster Deacons Giving Gala Returns

Valley Brook Country Club
Saturday October 2, 2021
5:30-10:00 p.m.

Join us for a fun evening of fellowship and friendship as we support South Hills Interfaith Movement "Neighbors helping neighbors."

Hope to see you there!

Westminster Organ Summer 2021

Thirty Minutes of Exceptional Organ Music

**Thursdays at 5:00 p.m.
June 17 – July 22
In Person and Livestream
Free admission**

Plan now to take a refreshing musical break on Thursday afternoons at five o'clock. Westminster Organ Summer returns for its 11th season beginning June 17. This year, enjoy the free 30-minute concerts either in person in Westminster's sanctuary or via livestream on our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/WestminsterUSC. The concerts are friendly and informal, so come as you are. Masks are not required if you are fully vaccinated.

Organ Summer offers the community a unique chance to hear a delightful variety of organ music on Thursday afternoons during the Upper St. Clair Farmers' Market in the church's south parking lot. It's a winning combination of great music and fresh food.

All six performers have ties to Pittsburgh and represent the Pittsburgh area's long tradition of nurturing and celebrating outstanding organists. Each organist reveals the beauty of the magnificent Austin organ in a distinctive and memorable way. Beyond that variety, the programs feature an appealing range of sacred and secular music.

Organ Summer is a musical outreach to the community sponsored by the Music & Arts Series of Westminster Presbyterian Church and the generosity of the performers. All organists donate their time and talent. A freewill offering defrays their expenses. Checks are welcome, made out to Westminster Presbyterian Church, with Music & Arts/Organ Summer on the memo line. Contribute online using the donate button on the event page for Organ Summer.



JUNE 17

Edward Alan Moore
East Liberty Presbyterian



JULY 8

Jim Burns
Westminster Presbyterian



JUNE 24

Michael Hammer
*Third Presbyterian Church,
Oakland*



JULY 15

Daniel Ficarri
*Church of Saint Paul the
Apostle, NYC*



JULY 1

Mark Pacoe
East River Catholics, NYC



JULY 22

Kenneth Danchik
St. Paul Cathedral

Barefoot School Is Back!

A favorite week at Westminster Church is the week of Barefoot School, or Vacation Bible School. For the past 46 years the staff and members of Westminster Church have offered a thrilling week for kids of all ages! Last year due to COVID a modified backyard version of Vacation Bible School was offered in people's homes. Now we are ready to return with tons of fun and excitement. Kelly Ralston and Beth Ketterman will be co-chairing this year.

Why is the week called Barefoot School? It was named for *The Barefoot Cantata*, a musical telling the story of a young missionary in Hawaii. The week of activities – Bible Stories, crafts, and singing – led up to the closing program where all the children participated in the musical at the Barefoot School. Hester and Joe Joseph, who started the program, thought “Barefoot School” sounded more intriguing than “VBS.”



Barefoot School is a family tradition for the Joseph family. Joe recruited most of the staff and took a week's vacation to teach a class as well. Hester trained the staff and taught a class. Since then, her daughters and grandchildren have been involved in Barefoot School as students and teachers. For 46 years, there has nearly always been some member of the Joseph family involved in Barefoot School.

Barefoot School began and remains as an outreach to the children of the community. The mission is to share Jesus with the children and help them embrace Jesus as their friend and Savior. “We kept it simple in those early days but continue to invite children from all over,” reports Hester. The tradition and reputation of Barefoot School is wide and deep. Mary Hughes recalled singing in the cantata as a girl. She even remembered the words to one of the songs. She commented, “The whole thing was a joy to be a part of, and watching those little ones grow up in the church was fun, too.”

Plans are underway for this year's Barefoot School called Rocky Railway. The dates are June 21-25. There will be Bible stories, crafts, games, music, and snacks for children entering kindergarten through sixth grade. Think about how YOU might contribute to this awesome ministry. Check out the Westminster website or barefootschool@westminster-church.org.



Hester Joseph

Westminster Deacons Collection for Presbyterian Disaster Agency

Presbyterian Disaster Agency works to serve people who are in need. When there is a natural disaster such as a wildfire, hurricane, or tornado, they send out teams of people to assist with cleanup who bring resources to people who have been affected. One resource PDA provides is buckets, called Gifts of the Heart Kits, filled with cleaning supplies, baby items, or hygiene items. These buckets are provided by various churches, stored in warehouses, and then given to people in need when the time comes.

This year the Deacons of Westminster have taken on the challenge! We aim to fill 100 buckets as our way to help our neighbors in need.



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Gift of the Heart Kits – Cleanup Buckets Collection August 1 – 29

To assist in the Presbyterian response to national disasters, the Deacons are hosting a donation drive for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). PDA is an organization dedicated to serving the needs of people in active disaster areas of our country, as well as internationally. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Gift of the Heart Kits – Cleanup Buckets – needs the following personal items:

- Scouring pads
- Sponges
- Scrub brush
- Dust masks
- Clothespins
- Clothesline (50 feet or 100 feet)
- Box dry laundry detergent, 50-78 oz.
- Pair of work gloves
- Pair of latex gloves
- Liquid concentrated household cleaner, 12 oz.
- Liquid disinfectant dish soap, 25 oz.
- Package of cleaning towels, 18 reusable
- Heavy duty trash bags, 33-45 gallon
- Insect repellent, 6-14 oz., drops or lotion, not aerosol



Photos (clockwise): David Fine, Greg Henshall, Sarah Partridge, Andrea Booher, Robert Kaufmann. Clean up bucket contents photo by Roanna Wilson.

All liquids must be in plastic bottles only, and we can only accept new and unopened materials. We are also accepting monetary donations: checks made out to Westminster Presbyterian Church with “Presbyterian Disaster Assistance” on the memo line. Collections will take place August 1 through August 29. Collection boxes will be stationed on the porch at the church office entrance. Thank you for your generosity to people affected by pandemic and natural disasters in their time of need.

Questions can be answered by the Bucket Team: Steve Daniele, Molly Brown, and Jerome Ecklin. Thanks to the Westminster community for taking part!

Financial Report

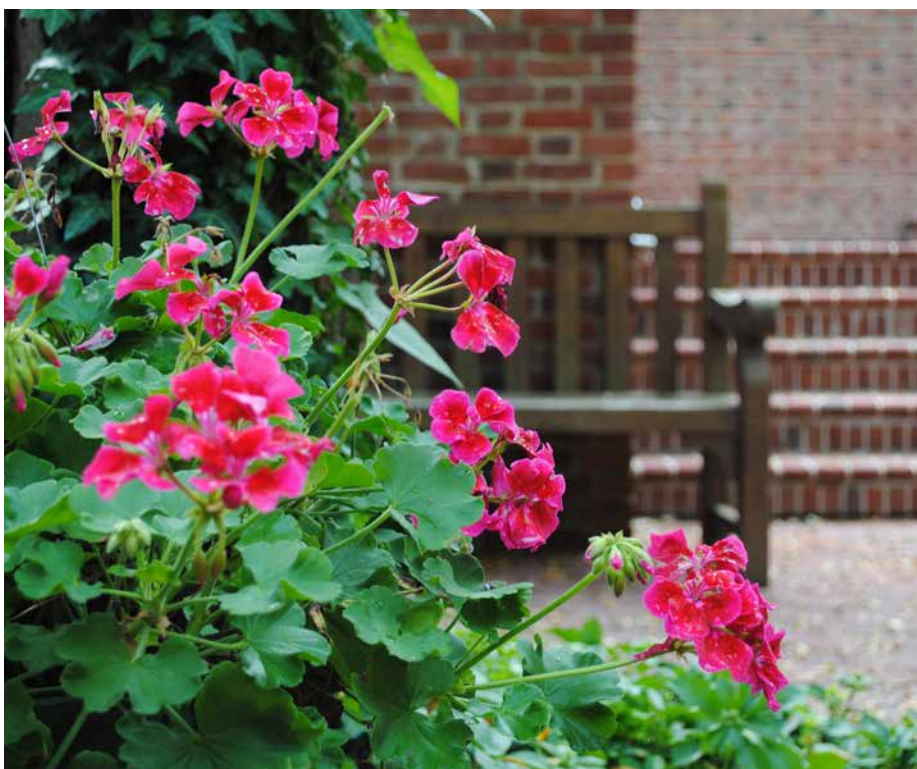
As of April 30, 2021

APRIL 2021			2021 YTD	
	Actual	Budget		Actual
Income	\$171,604	\$158,284	Income	\$727,585
Expense	\$171,723	\$148,423	Expense	\$653,774
Variance	(\$119)	\$9,861	Variance	\$73,811

Session Update

In May the session met via Zoom and plans to meet again in June via this virtual platform. New members were welcomed into the congregation and plans were made to greet confirmands in June.

The safety protocols for worship were prayerfully discussed with a vote to relax the wearing of masks for vaccinated individuals during worship. Navigating safely and with loving respect for one another remains paramount. This congregation thirsts being together in worship, service, and fellowship.



Baptisms

February 14

Jaxon Andrew Ecklin

parents: Laura and Jerome Ecklin

May 16

James Henry MacIntyre

*parents: Jennifer and Kevin
MacIntyre*



**WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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

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LAST ISSUE

Please note this is your final paper issue of *The Spire*. If you would like to continue receiving a paper copy, please call the church office at 412-835-6630x207.

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*“Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
let the field exult, and everything in it.
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy
before the Lord; for he is coming,
for he is coming to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with his truth.”*

– Psalm 96:11-13