



THE SPARE

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Pittsburgh, PA

My Friends,

Anticipation: God gave us the ability to anticipate,
to look forward to something,
to expect, to wait for, to hope for.

Anticipation is synonymous with Advent.

Advent is the season in which we anticipate
the birth of Jesus,
looking forward, expecting, waiting, hoping.

“To anticipate,” says Stanley Ott, “is to have a reason
to set your heart on the future.”

It’s easy to have a negative kind of anticipation.
Maybe you’ve seen that book which
lists all sorts of things for a “Worst Case Scenario.”

We let our minds settle on the fear and anxiety,
apprehensive about the future.
We feel empty, depleted, hopeless.

God created us to anticipate,
to look forward for God who said,
“I make all things new.” (Revelation 21:5)

God gives us the reason to have hope,
to be filled with power of God’s future.
That is the “good news of great joy”
we celebrate at Christmas.

As we come to the end of 2020
and look to the beginning of 2021,
what are you setting your heart on?

For me, I anticipate being home in Athens, Georgia.
For WPC, there is the anticipation of a new pastor, Jo Forrest.
For you, anticipation of something that leaves you empty?
Of course not!

We look to the positive future God promises:
The birth of Jesus...blessings for your family...
Comfort and joy...strength for the living of these days.

More than wishing you a simple “Merry Christmas,”
I add a prayer of a “Hope-filled” Advent
as you set your heart on the future God has for you.

Thanks and blessings,

Bruce Lancaster

“I make all things new.”

— Revelation 21:5



PASTORS

DR. BRUCE LANCASTER, *Interim 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*
 MANDY THOMAS, *Project Manager*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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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*

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 JIM BURNS, *Organist*
 EILEEN MURRAY, *Administrative Assistant*

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CHARLEY RICHARDSON, *Property Manager*

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JAN BAUMANN, *Volunteer Coordinator*
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NURSERY SCHOOL

412-835-2906

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

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

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

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Worship at Westminster

Westminster is currently offering both contemporary and traditional worship services online only. Visit our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/WestminsterUSC or our website for links to the livestream services. The Bridge Contemporary Worship livestreams at 9:00 a.m. and Traditional Worship livestreams at 11:00 a.m. Sunday mornings. Or, you can watch the recording of either service anytime later on YouTube.

Bridge Contemporary Worship

 Sundays
 9:00 a.m.
 YouTube Livestream

Traditional Worship




 Sundays
 11:00 a.m.
 YouTube Livestream

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

Westminster Seminars Online

Live on Sundays 10:00 – 10:45 a.m.

Please join us for the live Zoom meeting or watch the video later on the Westminster website. The Zoom meeting will open at 9:40 for greetings and conversation. See page 7 for details about December's Advent series.

 Sundays
 10:00 a.m.
 Zoom <i>(links available on the church website and in the Friday email)</i>

Longing for Peace in Advent

O day of peace that dimly shines through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,
 Guide us to justice, truth, and love, delivered from our selfish schemes.
 May swords of hate fall from our hand, our hearts from envy find release,
 Till by God's grace our warring world shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.

Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the fierce devour the small;
 As beasts and cattle calmly graze, a little child shall lead them all.
 Then enemies shall learn to love, all creatures find their true accord;
 The hope of peace shall be fulfilled, for all the earth shall know the Lord.

Carl P. Daw Jr, 1982

Written for the beloved British tune JERUSALEM by C. Hubert H. Parry, 1916

Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal, No. 373

Godspeed to You, Bruce

Bruce Lancaster came to us in a blizzard, but he took the job anyway.

During his time in Pittsburgh he encountered many new experiences: a pandemic, closing the church for worship, communion in the courtyard, conducting session meetings on Zoom. Through all of this, Bruce quickly got to know the friendly people of Westminster Church who opened their hearts to him. He led the congregation with smooth grace and southern charm as he preached the gospel of Jesus Christ giving sermons that both inspired and challenged.

His sense of humor remained intact. "Have you heard the one about the man who invited his neighbor to help him with his jigsaw puzzle with the picture of a rooster? The neighbor came, looked, surveying all the pieces. Sorry I don't think I can put this together. Well then, I guess we will have to put the pieces back in the corn flakes box!"

As the interim senior pastor, Bruce attended to the outstanding financial issues at the church, met faithfully with the elders, created a task force to address the pandemic, and warmly greeted members on Sunday mornings as he prepared us for the new pastor, who is coming in January. He said, "I am working for the pastor who comes after me!"

He was kind to the staff. At one staff meeting Bruce made his famous gumbo, served along with King cake for Fat Tuesday – delicious! Absolutely, the best homemade food we have ever had at a staff meeting.



“Thank you, Bruce, for showing us the way forward in a turbulent time. Your calm demeanor and wise counsel was a gift from God to us.”



We hear a rumor you plan to retire from ministry once you leave Westminster Church. If so, we pray you and Cathi will enjoy the years ahead knowing you have served the people of God. Well done, good and faithful servant.

Your grateful colleague,
Louise

Bruce Lancaster's final Sunday at Westminster is Sunday, December 13.





Christmas Eve

at WESTMINSTER

2020

On Christmas Eve and throughout the season of Christmas, we give thanks that, in the fullness of time, God's Word became flesh to live among us, full of grace and truth.

We proclaim this good news of great joy for all people: that God has sent us a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord, the Babe in the Manger!

Christmas Eve Live!

5:00 p.m. front portico

Christmas Eve Live! happens outside, in front of the church, for a time of singing Christmas carols, hearing the story, lighting candles, and singing "Silent Night" together. Dress for the weather as you will want to check out the living Nativity too!



Christmas Eve Worship Online

on YouTube

7:00 p.m. Contemporary

8:00 p.m. Traditional

Traditional worship and Bridge Contemporary worship will both be pre-recorded and available on our YouTube channel on Christmas Eve for you to watch from the comfort of your home.



Children's Storytime on Christmas Eve

on Facebook

Children's & Family Ministry Director Natalie Brown will share a Christmas storytime on Facebook for families. Watch the website and weekly email for details about timing and links to Facebook.



BETWEEN HERE AND THERE

You've probably heard it more than a few times: "2020 just won't let up!" "2020 has been really rough." "Can we just get past this year?" Well, we're just about there, but (unless something has taken a big shift since I wrote this) I don't think that any one of us expects the new year to magically make any of these struggles fade into the past. Let me be clear: This was a very difficult year. We lost friends to illness, accident, and division. We separated out of safety and we separated out of strife. We isolated physically and emotionally. It's been really hard. It might continue to be really hard.

I don't write this to be the downer in the room. I write it because we need to be aware of our narratives. If we place all of our hope in "getting through 2020," what will we do when we stub our proverbial toes in 2021? We need to be aware of how our words and conversations change our expectations, and we can't place our hope in a page on the calendar.

I'm tempted to say something like, "Instead, place your hope in a child in a manger." You'd understand why I would write something like that. There's deep truth in it, and the season certainly warrants it. But I'm not going to write that. Instead I'm choosing to write this:

Place your hope in the incarnation of God on Earth today. Now, to all of you theologians out there, yes, God took on human form in the child of Jesus and came to show us perfected love and life. It's all true, but where do we see God's love incarnated on Earth today? We see it in one another. God's fingerprints are all over

us (check out Psalm 139) and we are called to be his body on earth (1Corinthians 12). We are incarnational when we accept the mantle that the Holy Spirit has breathed into us – we are Jesus' hands and feet on Earth. We can see Christ's love in one another, and we can be Christ's love for one another.

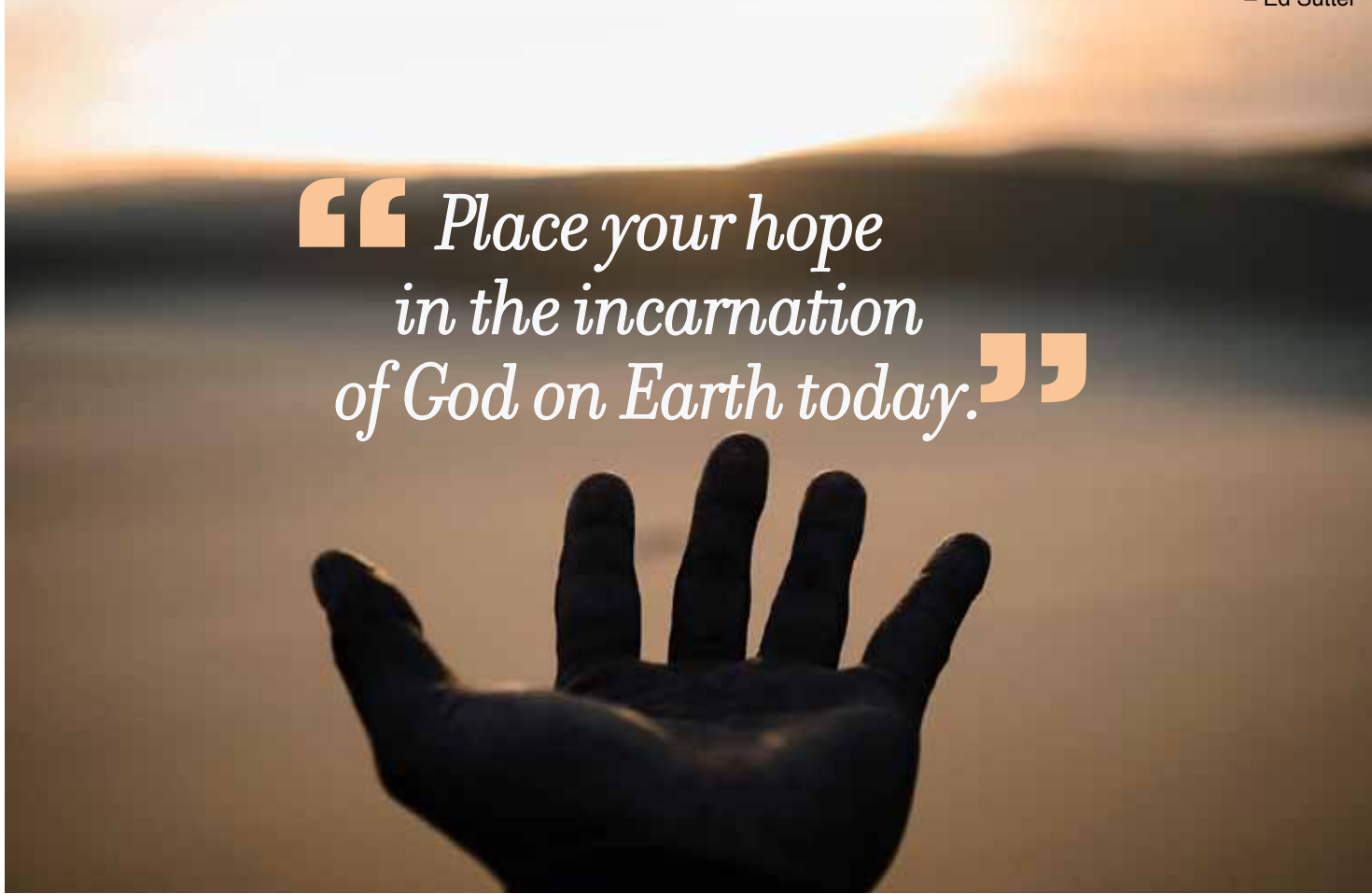
Mr. Rogers had it right when he said, "Look for the helpers." The world can be a scary place for lots of different reasons, but Jesus shows up. He shows up when we share from our abundance and even more so when we share from our scarcity. He shows up in a phone call to the lonely. He shows up in driveways and through windows and over video chats and in letters and packages. He shows up when we do the hard thing so someone else won't have to suffer. Jesus shows up in you and me.

Yes. I believe it. I believe it in my core that God came to Earth as a child so that we could experience relationship with God. What a ridiculous concept. The story has never changed; we are called to follow Jesus' example. We are called to be the incarnate vision of love on Earth. So, this season, don't put your hopes in a new year. And once you've looked back to the child in the manger, don't forget to look around for Christ on Earth today. He's here. If you don't see him out there, maybe it's your turn to show up.

Where have you seen Jesus around you these days? I'd love to hear your story. Merry Christmas, friends.

Be well.

– Ed Sutter



“Place your hope
in the incarnation
of God on Earth today.”

Westminster Seminars Online

Live on Sundays
10:00 – 10:45 a.m.

Zoom – link available on the church website and in each Friday church email

Please join us for the live Zoom meeting or watch the video later on the Westminster website here: www.westminster-church.org/news-&-media/westminster-seminars. The Zoom meeting will open at 9:40 a.m. for greetings and conversation.

The seminars welcome all viewers for a time to learn and grow in faith through engaging topics, which change from month to month.

A New Kind of Outreach

The online platform for the seminars gives us a new way to reach far beyond the walls of Westminster to learn with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Consider it one of the gifts of the pandemic. So we extend a warm invitation to folks near and far to join us on Zoom or watch later. Spread the word to friends and family, wherever they live!

Advent Series

The Quiet Politics of Jesus

John Burgess, James Henry Snowden
Professor of Systematic Theology

These seminars invite us to reflect on how the coming of Christ into the world initiates God's peaceable kingdom. We will look at the "quiet virtues" of the Christian life (truth-telling, caring, and dignity) and the difference they make for our political life.

November 29 – The Quiet Politics of Jesus

December 6 – Truth-telling and the Politics of Jesus

December 13 – Caring and the Politics of Jesus

December 20 – Dignity and the Politics of Jesus



Read more about Professor Burgess here: <https://www.pts.edu/burgessj>.

The next series begins on January 10: "Disparities, Justice, and Loving All Our Neighbors."

Advent Study with Louise Rogers

Mondays, November 30, December 7, 14, 21
10:00 – 11:15 a.m.

Zoom

Join Louise Rogers for a Zoom study of Adam Hamilton's *Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas*.

During the time together we will watch a brief video followed by discussion. Although the Christmas story is familiar, this will deepen our faith and joy.

Visit the church's website for the Zoom link to join the conversation.



Celebrating the Holidays While Sheltering-at-Home



Looking for inspiration for keeping your spiritual life strong during Advent and Christmas – and beyond? This article from the magazine Presbyterians Today offers tips from your fellow Presbyterians:

Finding sacred space beyond the sanctuary

By Donna Frischknecht Jackson,
Presbyterians Today, November 2020

Anne Jennings, dressed in a sweater and jeans, lights the candle on a table draped with a purple cloth, the liturgical color for the season of Advent. Her Bible is open, ready to read. The table has been purposely positioned in front of two large windows where the trees can be seen blowing in the wind. She quietly sits in a chair.

The South Carolina resident who calls Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian in Brevard, North Carolina, her “local” church — just “across the Eastern Continental Divide, over a 3,500-foot mountain and in another state,” she says — is ready to nurture her soul in a sacred place she has created for herself and her husband — at home.

“When we were no longer able to be present with our local congregation to worship [due to COVID-19], a phrase started going through my head, ‘With all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious name.’ I realized then that we didn’t have to be ‘in church’ to add our voices to the praise constantly going on in the throne room of God,” said Jennings.

The questions she did have were, “How could we physically and spiritually acknowledge this and participate? How could we feel connected with God and with others?”

That’s when Jennings decided to create a space that would foster a sense of connectiveness. An upstairs nook was transformed into a new worship space, one that would reflect the seasons of the church achieved by the liturgical colors of the material Jennings draped on the table — green for Ordinary Time, purple for Advent, white for Christmas, etc. The candle on the table, she says, is to “signify that Christ

is the light of the world.” On Sunday mornings, Jennings and her husband enter their sacred space listening to the King’s College Choir chanting Psalm 122 — I was glad when they said unto me: We will go into the house of the Lord.

“This connects us to our ancestors in the faith,” she said. The couple’s space, though, is not just a makeshift Sunday sanctuary for worshipping in a time of COVID-19. “We can enter this sacred space any time, and even passing by it brings to mind a sense of connection to God and the larger church,” she said.

Nurturing the soul

In 1922, Carl Jung, the noted Swiss psychiatrist and psychoanalyst, purchased lakeside property and built a stone tower for himself as a place where he could nurture his spiritual life. It was a sacred space where he retreated from the world so that he could reconnect to his dreams and hopes. Seventy years later, Thomas Moore, an American psychotherapist who was influenced by the writings of Jung, became a bestselling author with the publication of “Care for the Soul.” In the book, Moore recounts the example of Jung’s tower, underscoring the importance of creating a physical space as a “retreat for the soul.”

Moore’s Jungian views have never been so timely. An ongoing pandemic, which has disrupted everything from where we work to how we worship, is bringing to light a myriad of physical and emotional maladies. In early fall, six months into the COVID-19 crisis, social media buzzed with stories on the coronavirus’ many effects, among them the waning of creativity, chronic fatigue, and, yes, even soul exhaustion — where no amount of sleep refreshes the body and hopelessness continues to escalate.

While many people might not be in a position to build an actual stone tower to combat soul exhaustion, creating a sacred



space to retreat to like the Jenningses have done has become essential, especially as church buildings — the go-to sacred place where many find comfort and joy during the holidays — have made the difficult decision to remain closed.

For those churches that are worshipping in person, the reality has hit that while the doors are opened, many congregants will still opt to remain at home rather than risk exposure to a virus that is still without a proven vaccine. The Jenningses are an example of those erring on the side of caution.

“Since all of our relatives live in different states, and since COVID cases are increasing where we are, we have gone ahead and decided to forgo family get-togethers over the holidays,” said Jennings, adding that “having our sacred space with Advent candles to light will help to connect us, but it will also be a visible sign of waiting. Perhaps this ‘holiday timeout’ will provide an opportunity.”

As summer came to an end, the Rev. Richard Hong of First Presbyterian Church of Englewood in New Jersey and his session decided not to have indoor, in-person services for the remainder of 2020. That, of course, brought up questions about what Advent and Christmas worship would look like. With those questions came opportunities.

With events like the church’s Advent week not happening in person this year, First Presbyterian will be sending a small Advent wreath to the candle-lighting families, Hong says, asking them to record themselves lighting the candle. The recording will

be shared during the church's online worship on Sunday. For Christmas Eve, the congregation will be receiving what Hong calls "watch boxes" — gift boxes with everything needed to recreate the Christmas service environment at home: candles, an ornament and an Advent devotional.

"Christmas is a season full of emotions, so our hope is to create an environment where people will feel Christmas in their hearts," said Hong. In addition to helping his worshipers create a sense of sacredness at home with the watch boxes, First Presbyterian will also be bringing the sounds of the seasons into homes.

"Our annual candlelight carol service features 14 pieces of music, with about 14 singers and seven to eight instrumentalists; this will mean over 300 separate video recordings that have to be received and edited together," he said, noting that the planning and preparation began in August.

Throughout the pandemic, First Presbyterian has continued to pay soloists and band members regardless of whether they were used in the online services, says Hong. For Christmas, "especially knowing that musicians have been particularly hard-hit economically," he says, the church will be hiring its usual complement of instrumentalists (brass quartet, flute, harp, percussion).

"We will be asking them to record their parts from their homes," said Hong. "This Christmas will certainly be different, but our goal is to make it more memorable than any other."

You have space for the sacred

This holiday season will see many more people in the congregation at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Springfield, Missouri, retreating to their at-home sacred spaces that their pastor, the Rev. Chris Miller, has encouraged them to create.

"Our session decided we aren't going to be resuming our Sunday morning pre-pandemic worship. We surveyed people and, while we want to see one another, we want to wait till it is safe," Miller said.

"Safe" for Trinity means "we are not returning until there is a reliable vaccine," he said, adding that even then, "a chunk of folks will not come back to in-person worship right away." For Miller, then,

the challenge became not just how to do worship virtually, but how to connect his congregation to the sacredness that they might be missing by not being in a defined sacred space such as a sanctuary, especially during Advent and Christmas.

Planning for Zoom and YouTube worship aside, along with all the decisions to be made for how much content to generate on social media as well as the feasibility of coordinating a possible drive-in caroling event, Miller is encouraging his congregation to create sacred space in the home for the holidays — and even after.

"When you hear 'sacred space,' what do you think of? Is it a worship space with a grand choir and lots of stained glass, a small country chapel on a quiet side road, or a place that is particularly meaningful in your memory? But I wonder if folks actually thought about their home as offering sacred space," said Miller. It is in the home that such space can be found — even amid clutter and cramped spaces, he stresses.

"I know for me it can be hard to think of my house as sacred space. I have a 4-year-old and a 1-year-old living with my wife and me in a rental house. It might not seem easy to create a space where I can find a sense of calm to reflect, especially when it is covered in toys and half-finished boxes of raisins. It is easy for me to think that I need to go somewhere else to find sacred space, but in these days of staying home more, I've been rethinking how I engage with sacred space," he said, offering the simplest of ideas such as moving a chair to face a new direction. "Just changing a view, a perspective, can open one up to seeing things differently and in connecting with God."

For Miller, the idea of introducing his congregation to the spiritual practice of creating sacred space at home came at the onset of a major church holiday — Easter. The COVID-19 sheltering-in-place restrictions had just happened and "we were all still in a kind of shock, and we were grappling with what it would mean for us not to worship in the sanctuary."

As Holy Week began, Miller, who is a self-proclaimed "Presbyterian nerd" who loves reading the Book of Order, especially the "Director of Worship" section where the theology of worship, not only the rubrics, are highlighted, decided to introduce his congregation to the idea of finding the holy in the ordinary — creating the sacred in spaces not usually seen as sacred.

With a video camera rolling, Miller took to the church website airwaves and shared tips with his congregation on how to create sacred space in one's home. In addition to useful tips, he also gave people permission to experiment — basically, to go wherever the Spirit was leading, he says.

"Many people think that if you can't create space with the right stuff, then why bother? But you don't have to have the perfect pillow or the correct candle," said Miller. Sacred space can be defined in many ways and will mean something different to each person.

"I would offer a simple definition: Any space that allows us to more easily connect with God is sacred space. Importantly, these spaces are created through both physical and spiritual/emotional elements. In other words, the most beautiful space in the world will not be sacred to me if my mind is distracted, and conversely, a tremendously ordinary location can be a place of deep spiritual meaning if I am in the right mindset," he said.

Miller credits his camp experiences as a child and teen, and then later a counselor, at Heartland Presbyterian Center in Parkville, Missouri, in exposing him to the power of sacred space. "Worship at camp was not in a static indoor space. Each night you were in a different space," he recalls. Communal worship aside, it was an experience in a horse field at the camp that helped Miller define what sacred space was to him. It was there in a field filled with horse dung that two old telephone poles made into a cross stood. "It smelled just like one would imagine a horse field smelling," said Miller. But it was there in that space that he felt the presence of God. That's when Miller realized that if he could have an encounter with God in a horse field, then encounters with God can happen in any space in which we make room for God. These experiences, he says, are not confined to officially designated worship spaces.

"We have a role to play in the construction of the places where we connect with God, and our openness to that connection is important," said Miller. "It's all about mystery. When we embrace the mystery, then it creates space in our soul. We are then opened to the holy moments. And, if God is present where we are, we don't have to lose sleep that we are not in the sanctuary."

Children's & Family Ministry Fall Highlights

JAM (Jesus and Me)

JAM has been meeting since September 2 with a kick-off celebration on August 19. We average 16 to 18 kids on Wednesdays and we have 22 kids registered. A few children have even brought a friend. We are thankful for this faith formation program during these uncertain times. The children and teachers alike enjoy learning and growing together in our walk with the Lord. It thrills me to watch and listen each Wednesday as the children share their thoughts and develop a relationship with Jesus. After all, our purpose as Christians is to nurture our relationship with Jesus and then share Jesus with others!



Sacrament Education/First Communion

We offered a small sacrament education class to six children this past fall. We are so happy for these children to participate in the Lord's Supper with the congregation. First communion is a spiritual and meaningful practice when we come together as the body of Christ. We hope to offer spring sacrament education for children in the second grade.

Fall Family Fun

On Sunday, October 18, we had a family event at Gilfillan Farm. Westminster and visiting families participated. The highlight of that beautiful afternoon was seeing families together and enjoying the scavenger hunt, pumpkin decorating, observing creepy critters, balloons, and most of all, Paula's Hometown Hotdog food truck!

Bible Sunday and Bible Workshop

Bible Sunday took place on Sunday, October 13. Nine children received an *Adventure Bible* at different times either during worship, JAM, or the Bible workshop. We congratulate these children as they continue on their journey of faith!



Third and Fourth Grade Bible Workshop

This was a special workshop for children in the third and fourth grades. We were able to offer the workshop to eight children. The children were introduced to their Bibles, learning what the Bible was composed of and how to use this very special holy book.

The children learned how to use the table of contents to look up Bible passages, and they were introduced to special sections of the Bible: important people and life in ancient times, words to treasure, and did you know. These topics helped each child learn more about their Bible and how to use it. We are thankful to have offered this spiritual formation class to these children. We hope to offer more Bible workshops in the new year.



– Natalie Brown

Treasures for Troops – A Generous Response

The Deacons held their annual Treasures for Troops collection the week of October 11-18. The event kicked off with a drive-by collection on Sunday afternoon and followed with donations collected throughout the week at the church. The collection boxes were filled each day with an assortment of items for our troops.

We proudly delivered **two carloads of goods** to Operation Troop Appreciation, **as well as a monetary gift of \$735**. The staff at OTA were extremely grateful for the generosity of Westminster Church. The donations will be used for OTA's Active-Duty "Wish-List" and Veteran "Welcome Home Programs." Thank you for all of your generosity to this worthy organization.



Special Thanks to the Westminster Endowment Fund



Schenley Heights Community Development Program
3171 Ewart Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15219
"Dedicated to Building a Bright Future for Youth"

(412) 621-3341 phone (412) 621-5361 fax

September 2, 2020

Dear Members of the Westminster Endowment Commission,

On behalf of the entire Schenley Heights Community Development Program family and its Board of Directors, we thank you for your generous donation of \$20,750.00. We have successfully purchased a 2019 Dodge Grand Caravan minivan.

The timing of this purchase could not have been better as we continue to serve the community during these pandemic times. We have expanded our program to assist working parents as children will not be going back into their classrooms at the start of the school year. This "new norm" presents educational and socio-economic challenges for the youth and families we serve. The addition of this minivan will support our new transportation needs and strengthen our current programming.

Again, thank you for your kindness, your support, and your ministry.

Peace and Blessings,


Alicia George, Executive Director
Schenley Heights Community Development Program
Schenley Heights for Youth



THANK YOU!

Westminster Early Childhood Education Programs (WECEP)

Halloween Fun

There is always something fun happening in WECEP. As to be expected, we had a busy end to October. Our hallways were filled with pirates, princess, superheroes, and even Shaggy and Scooby Doo. The Child Development Center began their Halloween celebrations with a Trunk or Treat on Saturday followed by a fun day of classroom parties. The Nursery School paraded through the halls sharing their costumes with fellow classmates and even church staff. They ended their day with classroom Halloween fun.





Join us from the comfort of your home!

The WROC will now use the same technology used for livestreaming worship services to livestream Zumba classes. Zumba is a fusion of Latin and international music – dance themes that create a dynamic, exciting, effective fitness system! Zumba combines high energy and motivating music with unique moves and combinations that allow the participants to dance away their worries. Zumba is fun and easy to do. Two left feet, no problem. Just move to the music.

December 1 – December 17
9:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Tuesdays: \$18
Thursdays: \$18

Visit our website at wroc.westminster-church.org for registration and details.

wroc.westminster-church.org

Please visit the WROC website for details about all available classes, registration information, and WROC safety protocols and guidelines.

Welcome New Members

Emily Hofmeister and Kevin Krieger



Joe McDonough and Denise Letcher (Luke, Grace)



Sue Nixon



Erin, John, Mia, and Taylor Lugaila



Caroline Nixon



“ They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer...They continued to meet together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all people. And the Lord added to their number daily...”

—Acts 2:46-47

Words from Your Property Chair

Our Forward in Faith capital campaign was launched over two years ago. The following report summarizes progress on the property portion of this campaign during the past year and plans for the near future.

In January of 2020, after an unavoidably long delay, active contract awarding for property projects was started. Then COVID-19 happened in March, and it became difficult to receive bids and have contractors on site. However, since then we have been able to do many things in a short period of time. Some of the items were not part of the original plans but were needed for the operation of our church.

Some very visible projects we completed so far this year:

- Parking lot pavement milling, repaving, and restriping
- The spire restoration (If you have not noticed it, take the time to look up, not only inspiring us toward God but also acting as a great roost for red-tailed hawks.)
- Finishing the children's playground rehab with new turf and grass
- Updates to the audio-visual systems for the WROC and the main sanctuary including projectors and cameras, enabling us to livestream and record services for folks who cannot attend worship, funerals, and weddings

Less visible completed projects:

- Water vault repair (Did you know we have a water vault?)
- Emergency generator replacement, along with backup power feeds to selected areas
- HVAC upgrades to Galbreath Chapel and emergency HVAC repairs for the WROC
- Air purifying ionization systems that help provide a safe indoor environment from COVID-19 in the sanctuary, Galbreath Chapel, Fellowship Hall, Room 194, Memorial Parlor, the studio, and the WROC
- Moisture and water infiltration repairs to the roof and below grade areas of the north and south breezeways
- Computers, laptops, web cameras, wireless access points, and a network switcher for our office staff
- An office security system enabling controlled access to the office and upstairs childcare area which can be extended to other entrances

Projects that are being planned for the near future:

- Significant focus on several exterior door replacements and exterior painting
- Rebuilding of the staircase wall to the Columbarium
- Interior refurbishment of several meeting rooms and, if we can, renovation of Fellowship Hall

All of this was made possible because of the love and commitment of this church family and our continuing commitment to this beautiful structure. It honors past parishioners, pastors – my father included – and of course God's house. Please accept my heartfelt thanks.

If you still have Forward in Faith pledges pending, you can drop them off, send them to the church, or you can enter your pledge on the Westminster website.

Faithful Lord, thank you for the sure foundation you have given in Jesus Christ. We know you are a God who provides for us and gives us good gifts. Your generosity overflows to us as everything we have is from your grace. The offerings we bring to you, we give back to you from the abundant blessings you have given us. May our gifts continue to multiply here in this beautiful church so that your light will shine brightly here and beyond these walls. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

– Jay Galbreath, Chair, Property Commission



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Financial Report

As of October 31, 2020

Income	
October Income	\$208,743.47
October Budget Income	\$165,906.60
YTD 2020 Income	\$1,900,842.13

Expenses	
October Expenses	\$157,165.79
October Budget Expenses	\$187,282.63
YTD 2020 Expenses	\$1,645,166.37

Stay Connected

Don't miss any news from Westminster! Update your contact information by visiting www.westminster-church.org/my_WPC or contacting Anna Hiner at hiner@westminster-church.org or 412-835-6630x207.

Church Closing Policy

In the event of severe weather, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Westminster Nursery School and Kindergarten (WNSK), and Westminster Recreation & Outreach Center (WROC) will follow the schedule of the Upper St. Clair School District.

- When the school district is closed, all activities, classes, and meetings scheduled for that day are canceled.
- In cases of delays, all meetings, activities, and classes will take place at their scheduled time, unless otherwise determined by the facilitator or instructor. Westminster Nursery School will operate on its modified schedule.

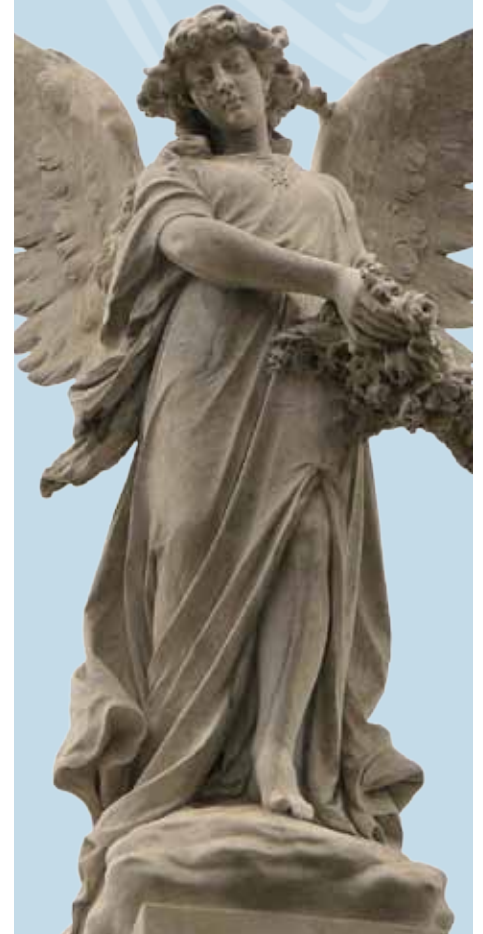
Westminster Child Development Center will make its own determination on closings, cancellations, and delays.

Closing information is broadcast on television (KDKA, WTAE, and WPXI), radio (KDKA-AM 1020), and the internet (www.westminster-church.org, wroc.westminster-church.org, pittsburgh.cbslocal.com, www.wtae.com, and www.wpxi.com.)

Deaths

Doris Wells
October 24

Doris Turner
November 3





WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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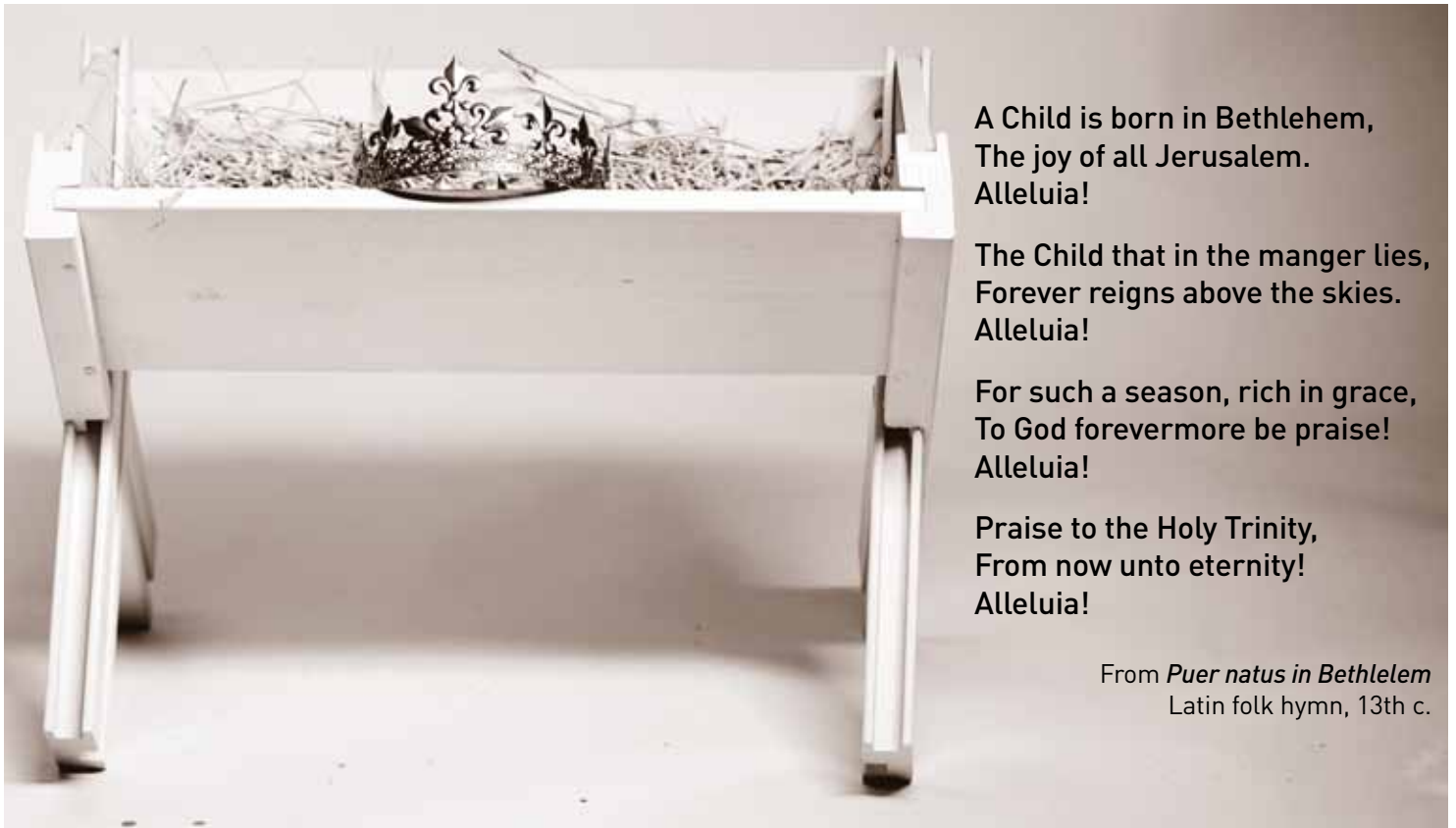
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www.facebook.com/Westminster.Pittsburgh



www.youtube.com/user/WestminsterUSC



A Child is born in Bethlehem,
The joy of all Jerusalem.
Alleluia!

The Child that in the manger lies,
Forever reigns above the skies.
Alleluia!

For such a season, rich in grace,
To God forevermore be praise!
Alleluia!

Praise to the Holy Trinity,
From now unto eternity!
Alleluia!

From *Puer natus in Bethlehem*
Latin folk hymn, 13th c.