



# THE SPIRE

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Pittsburgh, PA

My Friends,

I had a wonderful July during which I was able to enjoy time with my grandchildren back in Georgia. They are each special in their own way and bring a smile to my heart when I think of them.

Our two-year-old granddaughter was especially fond of the question “Why?”

“Sit down in your chair.” WHY? “Put your shoes on before we go outside.” WHY? “It’s time to take a bath.” WHY? I think you get the picture.

Our stock answer was “Because it’s safe!” That didn’t mean much to her, but it seemed to satisfy her, at least until the next “Why?”

I think she is asking the question that we all are asking, asking about everything. Why does the church do this or not do that? Why are people acting the way they do? Why can’t we get back to the way things were? Why is all of this happening?

But there is no stock answer, is there? There is no one-size-fits-all kind of answer to “Why?” And even when we get or give an answer, it might not really satisfy.

Paul heard a lot of “why” questions: Why can’t we do what we want since we’re going to be forgiven anyway? (Romans 6:1-4) Why do we have to wait for everybody to be together before having a sacred meal? (1 Corinthians 11:17-22) Why is there suffering? (Romans 8:18-39) Why...why...why?

His answer always turned the “why” into a “who” – Who is our Lord that commands us to love one another? Who is our Lord that unites us in his one body, one faith, one hope? Who is our Lord in whom we will never be separated from God’s love?

Remember that Jesus does not ask us why we believe or what we believe. He asks, “Who do you say that I am?” Yes, life’s difficulties are real and raise so many questions. But allow yourself the time to answer the “who” of Jesus question to meet the challenges of the day and to enjoy the fulfillment of a life well lived.

Grace and peace,

Bruce Lancaster

*Who is our Lord  
that unites us  
in his one body,  
one faith, one hope?*



**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**

NATALIE BROWN, *Director of Children's & Family Ministry*  
 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*  
 LAURA WHITCOMB, *Print Room Assistant*

**MUSIC & ARTS**

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

**PROPERTY**

CHARLEY RICHARDSON, *Property Manager*

**VOLUNTEER MINISTRY**

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

**WESTMINSTER RECREATION & OUTREACH CENTER (WROC)**

KATHY LONG, *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](http://www.westminster-church.org).

Read the *Spire* online at: [www.westminster-church.org](http://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](mailto: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 Spiritual Growth**  
 Walking with God  
 Between Here and There  
 Veritas Virtual Week of Service  
 Westminster Seminars Online  
 Summer with Children's & Family Ministry  
 Virtual Backyard Bible School  
 Volunteers at Westminster – Summer 2020  
 Summer 2020 Photos

**10 Outreach**  
 Select WROC Fitness Classes Underway  
 Summer Series Reaches New Audiences  
 Peace & Global Witness Special Offering  
 Adult Spiritual Development




**13 Caring Community**  
 Blood Drive  
 Baptisms  
 MyWPC: Update Your Contact Information

**15 Other**  
 Financial Update  
 Session Highlights  
 Deaths




**WORSHIP**

See below for virtual worship opportunities. Please watch our website and weekly email for updates on future worship opportunities.

**Contemporary  
Worship Livestream**

	Sundays
	9:00 a.m.
	YouTube*

**Traditional  
Worship Livestream**

	Sundays
	11:00 a.m.
	YouTube*

\* Visit the church's YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/user/WestminsterUSC](http://www.youtube.com/user/WestminsterUSC) or the church website at [www.westminster-church.org](http://www.westminster-church.org) to access these virtual worship opportunities.

# Walking with God

In August Bill and I drove to Avalon, New Jersey, for a quick getaway. We know someone with a town house that suddenly became available, so we jumped at the chance to walk along the shore, ride bikes, and take in a bit of golf. Happily, our daughter Carolyn came along too. We got spoiled with the perfect beach weather, sunny with a light breeze. The beaches were full of people but not packed, so social distancing was easy: just stay a dolphin's length apart directed the posted signs. In the evenings, after dinner, we played light up bocce in the dark, in the sand. No spectators then!

On Wednesday while Bill played golf I walked to the beach for a long walk to have a talk with God. Surprisingly, when I arrived at the beach a thick fog had rolled in turning the beach into an eerie cloud with gray shapes and figures. I could hear the ocean but only see the edges of the waves on the shore. The sandpipers still scurried along but no longer could I see the breaking waves in the distance or the bright sunshine. Standing in the mist on the beach was a cool place to pray. On my heart were prayers for many people in my life, the community, the church, and the world – everyone affected by the coronavirus came to mind – a sweeping prayer to an awesome God.

This cloudy scene seems to mirror our day to day living with the coronavirus. We long for the bright sunny days with soft breezes, but the reality is that the fog has arrived in the form of a virus that redefines everything now. I pondered this as I walked along the beach. God, where are you in all of this? In my walking I found two delicate shells hooked together called angel wings. I was delighted to spot these tiny shells, a tangible reminder of God's presence with us in every moment.

Each one of us has hard questions before us these days. Do we send our children to classes at school? How do I handle all of this tech stuff now in my job? When is the church going to open? Will there be more government assistance? Can I keep my family safe? Should I wear a mask? These and so many more questions come up all the time, but remember, we are not left alone. We are surrounded and guided by the one who loves us and promises never to leave us. Even when we cannot see the way ahead, we can trust that God has blazed the trail. Assured of God's amazing love for us, we are given the chance to encourage each other, offer thanks for our blessings, and look for ways to show love. As the Apostle Paul reminds us, "No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:37-39). Let me know how you see God at work on your walks!

Together on the journey,

Louise



“*For I am convinced*



**that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

– Roman 8:38-39

## BETWEEN HERE AND THERE

The worship group The Sing Team has a song called “Satisfied in You,” which is an adaptation of Psalm 42. It’s a beautiful, moving piece. One section of the song goes as follows:

Let my sighs give way to songs that sing about Your  
faithfulness  
Let my pain reveal Your glory as my only real rest  
Let my losses show me all I truly have is You  
‘Cause all I truly have is You.

In seasons of discontent (with which I’m quite familiar) I turn to this song as a source of conviction and a source of peace. Again, the song asks a question:

So why am I down?  
Why so disturbed?  
I am satisfied in You.

There’s little doubt that our world, our country, even our church is in a state of discontent right now. Things are not as we would want them. Which isn’t to say that nothing is good. Quite the opposite is true. Our young people are taking initiative to serve in their communities (check out Laura’s article on our Virtual Week of Service!), adult volunteers are gathering in preparation to care for and work alongside the youth and families of Westminster, and almost every day our church is better outfitted to serve the needs of our community as we move forward in a changing world.

A Christian faith teaches us that two seemingly opposing forces can be true at once. Fully God and yet fully human. Downcast and yet satisfied. When we find ourselves discontented,


perhaps a bit of reflection is necessary. “Why, my soul, are you downcast?” Have I leaned my faith on Jesus, or am I propped up on something else? Churches and members all over our country are asking these same questions. We’re curious what it looks like to worship Jesus in a world that just isn’t the same as it once was. Some folks say that we can stick with the old faithful models; some folks say that something has to change. I wonder what it looks like to be satisfied in Jesus even in spite of uncertainty.

My challenge to each of us is to echo the line of the song shared earlier. Even in our discontentedness and downcast nature, “let my sighs give way to songs that sing about Your faithfulness, let my pain reveal Your glory as my only real rest.” I don’t know what this fall will look like, but I know that my only real rest will come from redemption through Christ. If I’m waiting for things to go my way, then I’d better be prepared for another season of discontent. But if I’m willing to, as the song says, let my losses reveal my dependence on God, I wonder what I’d be open to.

As long as we’re on this side of eternity I don’t doubt that we’ll always have to juggle both discontentment and satisfaction. Let’s agree to turn toward our Creator, wherever we are, when discontentment starts to win that wrestling match.

What has this season been like for you? Have you found yourself downcast? What’s brought you rest and satisfaction? I’d love to reconnect as we move into this new season together. Be well!

– Ed Sutter



*Let my sighs give way to songs  
that sing about Your faithfulness*

*Let my pain reveal Your glory  
as my only real rest*

# Veritas Virtual Week of Service

It's no secret that the world around us is changing and the ways we have done things need to be shifted to accommodate social distancing and face masks. In a ministry that relies on physical interaction, we have spent the spring and summer trying to figure out how to best provide our kids with some normalcy, but in a safe way.

Every summer, a group of Veritas teens set out to some destination mission trip with one common goal. Feeding the homeless, sharing the love of God, and building and repairing houses are all projects that they have tackled – and had fun doing it! Of course, mission is a concept that is a strong part of Westminster as a whole, and our youth ministry as well. But if you can't have a group of kids shoved in a van and cross state lines to spread mulch and paint houses, how do you do mission work? If you can't have it in person, you figure out how to do it virtually. From August 2 through 8, we "hosted" a virtual week of service. We challenged kids to go out in the world and find something they could do for someone in need. It didn't have to be revolutionary, but something kind they could do for someone else.

As expected, our kids met this challenge with enthusiasm and grace. Several of them did more than one thing! Here are some of the ways they were able to help:

- Donating blood
- Helping build a retaining wall for friends
- Tutoring
- Helping a friend move
- Rip-sticking to raise money for Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
- Helping grandparents with yard work
- Working at Ligonier Camp as a counselor in training
- Streaming to raise money

When they were finished, we asked them to write a few sentences about what they did, how it made them feel, and how it was helpful. A few of them weren't sure they would be successful, but after they had completed their task and saw how helpful they were, it made them feel accomplished and proud. One student said it made them happy that they could help the community, especially during the pandemic. Another mentioned it helped them realize how compassionate people can be.

By the time you read this, our annual Veritas kick off may have already passed. Since March, and continuing on, Veritas looks a little different than it has in the past. Yet, many things are still very much the same. We still have worship, fun, and fellowship. We still have an amazing group of kids and volunteers surrounding us with the same laughter and love that they always have. We may be getting a little more creative, but we will always have the ability to come together in the name of God.

– Laura Ecklin



## Westminster Seminars Online

Live on Sundays  
Beginning September 13  
10:00 – 10:45 a.m.  
Zoom

The Westminster Seminars began doing a new thing in June, when Bruce Lancaster led us in a fascinating series that drew on art and ideas of the Renaissance. We met on Zoom and over three sessions worked out how best to present the seminars online and also reach a larger audience. Here's what to expect when the seminars resume after Labor Day:

- The Zoom link is available on the church website and will be in the Friday church email.
- The Zoom meeting will open by 9:40 a.m. to allow time for greetings and conversation.
- The seminar proper will run for 45 minutes, beginning at 10:00 a.m., with all video faces muted.
- Questions and conversation may be spoken or typed in the chat box.
- The seminar will be video recorded and posted on the church website for later watching.
- When possible, handouts and PowerPoint slides will also be posted.

So, a warm welcome to Westminster Seminars Online, where you can learn and grow spiritually this fall on Sunday mornings or at your convenience. As always, no preparation is necessary. But expect each session to leave you with something to ponder as you seek to be a faithful follower of Christ in this world.

September 13, 20, 27

# Consider the Lilies: The Path of Christian Meditation

*Roger Owens, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary*

When we hear the word “meditation” we often think of Eastern spiritual traditions. But the Christian spiritual traditions offer practices of meditation as well that can help us become open, available, and responsive to what God is doing in our lives, churches, and world. During times of fear, anxiety, and cultural upheaval, these practices can help us find a stable center in God’s love and discern what God is leading us to do. Over the three weeks we will explore the history and theology of Christian meditation, its relationship to other spiritual and secular varieties of meditation, and, of course, we will practice meditation together. Participants will leave understanding Christian meditation and better equipped to put these practices to work in their own lives.



*L. Roger Owens is associate professor of Christian spirituality and ministry at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. He is the author of a number of books on the spiritual life, most recently, Threshold of Discovery: A Field Guide to Spirituality in Midlife. Before moving to Pittsburgh in 2013, Roger was co-pastor with his wife Ginger Thomas of Duke Memorial United Methodist Church in Durham, NC. Roger holds MDiv and PhD degrees from Duke University and is an ordained United Methodist Minister. He and Ginger are the parents of three children: Simeon, Silas, and Mary Clare.*

# Summer with Children's & Family Ministry

Children's & Family Ministry went mobile this summer while Sunday school was not in session. We wanted to keep in touch with our families even though we couldn't be together. Using this type of ministry let the families know that we were thinking of them.

The children and their families received packets on the Fruit of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These packets introduced the children to the Fruit of the Spirit through a short lesson, videos, songs, science experiments, and crafts.

Many thanks to the following who delivered the mobile ministry to our children and families:

*Bob Dilly*  
*Harriet Dilly*  
*Megan Faloni*  
*Maureen Ludwig*  
*Hannah Molli*  
*Susan Molli*  
*Jennifer Nestler*  
*Kelsey O'Leary*  
*Maura Ralston*  
*Rick Ralston*  
*Sarah Strain*  
*Dee Waters*

We could not have done this without them. And thank you also to Mary Ann Walsh and Ruth Colletti who organized the Fruit of the Spirit lesson bags and made phone calls to families.

– Debb Egli

## Summer 2020 Virtual Backyard Bible School

Westminster Children's & Family Ministry for years has held Vacation Bible School or Barefoot School. Summer 2020 was my first vacation Bible school to oversee as director. I was very excited about it and ready to take on this amazing program that last year brought in over 300 children and 100 youth and adult volunteers.

So many behind the scene details occur many months before the event even takes place. This planning and preparation started in January and then unfortunately, with the unforeseen circumstances surrounding COVID-19 in mid-March, we needed to come up with an alternative plan.



We discussed canceling or moving the date to later in the summer, but after thoughtful prayer and discussion, I decided I didn't want to cancel Bible school for the week of the June 22. Yet I needed a different way to reach out to children and families. We could not hold the event at Westminster as we normally do, and the phases of gradual opening were coinciding with Bible school.

Thankfully, a program called BOLT published by Go Curriculum was being promoted as a three-day easy-to-follow virtual Bible school. Families could gather in their own homes or backyards and have Bible school together any time of the day and even throughout the summer. We also decided to add a personal touch with the fourth day, which included video recordings by Jason Fryer. We added some music by Holly Jones, a craft and game with a few Westminster children, and a Bible story by Louise Rogers. This was all new territory and we certainly learned a lot. We encouraged families to share the experience of God's love and word with a neighbor, friend, or family member.

We had a few families open their backyard to additional guests, one being my own home where I hosted 11 additional children with my own three, two teen volunteers, and two mom volunteers. Another home had nine children with two teen volunteers. In all, 105 children registered to participate! Volunteers put together BOLT bags with daily snacks, supplies, and fun surprises. We also had ten volunteers deliver the BOLT bags to homes all over the South Hills. There was even a registered home in Wilksburg!

This was not our typical Bible school experience, but the Lord saw the plan through. I received some encouraging feedback and appreciation for the efforts made to bring the love of Christ personally to 41 homes!

We had an enjoyable Bible school in my own backyard. I came away feeling blessed to have shared the good news of Jesus with children. This experience certainly opened up the possibilities of changes to vacation Bible school moving forward. The Bible school plans had to be revised, but those revisions proved to be successful by God's grace. Now we can make future plans to enhance the Bible school experience. My heartfelt prayer is to expand upon this backyard vacation Bible school model. Our Lord says in Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Amen.

With Jesus love,

Natalie Brown

# Volunteers at Westminster – Summer 2020

*This summer was definitely different at Westminster! But, the work of the church continued.*

## Food to Go

Food to Go is the outreach program that helps feed children in the city when school is out for the summer and the children don't get a school breakfast and lunch. Many of you donated food for the bags and money to purchase more food. Smuckers donated a bunch of Power Up Bars thanks to one of our members. Children donated their gently used books. One very special volunteer organized the packing center and shopped for the very best deals in town with our financial contributions. Many volunteers over multiple weeks sorted food and packed bags. Every week for nine weeks, volunteers delivered bags to the five neighborhoods we supported. A big thank you to all of you for making this program a huge success. Westminster delivered over 1,600 Food to Go bags this summer! Just think of all of the children's lives you touched.



## Face Masks

Volunteers made face masks and/or donated supplies for our protection. If you need a mask, please let Jan Baumann know and she will send one out to you.

## Gilfillen Garden for SHIM

Throughout the summer, the Gilfillen Garden has been planted, weeded, harvested, and delivered to SHIM for distribution in its food pantries. When you think back on all of the hot and very dry days, this was no easy feat for those volunteers.





# SUMMER 2020



## World Vision

A group of volunteers traveled to World Vision's distribution center to sort and pack donated clothing to be distributed internationally.



## BOLT Backyard VBS

Volunteers offered backyard vacation Bible school for their children and their friends' and neighbors' children.

Even though we are in the middle of a pandemic, Westminster members have not stopped helping others. We have found ways to stay safe and social distance and still do the work of the church.

Going forward, serving God through the church will continue to be different, but we are up for challenge. It can be exciting to do new things in a new way.



Deacons Blood Drive



Pentecost Drive By and Food Collection



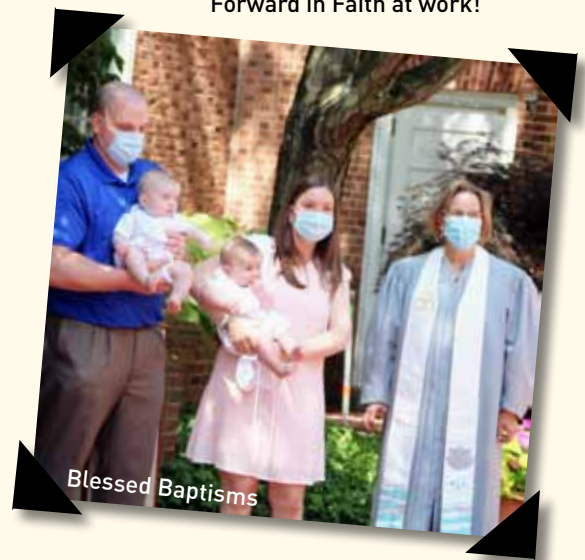
Wedding of Sarah Coblentz and Kevin McGuire



Forward in Faith at work!



Communion in the Courtyard



Blessed Baptisms



## Select WROC Fitness Classes Underway

We successfully kicked off the Westminster Recreation and Outreach (WROC) reopening the week of July 20! Thank you to everyone for your patience in following the new guidelines. If we all do our part, we can exercise safely. We continue to work diligently to provide a safe atmosphere adhering to the safety guidelines issued by the Pennsylvania Secretary of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Here's what you can expect when you take a class at the WROC:

- Class offerings and sizes are limited.
- Advance registration is required and the preferred method is via the WROC website. We ask that you arrive **no more than ten minutes before start time** and exit when the class ends in order to provide time for cleanup and sanitation before the next class arrives.
- Participants must wear masks to enter the facility, while setting up for class, gathering belongings after class, and when exiting. Participants have the option to remove the mask while exercising.
- Entering and exiting will be through the main WROC doors located behind the church. Classes held in Fellowship Hall will enter and exit through the Fellowship Hall doors located behind the church. All other entrances will be locked.
- Participants will check in outside of the entrance. We have set up check-in so that you can maintain safe physical distances while checking in, with public spaces and pathways that are marked.
- Upon entry, temperatures will be checked and a brief health screening will be taken.
- A one-time mandatory participation agreement must be signed either online or the first time you enter the building.
- Social distancing will be maintained. Instructors will guide students to a designated workout area and provide direction for gathering equipment.
- Exterior doors will be propped open to allow for ventilation and for avoiding high touch areas.
- Hand sanitizer stations are available.
- Please bring your own water bottles. For safety, the fountains will not be in use.

Visit the WROC website at [wroc.westminster-church.org](http://wroc.westminster-church.org) for a complete list of classes and detailed protocols and guidelines. We look forward to seeing you!

# Summer Series Reaches New Audiences

For nine years, Westminster Organ Summer was a pleasant musical respite in Westminster's sanctuary. Six casual concerts over six Thursdays during the Farmers Market drew an enthusiastic audience from the community as well as the church. The organ concerts showcased the best organists with ties to the Pittsburgh area, and the audiences loved hearing how each organist brought out different features of the sanctuary's beautiful Austin organ. It was a happy series.

Plans were in place for the tenth series when the coronavirus pandemic hit. As the weeks progressed, it became clear that the series couldn't take place as planned. Both the performers and the church wanted the Organ Summer tradition to continue, but in a different way. They embraced the idea of bringing the music to the people via the internet. Music & Arts at Westminster was doing a new thing!



The six concerts premiered on the church's Facebook page and YouTube channel at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoons in June and July. Each performance was recorded ahead of time, and the videos were edited for a smooth view. For each concert, Jeannie Schott designed a downloadable program to help the viewer follow the pieces.

Westminster Organ Summer Online proved to be a success beyond expectations. The concerts reached not only the usual fans, but new listeners from Pittsburgh and way beyond. A viewer from a far away state was impressed by how all the performers spoke so graciously about the honor of playing the Austin organ in Westminster's lovely sanctuary. He commented that Westminster must be a very special church. A Westminster member who moved to Alaska wrote that hearing the organ in concert helped her feel more connected to the church that is still close to her heart.

The best part of an online series is that you can watch any and all of the Organ Summer concerts whenever you want on the church's YouTube channel. The musical bounty of summer continues as the seasons change. Be sure to catch any concerts that you missed and share the music with your friends.

Enjoy now and look forward to Westminster Organ Summer 2021!



*The best part of an online series is that you can watch any and all of the Organ Summer concerts whenever you want on the church's YouTube channel.*

*The musical bounty of summer continues as the seasons change. Be sure to catch any concerts that you missed and share the music with your friends.*

# Peace & Global Witness Special Offering

**Sunday, October 4**

*Building God's House of Peace*

Congregations of many denominations extend the peace of Christ with a blessing during their service. "The peace of Christ be with you (and also with you)." It is a blessing offered and a blessing returned in kind. The peace of Christ is part of what our faith offers to us. Extending the peace of Christ is part of an active, engaged faith – a witness to what it means for us to be building the household of God.



In God's house, there are people of every background. In God's house, there are people of every race, age, and gender. In God's house, people who are different from each other in almost every way live together and seek ways to bring about Christ's peace in every part of our lives. We speak out and claim the truth in Second Thessalonians, "May the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in all ways." In our church gatherings, we practice offering Christ's peace, trusting that the blessing offered will also be returned.

On World Communion Sunday, we celebrate that Christ's peace extends throughout all creation. We celebrate that we are all together at the table, in God's house. Though many of us will be together in worship only virtually this year, we celebrate that we are offered what we need to continue the work of building the household of God with active peacemakers here at home and around the world.

We take action by offering a blessing of our own. Through our participation in the Peace & Global Witness Offering, our church is extending Christ's peace throughout our community, regional efforts in our mid councils, and the Presbyterian Mission Agency for its ministries of education and partnership with active peacemakers all around the world.

*Extend your peace to us, O Christ, that we might build places of kindness and generosity, reconciliation and compassion. May our gifts join our voices in blessing all of creation with your justice and peace, at all times, in all ways. Amen.*

**Please give generously using the Peace & Global Witness Special Offering Envelope or online at [westminster-church.org](http://westminster-church.org).**

## ADULT SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

### Silence for our lives

P  
|  
R  
|  
I  
|  
T

“

Growing spiritually can be like a rollercoaster ride. Take comfort in the knowledge that the way down is only preparation for the way up.

”

— Rabbi Nachman of Breslov, *The Empty Chair*



# Blood Drive

Sunday, September 20  
8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Fellowship Hall

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, and get a temperature check on site. Read more about Vitalant's precautionary measures on their website at [www.vitalant.org](http://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](http://www.vitalant.org), or by calling Candy Kottyan at 412-860-3534.

In order to donate, you must:

- Be 18 years or older (17 with parental consent)
- Weigh at least 110 lbs.
- Not have donated within the last 56 days
- Be in good health

Medications such as insulin, aspirin, and high blood pressure treatments do not prevent you from donating. If you have any medical questions, please call Vitalant at 877-258-4825.

For those planning to donate, please remember to eat a good breakfast and drink plenty of non-caffeinated beverages. There will be snacks and goodies available for all donors!

*The Westminster Deacons thank you in advance for your support of this worthy mission.*

# Baptisms

## June 20

**Bradly William  
Samantha Michelle  
Zachary Robert**

*Parents: Erica & Jeffrey Baldasare*

**Kennedy Marie**

*Parents: Brittany & Luke Coady*

**Vayda Bette**

*Parents: Lauren Smith & John Kramer*

## June 27

**Brody Richard**

*Parents: Jennifer & Richard Bono*

**Elizabeth Hope**

*Parents: Laura & John DeSimone*

**Jensen Ray**

*Parents: Samantha & Glenn Stewart*

## July 18

**Palmer Brooks**

*Parents: Lauren & Kevin Cunningham*

**Maria Lynn**

*Parents: Courtney & Kristopher Grant*

**Camryn Rae**

*Parents: Krista & Stephen Sharps*

**Lucas Alexander**

**Vincent Michael**

*Parents: Amanda & Michael Spinella*

## August 22

**Kendall Vivian**

**Reed Alexander**

*Parents: Nicole & Charles Morgenstern*

**Barrett Marie**

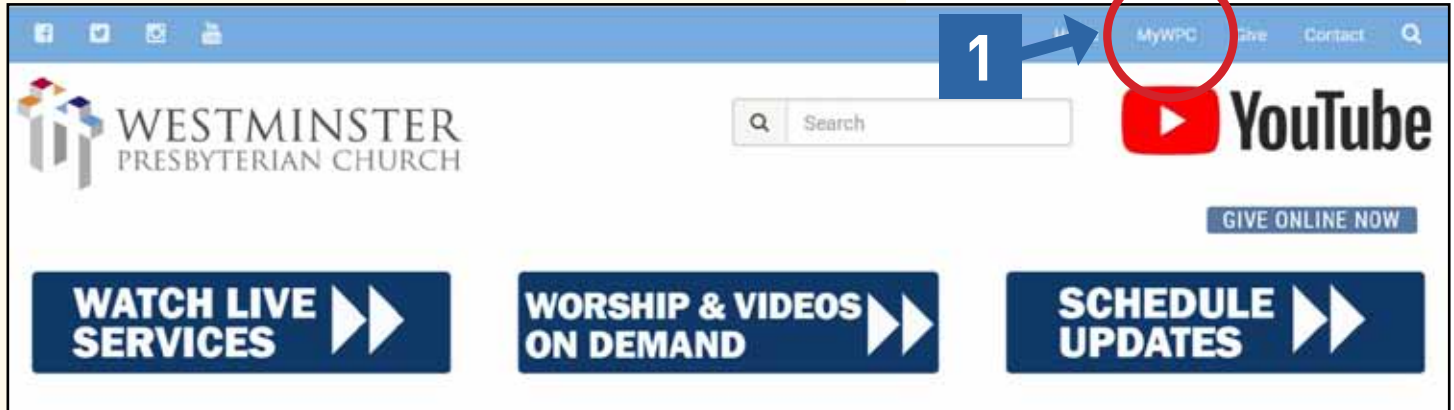
*Parents: Dominique & Andrew Schuster*

**Mia Nicole**

*Parents: Amy & Mark Wesolek*

# MyWPC: Update Your Contact Information

*Accessing MyWPC...  
as easy as 1, 2, 3!*

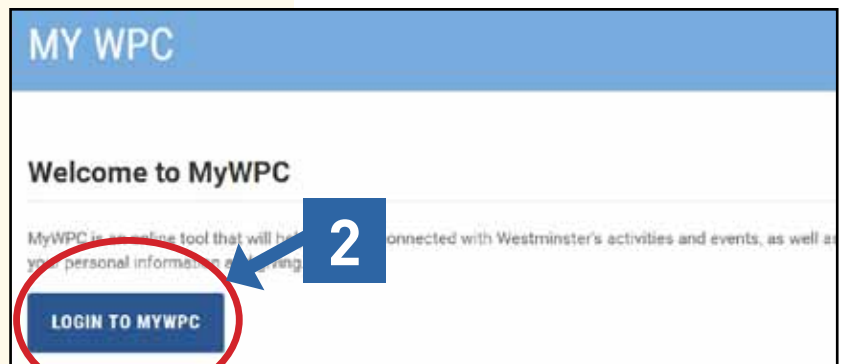


Have you or your adult child moved? Did you get rid of your landline? Has your child gotten married and moved away? Are you wondering why the church doesn't send you email? (We do!)

Please make sure the church has your most current information so we can keep you informed of new and changing events at the church.

MyWPC is a secure, online tool that allows members to stay connected.

- Visit the church website at [www.westminster-church.org](http://www.westminster-church.org).
- Click on MyWPC in the upper, right-hand corner (in the light blue bar).
- Click the blue *Login to MyWPC* button.
- Type in your email address and password.
  - > There are links to click if you forgot your username or password.
- If you're not sure if you have a login, click where it says *Need a login?*
  - > If you get an error message, please contact Anna Hiner at 412-835-6630x207 or [hiner@westminster-church.org](mailto:hiner@westminster-church.org).
- Please be sure to remember your username and password for future use.



Now that you are signed in, click on *My Complete Profile* in the *I Want to View ...* box to update your personal information. Click on the pencil icon next to the information you wish to update.

For questions or assistance with MyWPC, please contact Anna Hiner, communications and database manager, at [hiner@westminster-church.org](mailto:hiner@westminster-church.org).



# Financial Report

As of July 31, 2020

Income	
July Income	\$105,336.48
July Budget Income	\$164,684.63
YTD 2020 Income	\$1,474,753.61

Expenses	
July Expenses	\$147,452.69
July Budget Expenses	\$181,564.02
YTD 2020 Expenses	\$1,178,770.07

## Approved Outreach Expenditures

June 2020

Pittsburgh Presbytery	\$3,200
Malawi Orphan Care – operating expenses	\$3,000
City Mission	\$5,000
Friends of Haiti – LaCoupe School construction	\$5,300
Equal Justice Initiative	\$500

July 2020

Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank	\$5,000
Open Hands Ministries	\$2,800
Pittsburgh Presbytery	\$3,200
Hawassa Hope	\$1,000
Friends of Haiti – LaCoupe School construction	\$5,700

# Session Highlights

August 17, 2020

- Opened with prayer
- Received an update from Don Baumann, chair of the Internal Audit Committee, of the committee's work as it prepares a final report to be presented at the October session meeting
- To reopen for in-person worship, approved following the trends of two standard public health metrics being recommended by the Department of Health and Education: four weeks trend of 100 or fewer cases per day in Allegheny County, and four weeks trend of 5% or less positivity rate for cases in Allegheny County; in addition, protocols for seating, social distancing, and cleaning
- Approved the recommendation for the "Peace and Justice Focus on Racism: Fall 2020"
- Received the report that WECEP plans to open the Nursery School and Kindergarten the first week of September
- Closed with prayer

# Deaths

**Bill Shaw**

*May 23*

**Paul Page**

*May 24*

**John Carroll**

*June 23*

**Jean Stockdale**

*July 7*

**Bob Davis**

*July 19*

**Rennay Simmons**

*July 29*

**William Kramer Sr.**

*August 6*





**WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

2040 Washington Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15241  
[www.westminster-church.org](http://www.westminster-church.org)  
A PC(USA) Congregation

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED  
DATED MATERIAL — PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY

This *Spire* was printed on paper that contains 30% recycled post-consumer fiber, is EcoLogo certified, and was manufactured in Canada using biogas.

Thank you for helping to care for God's creation by recycling this *Spire*.



[www.facebook.com/Westminster.Pittsburgh](http://www.facebook.com/Westminster.Pittsburgh)



[www.youtube.com/user/WestminsterUSC](http://www.youtube.com/user/WestminsterUSC)



Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.  
I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

– Isaiah 43:18-19

