



# THE SPIRE

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Pittsburgh, PA

My Friends,

Fifty years ago this past January I was 19, when I left home and began hitchhiking around the Southeast for several months. What made me think of this is that my last haircut was a couple of months ago, and 50 years ago I began a “no hair cut” for about two and a half years (Sorry, no pictures!). You could say I’m celebrating, unintentionally, my Golden Anniversary of long hair.

As I remember those days on the road, I think of the journeys from one place to another. I knew where I wanted to go, but how I got there I could not really control. All I could do was to keep moving.

This is why Isaiah 40:27-31 is one of my bedrock passages in scripture. Not so much to mount up with wings like eagles or even running, I know what it means to walk and not faint, one step at a time on the journey.

Reflecting on those days has helped me through these days:

Patience...Back then on the road it was waiting for a ride to come along. Now it is to “wait upon the Lord” (Isaiah 40:31) and discern how the Spirit is moving us into a new day. Patience, I think, is cousin to the peace we have in Jesus Christ, as he told us not to be anxious about the day, he is with us always (Matthew 7:34, 28:20).

Perseverance...Back then on the road it was determination to get where I needed to go; there were good days and bad days. Now it is “with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength” (Luke 10:27) that we build on strong foundations for new ways of doing things together while we are alone, as Paul said “to encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing” (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

People...Back then on the road there were some people who helped me along the way, and there were others who simply turned away. Now it is for us to live with renewed purpose as disciples of Jesus Christ, as he told us to love as we have been loved, to care for the least of these among us (John 14:12; Matthew 25:40).

*but those who wait  
for the Lord  
shall renew their strength*



I know this is not a journey we planned for, but how we get to where we’re going is by God’s grace and steadfast love, “our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1).

Thanks and blessings,

Bruce Lancaster

**PASTORS**

DR. BRUCE LANCASTER, *Interim Senior Pastor, Head of Staff*  
 REV. LOUISE ROGERS, *Associate Pastor for Congregational Care*  
 REV. JASON FREYER, *Associate Pastor for the Bridge, Youth & Media*

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 CINDY BINGHAM, *Church Financial Manager*  
 KIMBERLY DUNKOVICH, *Associate Accountant*  
 MANDY THOMAS, *Project Manager*

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 DEBB EGLI, *Assistant Director of Children's & Family Ministry*  
 ED SUTTER, *Director of Middle School Ministry & Family Counseling*  
 LAURA ECKLIN, *Coordinator of Children's & Youth Ministry*

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 LAURA WHITCOMB, *Print Room Assistant*

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412-835-2906

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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**

- Call Me
- Coffee Time!
- Something to Say
- Between Here and There
- Westminster Seminars
- Sunday School Thank You
- Backyard VBS Coming June 22

**8 Outreach**

- WROC Fitness Instructors
- Something New for Westminster Organ Summer 2020
- Organist Paul Jacobs Canceled for July 28

**10 Caring Community**

- Stewardship
- Adult Spiritual Development

**11 Other**

- Financial Update
- Session Highlights
- Deaths
- PNC Update
- Paycheck Protection Program




**WORSHIP**

In light of the recent Coronavirus developments and advice of public health officials, during the yellow phase the church is currently operating on a modified schedule. All worship services will continue online only. See below for virtual worship opportunities.

**Sanctuary Worship**

	Sundays
	11:00 a.m.
	YouTube*

**Bridge Worship**

	Sundays
	9:45 a.m.
	Zoom

\* 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.



# Call Me

A few years ago a pop song came out, “Call Me Crazy.” We sang along to the catchiest of tunes, “Hey, I just met you and this is crazy, But here’s my number, so call me maybe...”

In reality, phone calls gave way to text messages, Instagrams, and emails. Social messaging is just so much more engaging. That was until the pandemic. With more time on our hands, phone calls have made a revival. Hearing the voice of a friend or loved one is comforting, not to mention an excellent way to pass the long hours on the couch at home. A simple phone call can bridge the gap from being isolated to being in a community.

When I hear someone’s voice, their face immediately pops up in my mind. All of their unique characteristics come alive when we exchange dialog filled with laughter, information, happenings, and

trivia. Pictures of sitting together in the local coffee shop, grabbing dinner, or walking along the sunny beach appear. Phone conversations brighten my entire day.

*A cheerful heart has a continual feast.*

— Proverbs 15:15

How many times do you recognize the caller by the word *hello*? We are all uniquely created, gifted, and loved. As the psalmist declares, “I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; our works are wonderful” (Ps. 139:14). During this pandemic we need to hear each other’s voices more than ever – to be part of a larger support system, to share our blessings, to hear of joys, to encourage each other, to carry each other’s burdens, and to put love into action from afar. Not every person can be trusted with our

pain. But when we find people who will be there for us through thick and thin, and we can be there for them, we have found the healing salve and the joy of being in a community.

My encouragement is to give someone a call, today and every day. Share stories, laugh, listen deeply, reminisce, appreciate the gift of another’s time and company on the phone. As you do, give thanks to God who doesn’t exactly call us, but does provide divine messages. Jesus says, “I give you a new commandment – to love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.” A commandment, a joy, and the way to be connected while we are separated, one from another.

Together on the journey,

Louise

# Coffee Time!

Monday mornings, 10:00 – 11:15 a.m.

June 1, 8, 15, 22

Join Louise Rogers as we meet on a Zoom connection to explore the stories of Jesus, the Parables. Watch for the details in the Friday emails. Jump on and join us for an easy time of sharing and learning together. No preparation. Beginners welcome!



# Something to Say

For those of us who have not met, I am the Associate Pastor for Youth, Contemporary Worship, and Media. All of which means that my entire job is to come up with something to say. My job is to have something to say to the teenagers in our congregation, to speak the love of Christ over them as often and as relevantly as I can. Sometimes that means my job is to have something to say to the student who has just broken up with a long-time boyfriend, the student who didn't make the soccer team, or the student who has struggled with suicidal ideation – sometimes all in the same night. My job is to have something to say in worship in a contemporary way, to use the tools of new music, prayers, liturgy, and sermon to speak the love of Christ over folks.

Lately, given our season of social distancing, most of my job has been media. It's been my job to have something to say about how we ought to do worship without being able to be together. It's been my job to come up with new ways to connect the congregation through YouTube videos and podcasts. And it's been my job to have something to say about how difficult it is to navigate the ever-changing settings on Zoom.

My job is to have something to say.

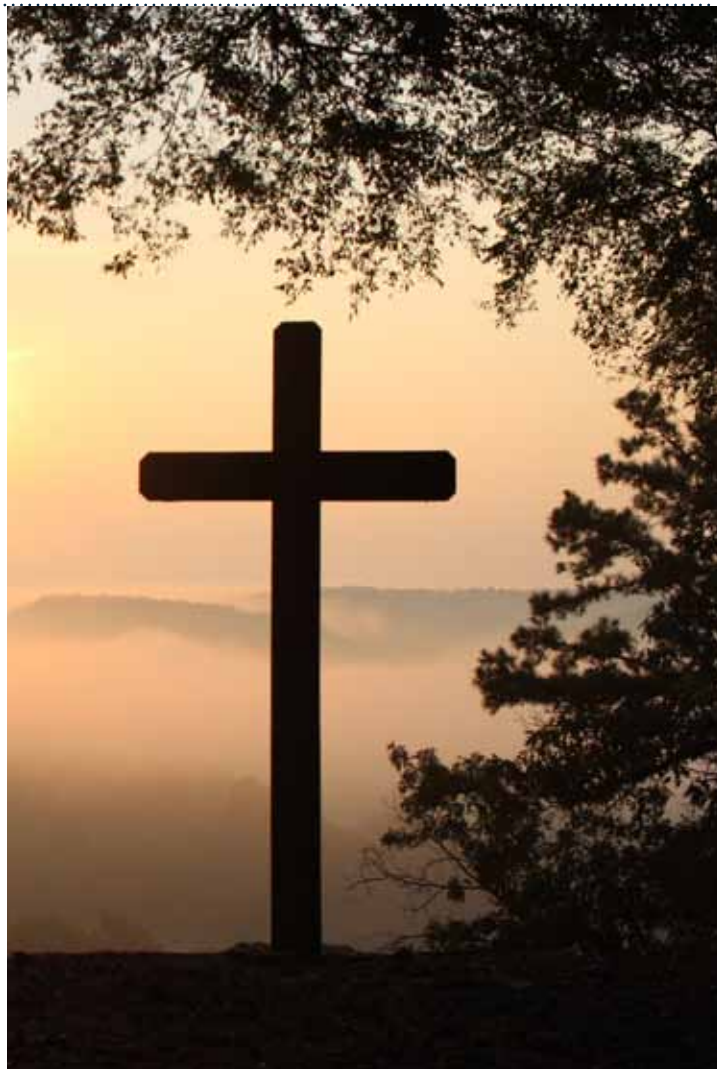
So what am I supposed to do when I have nothing to say?

Writer's block has come before, and I have written countless *Spire* articles about the problem of procrastination often masquerading as some sort of creative struggle. But this, this feels different to me. I have started four or five articles on a computer, becoming really frustrated, and bemoaning that when you type your articles you can't throw the bad ones in the trash can or light them on fire. Call me old-fashioned, but there was something cathartic in that act.

The problem lies in a couple of places, I think. For starters, I have been making more videos, writing more sermons, and participating in more Zoom calls than ever before, and I imagine that if I'm this tired of the sound of my own voice, surely everyone else is. Part of the problem is that I wind up circling back again and again to the same topics, so I feel like I've covered a whole bunch of ground in a short period of time. But mostly, I think the reason I have nothing to say is that words seem to be falling so short in this season.

What, for example, do I say to the family that lost their job and their livelihood? What do I say to the people who are struggling with soul crushing loneliness? What do I say to people whose anxiety has shot through the roof in this season of immense stress? And what, oh Lord, do I say to anyone who has lost a loved one to this virus? Lord, have mercy!

As I struggled with all of that, my mind went back to the Easter story we read just a few short weeks ago. Mary has just arrived at the tomb, and to her shock and horror she finds it empty. Jesus is not there, and I'm betting that resurrection was the last possibility on her mind. So she starts to wander around in her grief and comes across this dude she assumes is the gardener. What could possibly snap her out of her grief? How does she clear the fog?



“Mary.”

That's it! That's all Jesus had to say. No sermon on the mount. No three-point lecture. No PowerPoint slide. Just the loving and compassionate voice of the Savior reminding her that he knows exactly who she is. That he knows what she's going through. That he has seen her struggles, and that he knows it will all work out in the end. All she needs is to be known by her loving God.

“Mary” is all it takes.

You have no idea how much I wish I could come around to each of you and speak to you by name right now. But I thank God for the line of work I'm in. Even in these seasons when I don't feel like I have anything left to say, Jesus has plenty to say to you. Not with a lot of words. Not with a lot of fanfare and extravagance. But I'm willing to bet, if we could carve out some Zoom free silence in the next few moments, to quiet our mind and sit at the feet of Jesus, he would have so, so much to say to us...

...just by saying our name.

Brothers and sisters, continue to be well. And may the voice of the Savior speak your name this day, and all your days!

– Jason Freyer

## BETWEEN HERE AND THERE

*“May your unfailing love be my comfort, according to your promise to your servant. Let your compassion come to me that I may live, for your law is my delight.”*

— *Psalm 119: 76-77*

Let’s walk through these few verses together, shall we? *Comfort* is such a weighted word in regard to our faith. Jesus repeatedly tells us that we will have troubles in this world of ours, God constantly encourages his people to be courageous, and Paul frequently speaks of the endurance and perseverance that are needed to navigate this life of faith. It sure seems like we’re being given the message that comfort is not exactly what we are striving for. But here’s the catch: Scripture also speaks regularly about where we do find comfort – and it’s mentioned right there in Psalm 119. We find comfort in God’s love. Not in our health. Not in our finances. We find comfort in the unfailing, ever-healthy love of God. Even the idea gives me comfort for a season like the one our world is in now.

Comfort also ought to be how we look to serve one another as we move toward reopening the world around us. Note that the psalmist refers to himself as God’s servant, a servant being one who does the will of his or her master. Which begs the question, “What is the will of God?” Micah tells us that we ought to “do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.” Jesus tells us that we ought to “love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength,

and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.” The will of God is that we, through Christ, provide love, justice, and mercy to the world around us. As we look to reopen businesses, and shops, and homes, what would it look like for you to provide comfort and compassion to those around you? How can you keep them safe? How can you serve them? Remember, we don’t strive for our own comfort; we strive to serve others.

Finally, the psalmist asks to become a manifestation of God’s compassion, to recognize and relate to the needs of others. It’s only through God’s compassion that we’ll truly serve each other in these coming seasons. Scripture rightly tells us that the sin within us drags us ever lower, and only through Christ’s strength can we be lifted up. You’ll also note that the psalmist finds life through God’s compassion. When we serve others, when we care first for their comfort, we find life in God.

The changes that are sure to come may not all be easy, and they may not all be comfortable, but we must seek to serve others. For their needs. For their lives. We are asked to serve others through love, justice, compassion, and mercy. Our comfort comes through Christ alone.

We’re doing our very best to care for the needs of others. This is a challenge for all of us, but our primary goal is the safety, health, and well-being of all of our members, visitors, and staff, both spiritually and physically. I’d love to hear what this time has been like for you. What emotions have you felt, how much comfort have you found, or lost? Feel free to reach out. I look forward to connecting.

— Ed Sutter

**Our comfort  
comes through  
Christ alone.**



*Westminster Seminars  
Go Online for June*

This year's Summer Series of June seminars will come in the form of webinars via Zoom. Watch for details on the church website and weekly emails.

June 14, 21, 28

## Coloring Outside the Lines:

*Renaissance Art,  
Religion, and the  
Challenge of Change*

**Bruce Lancaster**



The great art of the Renaissance, stories of the artists, and religious themes provide us with tools to thrive as we face the challenges of change. Join Bruce Lancaster as he leads us through this fascinating and timely topic.

July 12, 19, 26

# Welcoming the Stranger: A Look at Immigration in the U.S.

*Peace and Justice Summer Seminar Series*

*"And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you... Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."*

—Matthew 25: 38-40

What is the current state of immigration in the U.S.? How did we get to this point? How does COVID-19 impact immigrants? How can we be of help? What does Jesus say about all of this?

These are just some of the questions surrounding the issue of immigration and our connection to it. This July, our series of seminars will address these and related questions.

### July 12: The History of Immigration in the U.S.

Cristian Minor, an immigration attorney in the South Hills, will help us learn how we came to be in our current situation.

### July 19: The Current Situation.

Kristen Schneck, also an immigration attorney, who has practiced immigration law for 15 years, will help us understand current laws and how these affect immigrants. Ms. Schneck has worked with hundreds of families in acquiring legal immigration status, allowing families to stay together. She is a graduate of the Duquesne University School of Law.

### July 26: Doing our Part.

Sister Janice Vanderneck, founding director of *Casa San Jose* in Beechview, will tell us about the work that this group has done ministering to Latinx immigrants here in Pittsburgh. She will share how the COVID-19 virus has affected many of her clients, how *Casa San Jose* has been able to reach out to them in this difficult time, and how we might become engaged. Sister Janice has worked in Latin America, educating and organizing community members to think critically about power structures, oppression, and political engagement. She is a member of the Advisory Council on Immigrants and Internationals for the Department of Human Services of Allegheny County, and she is currently a member of the Welcoming Pittsburgh Steering Committee. Sister Janice is a Catholic religious sister with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden.

**Note: These seminars are typically held in Galbreath Chapel on Sunday mornings from 9:45 to 10:45. At this point, it is unclear whether we will be able to meet in person for this series. If we cannot meet in person, we will present this series electronically. Please see Westminster's website and weekly emails for updates.**

# Thank you

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to the following volunteers and staff that have been such an important and special part of Children's Ministry this year. We would like to acknowledge them and thank them for making a difference in the lives of our Westminster children. We thank God for each of you and pray that God continues to use you in exceptional ways for his children!

*Jan Baumann  
 Michelle Burgess  
 Ruth Colletti  
 Lindsay Carter  
 Stacy Chambers  
 Sue Davis  
 Andrea DeLong  
 Erin DeLong  
 Jodi DeLong  
 Bob Dilly  
 Harriet Dilly  
 Laura Ecklin  
 Megan Ealey  
 Megan Faloni  
 Carrie Gordon  
 Sally Grabowski  
 Beth Ketterman  
 Maddie Langlois  
 Jake Langlois  
 Frank McFerran  
 Kelsey O'Leary  
 Jennifer Nestler  
 Haley Newton  
 Kelly Ralston  
 Rick Ralston  
 Bayley Reiter  
 Jillian Seftchick  
 Lindsay Senge  
 Patricia Smith  
 Sarah Strain  
 Mary Ann Walsh  
 Dee Waters  
 Meghan Widmar  
 Jordan Underwood  
 Nate Zimmerman  
 Alex Zimmerman*

With sincere gratitude and God's love,  
 Debb & Natalie

# Backyard VBS Coming June 22!

Hi Westminster families!

We are so excited to announce that **VBS WILL BE HAPPENING** this year! With one modification, though. Instead of you bringing your kids to VBS, we're bringing VBS to your kids.

This summer, from **June 22 through June 25** we'll be using a quarantine-friendly VBS called BOLT. With minimal preparation, easy-to-follow instructions, and a video that leads you and your kids step-by-step through each of the three days, BOLT is designed for you to perform with your family at home. It's so simple!



During BOLT, your family will participate in fun games that illustrate what it means to listen to, focus on, and follow Jesus. Depending on your pace, you can expect that each day's experience will last about an hour and a half. It's great for kids 5 and up. Even middle and high school kids can enjoy it!



There's something else we're really excited about – this could also be an amazing outreach opportunity. If you feel comfortable gathering with a few more people, you can invite a couple of neighbors, friends, or family to your house for BOLT. It's such an easy and fun way to share the good news of Jesus with our community.

We also will have some extra exciting music, prayers, Bible stories, and fun shared by the Westminster worship team!

We'll be sending more information regarding registration – which will open **June 1** – and additional details as we get closer to **June 22**. In the meantime, get your family excited about **BOLT Backyard VBS**. This is going to be SO MUCH FUN!

With Jesus' love,  
 Natalie Brown

*Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.* —John 15:13, NIV

You may have seen literature promoting the WROC that touts the difference between WROC and health clubs. Why choose one over the other? Our response has always been because we offer more than programs. The WROC is part of something bigger. It is part of a family – first the church family and then our extended community. The WROC instructors care for the whole person through prayer, encouragement, and knowledge of health and fitness.

There is nothing sweeter than watching this philosophy play out during the pandemic. March 16 was the last day of fitness classes held at the WROC before the world was turned upside down with the coronavirus. So much was unknown at the time. How long would this go on? WROC fitness instructors immediately began challenging themselves to find and learn virtual ways to teach classes. Many of them volunteer their time out of the love for their students and passion for exercise. Staying in touch with students, reaching out with cards to those they know are struggling, sending motivational emails, holding coffee hour on Zoom to check in and encourage fellowship. One instructor used her free classes to hold a fundraiser, raising \$1,600 for local cancer organizations. All of this on their own time and expense.

As of this writing, WROC instructors have provided more than 100 Zoom fitness classes. Participation has ranged from six to 70! Many of the classes allow for fellowship before and after class along with prayer requests. Other instructors offer classes through YouTube, allowing you free access to their fitness classes.

The kindness, compassion, and love the instructors have for their students have been overwhelming. What a blessing to have each and every one of them here at Westminster!

# WROC Fitness Instructors

*Caring for the Whole Person – Body, Mind, and Spirit*

*How do WROC fitness instructors stay motivated to exercise during quarantine?*

## Jocelyn Blystone – Zumba Instructor



*I love my little man more than anything in the universe but I truly believe that I am exercising for him. I am trying to be as healthy as possible so I can keep up with him. I model health, fitness, and wellness so that he values them as he grows.*

## Shawna Locke – Yoga4cancer



*Yoga of course! I know that moving my body helps to calm my mind, and I've found that to be even truer during the uncertainty we're living in. I also like to set an example for my ten year old daughter.*

## Debbie Colditz – Zumba Instructor



*My motivation for exercising is to feel good both physically and mentally. Sharing my passion for fitness with others brings me great joy and happiness especially during these challenging times!*

## Pam Hart



*Daily movement is so important for mental and physical health and to boost the immune system. My preference when I'm not teaching classes is to do step aerobics and resistance training. I also track my steps each day and strive for at least 5,000-10,000 steps. So, my goal is to move daily in whatever form feels best for my body each day.*

## Amy Taylor – Arthritis Exercise



*Knowing that moving my body helps to calm my mind. I also like to set an example for my ten year old daughter. I've been doing silly things with my outfits, my hair, my makeup, and my music, mixing things up to make it fun to move about and work out!*

## Cindy Egeland



*There is always another way to work out, so get creative! Try 20 minutes of stair climbing in your house. Instead of focusing on what you can't do, ponder the things you can do. Keep it positive by making (and keeping!) small goals along the way to greater goals.*

## Larkey Miller – Gentle Yoga



*My exercise consists of yoga, light weight training, and the three miles a day my dog walks me. I do this to keep flexible, keep bones strong, to maintain my weight, and to make my dog happy.*



# Something New for Westminster Organ Summer 2020

**Jon Tyillian**

*Calvary Episcopal Church*

**Bradley Fitch**

*Christ United Methodist Church*

**Daniel Ficcarì**

*The Juilliard School*

**Nicholas Will**

*North American College, Rome*

**Chaz Bowers**

*St. Bernard Church*

**Gail Henry**

*Memorial Park Church*

This year marks the tenth season of Westminster's series of free summer organ concerts. Expect the same great music with a twist or two. Plans are underway to bring you the concerts online regardless of the limitations we all face. The organists are most enthusiastic to share their music and the beauty of the organ however possible. Watch the Westminster website and weekly email for details.

Organ Summer concerts, only 30 minutes in length, are designed to bring you into a musical world of amazing variety. From the types of music to the combinations of sounds, each concert brings delight and inspiration to lift your spirits. Plan now to join us!

*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.*



## Organist Paul Jacobs Canceled for July 28

The Organ Artists Series of Pittsburgh and Westminster Music & Arts Series have canceled the Paul Jacobs all-Bach concert scheduled for Tuesday, July 28. Read below about the significance of July 28, 2000, and plan to honor this day by adding a Bach organ piece to your listening playlist. Watch for a message from Paul Jacobs in late July on the church website and Facebook page.

Twenty years ago, on July 28, 2000, Paul Jacobs played all the organ works of J.S. Bach over 18 hours on Westminster's Austin organ – a remarkable feat. That date marked the 250th anniversary of Bach's death. Bach's music continues to inspire people from all over the world, especially during this time of uncertainty. Bach's strong faith in God, which shines through his music both sacred and secular, can give us hope, comfort, and joy. Find Bach in abundance on YouTube and you will find your soul uplifted.

Our hope is that Paul Jacobs will return to Westminster during the 2021-2022 season. This concert will once again be co-sponsored by the Organ Artists Series and Westminster's Music & Arts Series.

Between now and the fall of 2021, the Organ Artists Series, [www.organseries.com](http://www.organseries.com), will present organ music online performed in Pittsburgh churches. The performances will be available on the series' YouTube channel and Facebook page, helping to keep organ music alive and well in our city and beyond.

# Stewardship

Thank you to everyone who has continued to contribute to Westminster during these challenging times. While the church remains closed, the staff and members of the congregation have been working hard to create virtual worship services, prayer groups, youth activities, Bible study, and many other offerings to help us stay spiritually connected, foster growth in our relationship with God, and continue the mission of the church. Outreach mission has been even more important in these times as agencies providing help to those in need require more resources to support a larger population of those facing hardships.

Without the weekly worship services, we know that some have not been able to follow their custom of contributing via the weekly offering. There are several ways to contribute to Westminster while sheltering in place. On the Westminster website, [www.westminster-church.org](http://www.westminster-church.org), under the Member Resources tab you can select Give. This will take you to a page that will outline several options:



Select "Give Online Now" to give a one-time gift or you can create an account to set up recurring gifts.



Text WPCUSC to 73256. Click the link you receive in your text message response.



Set up an "Automatic Direct Debit Plan." Download, print, and complete the authorization form and submit to Cindy Bingham, church financial manager.



Send a check by mail to Cindy Bingham, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2040 Washington Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15241

*Thank you again for continuing to return some of the gifts that God has given you to support our church and its mission.*

## ADULT SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

# Silence for our lives

P  
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Silence means rest, rest of body and mind in which we become available for him whose heart is greater than ours....Silence is that moment in which we not only stop the discussion with others but also the inner discussions with ourselves, in which we can breathe in freely and accept our identity as a gift.

— Henri Nouwen



# Financial Report

*As of April 30, 2020*

Income	
April Income	\$172,461.21
April Budget Income	\$204,566.25
YTD 2020 Income	\$1,117,729.29

Expenses	
April Expenses	\$161,468.27
April Budget Expenses	\$192,374.02
YTD 2020 Expenses	\$714,649.30

## Approved Outreach Expenditures for May 2020

Center for Victims – Victim Shelter	\$1,500	Pittsburgh Presbytery Lazarus Fund	\$800
City Mission	\$5,000	Rebuilding Pittsburgh Together	\$5,000
Jubilee Kitchen – Food Distribution	\$1,000	Rebuilding Pittsburgh Together – General Home Repair	\$2,500
North Sewickley – Vadeketh	\$5,000	SHIM – Food Distribution	\$2,500
Pittsburgh Presbytery	\$3,200		

# Session Highlights

At its meeting on May 18, the session approved guidelines for operating in the Yellow Phase. Visit the church's website for details about the Yellow Phase guidelines and the church's modified operating schedule.

The Property Commission reported that Forward in Faith funds will be used for two major projects: the parking lot paving and steeple repairs to begin as soon as possible.

The session also received reports that Youth Sunday is being planned for June 7, 2020, and Vacation Bible School is being modified to a virtual at home offering called BOLT. Veritas and JAM youth groups meet weekly with Zoom calls to stay in touch and have fun remotely.

WPC and WECEP have received funds from the Paycheck Protection Program, which covers employees' payroll, benefit insurance, and 401k matches. The Finance Commission will track these payments against the loan proceeds. Forgiveness of the loan will be determined at a later date.

## Deaths

Ross W. Lappe, Jr. *April 28*  
Lorraine Sachse *May 7*

# PNC Update

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) continues to work towards its mission of finding Westminster's next leader. Thanks to Zoom, we meet at least once a week and continue to research and interview candidates for Westminster's senior pastor/head of staff position. There is much work we can do during the stay-at-home order and we are doing it. We are heartened by the caliber of candidates we have encountered so far. We have a long road ahead. The pandemic means we cannot see candidates in person right now. Like many of you, we are finding ways to keep working toward our goal. We accept that the pandemic may lengthen our search process. We humbly ask for your prayers for patience, perseverance, and wisdom in our effort. Recommending a person for you to call as our fifth senior pastor is a task we take seriously and we are committed to seeking God's will for our church during the challenging times of 2020.

# Paycheck Protection Program

In the wake of the COVID-19 emergency, the session authorized the Finance Commission to pursue a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan made available through the Small Business Administration (SBA) under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The size, nature, and extent of the combined operations of the church and Westminster Early Childhood Education Program (WECEP) fell within the criteria of the CARES Act allowing for the submission of a joint loan application in April. On May 1, 2020, loan proceeds of \$448,300 were received and are expected to be spent, in accordance with the requirements of the PPP, by June 30, 2020. The loan is unsecured and guaranteed by the SBA.

We believe the majority of the funds will be used for payment of salaries, wages, and certain related benefits of church personnel and WECEP teachers and staff furloughed as a result of Governor Wolf's "stay at home" order dated April 1, 2020. Further, as afforded by the CARES Act, we anticipate the eventual filing of a PPP loan forgiveness application later this summer. Based on current guidelines and projections, we believe the vast majority of the loan will qualify for forgiveness. To the extent any portion is not forgiven, such amount will be repaid over a two-year period, including interest at 1%.



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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;  
though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.  
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.  
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;  
God will help it when the morning dawns.



– Psalm 46:1-5