



THE SPIRE

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Pittsburgh, PA

My Friends,

The word *season* is an interesting word, defined as “a time characterized by a particular circumstance or feature.” The Bible says there’s a season for everything under the sun.

As I write this in early February, the sun is shining and the temperatures for the week are to range from 60° as a high temperature one day to a high of 35° the next day and then level out in the 40s for the rest of the week. I’ve been told that I’ve not seen a typical winter, and that’s fine with this old Southern boy!

Spring, for the year 2020, officially starts on Thursday, March 19, but who knows what that really means? Punxsutawney Phil has said we’d have an early spring; but I know it could snow on Easter Sunday, April 12, and no one would be surprised.

I love living in a region that has four distinct seasons, each special in its own way. Each season has its appeal or difficulty: allergy season, the season of humidity and heat, and I am watching and waiting for a season of snow and ice.

There are the seasons of your life: young, middle-age, older. And in your spiritual life, you can go through a season of religious awakening or renewal, or you can move into the winter of your discontent and have a season of spiritual doubt.

I would suggest that Westminster Presbyterian Church is building a church for all seasons

- ...a church that will baptize you as a baby
- ...and say goodbye to you when you move to the Church Triumphant
- ...and be with you and for you every time in between
- ...a church that cares enough to provide a place to challenge our conceits and prejudices
- ...a church where we care for and pray for each other every day
- ...a church where we serve together, celebrate together, cry together
- ...a church to be for Jesus whatever season it is!



This is nothing new, you say. Westminster Presbyterian Church has been doing this all its life. But what is new is that what once was the future is now the present and God will not let us stop here or slide back.

God calls us to keep on building a church for all seasons, a church that will be here for you whatever the season or circumstance of your life, for everyone to find their place, their passion, their peace.

Thanks and blessings,

Bruce Lancaster

PASTORS

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Head of Staff*

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for Congregational Care*

REV. JASON FREYER, *Associate Pastor
for the Bridge, Youth & Media*

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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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CARA DANIELE, *Kitchen Coordinator*

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

KATHY LONG, *Director*

NURSERY SCHOOL

412-835-2906

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

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www.westminster-church.org.

Read the *Spire* online at:

www.westminster-church.org

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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.

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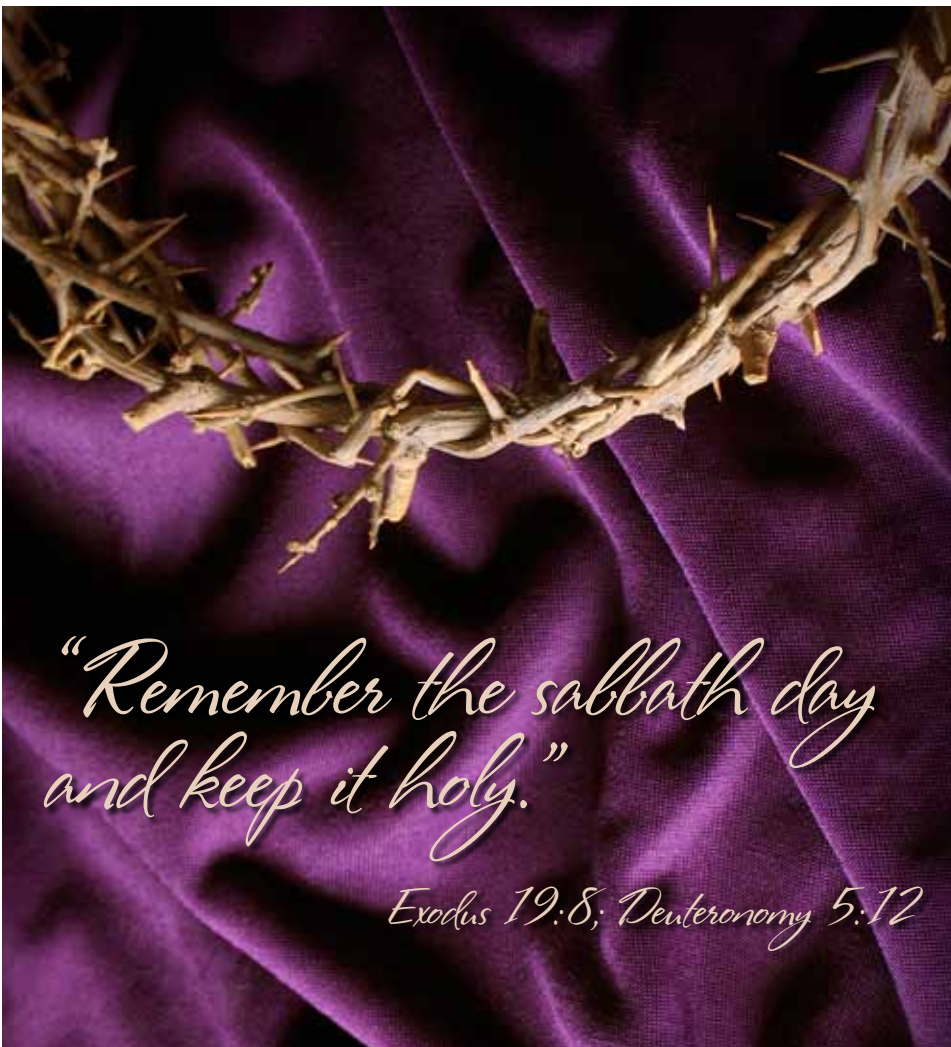
The Bridge Contemporary Worship

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*The Lord's Supper is celebrated the first Sunday of each month.
Gluten-free wafers are available at all services.*

Lent 2020

Cease | Rest | Embrace | Feast



*“Remember the sabbath day
and keep it holy.”*

Exodus 19:8; Deuteronomy 5:12

Upcoming Events

12
MAR Quiet Practice
for Lent
*in Galbreath
Chapel*

15
MAR Organist
Paul Jacobs
Concert
in the sanctuary

19
MAR Quiet Practice
for Lent
*in Galbreath
Chapel*

20
-22
MAR Veritas Splash
Lagoon Trip

29
MAR Then Sings
My Soul
Concert
in the sanctuary

WESTMINSTER SEMINARS

Sundays at 9:45 a.m.
Galbreath Chapel

All are welcome!

Lenten Series – The Five Sundays in March

The Gospel of Matthew

Tucker Ferda

The Gospel of Matthew has been aptly described as "the Gospel of the Church." It has impacted Christian liturgy more than any of the other Gospels, and it contains some of Jesus' most memorable teachings, not least the Sermon on the Mount. But why did Matthew write this Gospel? Why wasn't Mark enough? Over the course of this month, we will look at Matthew's unique portrait of Jesus, his mission, his call to discipleship, and his announcement of the Gospel. We hope to see more clearly at the end that Matthew is, indeed, "the Gospel of the Church," and one that continually calls us to a fresh encounter with Jesus' radical message about the Kingdom of God.



Tucker Ferda is Visiting Assistant Professor of New Testament at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, where he teaches courses on the Gospels, life of Jesus, Paul's epistles, and Biblical Greek. His first book, Jesus, the Gospels, and the Galilean Crisis (2019), explores how Jesus and later interpreters wrestled with the rejection of the Gospel. He also writes on Second Temple Judaism, the reception history of the Bible, and various topics in the study of Christian origins. He is a member and deacon at East Liberty Presbyterian Church and resides in Pittsburgh with his wife, Liberty, and two daughters, Lucy (5) and Junia (10 months).

March 1 – Why Did Matthew Write?

March 8 – The Infancy Narrative

March 15 – The Initial Test

March 22 – Matthew's Gospel in Music, *with Sara Kyle*

March 29 – The Gospel of the Kingdom

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Connections Class

Sundays, beginning March 8
9:45 – 10:45 a.m.
Room 238

A new old Sunday morning discussion group is beginning on Sunday, March 8. The Perspectives Class is now the Connections Class. Using the previous week's sermon as a starting point, our conversations will lead us to consider how we connect with God, with our world, with others and ourselves. The group will meet **every Sunday** at 9:45 a.m. in Room 238.



Training in Righteousness

Every year, I finish up my cycling “season” around October or November. I may get out every now and again on a quick spin, but formal events are usually done for the year then. What follows can be best described as a hibernation of sorts. I loathe the cold, I come inside for much of the day, and I spend an inordinate amount of time napping. The hibernation is usually for only a month or so, as I get back to training in earnest sometime after Christmas.

This year, the hibernation lasted a little bit longer than usual.

I went back to the gym in late January and got to work on the spin bikes. My first class back was embarrassing. Any hope I had of doing well on the leaderboard (yes, our spin class has a leaderboard) (yes, it reveals some of my worst competitive tendencies) (yes, I’m okay with this) was dashed all but immediately. Instead of the top four or five that I had become accustomed to at the end of last season, I was sitting near the bottom of my 30-person class. I was a sweaty, huffing mess. I could barely summon the strength to walk for a day or so after. It was ugly.

But then I did what you do when you commit to a training plan. I went back the next day. And then the day after that. I did strength training some days, followed by spin class, followed by swimming just to mix it up. It’s slow going to be sure, but the old strength that was in my legs is starting to come back as I shake the dust off.

Paul reminds us in 2 Timothy 3:16 that our Scriptures are useful for a great many things, but what really caught my attention of late is that scripture is useful for “training in righteousness.” That word *righteousness* in Greek carries a focus on fairness, justice, or equitableness. So what exactly does it mean that we ought to train in righteousness, and where does scripture play into that?

First, righteousness is something that we need to train in. In much the same way that if I follow my first instinct to sit on the couch and eat cake, I will be a lousy cyclist, if we follow our first instincts when

it comes to fairness, we are likely to be unhealthy. I don’t know about you, but my idea of fairness or justice usually favors me, my agenda, or my people. Fairly obviously that’s not justice, it’s privilege. And so we need to train. We need to practice.

Second, that training isn’t always easy. Something that you have to train in is usually something that will cause us to struggle, but struggle with a purpose. I lift weights, which hurts, because I know that as my muscles become stronger, next time will be easier. So training in righteousness will probably cause some pain. Perhaps we will hear from a voice of those marginalized in our culture, and we’ll feel guilt. Perhaps we’ll be confronted with the ways that we have been selfish rather than righteous. Perhaps we will struggle constantly with the voice of our own desires against the voice of God in us. But the truth is that the more we struggle and train, the easier it will get. And we might find ourselves choosing equity over our own self-interest.

Above all, this centers around the Scriptures, God’s loving word to us, because the Scriptures remind us of a few major points. Scripture reminds us that humans are broken, and the tendency to live for ourselves is baked in human experience. We are not alone in choosing poorly. It’s part of what it means to be a person. And yet, God continues to meet us in love. When we screw up, God picks us up. When we become too self-centered, God reminds us of others in our midst who need our care. And when we fail to live in righteousness, God puts his own righteousness on the line in the person of Jesus Christ, to become our righteousness. We become more righteous the more we lean into God’s love. So for my part, I’m going to keep spinning. I’m going to keep lifting weights, and I’m going to get ready for a tough cycling season. But more important, I’m going to dive into the Word



of God, to remind myself of what God has given me in the person of Jesus Christ, and to do my best to live in righteousness. I know it won’t be easy, but I’m very excited about it.

Won’t you join in with me?

– Jason Freyer

BETWEEN HERE AND THERE

One of my favorite lines of Jesus is found in his Sermon on the Mount beginning in Matthew, Chapter 5. Jesus repeats the line “You have heard it said...” as he begins to unravel some of the religious thought patterns of the time. Things like, “you have heard it said, ‘eye for eye and tooth for tooth,’” or “you have heard it said, ‘love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’” Jesus does two things in this section: first, he flips a few assumptions on their heads (“I tell you, love your enemies...”) and second, he expands our thinking (“I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment”). It’s this kind of work, which Jesus so often does, that makes me wonder about what other assumptions we have about our faith and our world that need to be unraveled.

Just this morning at the Tuesday morning men’s group, a conversation arose about an assumption the church had accepted for years. We asked, “What makes this group work, and why hasn’t something like this worked before?” Many of us recalled previous attempts at Men’s Ministry based on the assumption that men wouldn’t gather unless they had a project, “*something to do*.” In this case, Jesus may have replied, “You have heard it said that men need hammers, but I tell you...” We’d been functioning on the assumption that conversation, coffee, and donuts wouldn’t be enough to gather men together, and boy, were we wrong. Every single week our group meets for a vital and challenging time together, no hammers necessary.

The problem with having to undo our assumptions is that we first need to notice them. This can be an especially hard thing to do since we’ve often carried them around, unrecognized, for

years at a time. On top of that, even if we do notice them, it’s not uncommon to look around to see others carrying the same assumptions. It becomes a self-sustaining cycle. We end up holding onto our assumptions about life, faith, and the church because it seems like everyone is basically doing or believing the same thing we are. How could we ever break out of this cycle?

Well, for one place to start, we could try something new. Show up for a different Bible study, volunteer for a different event, try out another Sunday morning service. Sometimes a change of scenery or a shift in pattern is enough to spark a change or knock off the old rust. Second, you could spend time with a different group of people. More and more, I believe that we grow when we spend time with people from a variety of backgrounds; and remember, different generations *are* different backgrounds. Third, we can drop the pretense that “those people don’t have anything of value for me.” You were created in the image of God, and so were “they” (whoever they are), so their perspective is no better or worse than yours. The life of a Christian is one in which growth never finds an end.

I always end with an encouragement, but I actually have two this month. First, spend some time over the next few days combing through the assumptions that you carry into your faith. Second, do something to push back on those assumptions. I’d love to hear about the work God will be doing in your life! Feel free to drop me a line.

– Ed Sutter

“You have heard it said, ‘love your neighbor and hate your enemy’ but I tell you, love your enemies....”



The traditional location for the Mount of Beatitudes is on the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee, between Capernaum and Gennesaret. The actual location of the Sermon on the Mount is not certain, but the present site has been commemorated for more than 1,600 years. This photo shows the Sea of Galilee from the Mount of Beatitudes. Photo by Itamar Grinberg.

Sacrament Education

Sundays, March 22 & 29
9:45 – 10:45 a.m.
Fellowship Hall

Jesus called for the children and said, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God."

– Luke 18:16



Children in second grade and older are invited to participate in this series of two classes that include learning about the sacraments of Baptism and Communion. This is an opportunity for children and their parents to enjoy fellowship with other children and parents and to grow in their walk with Jesus. The parents will participate alongside their child, sometimes leading, often learning with them as well.

The classes include sharing and discussing the meaning and background of each holy sacrament, scripture reading, role playing with props, games, making a family poster and a communion banner. There will be light refreshments and an opportunity to practice receiving communion with real bread and juice. The children may bring their Bible if they have received one.

After the two classes, the children will be prepared to join the congregation for communion on Sunday, April 5. They will receive a special ribbon on that Sunday along with their name listed in the bulletin and announced during the service. It is definitely a very special time for a child and their family in the life of the church. For more information or to register before March 18, contact Natalie Brown at brown@westminster-church.org.

ADULT MINISTRY

Westminster Book Group

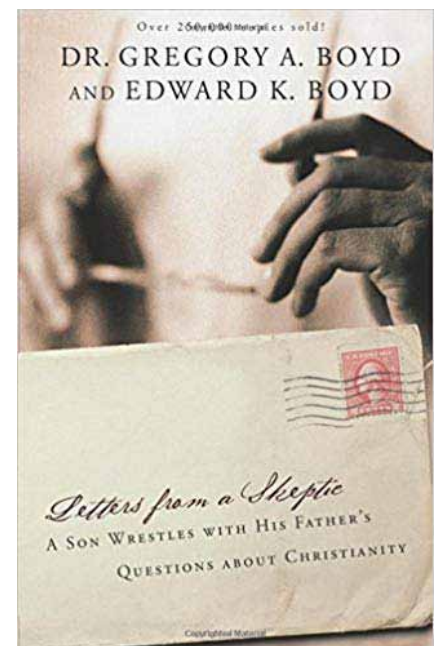
Wednesday, March 25
Noon – 1:15 p.m.
Yahweh Café

You are invited to bring a brown bag lunch and join us for the next meeting of the Westminster Book Group, when we will discuss *Letters from a Sceptic: A Son Wrestles with His Father's Questions about Christianity* by Dr. Gregory A. Boyd.

*Do all non-Christians go to hell?
How can we believe a man rose from the dead?
Why is the world so full of suffering?
How do we know the Bible was divinely inspired?
Does God know the future?*

Each response offers insights into the big questions, while delivering intelligent answers that connect with both the heart and mind. Whether you're a skeptic, a believer, or just unsure, these letters can provide a practical, common-sense guide to the Christian faith.

– Amazon



Lenten Book Study: Keeping the Sabbath Wholly

Keeping the Sabbath Wholly by Marva Dawn is so inspiring, we are offering it two times during the week!

Wednesday evenings

March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1

6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Room 231

Bruce Lancaster leading

Thursday mornings

March 5, 12, 19, 26, April 2

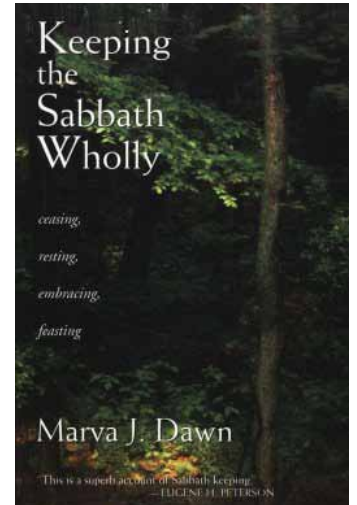
10:00 – 11:15 a.m.

Room 231

Louise Rogers leading

Time to cut the grass, wash the car, paint the house, and, oh, go to church. Dawn shows you why going to church shouldn't be just another chore. Through sound biblical theology and research into Jewish traditions, Dawn motivates you to cease work and relish this God-given day of rest and worship.

“Now imagine what a glorious relief it can be every week to know that in the rhythm of our lives there is one day in every seven on which we can cease our working. That knowledge gives us all kinds of energy to keep at tasks for the other six days, since we know that soon it will be time to rest. Furthermore, ceasing from work for one day enables us to return to it with renewed vigor as the new week begins. Thus, that day of ceasing empowers us both as we anticipate and as we remember its benefits.”



A Quiet Practice for Lent

The season of Lent is the Christian season of preparation leading up to Easter. While some people make it a practice to “give something up for Lent,” you are invited to add a time of prayer.

Come to Westminster's Galbreath Chapel for a time of quiet. You simply pray silently for as long as you like. There will be quiet music and candles, and some resources to guide and inspire you. Your soul will be rested, you will be centered on the Lord. If you only spend five or ten minutes, you are welcome, and you can stay for a longer time if you like. Galbreath Chapel will be available March 12 & 19, 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Lenten Devotional 2020

The season of Lent is a time of prayer and contemplation in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord at Easter.

This year a special *Lenten Devotional 2020* has been written by members of Westminster Presbyterian Church. You can read the daily devotional on the Westminster website at www.westminster-church.org. A limited number of paper copies of these treasured devotional books will be available.

Silence for our lives

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ADULT SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

“We need to discover the inner desert of the heart, that ‘still point’ of love within us that empowers us to do new things. This center of love is God, the inner power who seeks to evolve, to become more conscious and unified: ‘Divine Love which moves the sun and the other stars.’”

— Ilia Delio

“Prayer is sitting in the silence until it silences us, choosing gratitude until we are grateful, and praising God until we ourselves are an act of praise.”

— Richard Rohr

The Pocket Change Project 2020

The Pocket Change Project is back! For the 11th year in a row, the Cherub Choir at Westminster Presbyterian Church will be in mission ON a mission to support school children in Haiti. When the project first began, the goal was simple: collect enough pocket change during the season of Lent to sponsor one child in Haiti for a year. There were about 30 Cherubs and we had seven weeks. If each of them were able to collect \$8 we could combine our smaller contributions into one large contribution and succeed. But we only wanted pocket change.

Why? Because people don't usually think very much about the small coins in their pockets and purses. Added up, however, we believed that all those small coins could amount to something significant. So the overall vision for the project was that a handful of small coins – collected by a handful of small children – could affect the life of just one child in Haiti in a big way. Long story short, the children exceeded their goal that year and sponsored more than one child.

Since then, they've engaged the children's choirs at Southminster Presbyterian Church and Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church to join them. With the help of both their church families, who are invited to join the fun and toss their own pocket change in the collection plates one Sunday morning, they've been able to sponsor 110 children!

Please consider participating in our project by collecting your own pocket change this Lenten season and combining it with ours. Make it a family event, or a workplace effort. Or just do it on your own and collect what you can, regardless of the amount. Because little by little, coin by coin, child by child, big change starts small.

– Beth Ketterman



Save the Date

Westminster's Annual Spring Rummage-Recycling Sale

Collection Day
Friday, April 24
 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Sale Day
Saturday, April 25
 8:00 a.m. – noon; 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Questions? Please call Marilyn Hayes (412-831-5704) or Jan Baumann (412-835-6630).



Organist Paul Jacobs

Sunday, March 15
3:00 p.m.
Sanctuary

The Organ Artists Series of Pittsburgh, in cooperation with Westminster's Music & Arts Series, presents Grammy Award-winning Paul Jacobs, chair of the Julliard School's organ department and an internationally celebrated organist. Heralded as "one of the major musicians of our time" by Alex Ross of *The New Yorker*, Jacobs has performed to great critical acclaim on five continents and in each of the 50 United States. Known for his imaginative interpretations, charismatic stage presence, and playing demanding programs exclusively from memory, he has memorized the complete works of Johann Sebastian Bach, Johannes Brahms, César Franck, and Olivier Messiaen. An advocate for new music and an eloquent champion of the organ, Jacobs has performed numerous premieres of solo organ and organ-orchestra commissions.

Paul Jacobs will display his brilliance on the three-manual 81-rank Austin organ in Westminster's sanctuary. The all-Bach program celebrates the 20th anniversary year of Jacobs' 18-hour marathon performance of the complete solo organ music of Bach on the 250th anniversary of the composer's death. The concert will include Jacobs' engaging spoken commentary.

Tickets available at the door (cash, check, or card) or online at www.organseries.com. General admission: \$12. Students free with valid ID.

A reception will follow the concert.

A limited number of complimentary tickets are available for Westminster members at the church receptionist's desk during office hours.



photo: Ficari

Paul Jacobs Plays Bach at Westminster: Twenty Years Later

On Friday, July 28, in the year 2000, young organist Paul Jacobs made musical history at Westminster Presbyterian Church. It was the 250th anniversary of the death of Johann Sebastian Bach, and Jacobs, age 23, paid an extraordinary tribute to this great composer. He played the complete solo organ works of Bach by memory over 18 hours on the sanctuary's magnificent Austin organ. At the time, Jacobs was studying organ at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. But his home was in Washington County, not far from Westminster. So when this brilliant student of the organ decided to make his name in the musical world, he chose Westminster. He knew that the Austin organ was among the best in Pittsburgh and that the location, with plenty of parking, was perfect for his friends, family, and the many music lovers who would come to hear him play.

And they did come, in great numbers, from all over the Pittsburgh area. There was a spirit of excitement in the sanctuary – people knew something special was happening. Yet the marathon was informal with no pressure to sit still or stay for a set amount of time. People felt free to come and go. Some came early in the morning before work. Others came in the evening. Many stayed for hours at a time, often returning once, twice, or even more. Quite a few fans made a point of hearing both the first and the last pieces. It was a remarkable extended day of music, the highlight of that summer at Westminster Church.

Members of the choir volunteered to keep Jacobs supplied with nutritious snacks and beverages. Other volunteers welcomed the many visitors. It was a unique opportunity to show Christian hospitality to a wide variety of people. Even now, people who attended still talk about the experience. This past summer, a local reporter came by the church to ask about Paul Jacobs' upcoming 20th anniversary of his Bach marathon. The reporter had come in July 2000 and is delighted that he'll get to hear Paul Jacobs play Bach again on March 15.

Bill Evans, the Director of Music and Arts at Westminster in 2000, graciously hosted the talented young organist who is now world famous. As the designer of Westminster's Austin organ, Bill knew that the organ would sound beautiful for 18 hours of Bach. Bill loved to nurture young talent, and he proudly watched Paul Jacobs achieve great success. Although Bill recently passed away after a long illness, he was able to come to Paul Jacobs' most recent concert at Westminster, in 2017. He enjoyed it immensely. And no doubt he would have rejoiced at seeing and hearing this special Bach concert on March 15.

Plan to come and help Paul Jacobs celebrate the 20th anniversary of his 18 hours of Bach, a feat that required enormous energy, musicality, and a bold confidence in the power of Bach's organ music to bring people out in the heat of summer to be moved by the power of the pipe organ and Bach's genius.

– Sara Kyle

“Paul Jacobs is one of the great living virtuosos... he is utterly without artifice.”

The Washington Post

Then Sings My Soul Concert

Sunday, March 29
4:00 p.m.
Sanctuary

Marianne Cornetti,
mezzo soprano
Bryan Sable, piano

Celebrating 30 years of an operatic career and a lifetime of music! Suggested donation is \$20 with all proceeds benefitting South Hills Interfaith Movement (SHIM).



Join a Choir!



Junior Choir

If you are in third, fourth, fifth, or sixth grade, come join the Junior Choir on Wednesdays from 4:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. We have a great time, growing in fellowship and faith, and learning how to help lead the eleven o'clock worship service, usually the first Sunday of every month. We are constantly learning new music and are just starting to work on our Mother's Day Musical. So if you want to check it out, come and stop by! If you have any questions, contact Holly Jones at hwine@jwineassociates.com.

Youth Choir

Announcing the formation of a Youth Choir (grades 7-12) whose primary focus will be participating in the Bridge Service. Holly Jones, the director of the Junior Choir, is organizing a new opportunity for singers and instrumentalists to meet weekly to share their love of music and grow in faith and fellowship. Rehearsals begin on Wednesday, March 11, from 4:00 to 4:45 p.m. Meanwhile, if you have any questions, contact Holly Jones at hwine@jwineassociates.com.

TOWN HALL SOUTH



Dan Rather
October 6, 2020

With more than 60 years spent covering the biggest events and news stories of our time, Dan Rather is a living witness to history. During 44 years at CBS, including 24 years

as anchor of the CBS *Evening News*, he interviewed every president since Eisenhower and personally covered history-making events from the Kennedy Assassination through Viet Nam, Watergate, Tiananmen Square, the fall of the Berlin Wall, 9/11, and the Iraq Invasion. Rather is a recipient of the Edward R. Murrow Lifetime Achievement Award. He is also the author of the *New York Times* bestseller *What Unites Us: Reflections on Patriotism*, which takes on the toxic political atmosphere and polarized opinions of our time with a hopeful reminder of the core ideals that all Americans share.



Kevin Surace
November 10, 2020

Kevin Surace is a Silicon Valley innovator and visionary who focuses on artificial intelligence (“AI”), robotics, and automation and how they will impact our

jobs and our future. Named “Entrepreneur of the Year” by *Inc.* magazine, a “tech pioneer” by the World Economic Forum, and one of the “Top 15 Innovators of the decade” by CNBC, Surace is widely recognized as one of the most influential innovators of our time. With 28 U.S. patents, Surace is responsible for numerous technologies that are commonplace today, such as the first cellular data smartphone and first human-like AI virtual assistant. Surace has also helped to develop, patent, and produce green technologies that reduce energy usage in buildings.



Richard Stengel
February 2, 2021

As longtime Editor of *TIME* magazine and former Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, Richard Stengel has seen and led the transformation of mainstream

media. As a *New York Times* best-selling author and journalist, Stengel speaks widely on fake news and disinformation, the case for national service, diplomacy, and leadership lessons derived from reporting on the world’s greatest leaders. In his most recent book, *Information Wars: How We Lost the Global Battle Against Disinformation and What We Can Do About It*, Stengel describes how governments are using and spreading disinformation, largely by way of social media, in an effort to attack democracy and American values, and stresses that we must find a way to combat this ever growing threat to democracy.



Dr. Temple Grandin
March 16, 2021

photo: Rosalie Winard

Temple Grandin, Ph.D., is the most accomplished and well-known adult with autism in the world. She was diagnosed with autism in 1950, at a time when her parents were told she should be institutionalized.

Dr. Grandin now works as a professor of animal science at Colorado State University and speaks around the world, inspiring and motivating others through her story. She has been featured on NPR and major television programs, including *The Today Show*, *48 Hours*, and *20/20*. She has been named on *TIME* magazine’s annual list of the world’s most influential people, and her life is depicted in the Emmy Award-winning HBO film *Temple Grandin*. Her current best-selling book on autism is *The Way I See It: A Personal Look at Autism and Asperger’s*.

2020-2021 SEASON



Leon Logothetis

December 8, 2020

Leon Logothetis is a global adventurer, motivational speaker, and philanthropist. While working as a broker in London, Logothetis felt uninspired and depressed. He decided

to give it all up for life on the road and discovered that anything is possible if you act with kindness and harness the power of human connection. As host of the Netflix series *The Kindness Diaries*, Logothetis circumnavigated the globe, relying on the kindness of strangers and giving life changing gifts to unsuspecting good Samaritans. He has visited more than 100 countries and traveled to every continent. He has also written several books, including *Amazing Adventures of a Nobody*, *The Kindness Diaries*, and *Live, Love, Explore: Discover the Way of the Traveler – A Roadmap to the Life You Were Meant to Live*.

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For online registration with a credit card, visit www.townhallsouth.org. A processing fee of \$5.00 will be charged for each online subscription.

How did you hear about THS? _____

**Best available reserved seats will be assigned. For group reserved seating, all membership forms must be submitted together.*

Heartbreak Hotel

by Betty Digby

He kept watching her crawling up the steps to the second-floor sanctuary, then slowly pressing her crippled arthritic fingers into the keys of the piano to provide music. This is like a "Heartbreak Hotel," he thought as he stood in the chancel, looking out at the scattered few of aged people attending the service. Then he sang his heart out: "Ride on, King Jesus" – a rousing spiritual that his mentor John Erickson and his voice teacher, Sandra Graziano, had selected for another occasion.

"Mom, I've got to help them," my son, John David, told me as we rode home after the service. He talked to his dad, John Erickson, and Mary Burton (the part-time minister of the church). All encouraged him for the next year...plus!

For every worship service at that vintage Methodist church on Sycamore Street, on top of the bluff known as Mt. Washington, during his senior year at Upper St. Clair High School, John David provided music – instrumental, vocal, solo and ensemble, and pianists. John David used this as his Eagle Scout Project with Troop 366, housed in Westminster Church. He enlisted his friends from the youth choirs at Christ Methodist and Westminster Presbyterian Churches, the band or orchestra members of Bethel Park and Upper St. Clair High Schools – who were all enthusiastic about helping, some returning several times if the experience grabbed at their hearts.

The members of the Sycamore Street church were so grateful, they also wanted to do what they could to help the church. So they found one in their midst who could still drive, and that person provided transportation for several seniors who came to church every Friday morning to fold bulletins or do whatever else was needed. My mother often joined them.

I held myself straight, and high, as I watched my husband, an Eagle Scout from Mt. Washington in 1940 and participant in the Scouting program most of his life, look our son in the eye and present to him in 1986 the Eagle Scout Award – and our son responding with his Promise: to do his duty to God and country...to other people...and to himself. It was a proud yet very humbling moment, knowing the effort and heart so many others had contributed along the way.

Dave Hilty, who was Scoutmaster during those years, is still a member of Westminster Church, where the Court of Honor took place. My husband and I were present for the 50th Anniversary of Troop 366. And I'd like to attend a 75th Anniversary celebration next year (in 2021), if one is being planned.

Westminster member Betty Digby is an active member of The Writers of Westminster.

Deaths

Joseph Andrew Senge
Scott Robert Senge
February 1

Louise Burnette
February 9



Save the Date

Day Retreat

Friday, June 19
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Spiritan Center
Bethel Park, PA

Plan to join us for a day of relaxation and spiritual renewal.
Details to follow!



Financial Report

As of January 31, 2020

General Fund Contributions

January 2020 Actual	\$304,545.26
January 2020 Budget	\$260,090.01

Year-to-Date Income Statement

YTD Income	\$340,973.08
YTD Expenses	\$163,892.83

NOTE: \$160,000 in prepaid pledges was recognized in the month of January.

We thank you for your generous support through the first month of the year.

Session Update

At its meeting on February 17, Session received and welcomed 12 new members. It also received two reports: the 2019 Statistical Report with 1,681 members as of December 31, 2019, and the 2020 Financial Report.

The Property Commission reported on Forward in Faith projects that are in the planning stages and will begin soon: repairs to the spire, paving the parking lots, and refurbishing Fellowship Hall.

The Personnel Commission reported on approved holidays for 2020. Session approved communion dates for 2020.



Easter Flowers

Spring and Easter are coming! The Chancel Guild is accepting memorial/honoree contributions for Easter flowers. Make your check payable to the **Chancel Guild** and mail to Peg Kinsey at the church office or place it in the collection plate on Sunday morning with your form. Your contribution must be received by **Friday, April 3, 2020**, so your gift can be listed in the Easter bulletin.

Please indicate if you wish to pick up your flower following the 11:00 a.m. worship service or if you would like to have it delivered to a shut-in.

EASTER FLOWERS ORDER FORM

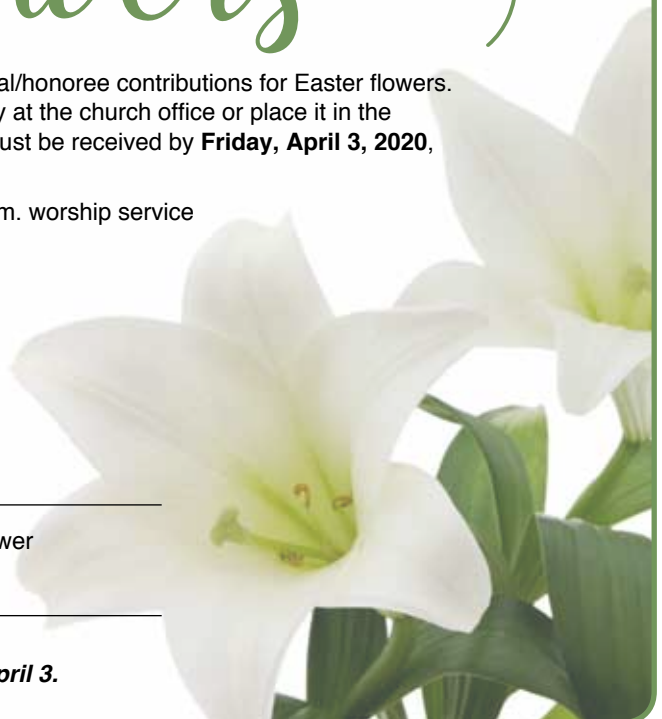
In memory In honor

Name of memorial/honoree (PLEASE PRINT)

Please deliver flower to a shut-in I will pick up the flower

My name _____

Please return this form to Peg Kinsey in the church office by **Friday, April 3.**





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Almighty God,

our redeemer, in our weakness we have failed to be your messengers of forgiveness and hope. Renew us by your Holy Spirit, that we may follow your commands and proclaim your reign of love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Book of Common Worship, 2018