



THE SPARE

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Pittsburgh, PA

My Friends,

“Thinking Thanks-filled Thoughts for a Thanks-giving Life” – that’s a mouth-full, which is what all of us will have a few weeks from now. But what I’m thinking about is more than a mouth full of deliciousness. How do we have a life full of thanksgiving?

Deborah Norville wrote a book several years ago, titled *Thank You Power*, on the importance of gratitude, the power of giving thanks. She wrote about a couple of professors who spent a number of years studying people who deliberately chose to remember to think thank-filled thoughts, who were asked to do it whether they were grateful or not.

What they found was that people who worked on remembering to think thank-filled thoughts:

- felt better about their lives,
- were more optimistic,
- were more energetic,
- were more enthusiastic,
- were more determined,
- were more interested,
- were more joyful,
- exercised more,
- had fewer illnesses,
- got more sleep, and
- were more likely to have helped someone else.

And the impact on your own life is just the beginning, they say, because the impact of your life on others is even greater – which doesn’t take much to realize. Who would you rather be with? Who makes a greater positive impact on your life? Somebody who is always grumbling? Or somebody who’s grateful?

We can literally brighten the day and change the life of somebody else by being thankful. A little smile changes things, brightens the day, lifts somebody up. There are so very many good things in your life right now. Whatever they may be, you always have plenty of great reasons to be exceedingly thankful.

It is not happy people who are thankful; it is thankful people who are happy.



Of course there are problems and challenges and difficulties. And some people have re-written Psalm 118:24; they say: “This is the kind of day that I have, so I will complain and be mad in it!” Instead of complaining about what you don’t have, take Psalm 118:24 to heart as the energy for your faith: “This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!”

So thinking thanks-filled thoughts for a thanks-giving life – this is the day, yesterday was the day, tomorrow is the day the Lord has made, rejoice and be glad in it! Keep your life focused on the goodness, as Paul says, “...hold fast to what is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21); for what begins in your mind goes to your heart and ends up out in your life.

Thinking thanks-filled thoughts for a thanks-giving life – more than a mouth-full, may it be for you a life-full: “Give thanks in all things, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

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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EILEEN MURRAY, *Administrative Assistant*

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

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

KATHY LONG, *Director*

NURSERY SCHOOL

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CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

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Staff email addresses and phone
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telephone number, email address, and a title.
All articles are subject to editing.

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



*Thanksgiving
Eve*

WORSHIP SERVICE

WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 27

7:30 P.M.
SANCTUARY

Upcoming Events

**03
NOV**

All Saints'
Sunday

Stewardship
Sunday

Fall Festival

**09
NOV**

Rummage-
Recycling Sale

**24
NOV**

Christ the King
Sunday

**27
NOV**

Thanksgiving
Eve Service
7:30 p.m. in the
sanctuary

Remembering All the Saints

During worship on November 3, the Sunday after All Saints' Day, we give thanks for the lives of Westminster's members who have died over the past year as we also give glory to God for the ordinary, holy lives of the believers in this and every age. And we pray that we may be counted among the company of the faithful in God's eternal realm.

For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God.

– Job 19:25-26

Robert Black
Helen Boal
Gladys Camaioni
Isabelle Coltman
Gail Coulter
Velsie Cronmiller
Glenn Dandoy
Edith Dyck
Melvin Eisel
Diane Evangelista
Doris Farmer
Gilbert Fitzsimmons
Richard Frost
George Geiser
William Getty
Violet Gullick
Shirley Hanson
Helen Jacob
Robert Keaney
Shirley Kopac
Nancy Kunkle

Fred Langenberg
Phyllis Majesky
David McCandless
John Miller

Martha Miller
Wilburn Morris
Clark Nicklas
Carolyn Ochs
Karen Ralston
Marjorie Rogers
Amy Sanders
Raymond Sauer
Jeffrey Scott
Elinor "Nan" Stuart
Albert Thompson
John F. Thompson
Albert Zelt

The Faithful of Every Generation

For Presbyterians, All Saints' Day is a time to rejoice in all who through the ages have faithfully served the Lord. The day reminds us that we are part of one continuing, living communion of saints. It is a time to claim our kinship with the "glorious company of apostles...the noble fellowship of prophets...the white-robed army of martyrs" (Te Deum). It is a time to express our gratitude for all who in ages of darkness kept the faith, for those who have taken the gospel to the ends of the earth, for prophetic voices who have called the church to be faithful in life and service, for all who have witnessed to God's justice and peace in every nation.

To rejoice with all the faithful of every generation expands our awareness of a great company of witnesses above and around us like a cloud (Hebrews 12:1). It lifts us out of a preoccupation with our own immediate situation and the discouragements of the present. In the knowledge that others have persevered, we are encouraged to endure against all odds (Hebrews 12:1-2). Reminded that God was with the faithful of the past, we are reassured that God is with us today, moving us and all creation toward God's end in time. In this context, it is appropriate for a congregation on the Sunday after All Saints' Day to commemorate the lives of those who died during the previous year.

– From the *Companion to the Book of Common Worship*
 Geneva Press, 2003, pp. 150-151

A Prayer Meditation for All Saints Day

By Safiyah Fosua

*We give you thanks, O God, for all the saints who ever worshiped you
Whether in brush arbors or cathedrals,
Weathered wooden churches or crumbling cement meeting houses
Where your name was lifted and adored.*

*We give you thanks, O God, for hands lifted in praise:
Manicured hands and hands stained with grease or soil,
Strong hands and those gnarled with age
Holy hands
Used as wave offerings across the land.*

*We thank you, God, for hardworking saints;
Whether hard-hatted or steel-booted,
Head ragged or aproned,
Blue-collared or three-piece-suited
They left their mark on the earth for you, for us, for our children to come.*

*Thank you, God, for the tremendous sacrifices made by those
who have gone before us.
Bless the memories of your saints, God.
May we learn how to walk wisely from their examples of faith,
dedication, worship, and love.*

Source: The United Methodist Church, Discipleship Ministries Resources

Shake the Floor

A few weeks ago, we gathered as a church for a Town Hall put on by the Finance Commission to discuss the church's situation following our former business administrator's improprieties. Obviously this situation has been a serious one, and those who have been on the front lines of dealing with it have given of their time, talent, and indeed treasure to bring us back to a place of wholeness. And so we gathered to get an update on where we have been, where we are, and to look forward to the future.

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m., which on a Wednesday is another milestone for me. At 7:00 each Wednesday evening, a group of about 40-50 teenagers gathers in the room just above Fellowship Hall for a time of worship. We sing songs, we dance, we laugh, and when we jump hard enough, we know that the floor literally shakes. And so at around 6:50, I realized that we had an opportunity to make the youth of the church's presence felt. I sent a text to Ed, who would be leading worship, and encouraged him to do an upbeat song to start.

True to form, just as Bruce had finished the "amen" of his opening prayer, a low rumble started just above Fellowship Hall. I knew that the floor would shake. What I didn't know is that the doors at the far end would open and close on the beat, banging loudly to the tune of whatever worship song they were singing upstairs. I quickly grabbed the mic to answer the first question of the evening: "That sound is your very vibrant and worshiping youth ministry."

Now, am I crazy, or did that sort of change the tone of the meeting?

To be sure, the open wound of our financial situation is something that needs to be addressed. Many of us feel betrayed, angry, saddened, anxious, worried, or afraid of what all that has transpired means for us as a congregation. All of those feelings I'm sure were present in the room that night as we gathered to hear from our leaders. But then the ceiling started shaking, and we introduced a new set of emotions. Laughter. Joy. Gratitude. Hope. And the (not so) little children were leading us.

It made this youth pastor grateful.

I am grateful for this church. I am grateful for the years of witness, mission, outreach, compassion, and hospitality that we have offered our community and the world. I am grateful that our youth budget is twice that of the next closest church I know, proving that Westminster is committed to youth ministry. I am grateful that the structure of the building is sound enough for kids to dance and laugh and sing and praise the name of the Lord Jesus. I am grateful that 40-50 kids call this place home at least once a week, if not more.



Following that meeting, I was struck by the profound impact that gratitude can have on us, even and especially when things get tough. Gratitude for what we have makes dealing with what was taken a bit easier, does it not? Gratitude for the youth of our church gives us hope for what the shape of the church to come looks like. Gratitude for the richness of God's blessing allows us to share those blessings with the world, one in dire need of God's blessing. Starting our days with gratitude can be like recalibrating a compass, reminding us what the true north of our hearts ought to be.

So here's a challenge for you and for me this Thanksgiving month. My plan is to start each day by listing at least three things for which I am grateful. In the few days that I've been working out this plan, I actually have a hard time keeping my list below 10-20 items. There is much for which I am grateful. I think starting my day thinking about what I am grateful for has made my mindset and my spirit tuned to the right frequency for the rest of the day. It doesn't take away any of the hard work that needs to be done. But it does make the work a bit more enjoyable to have gratitude as the default position.

And if you really can't find anything for which to be grateful, join us upstairs at 7:00 p.m. on a Wednesday. You really can't help but smile when the floor is shaking.

– Jason Freyer

BETWEEN HERE AND THERE

There's no doubt that there will be plenty of talk about gratitude in the next several weeks. Truth be told, it's one of my favorite parts of the season – not the conversations of gratitude in particular, but the few moments we all turn our attention to the concept. There is much for which we can be thankful, and no, that doesn't discount the truth that many of us *also* have much to mourn, grieve, and struggle with. Life's difficulties do not nullify life's blessings.

My intent, however, is not to throw another log on the "it's time to be thankful" fire. Instead, I'd like to look at the opposite side of that coin. So many people in our communities and in our families truly struggle to feel any notion of gratitude. Maybe you're in that boat. Maybe this season is difficult for reasons as foundational as its name: Thanksgiving. If I'm convinced that I have nothing to be grateful for, or that my pain simply outweighs my joy, then why would I "give thanks"?

I wonder how the community of Westminster would look if each one of us made it a goal to create opportunity for *others* to be thankful. Simply put, we know that grumpy and calloused people are out there. They might never appreciate you. But what if you gave them the *opportunity* to appreciate you? When I meet someone who is grumpy and calloused, you know what I do? I get grumpy and calloused, which probably confirms all of their suspicions about me and the world around them. In one small exchange, the "grump factor" grows in two separate lives!

But it's not just grumpiness that hinders gratitude. We know that hopelessness and isolation, and desperation and loss all play a

major role as well. Again, simply stated, we know that hurting and broken people are out there. In those lives we can work toward connection, and perhaps through that connection there becomes relationship, maybe even an opportunity for gratitude. We're all fooling ourselves if we believe that simply reminding people to be thankful can actually lead them to feel thankful.

For many, it doesn't require all that much to experience gratitude, but it doesn't happen in a vacuum. I'm not sure there is a better way to experience gratitude than through relationship. It seems to me that we ought to be the sort of community that connects with one another, that smiles with one another, that reaches out to the hurting, the lonely, the desperate, and yes, even the grumpy. If we are going to be a place where people can "find their place, their passion, and their peace" (as it claims front and center on our website), then we've got to get out there and meet some folks.

My hope for you (yes, you) in this season is that you find reason to be thankful, not because you have an awesome life, but because someone reached into your life and made a difference. My hope for everyone else is that someone would reach into their lives as well. Maybe you're just the person to give someone else a reason to be thankful.

I'm glad that you're a part of this community. And if you're struggling to find your place, your passion, and your peace, then let's talk about it. I'd love to hear your story.

– Ed Sutter



FROM A DAUGHTER'S HEART

Giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

– Ephesians 5:20

November is one of my favorite months of the year because of the Thanksgiving holiday and what Thanksgiving represents to me. I have always looked forward to my family getting together with extended family, with precious moments of sharing and thanking God for all our blessings.

I have fond memories of making stuffing with my grandmother and pumpkin cream cheese cake with a very dear cousin. When my husband came along, Thanksgiving expanded to include him and my in-laws and of course our children. A common Thanksgiving family tradition is to share something you are most thankful for. I enjoy including our children in preparing a side dish or dessert, setting the table, and making a decoration for the centerpiece. The children over the years have made placemats with their little handprints, and these tokens remind me of moments when they were smaller.

Thanksgiving is a time of thankfulness and gratitude for all blessings. The phrase “count your blessings” simply tells us to remember and appreciate all the good we have in our lives. I am most thankful for my husband and children, all my family and good friends, health, working in Children’s & Family Ministry, and being of service. I am also thankful for things like sweet moments with my kids, the beautiful sunshine, and cool breezes on an autumn day.

November is also significant in my family because we celebrate several birthdays. My mom and dad both have November birthdays and so does my father-in-law. Birthdays are a time of celebrating with joy and happiness.

The Thanksgiving holiday and birthdays are occasions when it seems easy to be thankful. But what about the challenging and difficult times when we experience a trying season? It is not as easy to feel thankful and give thanks.

For me, November is also a reminder of a sorrowful time with the passing of my grandfather a few years ago at Thanksgiving. He was the patriarch of the family – wise, strong, thoughtful, giving, humble, and funny too. His passing at that time was extremely hard. And while I know it was his time to go and be with the Lord, I still miss him tremendously and wish he were here to watch our children grow. My mother recently found a meaningful card that she had given to my grandfather years before his passing. The card included a Winston Churchill quote, “We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” My grandfather was such a giving person. He loved his family unselfishly and unconditionally. He was an inspiration and his example of caring and serving others left an indelible impression on me.



I have learned a lesson about being thankful, regardless of the circumstances I face, whether joy or sorrow, happiness or sadness, celebration or grief: acknowledge our Lord in all my ways and thank him for his abiding presence in my life. Jesus promises to always be with me, and I praise and thank him for his faithfulness.

I sincerely wish all of our Westminster families a blessed Thanksgiving!

With a grateful heart,

Natalie Brown

Sundays at 9:45 a.m.
Galbreath Chapel

All are welcome!

November 3

Church Analytics— A Look at Westminster in the Context of Pittsburgh Presbytery's Trend

Jack Lolla

Over 39 years, Dr. Jack Lolla has been active in Pittsburgh Presbytery. He is currently the minister of Bellevue United Presbyterian Church. He served as assistant minister at Southminster Presbyterian Church (1980-83), minister of the Presbyterian Church of Plum Creek (1983-2009), and senior minister of Northmont United Presbyterian Church (2009-2016). Drawing on his extensive research as well as his experience as a Presbyterian pastor in our presbytery, Lolla will discuss Westminster's history as a dynamic congregation among the many Presbyterian churches in Pittsburgh.

November 10

Standing on the Edge of Tomorrow: An Interim's Perspective of WPC

Bruce Lancaster

Where are we? Where are we going? Are we almost there? These questions, asked on a family trip, are often asked in the transition between pastors. Our interim pastor, Dr. Bruce Lancaster, will discuss his first six months here at Westminster and offer his perspective on those questions for our church.

The following two seminars address ethics in healthcare. Both speakers come from the Center for Bioethics and Health Law at the University of Pittsburgh. The center brings together clinicians, scholars, and researchers from many schools and disciplines across the university to investigate issues in bioethics and health law by employing empirical, philosophical, humanities, and legal research methods.

November 17

Conscientious Objection in Health Care: Deciding When to Accommodate Health Professionals

Mark Wicclair

More and more health professionals are refusing to provide a medical service for reasons of conscience and seeking accommodation. The seminar will address the following questions: 1) What is conscientious objection? 2) What is at stake for health professionals who request accommodation? 3) When should health professionals be accommodated?

Dr. Wicclair is Professor of Philosophy, Emeritus at West Virginia University. At the University of Pittsburgh he is Adjunct Professor of Medicine, part-time instructor in the Master of Arts in Bioethics Program, and Core Faculty, Center for Bioethics and Health Law. His primary research and teaching interests are in bioethics and applied ethics; he has published extensively in these areas.

November 24

Suffer the Little Children: Disability, Childhood, and the Church

Jessica Benham

In 1968, NBC10 ran a scathing exposé of the Pennhurst State School, revealing that the institution, which housed children and adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities, was rife with abuse and neglect. The title of the exposé, *Suffer the Little Children*, echoed the words of Jesus in Matthew 19:14, "Suffer the little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for such is the kingdom of heaven." And yet, the vast majority of institutional residents were well into adulthood, with an average age of 40. This seminar explores questions including: What are the implications of referring to adults with intellectual disability/developmental disability (ID/DD) as children, especially with such religious overtones? What does it even mean to be childlike? And how should the church change its treatment of people with ID/DD?

A member of Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community, Jessica Benham received her MA in bioethics in 2019 from the University of Pittsburgh; her thesis is titled *Childhood and Disability: Ethical Considerations*. She is currently completing her doctorate in communication at Pitt. An advocate for rights of individuals with autism, she serves as Director of Development at the Pittsburgh Center for Autistic Advocacy.

Silence for our lives

P
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“In the Stillness of the quiet, if we listen, we can hear the whisper of the heart giving strength to weakness, courage to fear, hope to despair.”

— Dr. Howard Thurman

“We collect data, things, people, ideas, ‘profound experiences,’ never penetrating any of them...but there are other times. There are times when we stop. We sit still. We lose ourselves in a pile of leaves or its memory. We listen and breezes from a whole other world begin to whisper.”

— James Carroll in *Silence and Solitude*

“Let us accept the Invitation, ever open, from the Stillness, taste its exquisite sweetness, and heed its silent instruction.”

— Paul Brunton

OUTREACH

Rise Against Hunger

Saturday, December 7

Rise Against Hunger (RAH) is an international hunger relief organization that distributes food and life-changing aid to the world's most vulnerable, mobilizing the necessary resources to end hunger by 2030.

The food packaging program provides vulnerable families and individuals nourishment as well as additional skills training or services that support the difficult journey out of poverty. These volunteer-packaged meals support children's attendance at school, incentivize adults to learn a new trade, or bolster clinic patients' health in order to bring about holistic and transformational development in each of their lives.

You too can be a part of this good work. This is a hands-on opportunity for all people of all ages. Invite your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers. We will have a special packaging room for children four years of age and under to volunteer with their adults.

Please sign up now to work a shift at Westminster, packaging meals with Rise Against Hunger (previously Stop Hunger Now) on Saturday, December 7. Go to www.westminster-church.org for details and to sign up.



Fall 2019 Rummage-Recycling Sale

Saturday, November 9

Regular sale: 8:00 a.m. – noon

Closed for lunch: noon – 12:30 p.m.

Bag and half-price sale: 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

Collection Day

Friday, November 8

8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Please donate only clean and usable items. Magazines, textbooks, large pieces of furniture, and broken or unusable items will not be accepted. Leftover goods will be donated to local mission and recycling efforts.

WE NEED YOU!

Volunteers are needed both Friday and Saturday. Join the Collection Day Crew any time between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. for great fellowship, food, and shopping. On Saturday we need at least 60 volunteers. Each person will have a specific job. We also need donations of salads and desserts for the volunteers' lunches both days. For questions or to volunteer, please call Marilyn Hayes at 412-831-5704 or Jan Baumann at 412-835-6630.



Holiday Fundraiser for Angel Ridge Animal Rescue and Westminster's Pet Ministry

Featuring Susan Castriota

Sunday, December 1

2:00 – 4:00 p.m. in the WROC

Author/Illustrator

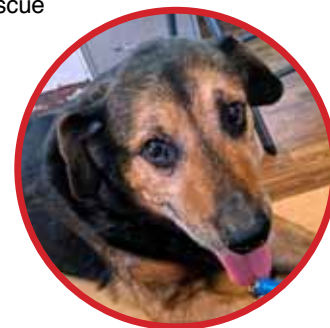
Book Reading/Signing



Wilson & Bella's Christmas Wish! follows Wilson, the adopted poodle, and his dog friend Bella on their quest to find a foster home for their friend Holly, a very special shelter dog. This story incorporates the beauty and traditions of Christmas and provides wonderful lessons for children. Filled with charming illustrations, each page has a little tale about the meaning of Christmas: friendship, generosity, hope, togetherness, tradition, celebration, and joy. Children will learn about fostering animals, how providing a temporary home for a pet alleviates overcrowded shelters and helps to transition a pet into their "fur-ever" home. Written and illustrated by award-winning author Susan Castriota.



- Admission is free and open to the public
- Meet adoptable dogs from Angel Ridge Animal Rescue
- Bring a food donation for Angel Ridge Animal Rescue and receive a Wilson Gift Basket raffle ticket
- Autographed books available for purchase
- 2020 lottery calendars, gift basket raffle, and "Real Life Rescue" greeting cards for purchase
- A portion of the proceeds from every sale benefits Angel Ridge Animal Rescue



Benefits of Exercising for Arthritis

When you feel achy and stiff from arthritis pain, exercise may be the last thing on your mind. According to the American College of Rheumatology, exercise and arthritis can and should coexist. People with arthritis who exercise regularly have less pain, more energy, improved sleep, and better day-to-day function. Physically active individuals are healthier, happier, and live longer than those who are inactive and unfit. This is especially true for people with arthritis.

Westminster Recreation and Outreach Center (WROC) offers arthritis specific exercise classes. These classes are low-impact and help most people with arthritis increase their joint flexibility and find relief from arthritis pain. The program features gentle, joint-safe exercises with light weights, balls, and bands. The class is taken from a seated position and is adapted for various fitness levels.

If you're concerned the class is too much or not enough, try your first class free before making a decision. Ongoing classes are five dollars and offered twice a week.

Mondays: October 28 – December 16

9:15 – 10:05 a.m.

Pay per class: \$5

Location: Fitness Room (above the gym)

Instructor: Amy Taylor – AFAA and CPR certified with 14 years of experience

Wednesdays: October 30 – December 18 (no class 11/27)

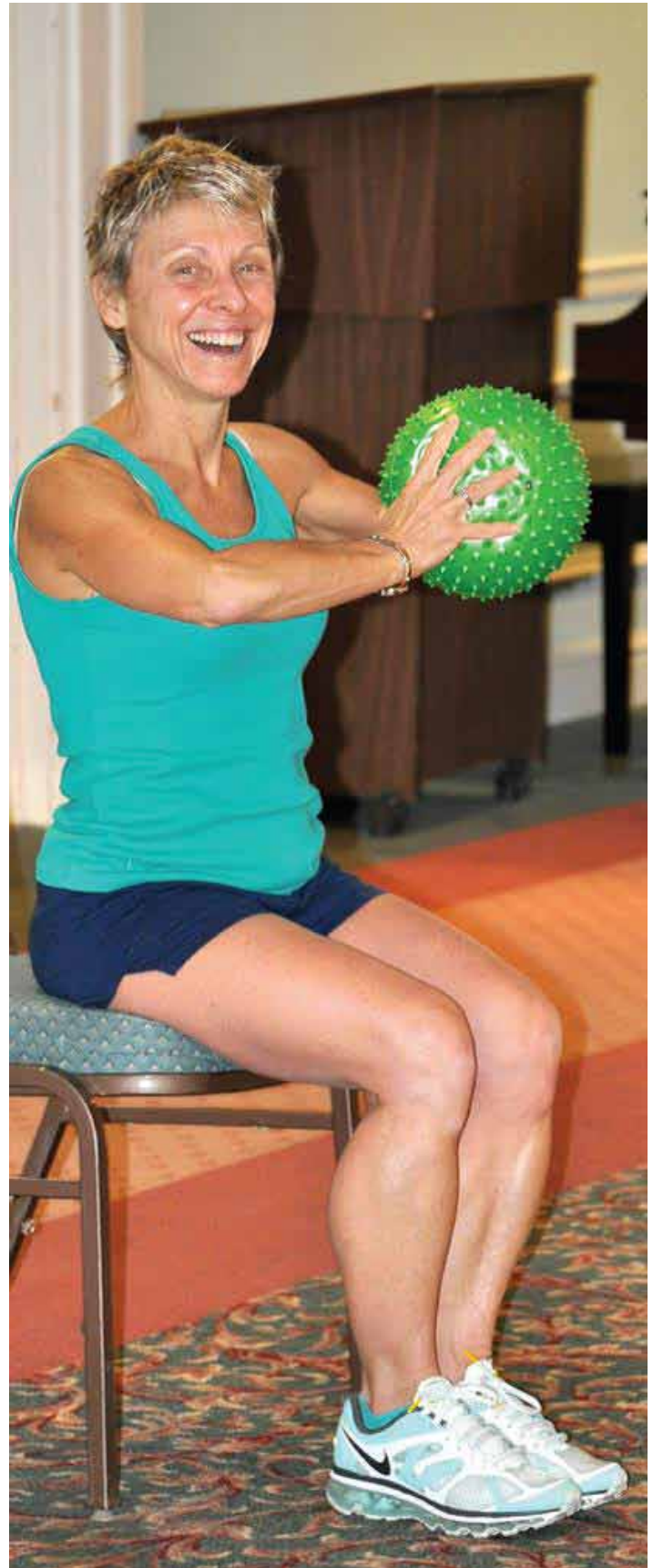
10:00 – 10:50 a.m.

Pay per class: \$5

Location: Fitness Room (above the gym)

Instructor: Anne Brucker – MEd, Exercise Design. Anne has worked for 40 years as a teacher, lecturer, and researcher in the health industry.

Studies show that mild to moderate exercise is beneficial for people with arthritis. However, everyone's circumstances are different. Be sure to talk to your doctor about your exercise plan.



The harvest season and holiday in November invites us to count our blessings and offer thanks.

One church family has particular reason to give thanks this year. Last summer, Jill Dietrich received the phone call we all fear. Their son was in a serious accident and was fighting for his life in a trauma unit in Youngstown, Ohio. Immediately she went to be by his side, which began the odyssey of healing in body, mind, and spirit for Doug. Throughout this time Jill shared her faith journey with along with prayers at each step along the long difficult months. Many at Westminster Church joined with the family and friends of Doug in prayer.

Below you can read of the family's account of struggle and triumph. We can all be thankful that "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).

— Louise Rogers

Thanksgiving for You

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you.
— Philippians 1:3

Sometimes life springs a surprise on us and as unprepared as we believe we are for the event, we must step into a new world of understanding and even deeper faith. As I entered the traumatic events of June 1, faith and trust were all I needed to carry. From that moment on, the prayers you lifted to our Savior held me, my family, and friends throughout each day and night.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me, Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me. — Psalm 23:4

On that day, when my son, Doug, was life-flighted from Mercer to St. Elizabeth's Mercy Hospital in Youngstown, I was told by the EMT crew that he didn't have time to be taken to Pittsburgh, he simply wouldn't make it. He arrived at the Trauma 1 Center at Mercy with a severe traumatic brain injury, and we were catapulted into the medical world of mere survival and advanced neuroscience. Thy will be done.

After arriving at the hospital, I sat in the ER praying for Doug's soul and his life. As a team prepped him for surgery, I was called into a small waiting room where the kindest soul, the neurosurgeon, joined me to briefly explain that he would be performing the cranial surgery scheduled in an attempt only to save Doug's life. Before he left, I asked him if I could pray with him. He agreed and I grabbed his hands and approached the Throne with praise, pleadings, and a desperate request for mercy and the use of Dr. Kainth and his team to deliver Doug. Hours later, God's grace and mercy delivered Doug.

God worked through Dr. Kainth and his blessed team, holding Doug in his healing hands throughout a very precarious and grueling June, and then blessing him again throughout July with a dedicated and compassionate brain rehab staff in Chicago, and a caring and insightful follow-up medical staff in Pittsburgh. Each of these teams was orchestrated by the Great Physician to recover Doug's life and health as requested by your coveted prayers.

But the support of your prayers throughout the past 100 days held us gently and with great strength, as God healed and delivered our son.

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. — Romans 12:12

Throughout the days and weeks following the accident, the coping and learning curve was extremely steep, and the volumes of medical terminology, procedures, and neuroscience were overwhelming. But the support of your prayers throughout the past 100 days held us gently and with great strength, as God healed and delivered our son. Unending praise.

Our Loving God held Doug and returned him to his current healthy and focused condition. The healing will continue for more than a year, but he is healing, and we will be ever grateful for your prayers and the prayers of thousands, who lifted Doug and each of us surrounding him into our Maker's hands when we were in need. Praise. Doug returned to his career a couple of weeks ago and is enjoying his restored life with new vigor. Praise him.

I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify Your Name forever. — Psalm 86:12

Blessed Thanksgiving,

Jill Dietrich and family

Donations of Appreciated Assets

Contributors to Westminster Presbyterian Church may give appreciated assets to the church (such as stocks or mutual funds) without being required to pay tax on the capital gains. This can be accomplished either by delivering certificates to the church or by electronic transfer of these assets to Westminster Presbyterian Church as payment on your pledge. Please note that these gifts must be long-term investments. Short-term capital gains do not qualify for the tax benefits.

The procedure for each of these types of donations is quite simple.

CERTIFICATE DONATION

Present the certificates to Cindy Bingham, church business administrator, at the church office.

The owner(s) must sign and date the certificates. If all of the shares of the certificate are being donated to Westminster Presbyterian Church, the owner(s) must sign a form letter to confirm the donation to Westminster Presbyterian Church.

If a fraction of the total shares of the certificate is being donated to Westminster Presbyterian Church, the owner(s) must sign a form letter to confirm the donation to Westminster Presbyterian Church and a request for reissue of the remaining fraction of certificate shares.

An acknowledgement of the receipt of the stock shares will be given or sent to the donor(s), followed by a confirmation letter of the sale, per share average price for the date of the gift, and total value of the donation.

ELECTRONIC TRANSFER

Notify your broker that you wish to donate shares to Westminster Presbyterian Church through Morgan Stanley Smith Barney.

The transfer should go to:

DTC 0015

Account no. 827-105717-515

It is important that you or your broker contact Cindy Bingham at the church office, 412-835-6630x201, informing us that a transfer is being made. This will ensure that proper credit is given to you on your church giving statement.

A letter of confirmation of the sale will be sent to the donor(s). This letter will state the date of sale, per share average price for the date of the gift, and total value of the donation.

If you have further questions, please call Cindy Bingham at 412-835-6630x201.

Online Giving with MyWPC

MyWPC is a secure online tool that helps members stay connected with Westminster's activities and events, as well as manage personal information and giving.

With the current stewardship season, MyWPC makes pledging and giving a quick and easy process while allowing you access to monitor your giving throughout the year.

Visit the church website at www.westminster-church.org and click on MyWPC in the upper, right-hand corner. Read about all of the benefits of using this valuable church tool.



When you're ready, click on the Login to MyWPC button:

- If you've used our system for event registration, type in your email address and password.
- If you haven't, or if you're not sure, 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.
- Please be sure to remember your username and password for future use.



For instructions on using MyWPC to set up your 2020 pledge and to make online donations, please click the Give button, also in the upper, right-hand corner of the church website.

Questions about online pledging, giving, or using MyWPC may be directed to Anna Hiner at 412-835-6630x207 or hiner@westminster-church.org.

Financial Report

As of September 30, 2019

ACTUAL YEAR-TO-DATE	
Actual Revenues Year-to-Date	\$1,555,000.18
Actual Expenses Year-to-Date	\$1,547,924.61
NET:	\$7,075.57

BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE	
Budget Revenues Year-to-Date	\$1,540,715.09
Budget Expenses Year-to-Date	\$1,653,616.44
NET:	\$(112,901.35)

September 2019 Revenues.....\$135,267
 September 2018 Revenues.....\$182,971

Session Highlights

At its meeting on October 21, the Session received new members who will be received by the congregation on October 27. Paul Conley, chairman of the Pastor Nominating Committee, presented the Ministry Information Form (MIF) for the senior pastor, which was unanimously approved by the Session. This will soon be posted on the denomination website.

The Commission Reports were heard, including a significant report regarding the finances of the church. Pastors Jason Freyer and Louise Rogers summarized the recent court proceeding along with future action. The meeting concluded with prayer.

Christmas Poinsettias

The Chancel Guild is accepting memorial or honoree contributions for poinsettias. The beautiful poinsettias throughout Westminster during the Christmas season are the result of generous contributions by our members and friends. Use the form below and make your check payable to the Chancel Guild. Mail the form and your check to Peg Kinsey at the church office or place it in the collection plate. Contributions must be received no later than **Monday, December 16**, so your gift can be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

Please indicate below if you plan to pick up your flower or whether you would like it delivered to a shut-in.



Christmas Memorial and Honoree Poinsettia Order Form

Memorial Honoree

Name of Memorial/Honoree (PLEASE PRINT)

Deliver poinsettia to shut-in Will pick up poinsettia on Thursday, December 26, or Friday, December 27 (9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.)

My Name _____

Please return this form to Peg Kinsey in the church office by Monday, December 16.



**WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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Pittsburgh, PA 15241
www.westminster-church.org
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www.youtube.com/user/WestminsterUSC

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from God's glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

— Colossians 1: 11-14

