



THE SPARE

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Pittsburgh, PA

Fruitful Actions

My Friends,

There is a scene in Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance* in which the hero, Frederick, asks for the assistance of the police to capture the pirates. The police gather in the town square, and the women begin to sing, "Go ye heroes to glory!" The police sing back, "We go, we go, we go!"

They keep singing and singing and singing, standing in the town square, but they never leave. They just sing about going.

The Corinthian Christians were acting this way. They had promised to give to Paul's collection for the Jerusalem church, but a year had passed and nothing had been given. Paul wants them to act on their promise, "Let your enthusiastic idea at the start be equaled by your realistic action now!" (2 Corinthians 8:11, *The Living Bible*)

It's true, isn't it? Some people have enthusiastic ideas, but just run in place and nothing happens. Some people act on what they promise, and the world is made a better place.

Reverend Greg Bentley of Fellowship Presbyterian Church in Huntsville, Alabama, wrote about "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations." I like that he calls them "practices," things you do over and over, again and again, attitudes you adopt and actions you take to make your church a better place for faith to bear fruit.

As Westminster Presbyterian Church moves along this road of transition, growing more and more as a fruitful congregation, I ask you to consider how and where you personally put into practice:

- 1. Passionate Worship:** With intense desire and fervent spirit, we honor God for who God is and what God has done with the purpose of connecting people to God. This type of worship is not performance but rather devotion and celebration expressing our love of God.
- 2. Radical Hospitality:** We offer the absolute utmost of ourselves, our creativity, and our abilities to offer the gracious invitation and welcome of Christ to others. We pray, plan, and work to invite others and help them feel welcome and to support them in their spiritual journeys.
- 3. Intentional Faith Development:** We deliberately and purposefully engage in Bible studies, daily devotion, church school classes, small groups, and retreats to mature in our faith and in our knowledge and love of God.
- 4. Risk-taking Mission and Service:** We cooperate with God in moving out of our comfort zone to engage in work in the church, community, and world that alleviates suffering and injustice to improve the conditions of others in the name of Christ.
- 5. Extravagant Generosity:** We joyfully and sacrificially give and share of all that we have in order to make a positive difference for the purposes of Christ.

Thanks and blessings,

Bruce Lancaster



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Read the *Spire* online at: 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. 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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 Sanctuary

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 Sundays
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 WROC

* 8:30 a.m. worship moves to the courtyard for the summer beginning Sunday, June 2.

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

The Power of Pentecost

Pentecost started as a Jewish festival commemorating God's giving the Law to the Israelites 50 days after they escaped from slavery in Egypt.

Just days after the risen Jesus ascended to heaven, his (Jewish) disciples gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate Pentecost. But God transformed the occasion by giving them the Holy Spirit, as he'd promised. The disciples saw something like flames among and on them, heard a rushing wind, and began speaking in many languages. The pilgrims in Jerusalem heard about Jesus in their native tongues (see Acts 2:1-12).

In Christian churches, Pentecost was once as important as Christmas and Easter. Today, congregations still observe it in special ways, using the color red to symbolize the Holy Spirit's power and singing hymns that express the intensity and excitement of the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Sunday following Pentecost celebrates the completed Trinity, praising Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The following prayer to the Holy Spirit helps bring the power of Pentecost into our hearts. Originally a popular spiritual song from medieval Italy, it was translated in the 19th century as the hymn "Come Down, O Love Divine" (No. 282 in *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal*). The text paints a vivid picture of the loving and comforting power of the Holy Spirit.



*Come down, O love divine, seek out this
soul of mine
And visit it with your own ardor
glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my
heart appear,
And kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions
turn
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let your glorious light shine ever on
my sight,
And clothe me round, the while my path
illumining.

And so the yearning strong with which
the soul will long
Shall far outpass the power of human
telling;
For none can guess God's grace, till Love
creates a place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.*

Bianco da Siena (d. 1434)
Trans. Richard Frederick Littledale, 1867

Upcoming Events

09 Pentecost
JUN

13 Organ
JUN Summer
Series begins

16 Trinity Sunday
JUN

24 Barefoot
-28 School
JUN

PNC – Next Steps

Now that the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has been elected, what happens next?

The search for a new pastor in the Presbyterian Church is just that, a search. We don't have a bishop to appoint someone; we don't have a full-time denominational headhunter to find one for us; we have "us" and the Holy Spirit to seek that person God has already called. It's up to the PNC to make the journey of the search process. (And, no, I cannot be a candidate for pastor.)

I want to share with you the process which the PNC will follow in calling the next pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church. The PNC will be posting a timeline of their process for the church to follow.

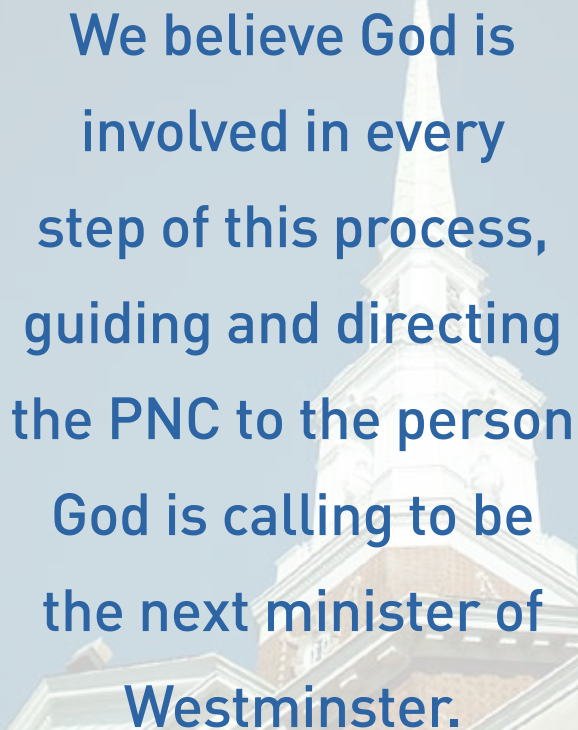
The PNC has already met with representatives from Pittsburgh Presbytery for its orientation. The first major task of the PNC is to complete the Ministry Information Form (MIF) which describes the church, the community, the activities of the congregation, and the qualities and attributes the congregation wants its next minister to have.

The committee has begun gathering information for the MIF with the church survey and will be conducting listening sessions to gather more information. This is a most important document because it is the first thing that the ministerial candidates will see in regards to the church. The MIF will be approved by the church session and then will be sent to presbytery for approval by the Committee on Ministry. Once approved, it is sent to Louisville to be entered into the denominational data base and published on the website of the PCUSA under the "Opportunities List" for any minister who might be interested to see.

After this, the PNC begins receiving PIFs (Personal Information Forms) of ministers who are seeking a new call. These PIFs come from several different sources.

1. The Denomination – It will run a computer match – matching the gifts of a minister with the gifts the church is looking for in its next minister.
2. Self Referrals – Ministers looking at the "Opportunities List" can send their PIFs directly to the PNC.
3. Church Requests for PIF – If the PNC is given a potential candidate's name by a member of the congregation or from another source, it can request that the minister send his/her PIF to the PNC.

Once the PNC begins receiving PIFs, it will evaluate each PIF to see if the minister might be a possible match for Westminster. Because Westminster is a very healthy and vibrant church, the PNC will receive a large number of PIFs.



We believe God is involved in every step of this process, guiding and directing the PNC to the person God is calling to be the next minister of Westminster.

As it narrows the list of candidates, the PNC will listen to sermons or view a church's website of a minister's preaching, make visits, conduct interviews in person or by Skype, and check with references. This takes a great deal of prayerful consideration and diligent discernment. In other words, it takes time; and as you can understand, this is a very confidential process.

When this process concludes and the members of the PNC believe they have the person of God's own choosing for Westminster Presbyterian Church, and the minister feels as though he/she is being called by God to this place, the presbytery will approve the candidate and the candidate will then be presented to Westminster for the purpose of extending a call.

As you can see, this is a long and involved process which ordinarily takes between 12 and 18 months to complete, but we believe God is involved in every step of this process, guiding and directing the PNC to the person God is calling to be the next minister of Westminster. Please be in prayer for the PNC and offer each member words of encouragement because they have long hours and a lot of hard work ahead of them.

– Bruce Lancaster
Interim Senior Pastor

WESTMINSTER SEMINARS

Sundays at 9:45 a.m.
Galbreath Chapel

June

Ethics

Four seminars in June will look at various aspects of ethics that we encounter in our lives. Some ethical dilemmas touch us directly and others are part of public dialogue, but all affect us as practicing Christians. These seminars offer us a chance to learn and to offer our own perspectives. Please join the conversation – all are welcome.



June 2 – Ethics in Church

Sheldon Sorge

The Rev. Dr. Sheldon Sorge, Executive and General Minister for Pittsburgh Presbytery since 2009, will discuss a range of ethical issues facing pastors and congregations. In addition to his decade of work in Pittsburgh, Sorge has extensive experience as a pastor in congregations in North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia. He also served the national Theology and Worship Office in Louisville, Kentucky.

Ethical issues for pastors and churches seem clear enough – abuse of power, financial impropriety, and sexual misconduct. But there is more – classism, racism, ageism, plagiarism, theft of copyrighted materials, conflicts of interest, pastoral care that has no regard for someone’s contributions to the church, etc.

June 9 – Ethical Mistakes in Public Health despite Good Intentions

Ted Kyle

Health policy advisor and pharmacist Ted Kyle will address how good intentions in public health can go wrong. His widely-read daily commentary, published at conscienhealth.org/news, reaches an audience of more than 15,000 thought leaders in health and obesity.

Sometimes people become so committed to an idea that they lose sight of their larger goals. “Fanaticism consists of redoubling your efforts when you have forgotten your aim,” said George Santayana. We will examine a few examples of good intentions that went awry in public health policies over the years when people strayed from their ethical grounding.

June 16 and 23 – Real World Perspectives on Corporate, Personal, and Sexual Ethics

Regis Becker

Regis Becker, attorney and board member of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, will discuss his perspective on a series of ethical dilemmas and concerns based on his 40+ year career in law enforcement, Fortune 500 companies, and nonprofit organizations. Becker, a Pittsburgh native, is a graduate of Penn State and received his law degree from Duquesne University. He currently serves as the interim CEO of the U.S. Center for SafeSport in Denver, an organization formed by the U.S. Olympic Committee and chartered by the U.S. Congress to investigate sexual misconduct in sport.

The final seminar in June shows how a caring church can help us all as we prepare for the years ahead.

June 30 – Living Legacies

Louise Rogers

“Living Legacies” will be a discussion on getting our affairs in order to help our families. While this may seem to be a far off topic, organizing our records and making our wishes known for the future can be a gift we give our loved ones. Bring your experiences, thoughts, and resources for this enlightening talk.

July Series

Caring for Creation: Faith, Science, and Change



Sponsored by the Westminster Peace and Justice Team

These three Peace and Justice Seminars are offered to help participants broaden their perspective and understanding of the implications of climate change and the need for potentially effective responses to the impact on our planet and all God's creation.

No seminar on July 7

July 14

Our Christian Call to Respond

Hunter and Ruth Farrell

Why do we care? As Christians (and Presbyterians) are we called to care about the environment? How does our moral and faith perspective inform our response and action?

The Rev. Dr. Hunter Farrell is the director of the World Mission Initiative at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. As director of WMI, Farrell leads the mission focus that seeks to engage students in what God is doing in the world through short-term cross-cultural mission experiences and institutional partnerships. In January 2019, Farrell led a trip titled "Philippines – The Environmental Crisis and the Churches' Response." The learners participated in a joint course on the environmental crisis as perceived by Filipino Christians and how the churches are leading society for environmental justice.

July 21

The Science: Evidence and Effects

Larry J. Schweiger – Changes We Can't Ignore:
A Grandfather's Lament

Ned Ketyer – Health Concerns in a Warming Climate

Larry Schweiger has spent his life as an active leader in conservation and environmental preservation efforts, locally and nationally. He has served as president and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation, PennFuture, and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. He has long believed creation care is a moral issue and a vital part of the solution to environmental threats and has been involved with partnerships offering field-based education in academic institutions. Larry played a critical role in the passage of the 1990 Clean Air Act amendments and has received many awards for his leadership in conservation and environmental efforts. Larry has authored two books focusing on climate change including his current work, *A Grandfather's Lament: The Betrayal of Our Children*.

Dr. Ned Ketyer is a retired pediatrician with special interests in developmental pediatrics, preventive medicine, and environmental health. Before his retirement, Ketyer was a Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Currently a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics Council on Environmental Health, he serves on the Breathe Collaborative in Allegheny County, raising the awareness of healthcare providers about the region's historic and contemporary air pollution and health challenges. He is a consultant for the Southwest Pennsylvania Environmental Health Project, a board member of Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania, and a Climate Reality Project Leader.

July 28

Panel Discussion – Time for a Change: Coming Clean

Where do we go from here? What can an individual do to reduce our carbon footprint, from changes in our homes to changes in government policy?

Increasing Our Efficiency

Lucyna de Barbaro, PhD, Manager of Market Services, Conservation Consultants, Inc., manages Sound Home Plan, a market-rate home performance/energy auditing program that helps homeowners reduce energy use in their homes. She helped to design, construct, and certify her Passive House Squirrel Hill Duplex. She also works in the region to reduce climate change and to advance Passive House adoption.

Influencing Public Policy

Perry Recker, Citizens' Climate Lobby, focuses on public policy, advocating for changes in institutional cultures, local, state, and regional issues about climate change mitigation. As a member of the Citizens' Climate Lobby, he is concerned with problems associated with climate change and community development, in the context of trying to reform the language of a Christian worldview perspective into one that is more dynamic and developmental.

Embracing Solar Here and Now

Greg Winks, Solbridge Energy Advisors, focuses on the economic and environmental benefits of solar energy in Westminster Pennsylvania. He has worked on both residential and grid-scale development with two of the largest solar companies in the state. In 2017, he co-founded Solbridge Energy Advisors with the purpose of changing the dynamics of going solar in Western Pennsylvania. He is also vice president of Solar Unified Network of Western Pennsylvania, a solar advocacy trade organization.



Geese

A few weeks ago I did what I have wanted to do for a long, long time. I rode my bike from Pittsburgh to Washington, DC. Well, I almost made it. About 20 miles from the finish, my bike broke and I had to hitch a ride. But all the same, I put in 257 miles of grueling trail on the Great Allegheny Passage and the C&O Canal Towpath. I can tease countless stories from the trip, but you will need to be present to hear them. Dale the Trail Elf. Bill's. Broken Wheels. A Revolutionary War reenactment. Curious yet? Come get a cup of coffee with me and I'll share more!

The first night we camped at a spot right along the Youghioghny River. As we were setting up our hammocks for the night, a flock of four or five geese flew overhead. The geese landed on the water beside our hammocks and began their honking, which I hoped and prayed would not last through the night. I've always loved watching waterfowl land on water. There's something so graceful about their approach and quiet landing that I find fascinating. So I took note of our friends on the water, shut my eyes, and got a long night's sleep.

The next day, we continued following the river, and the geese continued following us. They were with us all day on the Great Allegheny Passage. They came along with us on the Potomac River right next to the C&O Canal. Everywhere I went, there were geese. They were everywhere! I know it was a different flock everywhere we stopped, but still I got the feeling that they were following us along the path.

The Celtic Christian tradition believed that the wild goose was actually a better placeholder image for the Holy Spirit than the dove, so many of us associate this goose with her.* It makes sense. A dove brings to mind images of peace and quiet and serenity, and the Spirit can surely be about these things. But a

wild goose? Those things are well...wild! They go wherever they please. They do whatever they want. They are stubborn as all get out and they are impossible to tame. That to me sounds like the Holy Spirit.

So I had this image when lying in bed the last night of our journey, of these geese chasing after us. When the trail was easy, when the sun was out, when things were going our way, we could hear the steady honk of the goose in the distance on the river. When it was raining, when the mud was too thick for bikes to pass, when those bikes broke under the weight of our gear, the geese kept honking. What a great image for our God! Always present. Always pursuing. Always untamable.

We're about to take off for the summer as a church, and I'm betting that you've got some adventures up your sleeve. Family vacations. Business trips. Quiet work weeks around the lawn and garden. Wherever this summer is about to take you, keep an eye out for that wily Holy Spirit. She's almost always in hot pursuit. Whether she shows up as a literal wild goose, or just that nagging feeling that God is with you and on your side, pay attention to the ways the Spirit wants to show up. It might just mean you're on to something.

See you in the fall, everyone!

*There is a split among theologians on this, but many believe that the Holy Spirit actually exhibits the more feminine qualities of God. While God is certainly not contained in a single gender, I think it's probably okay to refer to the Spirit as she.

— Jason Freyer

BETWEEN HERE & THERE

I helped to lead a backpacking trip with Pine Springs Camp a few weekends ago. The trip was for men of all ages, and I was asked to speak to the guys about something from scripture. I ended up landing on Jonah, and in my digging around in the story of Jonah I found a treasure trove of insight that I think applies to all of us.

Jonah is one of those stories that most of us think something like, “I learned about that when I was a kid. Nineveh, storm, fish, listen to God. Got it.” But the story is so much denser and richer when you really take some time with it. First of all, there are only four chapters in the whole book, and each chapter serves a distinct role. Chapter 1 finds Jonah refusing God’s call. Jonah’s response to God is basically, “No. Anything but that, God!” His refusal is met with struggle and pain. Here’s the first kicker: Jonah’s choice puts others at risk. His decision to run from God ends up dragging others down with him. It makes me wonder, who am I, or who are you dragging down because of a decision we’ve made?

Chapter 2 finds Jonah in the belly of the beast (literally). It can’t really get any worse, as scripture makes clear. Jonah says that he cried out from Sheol – the land of the dead – in the hopes that God would hear him. Jonah has learned from the error of his ways, for now. Chapter 3 finds Jonah spit out onto dry land. Talk about useful metaphors! When you’ve been released from the belly of the beast and have your feet back on dry land, you have new insight, new opportunity, a chance to make a change. That’s exactly what Jonah does; he travels to Nineveh as God had originally commanded and Jonah speaks the word of God to the town. He urges them to repent, to turn back to God. And it works. Through the power of God in him, Jonah was able to point to redemption for an entire town of people.

Jonah is not happy with this.

Chapter 4 finds Jonah railing against God’s forgiveness. In Jonah’s mind, the Assyrians (those who lived in Nineveh) are the bad guys. They deserved destruction, not redemption. Throughout this story God has shown Jonah second, third chances, and Jonah is happy to take those chances. But it’s a much different story when God starts giving out new life to others.

Now remember, the Book of Jonah only has four chapters. So where does this story leave off? Where’s the happy ending with Jonah joyfully responding to the word of God? It’s not there. The book ends with God saying in essence, “Come on Jonah, I forgive, it’s what I do, you know that about me. Why wouldn’t I do that for the people of Nineveh?” And that’s it. End of story, roll credits, close the curtain.

Not quite the way we tell it in Sunday school, is it? We never get to see what happens to Jonah. Last we heard he was sulking alone out in the desert on the outskirts of Nineveh. You see, I believe that we can come face to face with the unique call that God places on each of our lives and *still* be unhappy, unfulfilled, frustrated. Our response, our choice of joy is still necessary. We won’t always be happy with what God calls us to – even if we know it’s the right thing.

I could go on and on about this story, but you should dive into it for yourself. It’s only four chapters; take a few minutes and sit down with it for a while. I’d love to hear what insights God gives you.

– Ed Sutter



Reinhardhauke [CC BY-SA 3.0]

Through the power of God in him, Jonah was able to point to redemption for an entire town of people.

We won't always be happy with what God calls us to – even if we know it's the right thing.

GLIMPSE OF MY WORLD

When I first planned this month's article, I envisioned it as a probably stuffy and undoubtedly long-winded explanation of why I think it is important for the church to provide a vacation Bible school program. Which sounds boring – even to me, and I love VBS!

Instead, maybe you won't mind if I tell you about a recent experience I had here at Westminster.

Several months ago we tried an experiment: I invited the members of two Westminster groups that are close to my heart to join me in a "prayer buddy" program.

Each of the fifth and sixth graders in our JAM youth group program made a refrigerator magnet (their first name written on a cardstock heart, decorated as they wanted, with a strip of magnet on the back). I took the magnets with me when I visited the Wednesday 4:00 p.m. Bible study. I asked the adult members of that group to choose one child's magnet and to pray for that child by name each day in their usual prayer routine. They really didn't know much about the children for whom they were praying, just their names and the facts that they were in early middle school and somehow connected to Westminster.

When I told the kids what the adults were doing, they asked for the opportunity to pray for the adults. So, back I went to the Bible study group and asked them to make their own (much less decorated) version of the magnets. Then I shared the magnets with the kids.

In random conversation over the next few weeks, the kids and adults in both groups shared stories with me about their experiences praying for their "buddy." "I feel a real connection to this child," said one of the adults, "which is weird because I really don't even know her." "It feels like I have an extra grandpa I never met," explained one of the kids. "I wonder if she knows I'm praying for her." "Do you think it makes a difference if I pray for him, if he doesn't even know it?"

I figured that folks would continue to pray for one another for a while, and then the other demands of life would creep in, and it would fade away, like so many other things we try out for a while. And, to be honest, I was satisfied with that.

But God had a bigger plan.



The adults asked if they could possibly meet the kids. The kids thought it was a terrific idea – "but only if we do a Bible story, JAM style," they said.

So we set it up. The adults joined us for a Wednesday evening. In small groups, adults and kids introduced themselves to each other. They shared their favorite foods and what they liked to do, their favorite sports and lots of the other sorts of things you talk about when you meet someone for the first time. In pairs (one kid and one adult partnered together) they packed hygiene kits that will benefit families in Western Pennsylvania through Global Links and FOCUS Pittsburgh. Then we shared a Bible lesson, JAM style (think: really bad melodrama, sound effects, and lots of laughter, followed by insightful conversation – it really has to be experienced). And finally, the pairs prayed for and with each other. It was amazing.

It was amazing to watch kids and adults, those who are 10 and those who are 90+, talking and laughing, learning and praying together. It was amazing to see connections made and beginning to grow. It was amazing to see God at work in a roomful of perfectly ordinary, everyday folks.

But most of all, it was amazing to see the church grow, right in front of our eyes. Because our kids need to see and feel the love of God in the way someone takes the time to learn their name, look them in the eye, listen to the worries (and joys) on their hearts, pray with and for them. Turns out, we older folks need pretty much the same thing. And that is why it all matters.

– Robin Pyles

A Day Away: Spiritual Day Retreat

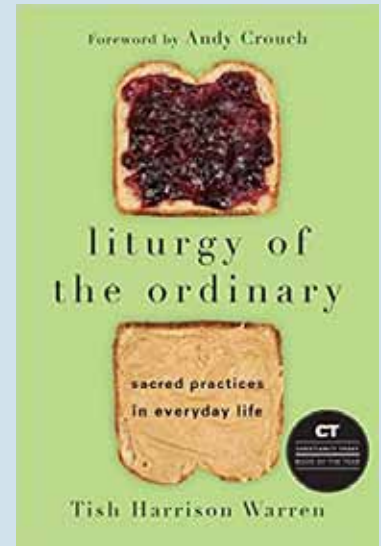
A retreat with Bruce Lancaster and Louise Rogers

Our lives are hectic. It's easy to lose track of ourselves and lose sight of God in our daily living. We need to create a space where our own spirit can breathe and God's spirit can dwell within us.

You are invited to step away for a day, for a retreat, at the nearby Spiritan Retreat Center in Bethel Park for a time of relaxation, study, and fun. Enjoy a time apart and find ways to live a life more aware of God's presence every day.

Our gathering will be on Friday, June 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The cost for the retreat is only \$25.00. This includes lunch which will be provided at the Spiritan Center. We will be discussing the book *Liturgy of the Ordinary*, so you may want to pick up a copy prior to the retreat.

To register, please visit our website at www.westminster-church.org or call Barb Myers at 412-838-9214.



"We are marked from our first waking moment by an identity that is given to us by grace. An identity that is more real than any other identity that we will don that day."

Christianity Today's 2018 Book of the Year Winner

MISSION

Better Nutrition, Better Tomorrow

Join in our Offering of Letters June 2, following all services.

As people of faith, we are called to care for one another, and Westminster has a rich tradition of doing that both locally and globally. Many members have volunteered both locally and in places like Haiti, India, and Malawi. The *Offering of Letters* allows us to help in a different way, through shaping our federal budget to better serve those on the margins, both here and abroad. So we are again partnering with Bread for the World, a national Christian advocacy organization which Westminster has supported for ten years. The focus this year is on funding for global nutrition, and we are asking that the amount requested be raised to \$250 million.

Hunger particularly affects children – half of child deaths worldwide are linked to malnutrition. Those who survive are often stunted both physically and mentally for life. Most of these children are not visible to us, and so it is easy to put this picture aside. But



breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

many of us several years ago read Richard Stearns' startling book, *The Hole in Our Gospel*, where he compares the number of children dying daily of malnutrition to "100 jetliners crashing every day." That jarring fact of 26,500 children dying daily of malnutrition makes us pay attention and wonder how we can help. Our financial gifts and personal service to those in need are certainly critical and need to be continued. In addition, though, we are calling for more federal funding in this area, and our letters to Congress are our way of doing that.

When and where? North entry and the Bridge

Tables will be set up after the 8:30 and 11:00 services and at the Bridge service. There will be lots of background information, and we will provide sample letters, your legislators' contact information, stamps and envelopes, paper and pens. You can sign a letter, edit it to make it your own, or compose one yourself.

Cycling Group Ride on the Montour Trail

As the weather gets nicer, it's time to enjoy the world from two wheels!

If you are interested in doing a weekly road bike group ride, where no one gets dropped or left behind, sign up today. We'll meet at the Tandem Connection each week for a ride on the trails, free of cars. Don't have a bike? No problem! Rent one at the Tandem Connection. Participants must be 16 years of age or older.

Wednesdays, June 12 – August 7

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Free; registration required.

Facilitator: Rev. Jason Freyer, associate pastor for Westminster and bike enthusiast



Tandem Connection – right on the trail!
5 Georgetown Road
Canonsburg, PA 15317

Yoga4cancer (y4c)

Yoga4cancer (y4c) is a research based, specialized yoga methodology addressing the specific physical and emotional needs left by cancer and its treatments. Whether you are a cancer patient, survivor, newly diagnosed, in treatment, or gathering strength, yoga has been proven to safely and effectively manage both emotional and physical side effects. Yoga has many benefits, but it is especially beneficial to those who have been diagnosed with cancer and helps to:

- Build strength and flexibility in safe ways
- Stimulate the immune system and build bone density
- Cultivate a sense of well-being
- Create hope and community
- Empower all to take control and enhance quality of life

Instructor Shawna Locke is a certified y4c (Yoga4Cancer) teacher and joins the WROC fitness instructor staff this summer. As a y4c instructor Shawna has received advanced training and is sensitive to your concerns as a post-operative patient or someone currently undergoing chemotherapy and/or radiation treatments.

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

Mondays, June 3 – August 26

5:45 – 6:45 p.m.

Cost: \$77 (Pay per class: \$10)



wroc.westminster-church.org

MUSIC & ARTS SERIES

Westminster Organ Summer 2019

Take a Refreshing
Musical Break
on Thursdays

June 13 – July 25
5:00 p.m.

Westminster Organ Summer returns for its ninth season beginning June 13. This series of six free organ concerts coincides with the Upper St. Clair Farmers' Market in the church's south parking lot. It's a winning combination of great music and fresh food.

At 5:00 p.m., come to the cool sanctuary and enjoy 30 minutes of exciting organ music played by outstanding performers. Each organist reveals the beauty of the magnificent Austin organ in a distinctive way, so no concert sounds like another. Beyond that variety, the programs feature an appealing range of sacred and secular music.

These free concerts are casual and relaxed, enjoyable for all ages. The organ console will be placed in the middle of the chancel so that you can watch the organist's feet and hands at work. After the concert you are invited to greet the organist, take a close look at the console and pipes, and ask questions. Plan to take a break on Thursday afternoons and delight in wonderful music from the king of instruments.

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.

June 13
Ken Danchik
St. Paul Cathedral

June 20
Edward Alan Moore
East Liberty
Presbyterian Church

June 27
Michael Hammer
Third Presbyterian Church

July 11
Chaz Bowers
St. Bernard Church

July 18
Stephen Schall

July 25
Daniel Ficari
The Juilliard School

CARING COMMUNITY

Congratulations 2019 Graduates

HIGH SCHOOL

Alpharetta High School
Cole Edward Hamel

Baldwin Whitehall High School
Andrew Golvash

Chartiers Valley High School
Doug Krausa

Central Catholic High School
Jack Null

Peters Township High School
Natalie Page Daube

Upper St. Clair High School
Matthew Bishop
Rachel Burton
Chance Cahn
Emma Nicolle Caldart
Mia Anne Collis
Louis N. Craig
Riley Fitzsimmons
Marly McClintock

Cameron Scott
Katie Weber
Emily P. Zavadil

COLLEGE

Eric Matthew Baumann
University of Pittsburgh
BS, Computer Engineering

John Benhart
Duke University
BS, Computer Engineering &
Certificate in Ethics

Lindsay Buono
Penn State University
BS, Nursing

George P. Carson
Dennison University
BA, Data Analytics & Minor in
Economics

Michael Douds
Westminster College
BA, Criminal Justice

Abigail Drucis
George Washington University
BS, Public Health & Minor in
Business Administration

Kristine Nicole English
Elon University
BA, Elementary Education

Kelly Eyler
Miami of Ohio
BA, Psychology

Gwen Giallonardo
University of Indiana
BS, Marketing and Media

Kyle Giallonardo
University of Pittsburgh
Juris Doctorate, Law

Tyler David Hamel
Birmingham Southern College
BS

C.J. Ketchum
Point Park University
BA, Business Administration &
Finance Focus

Matthew Koch
Ohio State University
BS, Economics

Kiera Pyles
Point Park University
BA, Dance & Minor in Business

Connor Pyles
Michigan State University
BS, Advertising Management

Alexis Scott
Dickinson College
BS, Biochemistry

Jeff Scott
Waynesburg University
Master's Degree, Posthumous,
Counseling

Andrew Troy
University of Kentucky
BA, Marketing

Welcome

New Members

Abby Gary



Debbie Skeens



Susan & Doug Goelz



Michelle & Justin Wagner



Lynn & Bill Mizer



New Director of Children's & Family Ministry

We are delighted to introduce the new Director of Children's and Family Ministry, Natalie Brown. She will be joining the church staff in mid-July.

You may have seen Natalie and her family at Westminster events as they have been involved with the life of the church for many years. Natalie brings experience in working with children and a love for the Lord. Welcome, Natalie!



Caring Notes

May I have a moment – a Children’s Moment – and a Moment from the congregation to say thank you.

Robin Pyles will be retiring from Westminster Church after Barefoot School this year. Seems that after she and Keith raised their four children – Connor, Kiera, Caitlin, and Jonathan – they decided to move on to a warmer climate in Florida. The family will be relocating in July.

Robin has shared her multifaceted gifts with families at Westminster for many years. She became the Director of Children & Family Ministry eight years ago. Before taking this position, she was a pre-school teacher at Westminster’s nursery school. While working at Westminster, she returned to graduate school and received a degree from Bethel Seminary in the spring of 2018. Robin also has another master’s degree in deaf education.

She has led countless programs for children and families at Westminster Church that gave us a chance to have fun while serving and learning about God. Sacrament classes, Family Fun Events, Barefoot School, Breakfast at the Manger, Bible Story Time, JAM (Jesus and Me), Advent festivities, and Sunday school are a few that stand out.

Robin doesn’t just work with children; she encourages them to live their faith. One way she does this is to get kids involved in serving others. Robin places great importance on growing children’s hearts for mission. We see this lived out as she guides the children through JAM shut-in projects, the Rise Against Hunger packaging events, and JAM Christmas shopping excursions for foster children. Also, she initiated and worked on our Gilfillan (SHIM) garden project to allow children and families to care for others by growing and providing food for the SHIM food bank.

Robin encourages and teaches children to pray. Perhaps you have seen the prayer sticks on the tables for the Wednesday night dinners? She began the Praying in Color program several years ago along with the prayer partnership with an adult Bible study and the children in the JAM program.

Now it’s our turn to pray for you, Robin. We send you off with our heartfelt gratitude and a blessing for you and your family. “May the Lord watch between me and thee while we are absent one from another.”

Wishing you joy for the journey,

Louise



Save the Date

Giving Gala 2019
Saturday, November 2
St. Clair Country Club

Please mark your calendars for the Deacons' annual Giving Gala. The event will take place on Saturday, November 2, at St. Clair Country Club. This year the Giving Gala will benefit the "Empowering Women and Girls" program of SHIM, South Hills Interfaith Movement.

The program includes Ruling our eXperiences (ROX), Youth Mentoring, and Women's Group to serve a culturally diverse community of women and girls. Participants are empowered to develop strong interpersonal skills and strengthen self-esteem so they can rise above their challenges and fulfill their potential. Imagine the impact on the lives of nearly 70 women and girls.



Session Notes

On May 20, Session welcomed nine new adult members into Westminster Church.

The Finance Commission provided information on the positive steps being taken as we move forward. Communication to the congregation will go out by the end of the month.

A Congregational Care Call will take place on Wednesday, June 12.

Baptisms

January 13

Clay Ray

Parents: Jennifer & Clay Britton

Penelope Love

Parents: Holly & Adam Cerini

Victoria Harper

Parents: Emily & Michael Hammel

Christian Joseph

Parents: Eszter & Christian Stein

March 31

Lucas Warren

Parents: Megan & Thomas Archer

Jackson Donald

Parents: Julie & Jeffrey Boles

Roberto Clemente III

Parents: Kailee & Roberto Clemente Jr.

Martha Ivy

Parents: Leslie & Matthew Lazor

Mica Anthony & Cody Matthew

Parents: Nicole & Joshua Silvis

May 19

Holden Douglas

Parents: Gretchen & G. Scott Mummert

Penn Marx

Parents: Lindsay & Jason Rickel



**WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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www.facebook.com/Westminster.Pittsburgh



www.youtube.com/user/WestminsterUSC

Then Jesus told them a parable:

“Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.”

— Luke 21:29-33

