



THE SPARE

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Pittsburgh, PA

Godly Advice

Recently I went shopping and found myself in a store selling advice. Actually, it was selling pillows with perky, encouraging sayings: “Enjoy the Little Things,” “All you need is Love and a Dog,” “Think Happy.” I found these sayings to be, well, fluffy. Well-meaning advice is found in many places, including the Scriptures. The difference with the advice found in the Bible is that holy advice is based in our faithful God who wants the best for us, not on our self-interests alone.

At the recent officer retreat at Westminster Church we heard some wise words from the Apostle Paul from Romans 12 titled “Love must be sincere.” Here Paul offers practical advice on how Christian love is to be lived out. We are to “Be joyful in hope, patient in afflictions, faithful in prayer” (Romans 12:12). More than just fluffy sayings, Paul gives us spiritual practices that draw us into a deeper connection with God.

As Christians, we rejoice in the hope secured in Jesus Christ. Our future destiny is based on God’s love, which is revealed to us by the Holy Spirit and demonstrated to us in the death of Christ. This is the foundation that gives us strength and reassurance. With thankful hearts we rejoice!

Although we are claimed as God’s own, our lives will still be filled with challenges. Personal challenges, community conflicts, and problems are unavoidable. Yet God will give us the ability to remain patient and steadfast. The conflicts do not define us; we remain people of hope even, and especially, in the midst of afflictions.

Finally, the Apostle encourages us to be faithful in prayer. When we bow our heads, we open ourselves to respond to God’s presence. Then we rise and notice the light of God as it shines on the world, exposing fault and promising hope. We pay



attention in a special way, finding ways that we can be partners in God’s reconciling love. We ask for God’s help in saying yes to that which is life-giving. We lift our hearts to God in prayer, asking for direction, guidance, and healing.

The season of Lent begins in March, the season when we take inventory of our spiritual life and make more room for God. Our seeking is answered in prayer, scripture, worship, community, and service. Woven together, Christian practices form a way of life. It is like a tree whose branches reach out toward the future. “They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper” (Psalm 1:3).

With joy for the journey,

Louise

PASTORS

REV. LOUISE ROGERS, *Associate Pastor
for Congregational Care, Acting Head of Staff*
REV. JASON FREYER, *Associate Pastor
for the Bridge, Youth & Media*

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE PASTORS

PEG KINSEY

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MANDY THOMAS, *Project Manager*

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DEBB EGLI, *Assistant Director of Children's and
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ED SUTTER, *Director of Middle School Ministry &
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CARRIE KUSHNER, *Kitchen Manager*

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

KATHY LONG, *Director*

NURSERY SCHOOL

412-835-2906

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

412-835-9450

Staff email addresses and phone
extensions are available on our website,
www.westminster-church.org.

Read the *Spire* online at:

www.westminster-church.org

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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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📅	Sundays
🕒	9:45 a.m.
📍	WROC

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



The Church Prepares for Lent

On the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, March 6 this year, we remember the Transfiguration of the Lord (Luke 9:28-36), when Jesus took three disciples – Peter, James, and John – to a mountaintop to witness the glory and power of God. Jesus began to glow with radiant light, and Moses and Elijah appeared and talked to Jesus. Then, from a cloud the voice of God proclaimed, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” After God spoke, the scene returned to normal, but the ministry of Jesus had changed. The final phase had begun.

The Transfiguration of Jesus is an important milestone in the church year for several reasons. Most important, it is one of the five major events that marked Jesus’ ministry on earth: Baptism, Transfiguration, Crucifixion, Resurrection, and Ascension. The Transfiguration also echoes God’s words of favor at Jesus’ baptism (Luke 3:21-22): “You are my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” The church brackets the time after Christmas and before Lent with the Baptism of the Lord, on the Sunday after Epiphany, and the Transfiguration of the Lord. Finally, the miracle of Jesus’ Transfiguration marks the beginning of the Lord’s journey to death and resurrection as Jesus speaks to his disciples on the way down the mountain: “...he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead” (Mark 9:9).

Hymnwriter Thomas H. Troeger helps us apply the story of the Transfiguration to our own lives as we prepare our hearts for the season of Lent:

*Lord, transfigure our perception with the purest light that shines,
And recast our life’s intentions to the shape of your designs,
Till we seek no other glory than what lies past Calvary’s hill
And our living and our dying and our rising by your will.*

“Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory,” verse 3 (1985)
Glory to God, No. 190

Upcoming Events

**03
MAR** Transfiguration
of the Lord

**06
MAR** Ash
Wednesday
worship service
at 7:30 p.m.

**10
MAR** Organist
Daniel Ficarri
in Galbreath
Chapel

**24
MAR** Resonance
Works
performs
Bach’s St. John
Passion

Sundays at 9:45 a.m.
Galbreath Chapel

Lenten Seminars

March 3, 10, 17

Living a Grace-filled Life

Graham Standish

The life of faith is a life of grace, but do most people know that? Grace is God's gift that surrounds, fills, and flows through us. When people live grace-filled lives, they experience God all the time. But how do we fill our lives with grace?

This series explores what grace is, but even more, how to connect with God in ways that allow grace to flow through our lives. When grace is part of our lives we grow in love, compassion, healing, creativity, joy, awareness, and more.

March 3 – What Is Grace Really?

March 10 – Grace, Sin, and Salvation

March 17 – Living in Grace

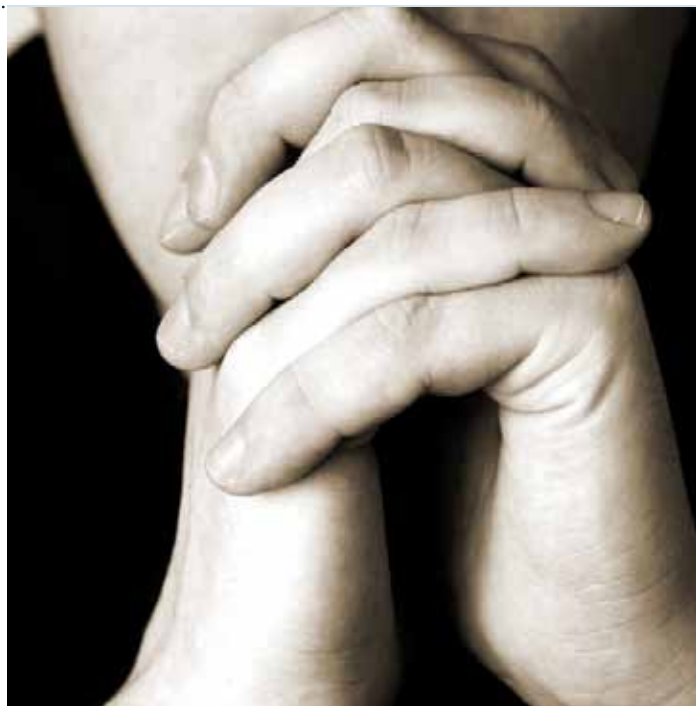
The Rev. Dr. Graham Standish: *Since November 2017, I have been the executive director of Samaritan Counseling Guidance Consulting in Sewickley, Pennsylvania (www.samaritancounseling.net). My therapeutic focus there is working with clergy as a spiritual director/coach, and offering groups and training for pastors and congregations.*

For the previous 22 years (1996-2017) I was senior pastor of Calvin Presbyterian Church in Zelienople, Pennsylvania (www.calvinchurchzelie.org). Prior to serving Calvin Church, I served as a therapist in a psychiatric hospital, in a pastoral counseling agency, as a drug and alcohol therapist, an internship as a hospital chaplain, and as an associate pastor at a growing church in Murrysville, Pennsylvania.

I am the author of seven books: Ministry Proverbs: Lessons Learned for Leading Congregations (2016), In God's Presence: Encountering, Experiencing, and Embracing the Holy in Worship (2010), Humble Leadership (2007), Becoming the Blessed Church (Revised 2016 & original 2005), Discovering the Narrow Path (2002), Paradoxes for Living (2001), and Forming Faith in a Hurricane (1998). I also write the "Hopeful Church" blog for Presbyterians Today.

I also am an adjunct professor at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary Doctor of Ministry program, and have taught in its Certificate in Spiritual Formation program, as well as at Tyndale Theological Seminary in Toronto, Ontario, focusing in the areas of spirituality and congregational leadership. I am a teacher, retreat leader, spiritual director, and have a background in individual, marital, and family therapy. My PhD and MA are in formative spirituality from Duquesne University. My Master of Social Work is from the University of Pittsburgh, and my Master of Divinity is from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Finally, and most important, I am husband of Diane, and the father of twin girls, Erin and Shea.



March 24 & 31

Prayer Paths of Faith

March 24

Remarkable Prayers of the Bible

Louise Rogers

Prayer allows us to commune personally and corporately with God. In this seminar we will look at a few of the significant prayers found in the Scriptures to inform and inspire our own prayer life.

“Real prayer is life creating and life changing”
– Richard Foster

March 31

The Labyrinth and Praying the Scriptural “Way of the Cross”

Mary Kay Mitchell and Barbara Myers,
Labyrinth Facilitators

Since 1201 A.D. the labyrinth has been recognized as a path for prayer, contemplation, and meditation. We will explore the history and significance of the labyrinth as a spiritual tool with emphasis on the devotional journey of Holy Week.

Rhythms and Practices

I'm sure this will shock most of you, but I'd like to begin this month by talking about cycling.

I was in the gym the other day riding the stationary bike, looking out the window at the snow covered landscape and weeping. I long in these seasons to be outside, to actually pedal and feel the wind in my hair, to enjoy the sunshine around me, to *actually* be going somewhere. But alas, I was inside pedaling away. About 20 minutes or so in to my "ride," I thought to myself "Man, I'm really feeling good today!" Almost as soon as that thought passed through my head, I thought about how ridiculous it was. Cycling, particularly indoor cycling, is just pushing the pedals over and over and over again. My computer tracks my ride, and tells me that in the 50 minutes I was riding, the pedals turned over 3,636 times. How could something so repetitive, mundane, simplistic, and routine be something to feel good about?

The answer in cycling is obvious. There's a lot more going on than just turning over the pedals.

And yet, sometimes in life I feel like we tend to focus on the repetitive, mundane, simplistic, and routine. Sarah and I have this discussion all the time in our house. We have two adult humans, two three year old humans, and two dogs. The washer and dryer in our basement haven't sat silent in years. There's *always* laundry to do. When you finish one load, the next one is waiting in the hamper. Laundry in, laundry out. Over. And over. And over. And over.

When I am at my worst, I am focused on the pedal strokes of life. The constant in and out, in and out processing of things like laundry. But when my attention and focus is there, that means that it's not someplace else. The laundry is a chore to be sure, but it's also a way of measuring the story of our lives. Every muddy pair of pants is a reminder of a good day at the park. Every spin cycle a reminder of a good day. Every smelly, sweaty cycling jersey a reminder of a good ride. The question is, do you put your attention on the rhythms and practices of your life, or do you put your attention on what they point to? Are you focused on the 3,636 pedal strokes, or are you focused on where they're taking you?

Which brings us, of course, to Lent.

For generations, the church has separated this season of our lives to take a closer look at the rhythms and practices we participate in, not just for the sake of the rhythms and practices, but to more accurately examine what they're pointing us to. Some Christians participate in this season by taking something away, by fasting from a particular food or habit or addiction. Others choose this season to add a new practice into the rhythms of life, like working through a devotional or new prayer habit.



Whichever route you choose, the point isn't just to establish a discipline or routine for its own sake. That would be like focusing on each individual pedal stroke on a bike. We choose this season to focus on the rhythms and habits of our lives to see where they're taking us.

As always, I invite you to continue this conversation over at the Westminster Blog. As my own spiritual discipline this Lent, my intention is to write each day about the daily lectionary texts. I will likely miss a day or two here and there (see above re: twin toddlers), but I encourage you to join me on the journey! Let's see what God is speaking to us in this season of discipline and rhythm.

And, let's all pray that the sun comes out so the bikes can too!

– Jason Freyer

BETWEEN HERE & THERE



designed using resources from Freepik.com

I've spent the morning thinking a lot about how we try to fill the gaps we feel in our lives. Our world has no shortage of messages telling us that some product, some store has the answer to the questions "What will make me whole? What will make my life better?" I did a five-minute research project and visited a small handful of websites. A popular car brand leads its front page with this phrase: "Go ahead, treat yourself." A clothing company: "You. In color." An online retailer: "See something new. Every day." And a coffee company: "Make every sip more rewarding." Every single message gives us the impression that with *this* product we'll finally feel better, more complete, renewed.

Now, as my wife can attest, I like a new toy just as much as the next guy, but the problem with each one of these marketing schemes is that we actually believe the lie. Maybe not consciously, but at some level we look at the headline; then we look at the product and think to ourselves, "Wow, that really would be nice."

Our culture may be subject to advertisements at an unprecedented rate, but the concept is nothing new. As a matter of fact, scripture makes it clear that this has been an issue for us since the very beginning. In the Garden of Eden the words the serpent spoke to Eve ring out, "You will be like God." Can you hear the advertising genius in it? "You'll be better than you've ever been. More complete. Stronger. More capable. Happier." If we put any distance at all between us and God, we scramble with all of our might to fill that gap with anything we can. For some of us, each new phone, new car, new relationship, new pair of shoes (you get the idea) is just another shot at filling the gap that sin has put between us and God.

But the gap already has a cure. In John 4 Jesus says, "Those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again." Your gap can be filled, but only by Jesus. Not by a car. Not by clothes. Not by a cup of coffee. What gap are you trying to fill in your life? Answers may be in your temptations. Do you lust after fiery relationships? Perhaps your current relationships are in need of healing. Do you crave adventure and extreme experiences? Maybe you've been designed to venture to the knife's edge of where Christ's church is moving. Do you strive to stockpile possessions? You might be measuring yourself against an unhealthy standard of achievement and wealth.

Colossians tells us that everything was created *through* Jesus and *for* Jesus. There are lots of ways to misuse and misunderstand this life we've been given, and one of the primary ways we do just that is by filling our lives with experiences, relationships, and stuff we hope will make us complete. But if you're anything like me, you've fallen for that trap enough times to know that it won't work next time either – at least not for long.

What lies have you believed? What have you done to "fill the gap" that sin has created between you and God? What would it look like for you to open yourself to God and ask that he pour his Spirit, his Son into each of the gaps of your life? What might change if you did?

I'd love to hear your story – feel free to drop a line!

– Ed Sutter

GLIMPSE OF MY WORLD

A few weeks ago, while chatting with a group of Westminster's kids, I asked the question, "What do you like about our church?"

"The cookies are yummy!"

"We have fun and do fun stuff."

"We get to learn about God." (Even the kids know what the right answers are in church!)

But the response I heard most often was "My friends are here."

I suspect that's true for many of us adults as well. We keep showing up here at Westminster for many reasons. But a very big one for many of us is that this is where our friends are. I know it is certainly true for me personally.

But there was a time for many of us when that wasn't true. When we were new at Westminster, maybe even new in Pittsburgh. When we didn't know any of the people who sat near us in worship, or stood next to us at the cookie table.

So, that made me think, how do we get from "I'm new and I don't know anyone" (and it's lonely and maybe a little scary) to "my friends are here" (and I love it!)? As I reflected on my own experiences, it seemed to me that it was a partly a matter of my willingness to keep showing up for a little while. Friendships take some time to grow. But more important than me showing up was that many of *you* kept showing up.

You showed up when you smiled and said good morning to my husband and me. And you really showed up when you took the time to say good morning to my kids, even when they were too little to respond with anything more than a shy little half-smile.

You showed up when you asked about our week, or the children's activities. And graciously overlooked that some of us might have been wearing bits of our breakfast, or, in later years, clearly had just been arguing with one or more grumpy young teens.

You showed up when you invited us to join you and your family at various events, or squeezed together to make room for us to join you at a table for snacks or a meal, or to fit in the pew alongside you. Or even when you helped us find our way in a building that felt very large and very confusing.

As I think about these moments, I recognize that very few of them were big or time-consuming. Taken one at a time, certainly none of these moments seemed life changing at all. In fact, they were almost unnoticed.

And yet, it is the piling up of these sorts of small moments that makes for the beginning of a friendship. It is in these seemingly insignificant contacts that connections are made, and we begin to grow from strangers into members of a shared community. It is the accumulation of these moments that led one of those kids to say "Church feels just like my second home. People take care of me there."

Jesus said, "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me" (Mark 9:37).

And so – this bunch of kids and I invite you to join us in our Lenten mission: to remember to take a minute or two to show someone we care, to speak to someone we don't know very well, to smile at the person we've never met, to make room at our table for someone new, to make Westminster an even more welcoming place for all who come.

– Robin Pyles



Westminster Book Group

**Wednesday, March 27
Noon – 1:15 p.m.**

The Westminster Book Group will meet on Wednesday, March 27, in the Yahweh Café to discuss *A Prayer for Owen Meany* by John Irving, a PBS “Great American Read” top 100 book. We invite you to bring a brown bag lunch and join us.

From the book:

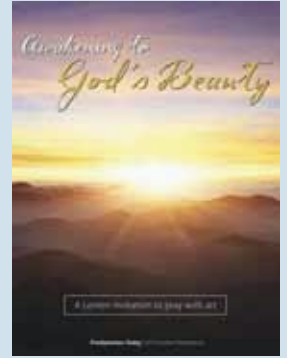
“I am doomed to remember a boy with a wrecked voice – not because of his voice, or because he was the smallest person I ever knew, or even because he was the instrument of my mother’s death, but because he is the reason I believe in God; I am a Christian because of Owen Meany.”

Lenten Devotional

Awakening to God’s Beauty, the 2019 Presbyterians Today Lenten Devotional, is available at the church. Pick up your copy on March 3 or before in preparation for Lent.

This year’s stunning devotional invites us on a spiritual and visual pilgrimage through the holy season of Lent – through the final days of our Lord’s ministry, his passion, his death on the cross, and finally his glorious resurrection at Easter. Through magnificent photography and a spiritual discipline called *visio divina* – praying with art – we open our eyes with new awareness and gratitude for the beauty of creation. The devotional offers a dazzling smorgasbord of soul-stirring original photographs, each with a short, guided meditation to lift our hearts and fortify us for the rest of our Lenten journey.

The text, meditations, and original photography are all the loving work of the Rev. Krin Van Tatenhove, longtime Presbyterian pastor, hospice chaplain, substance abuse counselor, traveler, photographer, and amazing storyteller.



MISSION

Letters to Our Legislators

Sunday, March 3

Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act

Last fall the Peace and Justice Team provided the opportunity for Westminster members to write letters in support of the Farm Bill. The event was well received and the bill passed in legislation.

This spring our letters will be in support of a bipartisan bill being introduced in Congress – the *Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act* (S.3791/H.R.7173). Republicans and Democrats are both on board, co-sponsoring this bill together.

The emphasis of the letter will ask our members of Congress to learn about this important legislation and support it in Congress. This policy is supported by economists and scientists as simple, comprehensive, and effective. It is intended to improve health and save lives by reducing pollution. It is revenue neutral in that fees collected on carbon emissions and the carbon dividend are designed to return money directly to all Americans.

As Presbyterians and children of God’s creation, we are encouraged to raise our voices in concern for healing the earth, “our home and God’s gift for the future of all life...” This letter campaign is a simple step in asking for safe environmental policies.

In June 2018, the 223rd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) “expressed profound concern about the

destructive effects of climate change on all God’s creation including a disproportionate effect on those living in poverty and in the least developed countries, the elderly and children, and those least responsible for the emissions of greenhouse gases.”

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) applauds this bipartisan effort and its co-sponsors. Now, more than ever, this nation needs lawmakers who will put aside partisan politics in order to find solutions to shared problems. Further, the PC(USA) supports passage and swift enactment of EICDA. It is an important bill that will move us toward fulfilling our moral mandate.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/eco-journey/2019/01/29/in-support-of-the-energy-innovation-and-carbon-dividend-act-of-2018/>

On Sunday, March 3, tables will be set up in the north entry after the 8:30 and 11:00 services and at the Bridge service. 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. Additional background will be available at the table. Read the full bill on the official bill page on the U.S. Congress website: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/7173>.

– Barbara Myers, Peace and Justice Team

Lenten Study

with Pastor Louise Rogers

Final Words by Adam Hamilton

In life and in death, Jesus' words were powerful and meaningful. Despite the serious effort and increased pain required for Jesus to speak as he hung on the cross, Jesus spoke seven "final words" – statements that have much to teach us about Jesus, his Father, and ourselves:

- Father Forgive Them
- Today You Will Be with Me in Paradise
- Behold Your Son...Behold Your Mother
- My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?
- I Thirst
- It Is Finished...Into Your Hands I Commit My Spirit

Each chapter begins with the biblical account followed by a first-person story as might have been told from the viewpoint of one of the characters at the cross. Then the chapter explores the meaning of Jesus' inspiring words for our lives today.

Join Louise as she guides you through a six-week Lenten journey focused on Jesus' final words.

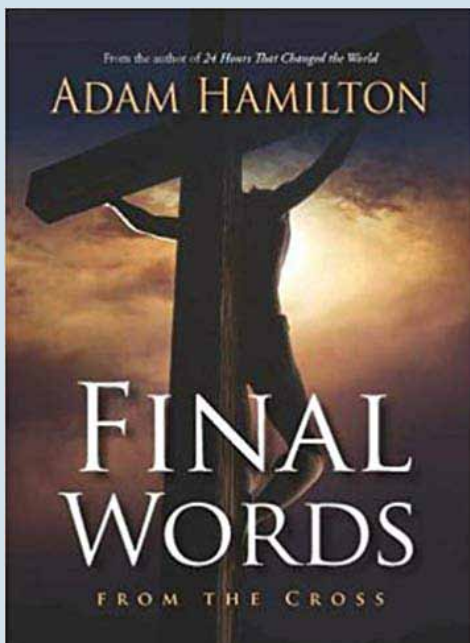
March 4 – April 8

Mondays: 10:00 – 11:15 a.m.

Room 231

Cost: \$10 (includes *Final Words* study guide)

To register, visit wroc.westminster-church.org or contact Kathy Long at 412-835-6630.



Broadway Music and Trivia combine to create a fun workout!

Chair Aerobics to Broadway Tunes

Low impact chair exercise class (55+ Friendly)

Not your typical chair class. You'll dance, laugh, and sing along to popular Broadway tunes and also answer trivia questions to buff up the brain. You won't even realize you're exercising. Class includes gentle, joint friendly exercises with light weights, balls, and bands. Join the fun!

March 6 – April 24

Wednesdays: 10:00 – 10:50 a.m.

Cost: \$35

Instructor: Anne Brucker



It's back...

Pole Walking

Anne Brucker will help you transform a casual walk into a gentle, fabulous, fun filled, whole body workout that engages 90% of your major muscle groups. Class begins in the WROC (gym) with instruction and conditioning exercises and continues outside the church and Gilfillan Trail.

April 3 – 24

Wednesdays: 12:15 – 1:15 p.m.

Cost: \$20

Anne Brucker (Master of Education, exercise design) has worked for 40 years as a teacher, lecturer, and researcher in the health industry. Her passion and energy for working with adults age 50 and older will inspire and motivate you to live a healthier lifestyle.



Organist Daniel Ficarri

Sunday, March 10
3:00 p.m. in Galbreath Chapel

Freewill offering

The Westminster Music & Arts Series is proud to welcome back Pittsburgh native Daniel Ficarri. This past July, he concluded our Organ Summer series with an impressive concert on the Austin organ in the sanctuary. On March 10, Dan will play a more intimate concert on Galbreath Chapel's beautiful Taylor and Boody organ.

Now based in New York City, Dan is active as an organist, composer, and church musician. He is currently pursuing a Master of Music degree at the Juilliard School, studying with organist Paul Jacobs, a fellow native of the Pittsburgh area. Paul made national news in 2000 by playing 18 hours of Bach organ music at Westminster Church. In recent years he has played three concerts here and will return again in March 2020. Paul recommended Dan to us as an exceptional virtuosic performer who is gifted at engaging audiences through both spoken word and music. On March 10, expect a delightful hour of organ music introduced and played by Dan Ficarri. Read more about Dan at www.danielficarri.com.

The program includes favorite works of Bach, Franck, Mozart, and Boëllmann, as well as the world premiere of "Prelude on an Evening Melody" by organist, composer, and fellow Juilliard scholar Alexander Pattavina.



Resonance Works at Westminster

Bach's St. John Passion

Sunday, March 24
3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Resonance Chamber Orchestra & Festival Chorus
Conductor Maria Sensi Sellner

Resonance Works presents one of the greatest oratorios of all time, Johann Sebastian Bach's St. John Passion. Written in 1724 during his first year in Leipzig, Bach's setting of scripture and poetry is a deeply human and intensely dramatic musical telling of the betrayal, suffering, and death of Christ. Soloists portray characters such as Jesus, Peter, and Pilate, while the chorus portrays the angry mob, eager for bloodshed. Arias provide moments of reflection on the drama and universal human themes including friendship and sacrifice, loyalty and betrayal, cruelty and compassion.

A noted interpreter of Bach, tenor Joseph Gaines returns to Pittsburgh and to Resonance Works as the Evangelist, ten years after first performing this masterwork with conductor Maria Sensi Sellner. Michael Scarcell portrays Jesus and Joshua Jeremiah sings the role of Pilate. Aria soloists including Katy Williams, Thespina Christulides, Corrie Stallings, Christina English, William Ottow, George Milosh, and Christopher Scott will also serve as the core of the small chamber chorus, creating a powerful and uniquely intimate performance experience.

Buy tickets online at www.resonanceworks.org or at the door.

Resonance Works, founded in 2013, connects the arts to today's audience by featuring music championed by its artists and themes that resonate with the current climate.

Music

What the Deacons Do

Treats for Troops

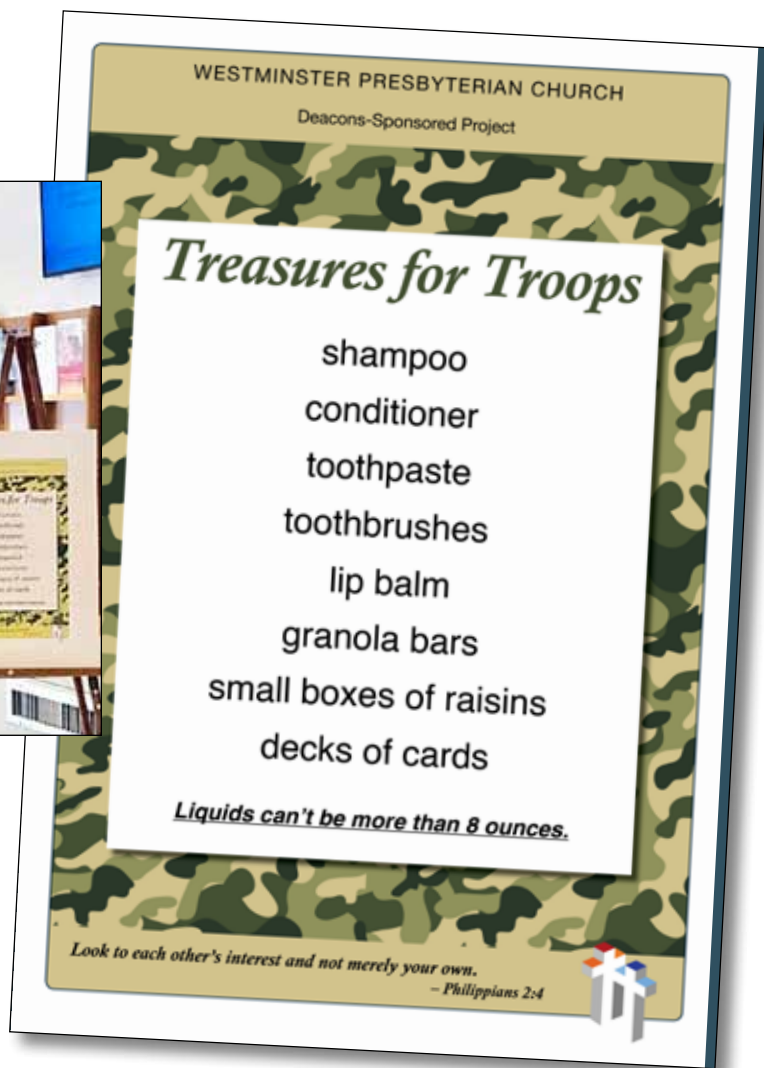
The Deacons were busy this past November baking cookies for our troops serving abroad. Our goal was to provide a little bit of cheer and some homemade goodies to those who serve so bravely. We shipped two boxes overseas in time for the Christmas holidays.



Treasures for Troops

Treasures for Troops is another Deacon-sponsored project that will run through the month of March. The Deacons will collect small personal items for our soldiers deployed overseas. We can accept shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, lip balm, granola bars, small boxes of raisins, and playing cards. **Please limit your donations to these items, and please note that no liquid can be more than eight ounces.** Travel size products would be perfect! Collection boxes will be in the north and Bridge entries.

We are also accepting checks to help pay for the shipping costs. Make checks payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church with "Treasures for Troops" on the memo line. We greatly appreciate your help with this project.



“Look to each other’s interest and not merely your own.”

—Philippians 2:4

TOWN HALL SOUTH



Lou Holtz
October 1, 2019

Lou Holtz is one of the most successful college football coaches of all time. Holtz, an Ohio Valley native, is the only coach in college football history to take 6 different teams to a bowl game, win 5 bowl games with different teams, and have 4 different college teams ranked in the final Top 20 poll. As head coach at Notre Dame, Holtz took the Fighting Irish back to the ranks of college football's elite and earned a sterling reputation for taking football programs and elevating them a level or two on their way to the Top 20. He has been a college football analyst for ESPN and CBS Sports and is considered one of the greatest motivational speakers in America today.



Beth Macy
November 5, 2019

Reporting from America's Economic Margins: Beth Macy discusses the unraveling of rural America. Her most recent book, *Dopesick: Dealers, Doctors, and the Drug Company That Addicted America*, unpacks one of the most intractable social problems of our time: the opioid crisis. This book is set against a landscape of job loss, corporate greed, and stigma, along with the families and the first responders who are heroically fighting back. A longtime reporter who specializes in outsiders and underdogs, Macy has won more than a dozen national journalism awards.



Vijay Gupta
February 4, 2020

Vijay Gupta is a violinist and educator whose efforts to merge music with mental health are changing the world. As a professional violinist with a background in neurobiology, Gupta sees music as a transformative form of outreach that can truly change

the lives of those afflicted with adverse circumstances, such as mental illness, homelessness, and addiction. Gupta is the founder of Street Symphony, a non-profit organization dedicated to engaging underserved communities experiencing homelessness and incarceration in Los Angeles through musical performance and dialogue. He was named a 2018 MacArthur Fellow, hailed by the MacArthur Foundation for "bringing beauty, respite, and purpose to those all too often ignored by society."



Lynsey Addario
March 17, 2020

Kursat Bayhan - Courtesy of Penguin Press

Lynsey Addario is a Pulitzer Prize winning photographer who covers conflict zones across the Middle East, South Asia, and Africa. She photographs feature stories on humanitarian and human rights issues with a specific focus on women. In 2015, *American Photo* magazine named Addario as one of the five most influential photographers of the past 25 years, saying she changed the way we saw the world's conflicts. She was part of the *New York Times* team to win the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting for her photographs in "Talibanistan." Addario recently released *Of Love and War*, a book that includes a personally curated collection of her work and provides a compelling visual record of war, injustice, resilience, and humanity.

2019-2020 SEASON



Alan Zweibel
December 3, 2019

Alan Zweibel is an original *Saturday Night Live* writer who has won multiple Emmy, Writers Guild of America, and TV Critics awards for his work

in television, which includes *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, *Monk*, *It's Garry Shandling's Show* (which he co-created and produced), and *PBS's Great Performances*. *The New York Times* says Zweibel has "earned a place in the pantheon of American pop culture." Zweibel's career success has transcended television to film, theater, and literature. He is an executive producer on Showtime's documentary series *Inside Comedy*, and is writing a script for a Broadway musical version of *Field of Dreams*.

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Deaths

John F. Thompson, Jr.
February 11

Velsie Cronmiller
February 16



Guest Preacher on March 24 **Welcome Chris Chakoian**

In 2017, the Rev. Dr. Christine “Chris” Chakoian began serving as vice president for seminary advancement at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. In January 2018, she and seminary president David Esterline presented a seminar at Westminster on how Presbyterians respond to refugees. Chris shared the story of her family’s escape from the Armenian genocide, and how American Christians welcomed them as refugees. This month, we are delighted to welcome Chris back to Westminster as the guest preacher on March 24.



Before moving to Pittsburgh, Chris served as pastor/head of staff at First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest, Illinois, and Community Presbyterian Church of Clarendon Hills, Illinois. In the past 35 years, she also held positions at churches in Oregon, Ohio, and New York.

Her identical twin sister, Karen Chakoian, is also a pastor; she serves in Granville, Ohio. Chris’s family includes her husband, Dr. John Shustitzky, and their daughter and son-in-law, Anna and Spencer Sohn.

Chris is a graduate of the University of Illinois (BA), Yale University Divinity School (MDiv), and McCormick Theological Seminary (DMin).

In service to the church and community, she is a member of the Moveable Feast preaching colloquium, as well as a trustee at Presbyterian Publishing Corp. Additionally, she has served as a co-leader of the PCUSA Centenary Events honoring the Armenian genocide and was a member of the boards at McCormick Theological Seminary, Lebanese American University (Beirut, Lebanon), and Presbyterian Homes.

Her books include *Common English Bible – Women’s Bible* (editorial board member and writer), *Cryptomnesia: How a Forgotten Memory Could Save the Church*, *Covenant Bible Study* (co-host/editorial board member), *Feasting on the Gospels* (editorial board member and writer), and *For Worship, Fellowship, and the Work of the Kingdom*. Chris has also written a number of articles for *Christian Century* and *The Presbyterian Outlook* and has contributed to Chicago Sunday Evening Club and Day One videos. She has served as the conference leader on diverse topics such as globalization, transforming institutional culture, and generational change.

Save the Date

Day Retreat Friday, June 21

A Day Retreat will be held at the Spiritan Center in Bethel Park on Friday, June 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Details to follow. Plan to join us for a day of relaxation and spiritual renewal.

Pastoral Nominating Committee Update

The Pastoral Nominating Committee is up and running and has been meeting at least once a month since December. The church voted to task Bobbie Hartman, Brian Eccher, Carol Galbreath, Carolyn Kerr, Jim Bacik, John Van Cleve, Maureen Ludwig, Paul Conley, and Shannon Radinick with calling a new senior pastor for Westminster Presbyterian Church members to approve and hire.

The PNC seeks to engage the congregation in this process. Soon we will ask for your help and input through a comprehensive survey. It is our hope that this survey will help identify who we are as a church and what we need and want in our next leader. Stay tuned for more details on the survey. Please reach out to any member of the PNC with any questions. We want to hear from you. We are committed to providing regular updates on our progress in the bulletin, the *Spire*, email, and occasionally during Sunday services.

Session Update

On February 18, Session received the report from the Interim search committee regarding their progress. They introduced the Rev. Dr. Bruce Lancaster, who was present at the meeting. Rev. Lancaster gave a brief introduction and answered questions from the Session members. The Session then unanimously voted to extend a one year contract to Dr. Lancaster to be the Interim Senior Pastor and Head of Staff beginning April 1, 2019.

In light of the recent financial situation, a resolution was approved from the Endowment and Special Gifts Committee that the endowment fund proceeds for 2019 go to WECEP as a loan to be repaid if and when WECEP receives an insurance settlement for losses due to theft. A second resolution was passed to work with PNC in securing a line of credit for the church, with a portion of the endowment funds to be used as collateral, provided that the funds remain under control of the Endowment Committee. Jim Gilchrist also said goodbye to the Session members, as this will be the last time meets with the Session before his retirement.



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 **Monday, April 8, 2019**, 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 **Monday, April 8.**





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